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Lent - A Time for Prototyping?

We’ve all heard of the practice of “giving up” something for Lent: chocolate, coffee, alcohol, swearing, etc. The idea behind this is that self-denial promotes self-reflection which, in turn, enables repentance which opens our hearts to transformation and new life. Others recommend “taking on” something for Lent: a new prayer practice, more exercise, reviving a long lost talent or skill. The idea here is that taking on something is as effective as giving up something in helping us make progress down the path of reflection, repentance, and transformation.

This year I’m playing with the idea of viewing this ancient discipline of giving up/taking on something for Lent through the lens of the Design Thinking concept of Prototyping. The idea behind prototyping is that we often learn more by doing and experimenting than we do through exhaustive research and analysis. When an innovator comes up with an idea for solving a problem, trying some small experiments with that idea in real life is a better next step than continuing to study the problem or making a huge investment of time and resources simply based on theory. For example, if you are dreaming up a new kind of Easter Egg dye, you may want to whip up a small batch and have a dozen friends try it out and give you feedback rather than immediately gearing up to manufacture and distribute on a large scale.

One author describes several types of things that might be prototypes: a new product or service, a new experience, or--and this is where I think Lent comes in--a new way of being. This third type of prototyping involves making small experiments in changing behaviors, (of ourselves or others), to see if those changes make a difference to the problem we are trying to solve. I see the forty days of Lent as an ideal span of time to prototype “new ways of being,” small experiments in changing habits or behaviors to see what kind of transformation

Upcoming Worship

(all worship services are accessible through Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/claremontpres) unless otherwise noted)

March 5, 7:30 PM

Interfaith Exchange with
Temple Beth Israel
www.facebook.com/tbipomona

March 7, 10:00 AM

Third Sunday in Lent
Exchange with Temple Beth Israel
Karen Sapio and
Rabbi Jonathan Kupetz preaching

March 14, 10:00 AM

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Eavesdropping on the Gospel
John 3:1-21
Karen Sapio preaching

March 20, 7:00 PM

Evening Prayer on the Lawn

March 21, 10:00 AM

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Eavesdropping on the Gospel
John 12: 20-33
Karen Sapio preaching

March 27, 7:00 PM

Evening Prayer on the Lawn with
Service for Healing and Wholeness

March 28, 10:00 AM

Palm Sunday
Service of Lessons and Anthems with
Choir and Soloists

those small changes bring to our lives. Forty days is long enough to have an impact, but short enough that the risk involved is fairly small. Forty days is long enough to learn something significant about ourselves, but short enough that we are not stuck for too long with elements of the plan that may not work as we had hoped.

So—as you move through the season of Lent, think of your Lenten discipline as “prototyping a new way of being,” and see what holy transformations come into your life.



Easter Sunrise Celebration and Service

Although we are unable to gather in the sanctuary, you are invited, as you feel comfortable, to gather on the church front lawn for a brief sunrise celebration this Easter morning, April 4 at 7:00 AM.

This will be a bilingual gathering of both Emmanuel Hispanic Presbyterian Church and Claremont Presbyterian Church.

Let’s worship the risen Lord in prayer, liturgy, and listening to a gift of music.

In continuing efforts to keep safe, please keep a distance of 6 feet, wear a mask, bring a folding chair, and find a square on the lawn for your household. The church will provide a hand sanitizer station and a few chairs for those who may need these resources.

Evening Prayer on the Lawn Returns

Longer hours of daylight and dropping COVID-19 infection rates will allow us to resume our Saturday Evening services of Evening Prayer on the Lawn on Saturday March 20 at 7:00 PM.

Bring your lawn chair, your mask, and an open heart and join together for a 30-40 minute service of prayer, scripture reading, and reflection on the lawn in front of the sanctuary.

Annual Interfaith Exchange with Temple Beth Israel Goes Online

The COVID-19 pandemic will not prevent our two congregations from continuing our decades long tradition of visiting one another’s worship services each spring. Both Temple Beth Israel and Claremont Presbyterian Church are currently worshipping online, so it will be even easier to “visit” each service. Temple Beth Israel invites our CPC community to join them on Friday, March 5 for their 7:30 PM “Cybershul” service which is live streamed to their Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/tbipomona. We will look forward to having the TBI Community visit our online service on Sunday, March 7. Sadly, we won’t be able to share our usual Oneg/Coffee Hour feasts, but we’ll be feasting in our hearts—and looking forward to re-starting that part of our common tradition in 2022.

