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The CPC Village Dinner Church

Dear Church,

This January Claremont Presbyterian Church will be launching a new kind of worship experience. The CPC Village Dinner Church will be a time where people gather around a table to talk, eat, pray, and sing—much as Jesus did with his disciples and the members of the communities they visited.

This dream started nudging our church leaders in early 2020, but was interrupted by the pandemic. As in-person gatherings began again, the CPC Village Lead Team formed this past summer and has been gathering for over three months. This team has committed to be in prayer for those who may discover The CPC Village Dinner Church to be a new faith home and community of encouragement. From the welcome, to the meal, the sharing in conversation, the enrichment of the faith experience of their children, to the concluding with passing of the peace each moment of this worship experience has been thoughtfully cared for and poured over with prayer and blessing. We are excited to provide this new opportunity for those who may have stepped away from, or have not yet found a church, and who are seeking a community.

It is such a joy that CPC has come to be a place where people can choose to worship in ways that truly nourish their souls. Sunday mornings hold a special place for many who gather for a traditional service, others have found our contemplative

Upcoming Worship

All worship services are in-person
and accessible through
Facebook Live
(facebook.com/claremontpres)

Sunday, January 2, 10:00 AM

Communion Sunday

Waiting in the Dark

Matthew 2:1-12

Pastor Brian & Anjlo Ajma

Sunday, January 9, 10:00 AM

Scanning the Night Sky

Genesis 15:1-6, Psalm 8

Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, January 16, 10:00 AM

Identifying a Light

Isaiah 60:1-9, Matthew 2:3-6

Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, January 23, 10:00 AM

Setting Out on a Journey

Luke 5:1-11

Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, January 30, 10:00 AM

Following a Star

Psalm 43, Matt 2:7-9

Karen Sapio preaching

practices to be that place, and now the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 5:30 PM will become a special place for those we have yet to meet.

As always, CPC is committed to offering enrichment to the faith lives of children and so have brought in Jenny Eazel to teach our children while their parents share in conversation with other adults at the CPC Village.

Do you know of a neighbor, friend, or loved one who may be seeking a new kind of worship experience? Invite them to the CPC Village Dinner Church, or put them in contact with any of the Lead Team members.

With Joy and Excitement,

Your CPC Village Dinner Church Lead Team

Andrew Marks, Anjlo & Lubna Ajmal, Shelley Randles, Jenna & Andrew Brooks, Tessa Klarin, Jack Caselles, and Pastor Brian

Star Words

Star Words are back! Join us for worship the first Sunday of January (Jan. 2) as we celebrate Epiphany. Choose a star word to bring you into and through 2022. This cherished tradition is a favorite of many. Star words have been used to help with personal prayer, to be more mindful of how you move and have your being in this world, and to better connect you with your community of faith. You are invited to join us as we learn more about following the star on our new journey home.



Sunday Spiritual Formation for Children Winter/Spring 2022

Beginning on January 9 our children will have a few opportunities that will be familiar and some that will be new. Much of children's spiritual formation will come back to safe in-person classes and one class will be hybrid. We ask that you fill out a registration form for each child. They will be available in the Narthex (in the sanctuary) and with the teachers. We look forward to seeing you all in this new year.

Please check out the breakdown below:

Infant/Toddler - In-person child-care in the Children's Center building and playground during the worship service.

Early Elementary (4 yr-old – 2nd Grade) - In-person in the Chapel during the worship service. They will use a new curriculum as well as incorporate a craft, music, or play.

Tweens (3rd – 6th Grades) – Hybrid classroom 1 and Zoom during the worship service. They will use a new curriculum.

Last Sunday of the month activities – Our tweens will be encouraged to partici-

pate in the worship service as able; including lighting candles, presenting the elements, and/or presenting the Bible. Early Elementary, Tweens, and preschool aged children are invited to stay with families in the service. Infants/Toddlers will be in child-care. All are invited for activities outdoors following the worship service.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Pastor Brian or chair of the Education & Leadership Commission, Barbara MacKenzie.

