



claremont presbyterian church

COMMUNICATOR

February 2024



In This Issue...

Upcoming Worship	2
Interfaith Exchange.....	2
Ash Wednesday	2
Deacon News	2
Adult Ed.....	3
Lenten Bible Study.....	3
One Great Hour of Sharing.....	3
Easter Lilies.....	3
The Village Dinner Church.....	4
Worship Flowers	4
Honoring Mrs. Laura	5
SGP Lenten Series	6
Financials.....	6
Prayers	7

Lent Already?

Lent arrives early this year; Ash Wednesday and Valentine’s Day arrive together just weeks after some of us have finally taken down the last of our Christmas decorations. There is an ancient Christian tradition of beginning Lent by symbolically burying the Alleluia. Throughout the season, this tradition holds, we do not say or sing “Alleluia” in worship. Lent is a season for remembering the brokenness of this world and our part in that brokenness. It is a time to lament and repent.

So if we cannot sing the Alleluia, what should we sing? One recent article suggests that Lent is the time to sing the Blues. The Blues lifts up struggle, heartbreak, despair, and sadness. It sings about the world as it is. Yet many blues songs also contain a thread of hope: justice will be done, love will return, hard times won’t last always. Like the Psalms of lament, the blues blend cries of pain with whispers of faith.

This year, we will explore themes of struggle and pain in the gospel lectionary texts for the season and see if we can hear the good news more clearly when we pair those stories with some classic blues gospel tune. We will also offer a weekly Lenten study on *The Gospel According to the Blues*, by New Testament scholar Gary Burnett.

Join us as we begin our Lenten journey with Ash Wednesday worship on February 14 at 7:00 PM.

Karen Sapio

Upcoming Worship

Sunday worship services are in-person and accessible through Facebook Live ([facebook.com/claremontpres](https://www.facebook.com/claremontpres)) or Youtube ([youtube.com/@claremontpres](https://www.youtube.com/@claremontpres))

Sunday, February 4, 10:00 AM

*Interfaith Exchange
with Temple Beth Israel*
The Rev. Karen Sapio and
Rabbi Jonathan Kupetz

—

Sunday, February 11, 10:00 AM

Transfiguration Sunday
Mark 9:2-9
Karen Sapio preaching

—

Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday worship with
Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

—

Sunday, February 18, 10:00 AM

First Sunday in Lent
Temptation: Mark 1:9-15
Karen Sapio preaching

—

Wednesday, February 21, 5:30 PM

Village Dinner Church

—

Sunday, February 25, 10:00 AM

Second Sunday in Lent
Cross: Mark 8:31-38
Karen Sapio preaching
Waffle Church, Fellowship Hall

Dates for Important February Events

Due to some changes in the availability of some leaders and participants, there have been some changes to dates originally set for two February events:

Our annual Interfaith Exchange with Temple Beth Israel will take place on Sunday, February 4 (10:00 AM at CPC), and Friday, February 9, (7:30 PM at TBI).

CPC's Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 11 following worship.

Interfaith Exchange with Temple Beth Israel

Sunday, February 4, 10 AM & Friday, February 9, 7:30 PM

Claremont Presbyterian Church and Temple Beth Israel have met for an annual Interfaith Exchange for over forty years. Through changing situations in our congregations, in the Claremont/Pomona community, and in our nation and world—even in the midst of a global pandemic, we have visited each other's worship services to affirm common ground, reach across differences, and hold one another in prayer. This year is no different. Join us as we come together to love our neighbor and pray together for our beautiful but broken world.

Ash Wednesday Worship, February 14 at 7:00 PM

Lent starts early this year! We will gather to usher in this solemn season with our friends from Emmanuel Hispanic Presbyterian Church. Join us for prayers, reflections, and the imposition of ashes as we begin our Lenten journey.

News from our Deacons

The Deacons would like to thank you for all the generous donations to the Deacons' fund in January. We hope you will continue to support us with monthly donations. They allow us to make regular donations to IVHP and Uncommon Good and help with other things that come up.

We'd like to remind you that our next Red Wheelbarrow Sunday is February 11. Please help support the Beta Center with food, toiletries or monetary donations. The Beta Center can also use cloth grocery bags. The wheelbarrow is always in the lobby, so donations may be made any Sunday.

The Deacons greatly appreciate your support!

Adult Ed. Presents...

