



claremont presbyterian church

COMMUNICATOR

February 2022



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From Pastor Karen

For the Pastor’s page in our Annual Report last year, I summarized the challenges we had faced during 2020 and the courage and creativity that had emerged among us to meet those challenges. I ended with hopeful words about how, in 2021, our congregation would focus on the challenges and opportunities of being the church in “the post pandemic world.”

Well. The post pandemic world did not arrive in 2021. The year began with great optimism as COVID-19 vaccines were rolled out for the general public, but new variants, anti-vax resistance, and ever widening polarization regarding public health policy turned 2021 into a year of wild swings between progress, setbacks, grief, anger, and frustration. We experienced all of those in our life together as a congregation.

Still, through it all, God’s love was steadfast. We trusted and relied upon that unfailing love and mercy as we responded to each new swing. Through the roller coaster year that was 2021, we:

- Supported our neighbors at Mountain View Elementary School as they returned to in-person instruction in April.
- Celebrated Easter with an outdoor worship service with Emmanuel Presbyterian.
- Began hybrid worship in June with people worshipping both in person and remotely.
- Installed new live streaming equipment in the Sanctuary to support hybrid

Upcoming Worship

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

Sunday, February 6, 10:00 AM

Communion Sunday

The Epiphany Cycle: Identifying a
Gift

Luke 4:14-21

Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, February 13, 10:00 AM

*Interfaith Exchange with
Temple Beth Israel*

The Epiphany Cycle: Coming to a
New Place

Matthew 2:10-11a

Pastor Karen and

Rabbi Kupetz preaching

Friday, February 18, 7:30 PM

*Interfaith Exchange with
Temple Beth Israel, Pt. 2*

Join TBI for Friday services online at
facebook.com/tbipomona

Sunday, February 20, 10:00 AM

The Epiphany Cycle: Offering a Gift
Matthew 2:11b, Philippians 2:12-18
Elmarie and Scott Parker preaching

Sunday, February 27, 10:00 AM

The Epiphany Cycle: Home by
Another Way

Matthew 2:12, Luke 9:28-36

Brian Gaeta-Symonds preaching

worship and other events.

- Marveled at our all volunteer “stream team” and their commitment to learning new technology and keeping our congregation connected in worship.
- Helped Mission Partners welcome Afghani Refugees arriving in our community.
- Offered in person and online Labyrinth walks, retreats, and bible studies.
- Conducted our second online Alternative Christmas Market which raised over \$18,000 for our local and global mission partners.

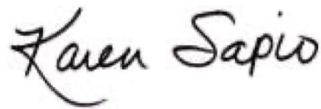
I won't end this with any speculation about the “post pandemic world.” We may not get there, even in 2022. What I do know is that our congregation is called to help its members, friends, and our community live with the courage and compassion of Christ as we face what lies ahead, whatever that might be.

*I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.*

Wait for the Lord;

be strong, and let your heart take courage;

wait for the Lord! -Psalm 31



A Virtual Visit from Scott and Elmarie Parker on February 20

Presbyterian Mission Coworkers Scott and Elmarie Parker will pay a virtual visit to CPC on Sunday, February 20. The Parkers are in the U.S. through April to share the work they do with the churches of Lebanon and Syria. Because of COVID, the Presbyterian Mission Agency has asked that they do only virtual visits to congregations like ours who support their work. Fortunately, our new live stream technology will allow them to be present with us in Sunday worship through those means. They will preach and also let us know about other opportunities to connect with them and learn more about their work during Lent.

Interfaith Exchange with Temple Beth Israel

In spite of COVID, we will once again take part in our 40+ year long tradition of a mid-winter Interfaith Exchange with our friends at Temple Beth Israel. Rabbi Jonathan Kupetz and Cantor Paul Buch will join us for worship on Sunday, February 13 and Pastor Karen and Pastor Brian will participate in Shabbat Services at TBI on Friday, February 18 at 7:30 PM. Both the Sunday and Friday services will be live streamed. In view of the current Omicron surge it was decided to exchange only leaders this year. We hope that we will be able to gather together with or friends at TBI in 2023. Find the TBI Shabbat Live Stream at facebook.com/tbipomona.

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins on March 2 this year. We will observe it's arrival with “Ashes to Go” at the Labyrinth between 12:30 and 1:30 PM and with a contemplative service of prayer

and imposition of ashes in the Sanctuary at 7 PM. Look for more details in your March Communicator.

Sunday Spiritual Formation for Children

NEW START DATE - February 6.

Hopefully, beginning in February 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 (Sanctuary lobby) 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 participate 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 childcare. 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.

Adult Education Series on Aging

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.

Looking ahead: as Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2, there will be many opportunities for you to engage your faith with your CPC and community family. One of these opportunities is the annual Lenten study. This year Adult Ed

will be facilitating weekly conversations around readings from John Pavlovitz's book *If God is Love, Don't Be a Jerk*. (available through most major online book distributors). We will conclude the study with a special speaker event.