Epiphany Cycle Sermon Series begins January 2

Advent rolls out slowly giving us time to contemplate its mysteries. Christmas is the dazzling center of the season: you can't miss it. But Epiphany, the third act in the Nativity drama, often plays to an empty house. By the Feast of Epiphany on January 6, we are back to work, back to school, and the tree and decorations are down and stored for the next year.

This year, beginning on Epiphany Sunday, January 2, our sermons in worship will allow for an extended look at the Epiphany story and scriptures. Catholic writer and Spiritual Director Marianne Hieb sees in the story of the Magi's journey a pattern for our own process of spiritual formation and discernment. She sees this pattern moving through nine phases:

- Waiting in the darkness
- Scanning the night sky
- Identifying a light that is bright enough to follow
- Setting out on the journey
- Following the star
- Identifying a gift
- Entering a new place a finding God's promises are true
- Offering a gift
- Returning home by another way.

The sermon series will explore each of these stages on the journey using the lectionary scripture texts for Epiphany and the Sundays between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday.

Save the Date: CPC/TBI Interfaith Exchange

Claremont Presbyterian Church and Temple Beth Israel are planning their annual Interfaith Exchange on Sunday, February 13 and Friday, February 18. Stay tuned for more details in the February Communicator.



Alternative Christmas Market Sets New Record

Wow! What a generous congregation we have at Claremont Presbyterian Church. Due to continued concerns about Covid, the Alternative Christmas Market was held virtually again in 2021. Even though we were not able to hold a festive in-person event more money than ever has been donated. As of the time of this writing, over \$17,000 has been received to assist our 20 worthy mission partners and orders are still coming in. Bless you CPC!

Coming Soon - Adult Education Series on Aging

Multiple dynamics are associated with aging. A two-part series in January and February will explore aspects of the aging process, with particular focus on how care is given and received, and the role of spirituality in the lives of older persons.

Part 1 - Aging and Society: A Conversation about Connection and Care (Zoom), Monday, January 24 at 7 PM. How does our society view aging? What should we consider when caring for and about the seniors among us? Where is the balance between autonomy and support? The first program in this aging series will address some concerns of persons receiving care and those who give it. The presenter will be Floy Biggs (MPA) who is CEO of AgingNext, a nonprofit organization based in Claremont that provides programs, services and support for older adults, caregivers, and others concerned about aging services in the community. Feel free to share the Zoom meeting ID: 870 8981 9367.

Part 2 - Aging and Spirituality, CPC Sanctuary and live-streamed on CPC Facebook page, Sunday, February 6 at 8:45 AM. The second program in the series will feature Delight Slotemaker de Bruine who will talk about her work as CPC Congregational Care Coordinator. She also will share information about her studies toward a certificate in Spirituality and Aging, including a description of her class project. Delight says she is looking forward to this opportunity for a conversation about her role at CPC and her learning experience.

CPC Youth 30 Challenge

On Wednesday, January 12, 7:00 PM we will continue our monthly gathering for a brief time of learning, being challenged, and growing in your faith and as a person. This is not meant to be a long stay, but rather an opportunity to come together for 30-45 minutes. We will check in with each other, hear from experts, and explore growth through challenge. I challenge you to be part of this new youth gathering (Jr/Sr High welcome). For more information contact Pastor Brian 562-674-8407.. Meeting ID: 867 8160 1982



Epiphany Cycle Bible Study begins January 19

Centered on the scriptures and themes of our Epiphany Sermon Series, this bible study will take a deeper dive into the exploration of the Journey of the Magi as a road map for spiritual awakening and discernment. There is no book to purchase, however reading material and reflection questions will be emailed weekly to those who participate.

Stewardship 2022 Update

Thanks so much to everyone who has pledged to support our congregation and its ministries in 2022. As of press time for the January Communicator (December 15) we have reached 98% of our goal of \$475,000. This includes 110 pledges totaling \$467,515. If you would still like to make a pledge for 2022, please contact Neila Carey in the church office.