Claremont Presbyterian is Stop #1 on LA Stations 2021

From March 3 - April 3, our church will be the first stop on LA Stations of the Cross 2021. LA Stations of the Cross is a Guided Pilgrimage by car taking place in the Claremont-Upland area Lent 2021.

Use your mobile phone to visit lastations.org during Lent. It will guide you to multiple sites in and around Claremont. These sites represent the stations of the cross, a journey that follows Jesus's experience from conviction, through crucifixion, to burial.

Drive to these sites with your car. When you arrive, log-in to lastations.org. The website will transform, offering guided prayer for the station.

When Can We Return to the Sanctuary?

As infection rates drop and many of our members have received vaccinations, some have asked when we might consider resuming worship in our sanctuary. At the time of this writing, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health strongly discourages LA County faith communities from holding indoor worship services. In addition, the Presbytery of San Gabriel has advised its congregations to refrain from holding indoor services at least through Easter. Our CPC Worship Commission and our Property and Finance Commission agree that we will not consider indoor worship until the LA County and California State Health Departments advise that the risk for large, indoor gatherings is at an acceptable level. We anticipate that this is still some months away. Until then, we look forward to continuing our online gatherings and to resuming outdoor services later this month.

Join the Stream Team

Our fabulous team of volunteers who make live streaming our Sunday services possible is looking for some additional volunteers. If you are interested in being on the camera crew rotation, or learning the mysteries of Open Broadcaster Software Studio (the open source software we use for streaming), please contact Pastor Karen Sapio at karensapio@claremontpres.org and she will put you in touch with one of our Stream Team volunteers to give you more information. BONUS!! Each member of our Stream Team Crew receives a "CPC Stream Team" T-shirt with which to impress your friends.

Nominating Committee at Work!

The Church Nominating Committee is at work with a goal of presenting a slate of new officers, (Elders and Deacons), for the class of 2023 at a Congregational Meeting on April 25. How can you help?

- Contact one of our pastors if you have someone you would like to recommend (including yourself!)
- Be open to a conversation if a member of our Nominating Committee reaches out to you to discuss the possibility of serving.
- Pray for our Nominating Committee and for our church that the Holy Spirit will lift up the leaders we need at this juncture in our life together.

Service for Healing and Wholeness

Our Saturday Evening Prayer on the Church Lawn on March 27, 7:00 PM will focus on praying together for healing around all that we have lost during this past year of pandemic, lock-down, and quarantine. Some are mourning the death of someone close to them, others grieve for other losses: graduations, family reunions, long-planned travel, time with grandchildren, and so many other significant moments and milestones that had to be cancelled or adapted for "distancing." We offer this as a way of helping those in our church and community seek strength from God and one another as we process our sorrow and turn toward the future with hope.

Calling all Vases

The Deacons and the Congregational Care Coordinator would be delighted to receive any and all vases of all sizes to be used to distribute "cheer" bouquets to members, parishioners and community friends!

If you have one or more, please drop them off at the CPC office door, and we'll make sure they get to where they need to go! Otherwise, email delight@claremontpres.org and she can make arrangements to pick them up from your doorstep, if needed.

Easter Lily Donations

Easter is April 4 and the Deacons and Congregational Care Coordinator, on behalf of the Pastors and all of CPC, will again be distributing Easter lilies in celebration of the resurrection of Christ our Lord and new hope, to the homebound, ill, bereaved, and those who could benefit from a bit of cheer.

You will have the opportunity to donate an Easter Lily in memory of, in honor of, in celebration of, or in recognition of a loved one, or someone special.

For all donations and dedications received prior to March 15, the donor and dedication will be listed, in full, in the April 2021 Communicator.

Suggested donation per Easter lily is \$25.00. Donations are accepted as early as you would like to submit them. Donations can be made on the CPC website, via PayPal or Zelle, or by a check mailed to the church attention Neila Carey. Please memo: Flower Fund-Easter Lilies.

If you have any questions, you are invited to contact De-

light Slotemaker de Bruine by phone or via email: delight@claremontpres.org

2021 Stewardship Results

With thanks to our generous congregation, the 2021 Stewardship campaign exceeded its goal of \$465,000. Pledges of \$468,530 were received from you, our members and friends. Wonderful news!

Centering Prayer Retreat & Workshop

Is Centering Prayer for you? Would you like to learn more about it? Looking for a quiet place you can sit with others? This Centering Prayer Retreat & Workshop may help answer these questions and others.

A small group of community and church members have gathered on Friday mornings for nearly three years to practice centering prayer. This is an open group; open to anyone seeking to spend about 25 minutes in quiet prayer.