A conversation on Aging and the Impact of Alzheimer's and Dementia, will be hosted by the Adult Education Committee on Sunday, **February 25** at 8:45 AM in Room 1. Facilitating this program will be Abby



Pascua, Chief Executive Director of AgingNext, Claremont, who will guide us through considerations including: the importance of socialization and what conversations to avoid; the effects of Alzheimer's and dementia on families; how to request support from our villages (including churches); and identifying available resources for help in our communities.

Abigail Pascua brings more than two decades of "progressive, diverse, non-profit management experience" related to seniors and persons with disabilities. While she graduated with a bachelor's degree in computer science from Philippine Christian University, she realizes that her heart is in work relating to seniors. Her community engagements include service on the board of the ParkTree Community Health Center. Abby shares that she is a mother to three children, a mini goldendoodle named Boo, and a Sulcata tortoise named Ella.

Members and friends are invited to join us for this Sunday morning program (before Worship) on February 25.

Lenten Bible Study

Beginning February 14, join us on Wednesdays at 4:00 PM on Zoom when our explorations of the Bible this Lent will be guided by *The Gospel According to the Blues*, by Gary Burnett. A review of this book notes:

"The Gospel According to the Blues dares us to read the gospel in conversation with Robert Johnson, Son House, and Muddy Waters. It suggests that thinking about the blues—the history, the artists, the songs—provides good stimulation for thinking about the Christian gospel. Both are about a world gone wrong, about injustice, about the human condition, and both are about hope for a better

world. In this book, Gary Burnett probes both the gospel and the history of the blues as we find it in the gospels, to help us understand better the nature of the good news which Jesus preached, and its relevance and challenge to us."

Pastor Karen will teach and lead the discussions.

The book is available in paperback and electronic formats through several online booksellers. If you would like the church to order it for you, please call the church office.

Stay Up to Date!

Subscribe to *the Latest* by going to claremontpres.org and scrolling to the bottom of the page. Here you can enter your e-mail and begin receiving our weekly email with all the most recent events and information.

First Tuesday Coffee and Conversation

At 9:30 AM on February 6, grab a cup of coffee to go from your favorite Claremont Village coffee shop and join friends in Laemmle Square for a time of conversation and building friendships. This is a great chance to get better acquainted with members of our community. Questions? Call the church office at 909-624-9693.

One Great Hour of Sharing

As Lent begins, we will distribute our traditional Fish Banks for One Great Hour of Sharing. Place one in a prominent place in your home through the days and weeks of Lent, then bring it to church on Easter Sunday full of coins for our One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. If you can't be at church on February 18th, we will have some extra available in the church office.

Easter Lily Donations

You have the opportunity to donate an Easter lily in memory of or in honor of someone special, or in celebration of a special event. Your Easter lily donations will decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, March 31. The Deacons, volunteers, and Congregational Care Coordinator will be distributing Easter lilies to the homebound, isolated, ill,

bereaved, and to those who could benefit from a bit of cheer.

In order to have your dedication listed in the Easter Sunday worship bulletin, please submit your donation and dedication by Wednesday March 20. Suggested donation per Easter lily is \$25.00. Donations and dedications may be submitted as follows: If you'd like to pay with PayPal or Zelle, go to claremontpres.org/lilies and fill out the form and make your donation. If you would like to pay with check or cash, fill out the enclosed form and mail to or drop off at the church office, attention: "Neila Carey." For all donation submissions, please memo: "Flower Fund-Easter Lilies." Any questions? Email Delight Slotemaker de Bruine.



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21
5:30 - 7:00 PM

You are invited...

- To relax with a meal that is already taken care of...
- To know that your family is cared for...
- To engage your faith with other people with similar questions...
- To learn how the Holy Spirit is at work in the community...
- And, to experience the wide and inclusive love of God.

Worship Flower Ministry 2024: enjoy the opportunity to donate a floral arrangement for worship!

If you would like to participate in the worship flower ministry by donating worship flowers for any Sunday for either the base of the cross, or the Narthex, please contact Delight Slotemaker de Bruine via email.

There will be an acknowledgment of your donation, along with your dedication, in the bulletin and during the announcements.

You may choose to take the flowers with you, have them delivered to a single location by the deacons, or have them distributed on the patio following worship by the deacons.

This is a wonderful way for us to share in your lives, by remembering a loved one, by honoring someone special, by celebrating a birthday, a graduation, or just to share cheer and joy. Or, you may donate "just because"!

