



claremont presbyterian church

# COMMUNICATOR

January 2023



## MATTHEW 25

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### A Year With Matthew

In each year of its three year cycle, the Revised Common Lectionary focuses on a particular gospel. This year, that gospel is Matthew. For much of 2023, we will focus on Matthew as our primary source for preaching and worship. We will refer often to A Year with Matthew for a Matthew 25 Church, a resource from the PCUSA for churches like CPC who have made a commitment to becoming part of the Matthew 25 movement within our denomination. The gospel lectionary readings in January begin with Matthew's account of the Magi's journey, move on to the beginnings of Jesus' ministry in Galilee, and end with the opening verses of The Sermon on the Mount.

As we prepare for a sermon series on The Sermon on the Mount, our Wednesday bible study will explore The Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of God by Amy-Jill Levine. More information about that study can be found in this newsletter.

*Karen Sapio*

## Upcoming Worship

Sunday worship services are in-person and accessible through Facebook Live (facebook.com/claremontpres) or Youtube (search Claremont Presbyterian Church).

### Sunday, January 1, 10:00 AM

*New Years Day*  
*Communion Sunday*  
Matthew 2:1-12  
Karen Sapio preaching

### Sunday, January 8, 10:00 AM

*Baptism of the Lord*  
Matthew 3:13-17  
Brian Gaeta-Symonds preaching

### Sunday, January 15, 10:00 AM

Matthew 4:12-16  
Karen Sapio preaching

### Wednesday, January 18, 5:30 PM

The Village Dinner Church

### Sunday, January 22, 10:00 AM

Matthew 4:18-25  
Karen Sapio preaching

### Sunday, January 29, 10:00 AM

*Interfaith Exchange with*  
*Temple Beth Israel*  
Matthew 5:1-12

## Save the Date: CPC/TBI Interfaith Exchange

Claremont Presbyterian Church and Temple Beth Israel are planning their annual Interfaith Exchange on Sunday, January 29 and Friday, February 3. Stay tuned for more details in the Sunday bulletin and *The Latest*.

## Our contemplative ministry is growing...

... and you are invited to be part of it.

When our weekly meditation group started several years ago, we asked, “how can we heal the rift between our daily lives and the sacred?” (It’s a question that Corinne Ware asked in her book *St. Benedict on the Freeway*.)

Our answer was to create more opportunities for spiritual engagement during the week. Our pastors have created morning and evening prayer opportunities, we built a labyrinth and prayer garden, and on Fridays, we gather on line for 24 minutes of Centering Prayer.

Join us if you can. Our Friday Morning Meditation follows in the tradition of Centering Prayer, which was popularized in the U.S. by the late Fr. Thomas Keating. (More about him and his work at: [contemplativeoutreach.org](http://contemplativeoutreach.org))

Most of the participants have been from CPC, but we have had others from all over the U.S, Canada, and the UK, Spain, and Asia. It’s a silent meditation—no voices in the background telling you to breath or relax your muscles. Generally, we start with a little introduction about Centering Prayer, then mediate for about 24 minutes, ask for prayer concerns and moments of grace, and close with the Lord’s Prayer.

Our partners at Contemplative Outreach would like you to register before providing you the links to the meditation session. This keeps people with inappropriate intentions away. Here is a link to the registration process: [meditationchapel.org/getting-started](http://meditationchapel.org/getting-started). Registration is a little complex. If it proves frustrating, please email me, and I will register you: [charlestaylorkerchner@gmail.com](mailto:charlestaylorkerchner@gmail.com)

In addition, we invite you to the CPC labyrinth and a prayer garden with a fountain and benches, both behind the sanctuary, open to the public.

Stop by any time. If you happen on the area as school is letting out you will be greeted by perhaps scores of children and their parents using the space, not always prayerfully, but nonetheless drawn to a place of spiritual awakening.

-Chuck Kerchner

## Stewardship 2022 Update

Thanks so much to everyone who has pledged to support our congregation and its ministries in 2023. As of press time for the January Communicator, (December 15), we have reached 90.3% of our goal of \$485,000. This includes 107 pledges totaling \$437,773. If you would still like to make a pledge for 2023, please contact Neila Carey in the church office.

## Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday February 5

The annual meeting of the congregation will take place immediately after worship on February 5. The congregation will receive the 2023 Final Budget approved by Session and vote to approve the Pastor and Associate Pastor's terms of call.

## Wednesday Bible Study returns January 11, features Sermon on the Mount

In preparation for an upcoming sermon series on The Sermon on the Mount, our Wednesday Bible Study group will explore *The Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven*, by Amy-Jill Levine. The group meets on Zoom every Wednesday at 4 PM. The meeting ID is 862 1883 9113.

The book is available through most online booksellers. If you would prefer to have the church place your order, please let Pastor Karen know.

## CPC Family & Youth Outing

On Saturday, Jan. 14 from 10 AM-2 PM join us at Snow-drift Snow Tubing Park, 34600 State Highway 18, Running Springs, CA 92386. Cost is \$20 per person/hour (kids under 36" are free with an adult ticket) Parking is \$10.

Some of us may head over to a restaurant in Running Springs for food afterward. Let Pastor Brian or Heather know if you'd like to join the fun. (Assistance with paying for tickets available – Let Pastor Brian know)

## The CPC Village Dinner Church

Our next Village Dinner Church is January 18 at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This month we welcome Jessica ChengFeng PhD, LMFT as our guest presenter. Jessica is an Associate Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy at the Fuller School of Psychology and Marriage and Family Therapy. She and her husband, Andre, have their two children enrolled at the Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center, and both Jessica and Andre have provided continuing education opportunities for the Center staff.

## Christmas Pageant Sunday – Did you see it?

On Sunday, December 11 the pageant was a hit, albeit a bit mixed up... I mean Halloween costumes at Christmas?! Nearly 15 children, several youth, a handful of very dedicated parents, and a very talented director all helped to make this year's pageant a great success.



## An Evening with the Author

Rock of the Foothills Lutheran Church (where our Communications Coordinator is also the worship leader and works alongside her husband, Pastor Eric Strom) invites CPC to a very special Book & Brew event: an evening with Bob Rognlien, the author of *The Most Extraordinary Life: Discovering the Real Jesus*. On January 30 at 7:00 PM, join us in our fellowship hall (at 4630 Wheeler Ave, La Verne) for a book chat and some non-alcoholic brews: coffee, tea and desserts.

About *The Most Extraordinary Life*...

“There are so many ideas floating around about the identity and significance of this Jewish builder-turned-rabbi who has changed the world and billions of lives. How can we know who he really is? How can we learn to trust and follow him more closely?

Drawing on ancient history, Middle Eastern culture, and the latest archaeological discoveries, veteran guide Bob Rognlien takes us on an incredible journey from Jesus’ baptism to his resurrection, where we can discover the real Jesus. Each chapter begins with a dramatized event from his life, then fleshes out that aspect of this most extraordinary man and the implications for our lives today.

With 60 photos, illustrations, and reconstruction drawings, this book brings to life the world and the Way of Jesus.”

Bob Rognlien is a pastor, teacher, author, and archaeological guide who has been leading people on in-depth, life-changing journeys following the footsteps of Jesus in the Holy Land for over 30 years.

Books can be purchased through many online book sellers or purchase one for the discounted price of \$16 from Lisa Strom. Contact Lisa at [lisa@claremontpres.org](mailto:lisa@claremontpres.org).

## Star Words for the New Year

Worship on New Year’s Day will focus on the New Year and the Feast of The Epiphany coming on January 6th. Everyone will have the opportunity to receive a “star word” for the New Year. If you are not able to be present in person, the stars will be available in the narthex the following Sunday, or in the church office during the week.

## Adult Education

To round out 2022 your Adult Ed Planning Team offered a 3-part series on Indigenous Peoples and Native Realities. It was well attended and three great facilitators invited into the stories and realities of our Native neighbors and friends.

What to look forward to in 2023:  
Jan/Feb – Much needed rest (Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22)

March – Lenten study - Feb 27, Mar 6, 13, 20, 27 at 7 PM kicking off with a soup supper on Feb 27 at 6 PM.

April – TBD Lenten Study celebration event – Wine and Cheese Tasting

May - Care for Creation: Prayer & Gardening

Also, look out for a quarterly series from Adult Ed (4 Sunday mornings in 2023).