Weekly discussions - Mondays, March 7-28 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. Meeting ID: 848 3292 4601. Passcode: 756708.

Speaker Event – First weekend of April (date/time TBD) In-person and online.

March Madness Youth Camp

Uplift! March 18-20 at Big Bear Christian Camp & Conference Center and Co-hosted by the Tapestry Youth Collective. Games, Camp Food, Free Time, Worship, Camp Food, and Fun! For grades 6-12 and the cost is \$135 (scholarship funds available)

To register and for more info on scholarships talk to Pastor Brian. Please know that in-person camp is contingent on Covid safety protocols and permission.

Souper Bowl of Caring

The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring offering will be collected during worship on Sunday, February 13. While you may be getting ready for the big football game, don't forget to grab your spare change off the counter, or out of the jar, or from the couch cushions and bring it all with you to church.

Every year the youth coordinate this collection. 100% of the collection will be donated to the Inland Valley Hope Partners' Beta Center. This is such a special way for our young people to see the very real impact what we do in church can have on our community. We will also gladly take dollar bills – even checks, and online giving as long as you designate it for the Souper Bowl Offering.

Remember, as you prepare for kick-off, don't fumble collecting your change for the Souper Bowl of Caring. HIKE!

Epiphany Cycle Sermon Series Continues

Our sermon series which began on Sunday, January 2 will allow for an extended look at the Epiphany story and scriptures.

- 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 and 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.

CPCC Passes Accreditation with Flying Colors

Sacha Lord

I am very happy, and more than a little relieved, to share the news that the Children’s Center has achieved a new five-year term of accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Our new term of accreditation is valid until May 1, 2027. Accreditation demonstrates our commitment to quality and continuous quality improvement. NAEYC-accredited programs commit to ensuring that their environment, policies, and practices are continually aligned with NAEYC’s early learning standards and recommended practices.

The accreditation process is very formal and there are a total of 345 items that are scored. These items fall in the ten standards that are measured: Relationships; Curriculum; Teaching; Assessment of Child Progress; Health; Staff Competencies, Preparation, and Support; Families; Community Relationships; Physical Environment; and Leadership and Management. Each age group and the program must create portfolios addressing the measures within each standard, and the program and classrooms must meet the high quality practices and environments as outlined in the standards and determined by observations.

We received our accreditation visits on October 18 and 19, 2021. Three of our six classrooms were assessed: Butterflies (Young Toddlers), Ladybugs (Toddlers), and Froggies (Preschool 3s). These classes and the program were observed by two assessors, who also reviewed the classroom and program portfolios. In the evaluation of the classroom and program portfolios and observations, we received an overall pass rate of 90.43%. The classroom observation pass rates ranged from 92% to 95%.

Preparing for accreditation, especially creating the portfolios, takes time and effort, and truly represents a commitment to high quality early child care and education. Though we are accredited, this re-accreditation round was different in that the NAEYC has changed its measures and both the classroom and program portfolios needed to be created from scratch. Our teachers are to be commended for doing this hard work during extremely challenging times and for doing this work exceedingly well. I am deeply thankful for the teachers and for their commitment to our Center and to the important work to which they are

called. They are wonderful.

I wish to thank CPC and the Center teachers and families for the unwavering support and understanding we received, especially through the vicissitudes of the past two years. It is an honor and a pleasure to serve this caring community

Winterfest 2022, February 2-5

Living Our Faith in the New Normal: Creating Places of Compassion For Self and Our Congregations. The weeknight sessions will be on Zoom from 7-9 PM. Saturday is the Plenary Session - “Resilience Together” led by Dr. Cynthia Eriksson and Rev. Alexia Salvatierra also on Zoom beginning at 10 AM. For more Information: sangabpres.org/wf

CPC Youth 30 Challenge

On Wednesday, February 9, 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



Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 6 immediately following worship. We will discuss our Annual Report, hear from Session regarding the final 2022 Budget, and approve terms of call for our pastors. The meeting will be live streamed to allow for remote participation.

The CPC Village Dinner Church – New Launch Date

Gathering in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, February 16, 5:30 – 7:00 PM (and every 3rd Wednesday of the month)
(Launching will take place if safe to do so)

What? The Village Dinner Church offers an alternative to Sunday worship. 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.

Why go? If you are looking for a place to connect with folks who are seeking spiritual nourishment, try it!

Who? Anyone – families, single people, retirees; especially those who may have stepped away from, or have not yet found a church, and who are seeking a community.

Purpose? To create an inviting space for folks to gather and experience worship: Either for the first time, for something less intimidating, something more energetic and hopefully something fun!

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.