Session Highlights, November & December

- Voted on CPC Bylaws changes to be presented to the congregation in February
- Voted to support Pastor Brian in his application to the Doctor of Ministry program at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in Missional Leadership
- Approved funding for Binge Network Solutions to install audio system upgrades to the sanctuary
- Approved tuition increases for the Children's Center for 2022
- Approved the hiring of Angel Ku for the Worship Technician position to oversee worship streaming
- Welcomed Donah Holmes and Marcia Reich as new members

Thank You for Your Generosity

Your CPC Deacons and CPC Congregational Care Coordinator would like to thank the many members and friends of CPC for their joyful generosity in funding the Christmas poinsettias that adorned our CPC sanctuary! Following the service on December 19, all of the poinsettias were delivered by the deacons and volunteers to members of the church who are ill, homebound, isolated, or bereaved, and also to the staff and ministers of CPC, Emmanuel and GPIB.

Thank You for sharing your generous hearts! Blessings and joy in this new year!

Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday February 6

The annual meeting of the congregation will take place immediately after worship on February 6. The congregation will receive the 2022 Final Budget approved by Session, and vote to approve the Pastor and Associate Pastor's terms of call.

March Madness Youth Camp

Save the Date: March 18-20, 2022. March Madness Youth Camp for grades 6-12 will be held at Big Bear Christian Camp & Conference Center and is co-hosted by the Tapestry Youth Collective.

A graphic for Winterfest 2022. The background is dark with white, frost-like patterns. The text "Winterfest 2022" is written in a large, white, cursive font. Below it, "February 2-5" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there is a block of white text: "Sponsored by the Presbytery of San Gabriel & The Education, Equipping, Empowerment Committee Focus - Mental Health & Congregational Care Weeknights (Feb 2-4) 7 PM on Zoom Saturday (Feb 5) 10 AM In-Person Registration information coming soon."/>

Winterfest 2022
February 2-5

Sponsored by the Presbytery of San Gabriel & The Education,
Equipping, Empowerment Committee
Focus - Mental Health & Congregational Care
Weeknights (Feb 2-4) 7 PM on Zoom
Saturday (Feb 5) 10 AM In-Person
Registration information coming soon.

Where Am I? Epiphany as Spiritual Discovery

a retreat for the new year

January 9, 1:00 - 3:30 PM in-person or online

When Advent and Christmas conclude, we are left with a profound question: Where Am I? What is happening on my spiritual journey? Is there a new invitation? Join us on Sunday, January 9 from 1:00-3:30 for a fascinating exploration of how the events of the Epiphany and the story of the Magi can morph into a spiritual revelation. Christopher McCauley, spiritual teacher and companion, returns to Claremont to unpack ancient wisdom in the present moment. We will learn the Epiphany Cycle, a way of locating where we are at any spiritual moment. Using our own stories, ancient texts, and a walking meditation, we will discover a way to make this season of Epiphany useful and fresh for the new year. To register go to claremontpres.org/events.



Flowers for Worship

Worship Flowers for our December 2021 Sunday morning worship services were generously and thoughtfully donated by:
December 5, Barb and Mark MacKenzie in honor of his mother, Barbara MacKenzie and in loving memory of Mark's father, George Douglas MacKenzie

December 12, Jean Perry in honor of her son Richard's birthday on December 17.

December 19, flowers in the chancel were donated by Delight Slotemaker de Bruine, in loving memory of her mother, Caroline Bristol Slotemaker de Bruine, and in honor of her birthday on December 23.

December 19, flowers in the narthex were donated by Lisa and David Frazier in honor and in celebration of their 39th wedding anniversary!

All of the Christmas poinsettias in the sanctuary were generously donated by the members and friends of CPC in recognition of loved ones for many sentimental reasons close to your hearts.

December 26, Mike and Chanielle Serret in loving honor of Marilyn Serret's birthday, precious wife and mother.



The Communicator is published monthly by Claremont Presbyterian Church. Submissions are subject to editing for content and length. To submit an article or item for the monthly calendar, please e-mail Lisa Strom (lisa@claremontpres.org) by the 15th of the month.