## Adopt-a-Family Thanks You

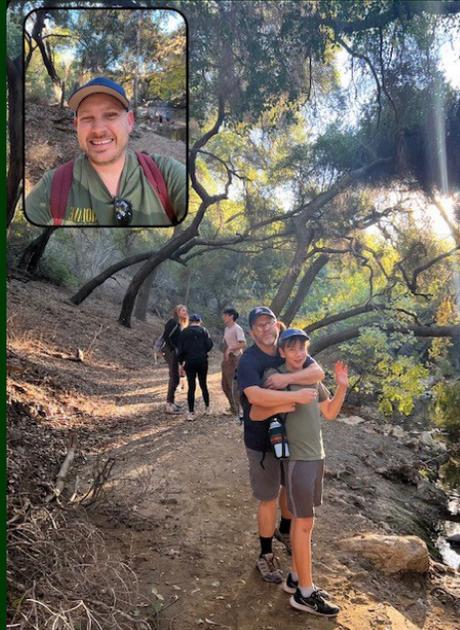
The Deacons would like to take this opportunity and thank you all for your incredible generosity in our “Adopt a Family” drive this Christmas season.

Our goal was to raise \$1,000 to provide Christmas money for five Uncommon Good families. With your contributions we surpassed that goal. With assistance from the Children’s Center families, we were able to give each family \$280.00 in gift cards. What a wonderful gift you have been to so many people. Thank you so much.

## Children’s Spiritual Formation Continues in 2023

After some time this last Fall preparing for the annual Christmas Pageant, which was fabulous, our teachers and children will return to fun and engaging learning opportunities.

## Check out the photos from the November Hike It was a swinging good time



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

Early Elementary (4 yr-old – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade) - In-person in the Chapel during the worship service. (Every Sunday excluding the last Sunday of the month)

Tweens (3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades) – In-person in Classroom 1 during the worship service. Could become hybrid to accommodate remote visitors. (Every Sunday excluding the last Sunday of the month)

Sunday morning Spiritual Formation resumes January 15.

Jr. Highers (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades) – Inquire with Pastor Brian and Heather Chapman regarding the schedule for Jr. High Initiatives on Sunday mornings as they do not gather every Sunday.

Waffle Church & Last Sunday of the month activities – In 2023 the Education & Leadership Commission is planning on bringing back Last Sunday activities, including Waffle Church. On the last Sunday of the month our children are invited to either come together for Waffle Church in Fellowship Hall or for after worship activities on the patio and front lawn. For the schedule, please see Pastor Brian or Heather Chapman.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Pastor Brian or Children, Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator, Heather Chapman [heather@claremontpres.org](mailto:heather@claremontpres.org).

## Save the Date - Youth Winter Camp

March 2023 (dates TBD) at Big Bear Christian Camp & Conference Center for grades 6-12.



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

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## Ways to Give

- Place offerings in offering box in narthex after worship.
- 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](http://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](mailto:giving@claremontpres.org).



## A Magnificent Poinsettia Donation Thank you!

Thank you so very much to each of you who so generously donated Christmas Poinsettias to adorn our sanctuary for worship on December 18. The array of poinsettias was full of splendor as we worshiped God and awaited the birth of the Christ child. All dedications were listed in the bulletin insert in the December 18 worship bulletin.

Thanks to your generosity, the Deacons and volunteers, including some of you who opted to take your donated poinsettia(s) with you to distribute, delivered a total of 108 poinsettias to families, gravesides, the ill, the homebound, the isolated, the bereaved, the lonely, as well as in thanks to the CPC staff and to all of the Pastors of each of the three worshiping communities on our campus.

Brightly-tied cards, individually addressed, with the image of the straw manger on the front and a note enclosed inside from Pastors Karen and Brian accompanied each poinsettia.

On behalf of the Deacons and your Congregational Care Coordinator, we thank you for your seemingly unending generosity and sharing.