Your CPC Village Dinner Church Lead Team

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

Generosity Abounds

The members and friends of Claremont Presbyterian Church are well known for sharing their abundance with others through various mission projects. The Alternative Christmas Market (ACM) is one of those projects in which donations are made to our various mission partners as an alternative to giving physical gifts to loved ones. Our mission partners are always sincerely appreciative of the support your donations represent. The 2021 ACM saw your generosity flowing at record levels. The following amounts were distributed:

Aging Next - \$260.00	Medical Benevolence Foundation - \$35.00
Angel Interfaith Network - \$595.00	National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon - \$750.00
Church World Service - \$260.00	Near East School of Theology - \$300.00
CLASP - \$830.00	PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers - \$180.00
Claremont Meals on Wheels - \$587.50	Pilgrim Place - \$1,140.00
CPC Deacons - \$650.00	Prison Library Project - \$555.00
CPC Deacons Adopt a Family - \$1,860.00	Refugee Concerns Team - \$210.00
Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center - \$925.00	Refugee Resettlement - \$810.00
Crossroads - \$395.00	Tijuana Water Project - \$911.00
Foothill AIDs Project - \$290.00	Uncommon Good - \$1,309.00
Habitat for Humanity - \$730.00	Total of donations - \$18,312.50
Heifer International - \$1,135.00	
House of Ruth - \$1,786.00	
Immigrant Accompaniment - \$195.00	
Inland Valley Hope Partners - \$1,614.00	





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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Upcoming Family Outings

Feb. 13 - RailGiants Train Museum at the Pomona Fairplex

March - Frank Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas (afternoon at the park)

Watch your emails and listen for announcements during worship for more information! If you have any questions or ideas please contact Catherine Lin or Pastor Brian.

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.



Flowers for Worship

Our CPC community is grateful for the generous donations of worship flowers from folks providing lovely adornment for our worship services, both in person and via live streams.

The worship flowers for January 2022 Sunday worship services were donated as follows:

January 2 by Lisa and David Frazier in loving memory of their only son, Sean, on the first anniversary his death on January 1.

January 9 by Tom Bleakney in loving memory of his dear friend, Robert Cave, who died on December 18, 2020, and in honor of Susan Cave.

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 12/31/21	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$474,814.90	\$460,000.00
Other Income	\$211,840.31	\$92,800.00
Expenses	-\$652,090.20	-\$604,311.45
Variance	\$34,565.01	-\$51,511.45
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 12/31/21	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$979,841.49	\$641,567.24
Expenses	-\$943,580.63	-\$642,176.68
Variance	\$36,260.86	-\$609.44
Second round PPP Loan has been forgiven. Proceeds are now included in Other Income.		

Eric and Teresa Bernal, lovingly donated the flowers for the Narthex dedicated in memory of Frances Bernal's birthday on January 12.

January 16 by Pat and Bill Reed in celebration of Nancy Rice's 90th birthday on January 2.

The rose on the Communion table was provided by CPC in celebration of the birth of a great grandson for Nancy Rice, Ezekiel Andrew Zyla, born the day after Christmas to Adam and Hannah Dreitzer Zyla, Nancy Rice's granddaughter.

January 23 by the Jaeger family in loving memory of Chet Jaeger and in honor of Chet and Eileen's 76th wedding anniversary.

Please Lift Up Your Prayers

In celebration: We celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Kent and Teddie Warner, thanking them for all of their many gifts of time and talent, shared with CPC.

For family and friends, surrounding them with love, upon receiving the news of the death of loved ones: Lois Weider, mother of Barbara MacKenzie, who passed very early in the morning of January 12; Chet Jaeger who died at home on January 4; Lee McDonald who passed with his family at his bedside on December 29, the day after having been able to celebrate Claire's birthday; Steve, son of Donah Holmes, who died after a long navigation through cancer; Donah's daughter-in-law, for the death of her mother just a week prior to her husband's death; Ruth Auld; the father of Damon Lopez. We also remember those who have lost loved ones, in the month of February, in recent years past.

For upcoming surgery and healing for: Charles Kerchner, Jr, son of Chuck Kerchner.

For strength and grace: Carrie Willette, for continued navigation through cancer; Barbara Patch; Sue Likens; Janette Gould, mother to Andrea Gould Robertson (Larry & Jeanine's daughter-in-law); Elsie Harber; Carlynn & Herb Christian; Doris Craig and Mae (Becky) Beck and her nieces; Meredith Clayton & Rocky Supinger .

Prayers for continued recovery and healing for: Doug Carrington; Damon and Dillon Lopez; Lisa Frazier; Mary and Ed Hughes; Larry Robertson; Patrick West; Patricia Maine; Bob Kelly; Frank Pinkerton; Jean Perry; Phoebe DeVille; Joyce and Ted Alexander and for their grandson, Peter, as he begins radiation treatment for stage 2 pancreatic cancer.

The compassionate, healing touch of the Holy Spirit for: Pastor Brian and his family; Jim and Lenore Brashler; Gennie Ransom; Cloyce Morrow.

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; Tom Bleakney; Jean Underwood; Eileen Jaeger; Claire McDonald; Mike Layne; Barbara Myers; Doris Chambers; Marianne Hillman; Mary & Ed Hughes; Sean and Matthew Hughes; Sandra Deibel.

Please contact 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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Deadline for March *Communicator* - February 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)

Friday

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



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