



claremont presbyterian church

COMMUNICATOR

March 2022



In this issue...

Upcoming Worship.....	2
Ash Wednesday	2
Adult Education	2
Session Highlights.....	2
Weekly Lenten Prayer.....	3
Pandemic Requiem.....	3
Sunday Outing.....	4
Souper Bowl.....	4
Children’s Spiritual Formation.....	4
Easter Lilies	4
Flowers	5
Prayers	6
Financials	6
Ways to Give	7
Guest Speaker	7

Being Human With Jesus

Each year the gospel reading for the first Sunday of Lent is the account of Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness. For forty days, scripture relates, Jesus faced the temptation to turn bread into stone, to hurl himself off the top of the temple, to worship the Tempter in exchange for unlimited power over earthly realms. Many have commented that what the Tempter was really trying to do here was to reverse the incarnation; to make Jesus reject his humanity. If he had given in to these temptations, Jesus would have failed in his mission before it began. In coming to earth in a fully human way, Jesus came to show us--in whom the image of God had become distorted and broken--the path to be restored to our full humanity. In living a fully human life, Jesus came to show us how to be fully human.

This Lent our Sunday worship will focus on this theme of how Jesus shows us how to be fully human. Each week we will look at some aspect of the human experience that the lectionary gospel text for that week illuminates through Jesus’ words and actions.

- Lent 1, March 6: Being Hungry
- Lent 2, March 13: Being Anguished
- Lent 3, March 20: Being Patient
- Lent 4, March 27: Being Merciful
- Lent 5, April 3: Being Cared For
- Lent 6/Palm Sunday: Being Celebrated

Upcoming Worship

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

Wednesday, March 2, 12:00 PM

“Ashes To-Go” at the Labyrinth

Wednesday, March 2, 7:00 PM

Contemplative Prayer Service for Ash Wednesday in the Sanctuary

Sunday, March 6, 10:00 AM

First Sunday of Lent:

Communion Sunday

“Being Human with Jesus, part 1 - Being Hungry”

Luke 4:1-13

Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, March 13, 7:30 PM

Second Sunday of Lent

“Being Human with Jesus, part 2 - Being in Anguish”

Luke 13:31-35

Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Wednesday, March 16, 5:30 PM

The Village Dinner Church

Sunday, March 20, 10:00 AM

Third Sunday of Lent

“Being Human with Jesus, part 3 - Being Patient”

Luke 13: 1-9

Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, March 27, 10:00 AM

Fourth Sunday of Lent

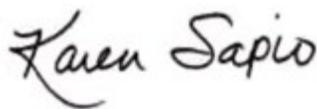
“Being Human with Jesus, part 4 -

Being Celebrated”

Luke 19: 28-40

Rev. Brian Gaeta-Symonds preaching

As Lent begins, I’m reflecting that 2022 will be the third year in a row that we observe this season under the shadow of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our CPC Session continues to be attentive to recommendations from the LA County Health Department regarding COVID safety precautions. Session will assess current recommendations at its March 23 meeting to determine what sort of safety precautions need to be in place for our Holy Week and Easter events in April.



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.

Adult Education – Lenten Study

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. 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 on-line book distributors). We will conclude the study with a special speaker event.

Weekly discussions – Mondays on Zoom at 7PM (March 7-28)
Meeting ID: 848 3292 4601 Passcode: 756708

Speaker Weekend Event – April 1-3, 2022 In-person and on-line.

January Session Highlights

- Mourned the loss of dear long-time members Ruth Auld, Lee McDonald and Chet Jarger
- Re-elected Janet Siedschlag as Treasurer and Teddie Warner at Clerk of Session for another year
- Watched a video on becoming a Matthew 25 Church - www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries
- Approved funding to build a stage on the front lawn
- Approved the 2022 budgets for CPC and CPCC
- Elder Jenny Eazell was delighted to report that the Children’s Center passed the NAYEC certification process
- Approved updated policies and procedures from the Children’s Center, Education and Leadership, and Evangelism and Nurture Commissions

CPC Youth 30 Challenge

On Wednesday, March 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



PCUSA Mission Co Workers offer Weekly Lenten Prayer and Conversation

Join Mission Coworkers Revs. Scott and Elmarie Parker, along with Middle East (ME) Partners and PCUSA colleagues from the ME/Europe area for a time of Lenten scripture reflection and prayer. Zoom sessions will include reflection on Lenten liturgical texts by a partner from the Middle East or colleague from the ME/Europe area, a time of conversation between zoom participants, art/pictures from the region, and prayer. Hosted by the Parkers.

Two sessions weekly are being offered every Thursday, March 3 through April 14. This should give more people an opportunity to attend at a time that works for them. No registration required. Join for live conversation for any or all the sessions.