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Ways to Give

As we return to in-person worship, following CDC recommendations, we will still not be passing the offering place. There will be a collection box in the Narthex and all these methods are still available:

- Check: As long as the US Mail is still delivering, we can receive contributions by checks mailed to our church office.
- Online: You can make an online contribution to Claremont Presbyterian Church by navigating to our website at claremontpres.org/giving-2. or by scanning the QR code to the right.
- Autopay from your checking account: Your bank should be able to help you set up an electronic payment directly to CPC.
- Transfer money through your bank or the Zelle app. Send your money to: giving@claremontpres.org.



Look out for Scams

If you receive any email messages from the pastors asking for help or assistance in the form of money, gift cards, or other financial products, please do not reply. First contact the pastor or call the church office and make sure the request was legitimate. Let's work together to protect each other from scammers.

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 11/30/21	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$420,696.33	\$421,663.00
Other Income	\$197,949.52	\$84,986.00
Expenses	-\$564,248.90	-\$554,967.18
Variance	\$54,396.95	-\$48,318.18
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 11/30/21	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$892,768.73	\$588,087.24
Expenses	-\$829,026.20	-\$588,572.69
Variance	\$63,742.53	-\$485.45
Second round PPP Loan has been forgiven. Proceeds are now included in Other Income.		

Christmas Breakfast

It was such a joy to resume the Christmas Breakfast after a year off due to Covid.



Please Lift Up Your Prayers

In celebration: Let us be full of joy in this new year, as we have celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas! We follow the star, and anticipate how we might see God's work unfolding within and amongst us.

For family and friends of loved ones passing: Donah Holmes and her daughter-in-law, Alex, for the passing of Donah's son Steve after an extended battle with cancer; the family of Ruth Auld. We remember our friends and family who have lost their loved ones, especially as one-year anniversaries are near: This month, we particularly lift up prayers for Lisa and David Frazier on the one year anniversary of the passing of their son, Sean, their only child, on January 1.

For strength and grace: Elsie Harber; Carlynn and Herb Christian; Doris Craig and Mae (Becky) Beck and her nieces; Meredith Clayton/Rocky Supinger.

Prayers for continued recovery, healing, and/or on-going treatments for: Lisa Frazier; Mary and Ed Hughes; Larry Robertson; Patrick West; Patricia Maine; Bob Kelly; Frank Pinkerton; Jean Perry.

The compassionate, healing touch of the Holy Spirit for: Joyce and Ted Alexander and for their grandson, Peter, as he begins radiation treatment for stage 2 pancreatic cancer; Jim and Lenore Brashler; Gennie Ransom; Cloyce Morrow; Sue Likens; and for all of those who remain unnamed here, but named within our hearts.

For those whom we tenderly remember on an ongoing basis: Kevin Kessler and his brother, Ken, who are still displaced due to a fire in their family home; Judith Rios, a former CPCC

teacher, journeying through stage 4 cancer; John Najarian; Suzanne and Kay Brown; Carolyn Whitham; Chris Hartmire; Thom Bleakney; Phoebe DeVille; Jean Underwood; Chet & Eileen Jaeger; Lee & Claire McDonald; Mike Layne; Barbara Myers; Doris Chambers; Marianne Hillman; Mary & Ed Hughes; Sean and Matthew Hughes; Sandra Deibel.

Should you, anyone in your family, or anyone of whom you know, be in need of prayer, and you have their permission to share their name, please send your requests via email to Delight Slotemaker de Bruine. You may indicate that you wish only the name listed or you may wish to include details. Details are shared only as per your direction, otherwise then they will be shared confidentially at the weekly staff meeting.



COMMUNICATOR

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Deadline for February *Communicator* - January 15

Weekly Online Events

Monday - Thursday, Saturday

8:00 AM - Morning Prayer (Facebook)

Sunday - Friday

5:00 PM - Evening Prayer (Facebook)

Sunday

10:00 AM - Worship (Facebook)

Wednesday

11:30 AM - Mid-Week Mini Concert (Facebook)

4:00 PM - Bible Study (Zoom) - Returning Jan. 19

Friday

8:00 AM - Morning Meditation (Online Meditation Chapel)



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