Flowers are curated by Sherwood Florist. As we have been given a price increase, the cost for a worship flower donation to you is \$75.00. The balance of the cost of the worship flower arrangement is subsidized by donations from generous individuals and the deacons. Please make check or donation made payable to CPC - Worship Flower Fund.

We look forward to sharing joy through this ministry.

Worship Flowers

We are grateful for the generosity of those who provide the beauty of worship flowers for all of us to enjoy. We are mindful of those in whose memory or in whose honor the flowers are given. We join in celebration of special events and take this opportunity to enjoy getting to know our friends and lift them in prayer.

January 7 - given generously by a CPC member in honor of the entire membership, community, and staff of CPC. The wish is that 2024 be one of good health, a heart full of gratitude, and hands and energies in service offered with the love of Christ.

January 14 - given by Barb and Mark MacKenzie in memory of Earle and Lois Wieder and in celebration of Ronan's 7th birthday.

Honoring Mrs. Laura for 35 Years of Teaching at the Children's Center

Mrs. Laura Trejo is a born nurturer and always wanted to be a teacher. Children are drawn to her calm, gentle, and reassuring nature. Patient and kind, she has worked with "her ladies" in a convalescent home, young children at CPCC, and children with special needs at Casa Colina. She is happiest when caring for others and forms deep connections with those in her care.

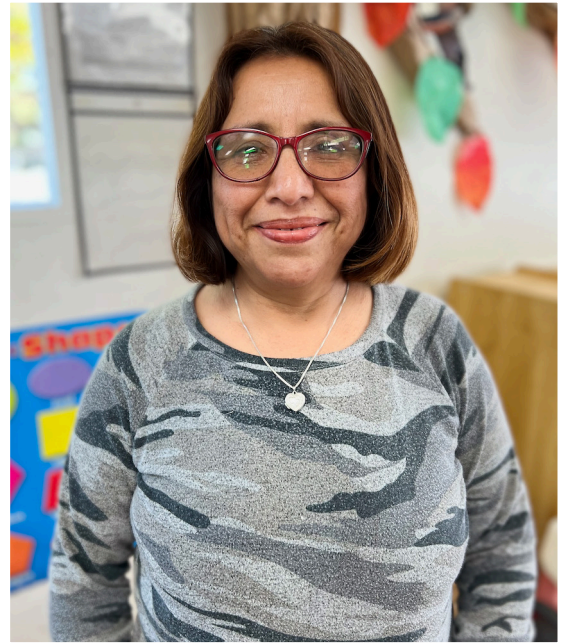
Of her vocation, she says that while reading the Bible not too long ago, she read the passage "Let the children come to me." Tearing up, she shared "I have the best job because I work with the kids."

She started at CPCC as an ROP (Regional Occupational Program) student. Recognizing her gifts as an early educator, she was hired by director Betty Salas in 1989 as a teacher in the Infant class. That was 35 years ago. Since then, she has taught at every age level, primarily with the Busy Bees as a pre-K teacher and in her current position as a three-year teacher in the Froggies class. For the past years she has been teaching second generation CPCC students and even now has a student whose mother and aunt she taught. She remembers her former students in detail, including my daughter who was at CPCC as an infant and young toddler.

Born and raised in Mexico City, Mrs. Laura came to Southern California as a teenager and lived with her older brother and his family, helping care for her little nephews. Away from her home and country, going to an American high school speaking only Spanish, she missed her mom and her family and "even her dog" very much. Before long, she felt at home here. She still loves traveling with her husband and children to visit her family in Mexico and spends at least a month a year there.

Married for 26 years, she met her husband Sal at church; he was her best friend's brother. They have three children: Daniel, 24, is an airplane mechanic; Melissa, 22, has a degree in kinesiology from Fullerton; and Joshua, 20, is attending Cal Poly Pomona in engineering. All three went to CPCC.

Mrs. Laura says of CPCC: "This is my home: the teachers are my sisters, they're my family. The kids are my children, they keep me young and make me happy." We are blessed with Mrs. Laura as a teacher and colleague and are deeply thankful for the 35 years she has dedicated to loving, nurturing care and education of the children at CPCC.



January 21 - were donated by CPC friends as we joined one another in celebration of the ministry of Pastor Brian at CPC and send him forward in his journey and calling at All People's Presbyterian Church. "Brian - Good Luck and God Bless"

January 28 - the arrangement on this morning was donated by Sharron Bentley for all of us to enjoy



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 15th of the month.