Now it is being practiced by people all over the world, in several different ways, and from many different particular faiths.

Join us through Zoom on March 14 from 1:00 - 2:30 PM and learn more about the history, the ways to practice, and discover where this practice is being offered.

Visit claremontpres.org/events/centeringretreat for more information and to register.



How to Give when there's no Offering Plate

No offering plate? No organ music? No problem. There are still ways to support your church during this time when we are worshipping online and outdoors. Here's how;

- 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. You may also use the following 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.



Lent/HolyWeek/Easter Dates to Remember

Saturday, March 20, 7 PM	Evening Prayer on the Lawn resumes
Saturday, March 27, 7 PM	Evening Prayer with Prayers for Healing and Wholeness
Sunday, March 28, 10 AM	Palm Sunday Worship online: Lessons and Anthems In the spirit of the traditional "Lessons and Carols" service, we will mark Palm Sunday by reading the story of Holy Week in Mark's gospel, accompanied by choral music as well as vocal and instrumental solos.
Thursday, April 1, 7 PM	Maundy Thursday Communion on Zoom Pastor Karen will lead this online Communion service centered around the story of The Last Supper
Friday, April 2, 3 PM	Good Friday Labyrinth Walk: Stations of the Cross Pastor Brian will lead a guided Labyrinth Walk based on Christ's journey to the cross.
Saturday, April 3, 7 PM	Evening Prayer on the Lawn with Easter Vigil Prepare to Welcome Easter with this worship service of prayers and thanksgiving. Our sanctuary will also be open for a walk-thru viewing of the lilies.
Sunday, April 4, 7 AM	Sunrise Service on the Lawn. Our sanctuary will also be open for a walk-thru viewing of the lilies.
Sunday, April 4, 10 AM	Online Easter Worship. Join us at www.facebook.com/claremontpres



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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Flowers for Worship

The February 2021 worship flowers were generously donated as follows:

February 7 - The rose on the lectern was in celebration of the birth of a new baby! We welcome the birth of a brand new healthy grandchild, to Geri and Karen DeMasi, born to their son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Jaime Vaalbergen! Benjamin Rohan was born on Monday February 1 at 4:01 am. We join the proud parents and grandparents in welcoming and celebrating the birth!

Also, worship flowers were generously donated by Jean Perry and her children, Ron and Trish, in memory of her husband, and their father, Lynel L. Perry, on the anniversary of his passing on February 10.

February 14 - The flowers were lovingly given by Lisa and David Frazier in memory of their only child, Sean David Frazier, who passed on January 1. Floral colors and the color of the ribbon are in recognition of his heritage and his high school colors. They were also present for the memorial held on Saturday, February 13.

Also on the 14th, the worship flowers were generously donated to Chet and Eileen Jaeger in honor of his 40+ years playing Dixieland music on Transformation Sunday, the last Sunday before Lent.

February 21 - Flowers were donated lovingly by Pastor Karen Sapio in memory of her father, Victor Sapio, in celebration of his birthday, on February 22.

February 28 - Worship flowers were generously donated by John and Rita Watts in recognition, deep appreciation, and celebration of "the stream-team, choir, pastors, and all those who make our worship services possible!"

Dates are open for worship flower donations for 2021. If you would like to donate worship flowers in 2021, either in honor of, or in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a significant event, please contact Delight Slotemaker de Bruine delight@claremontpres.org to make arrangements. Flowers are designed by Sherwood Florist. You may select colors and flower themes. You may also designate how you would like the arrangement to be allocated. We can deliver the flowers to you or the deacons can distribute the flowers in cheer bouquets.

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 01/31/2021	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$41,097.10	\$38,333.00
Other Income	\$15,327.80	\$7,726.00
Expenses	-\$39,806.74	-\$49,243.63
Variance	\$16,618.16	-\$3,184.63
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 01/31/2021	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$41,203.20	\$53,458.24
Expenses	-\$48,095.87	-\$53,493.59
Variance	-\$6,892.67	-\$35.35