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 11/30/2022	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$396,359.14	\$440,000.00
Other Income	\$163,090.10	\$98,883.33
Expenses	-\$611,959.88	-\$609,397.43
Variance	-\$52,510.64	-\$70,514.10
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 11/30/2022	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$996,329.06	\$1,007,662.17
Expenses	-\$988,955.08	-\$989,778.84
Variance	\$7,373.98	\$17,883.33

## Flowers for Worship

Glorious worship flowers, designed by Sherwood Florist, were donated with care and loving thought to enhance our worship space by the following individuals:

December 4, CPC Deacons with the care, love and hope of Christ Jesus, in honor of all of their CPC parish members.

December 11, Jean Perry in honor of her son, Richard's birthday on December 17.

December 18, Lisa and David Frazier in celebration of their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

December 24 & 25, Delight Slotemaker de Bruine in memory of my mother Caroline, on her birthday and the anniversary of her passing. She "delighted" in Christmas, and always wore red on Christmas Day!

We thank each of our generous donors, for sharing such lovely beauty in our worship space.

Should you wish to donate an altar or Narthex arrangement, in honor of, in memory of, or in celebration of a loved one or special event, please contact Delight Slotemaker de Bruine [delight@claremontpres.org](mailto:delight@claremontpres.org). She will take care of all of the details for you.

## Please Lift Up Your Prayers

*In gratitude:* for the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the wise, who, coming before us, followed the star to see and to experience the long-awaited birth of the Christ child, our Lord and Savior. Let us find welcome in this new calendar year in the hope, love, peace, joy and grace of Christ, born in the straw of the manger.

*For those who have died and for their families:* Chris Hartmire; Ed Hughes on December 12; Jean Underwood on December 2, long-time Presbyterian Missionary in Korea for 44 years; Danielle Hunter (Patricia Maine's niece); Catherine Lin's grandmother; Evelyn Connelly; Doug Carrington; Nancy Rice's sister, Rachel Murrell.

*For those who are ill, recovering, or facing upcoming surgery:* Judy Hormell, recovering in Bradbury Oaks at Westminster Gardens following hospitalization for breathing challenges; Patricia Yu, Catherine Lin's mother; Joan Kelly's sister and Donna Kelly's aunt who suffered a stroke; Corinne Tolles, Delight's cousin; Nia Amores, Teresa Bernal's mother, as her health has taken a turn for the worse from complications following removal of a growth between her small and large intestines; Teresa's brother, Chito Amores, who will undergo surgery for removal of a mass in his liver.

*For those for whom we wish continued healing grace, peace, and comfort:* Sean Hughes; Dennis and Phoebe Frankeberger; Wadie and Rita Alkhouri; Mike Layne; Larry Robertson; Frank Pinkerton; Cloyce Morrow; Joyce and Ted Alexander; Ron and Trish Perry; Jean Perry; Gennie Ransom; Sue Likens, who sustained a fall and broke her collarbone; Brad Starr's father, Phil Starr; Lisa Frazier; Peggy Nall; family, friends, and neighbors who are recovering from Covid and flu.

*For the strength, grace, and peace of the Holy Spirit for those of us who may find ourselves in vulnerable, sensitive, or health-related family situations:* Greg Stout and for his sister, Margie Stout Ludwig; Herb & Carlynn Christian; Pastor Brian's aunt; Pastor Brian's parents, Bonnie and Dennis Symonds; Pastor Brian and family; the Agwu family; Kevin and Ken Kessler.

*For those whom we remember on an ongoing basis:* John Najarian; Roger Shervington; Carrie Willette, Jan Willette's daughter; Barbara Patch; Phoebe DeVille; Doris Craig and Mae (Becky) Beck and her nieces; Suzanne and Kay Brown; Tom Bleakney; Eileen Jaeger; Carolyn Kingshill; Claire McDonald; Barbara Myers; Doris Chambers; MaryAnne Blaine; Marianne Hillman; Sandra Deibel; Carolyn Whitham; Marion Thompson; Jean Cochran.

We also lift up all of those who remain unnamed here, but whose names and spirits are strongly engraved within our hearts.

Please contact [delight@claremontpres.org](mailto:delight@claremontpres.org) for any prayer requests. Details will be shared only as you give permission. Otherwise, the CPC Staff and Deacons will lift up your confidential prayer requests.



# COMMUNICATOR

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CLAREMONT, CA 91711

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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, Monday & Wednesday

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)

### Friday

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



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