Pastor Karen Sapio
Senior Pastor

karensapio@claremontpres.org

Sacha Lord

Children's Center Director
slord@claremontpres.org

Neila Carey

Administrative Assistant,
Finance and Personnel
ncarey@claremontpres.org

Patrick West

Facilities Manager
patrick@claremontpres.org

Delight Slotemaker de Bruine
Congregational Care Coordinator
delight@claremontpres.org

Heather Chapman

Amanda Colclough

Children & Youth Ministries
Coordinator
heather@claremontpres.org
amanda@claremontpres.org

Geri DeMasi

Director of Music, Organist
geri@claremontpres.org

Lisa Strom

Communications Coordinator
lisa@claremontpres.org

Angel Ku

Worship Technician
angel.alfonso.ku@gmail.com

San Gabriel Presbytery invites everyone to attend

BECOMING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

A LENTEN SERIES OF SELF-REFLECTION & COMMUNITY GROWTH

A six week series designed to create space to continue the journey towards racial justice and healing. Each week will include whole-group learning and facilitated small-group reflection time.

OPENING & CLOSING GATHERING
PRESBYTERY CENTER IN TEMPLE CITY
SATURDAYS: FEB 10TH & APRIL 6
TIME: 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM

WEEKLY SESSIONS
ZOOM MEETING
TUESDAYS: FEB. 13, 20, 27; MAR 5, 12, 19
TIME: 7 PM-8:30 PM

Led by Dr. Tracey Shenell
Pastor, Speaker, Coach,
& Consultant

Registration will open very soon.
For questions, email: info@traceyshenell.com

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 12/31/2023	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$500,403.24	\$485,000.00
Other Income	\$167,569.54	\$169,300.00
Expenses	-\$731,544.21	-\$713,629.00
Variance	-\$63,571.43	-\$59,329.00
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 12/31/2023	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$1,180,535.69	\$1,120,000.00
Expenses	-\$1,168,847.12	-\$1,116,603.00
Variance	\$11,688.57	\$3,397.00

Please Lift Up Your Prayers

In praise, reflection, and contemplation: “Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary, his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:28-31 from the PCUSA revised common lectionary for Sunday February 4.

For those who have died, may God wrap each one left grieving in love, grace and peace: Sally Hamilton, mother of Linda Hamilton; Gennie Ransom’s sister, Joy Gross; Robert Doebler Sr, Bob Doebler’s father and Tracy Doebler’s father-in-law; Midori (Inoue) Chu, Mike Wigton’s partner of 20 years; Claire McDonald; Wendy, Marcia Reich’s niece.

For those hospitalized: Ron Perry

For healing and peace: Nancy Campbell, Delight’s cousin; Scott Blair, Tina Blair’s brother; Suzanne, Sally Lopez’s sister.

For those for whom we wish the gentle soothing wisdom and comfort of the Holy Spirit as they navigate life at this time: the Doebler family; Symonds family; Pam and Roger House; Herb & Carlynn Christian; Phoebe Deville; the Perry family; the Hughes family; Catherine Lin and her mother, Patricia; Corinne Tolles, Delight’s cousin, and for her family, bedside.

For living transitions: Joyce Alexander.

For those living homebound or in retirement facilities, and for all of those who may experience loneliness or depression: We lift up our prayers of love and support for all of our friends and members in these living communities, and in this situation.

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

Please be assured that your CPC staff, along with your Congregational Care Coordinator and Deacons are praying and caring for each one of you.

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.

See All That’s Happening...

For the most up-to-date calendar of events, go to www.claremontpres.org/calendar.

Ways to Give

- Place offerings in offering box in narthex after worship.
- **Check:** We can receive contributions by checks mailed or dropped off at 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.
- **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.





COMMUNICATOR

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1111 N MOUNTAIN AVE
CLAREMONT, CA 91711

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
CLAREMONT, CA
PERMIT NO. 131

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Deadline for the March *Communicator* - February 15

Weekly Online Events

Monday - Friday

9:00 AM - Daily Prayer (Facebook)

Sunday

10:00 AM - Worship (Facebook & Youtube)

Wednesday

4:00 PM - Bible Study (Zoom) - beginning Feb. 14

Friday

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



claremontpres.org



[claremontpres](https://www.facebook.com/claremontpres)



[claremont_pres](https://www.instagram.com/claremont_pres)



[giving](#)