Please Lift Up Your Prayers

As we acknowledge the passing of our loved ones, and share in the grief of our friends and family, we lift up our prayers for: Kim and Bill Brinegar for the passing of their 12 year old nephew, son of Bills brother's son; Tina Blair for the passing of her "sister-friend," Danielle, from complications due to a massive stroke; for Doug Carrington, Scott, and Laura Carrington, for the passing of beloved wife and mother, Judy Carrington on February 8; the family of Robert Johns, a long-time member of CPC, who passed away in January; the family of Pastor Brian's high-school friend, Sarah, who passed away in TN, from Covid, the morning of January 21, leaving a husband and two teenage children; Joyce and Ted Alexander for the passing of their nephew, Mark Sanford, on January 8; the family of Suzanne and Kay Brown, for the passing of their son, Jay, on January 6; Roger Shervington and family for the passing of his brother, Bruce, on January 3; Lisa and David Frazier, for the passing of their only child, Sean Frazier, on January 1; the Thompson family: Marion and her three sons, in the passing of her husband, and their father, Arnie Thompson on Christmas Day; the Kohnen family for the death of Will's father, Henrich, on December 20; the family of Susie Cave, for the passing of Bob Cave on December 18; the family of Jantje Worang, a member of both CPC and GPIB, as we receive news of his passing.

We lift prayers for all of our loved ones, friends, and family, who grieve the loss of their loved ones within this past year, or realizing an anniversary of the passing of a loved one, missed so dearly. We especially lift prayers of comfort and Christ's grace, for those who were not able to hold a service as of yet, due to covid challenges

As we celebrate the joys alongside those who have had successful surgeries, and hopeful encounters with medical challenges and are now on the path towards recovery, we offer praise, gratitude and on-going prayers for continued healing and effective treatment for: Pastor Karen's mother, Barbara Sapio, as she continues to recover from a positive, now negative, covid test; Catherine Taylor's mother-in-law, Kay; Gennie Ransom; Frank Pinkerton; Cloyce Morrow, in the midst of radiation treatments and she continues to thrive in positive attitude; Chinny Agwu, and Chickondi Tamaona.

Children's Center

We give thanks and praise God for the following news: Raquel Arenas's mother, Carla - (Raquel is our Children's Intern) - had abnormal cell growth; biopsied, and came

back benign.

CPC teacher Ruth Navarro - returned to work at the Children's Center following a 7 week recovery period from COVID.

As we walk alongside those who are ill, or experiencing either on-going or temporary health challenges, we pray for strength, courage, endurance, and the Holy Spirit's healing comfort for: Geri's son and daughter in law, David & Bethany - Both have COVID and working towards recovery; Richard and Wendy Perry, Jean Perry's son and daughter-in-law, as they have been diagnosed for Covid; Zoila Garcia, and her husband, Osvaldo, (retired pastor of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church), who is now gratefully home from the hospital, recovering from COVID related-pneumonia; Chet and Eileen Jaeger, as he recovers from a fall; Joan and Bob Kelly, as he journeys through three months of treatment 5x/week; Susan Brinkama for continued healing of a broken hand; Bill Wellwood, professional clarinetist, friend and colleague of Linda Silva, for recovery from salivary gland cancer surgery on December 17; and Nancy Rice.

As we lift up sustaining prayers: for Pastor Brian and his family; for Kevin Kessler and his brother Ken, who are displaced due to a fire in their family home; for all of the front-line and behind-the-scenes health-care workers; for the health-care workers orchestrating and administering Covid vaccines; for all of those both living and working in our Claremont senior and assisted living facilities, seeking to remain healthy, and to escape the non-discriminating "grasp" of Covid-19, and especially for our CPC Children's Center, and Director Sacha Lord, as she navigates with deep heart and concern to maintain a healthy and safe environment for all.

Should you or 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 email your requests to: Delight Slotemaker de Bruine.

You may indicate that you wish only the name listed or if you wish to include details, then please advise if you want them shared confidentially at the weekly staff meeting only, or if you would like to include them in the printed version. Details will not be included, unless you indicate otherwise.



COMMUNICATOR

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CLAREMONT, CA 91711

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Deadline for April *Communicator* - March 15

Weekly Online Events

Sunday

- 10:00 AM - Worship (Facebook)
- 10:45 AM - Coffee Hour (Zoom)
- 12:00 PM - Toddler Sunday School (Zoom)
- 12:00 PM - Early Elementary Sunday School (Zoom)
- 1:00 PM - Tweens Sunday School (Zoom)

Monday

- 6:30 PM - Lenten Study (Zoom)

Wednesday

- 4:00 PM - Lenten Study (Zoom)

Thursday

- 5:00 PM - Community Yoga (Zoom)
- 6:30 PM - Anti-Racist Group (Zoom)

Friday

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

Daily (except during Sunday Worship)

- 8:00 AM - Morning Prayer (Facebook)
- 11:30 AM - Quarantine Interlude (Facebook)
- 5:00 PM - Evening Prayer, Sun-Fri (Facebook)



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