Session 1: 9 AM. (45 minutes) weekly Meeting ID: 894 0525 2345, Passcode: 140402. This session will be recorded each week and posted to the Syria-Lebanon Partnership Network's website and Elmarie Parker's FB page.

Session 2: Noon (45 minutes) weekly Meeting ID: 833 1113 0991, Passcode: 023651.

Sing in the Premier of Pandemic Requiem by Geri DeMasi

Calling all singers!

You are invited to join the CPC Sanctuary Choir in preparations for a unique and moving premiere music presentation of "Pandemic Requiem," scheduled for Palm Sunday, April 10 at 7 PM.

The Requiem is a "homegrown" major work written by Music Director and Organist Geri DeMasi with the support of the CPC Worship and Music Commission and the Pastors. It is presented as a part of CPC's efforts to assist the congregation and community in coping with the many challenges of the pandemic and to commemorate those whom we have lost. The "Pandemic Requiem" consists of ten movements and includes solos and organ accompaniment.

This presentation will be designed to reflect the experience of the entire community from a variety of perspectives. The evening will include Scripture readings, comments from various local officials, and readings of news accounts along with the musical presentation. We will be following all applicable health guidelines to keep our participants and the audience as safe as possible. Singers should be vaccinated in order to participate.

This will provide a great opportunity for singers whose usual time commitments do not allow for ongoing choir rehearsals, but who can participate in a specific choral effort of shorter duration.

You are invited to join us for the Choir's rehearsals on Thursday nights at 7:30 PM, either in person in the CPC Sanctuary or on Zoom. If you are interested, please contact Geri DeMasi at gdemasi@att.net so that a copy of the score can be provided for you.

Please join us for a very meaningful musical experience of healing. We look forward to seeing you!

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.

March Family Outing

Join us on March 13, at 2:00 PM at the RailGiants Train Museum in the LA County Fairgrounds (enter Gate 1 from McKinley Ave, Pomona).

Together let's venture back in time to the days of steam locomotives. This month's Family Outing includes a trip to the RailGiants museum and historical society. We will learn about all the wonder of these enormous transportation machines. We will meet up at 2:00 PM in front of the museum entrance (free admission). Plan on eating lunch before you arrive. And then afterward some of us may hang out a bit to catch up and share what's been going on in our families and our lives. All aboard! To learn more, visit railgiants.org.

Souper Bowl of Caring – Update on Collection

Way-to-go! As of February 15 we collected \$936.00. This entire amount will be given directly to the Inland Valley Hope Partners Beta Program Center in Pomona, CA.

Services offered to no, very low- and low-income families and individuals at the Beta Program Center include:

- Emergency Food – 5 days of basic staple food for each member of your family.
- Utility Assistance – payment of one month of electric and/or gas bill.
- Motel Vouchers – 3-5 days of motel stay for families.
- Information and referral to other social service programs.
- Thanksgiving Dinner – Thanksgiving Day, at 11 AM.

Sunday Spiritual Formation for Children

We are looking forward to beginning on March 6 with few opportunities that will be familiar and some that will be new – all for the children of our church and community. 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 soon.

Please check out the breakdown below:

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

service. Parents are invited to drop their children off before 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.

Elementary and Tweens will begin in worship then walked over to class following the anthem.

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.

Easter Lily Donations

Your Easter lily donations will decorate the CPC Sanctuary for in-person worship, also viewable via live-stream, on Easter Sunday!

Easter Sunday is April 17, 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 to the homebound, ill, bereaved, or to those who could benefit from a bit of cheer. You have the opportunity to donate an Easter lily in memory of, in honor of, or in celebration of a special event. For all donations and dedications received by the submission deadline of Wednesday April 6, the donor and dedication will be listed in full in the Easter Sunday worship bulletin. Suggested donation per Easter lily is \$25.00.



The CPC Village Dinner Church – New, New Launch Date

Gathering in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, March 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

Donations are accepted as early as you would like to submit them.

Donations and dedications may be submitted as follows: If you'd like to pay with PayPal or Zelle, go to www.claremontpres.org/lilies and fill out the form there and then 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." In order to help us keep track and to ensure that all donations and dedications are acknowledged, please utilize the electronic or enclosed form with all donation submissions. Should you have any questions, please contact Delight Slotemaker de Bruine via email delight@claremontpres.org

We all thank you in advance for your contribution to beautifying our CPC sanctuary, so joyously, on Easter Sunday

Flowers for Worship

Our CPC congregation and community are grateful for the generosity of those who have generously donated Sunday worship flowers that grace and adorn our sanctuary on Sunday mornings. For the month of February 2022, we express appreciation for the following gracious worship flower donations:

February 6: From Jean, Ron, and Trish Perry in loving memory of Lynel L. Perry, husband, father, and grandfather.

February 13: From Doug, Scott, and Laura Carrington in loving memory of beloved wife and mother, Judy Carrington, on the one year anniversary of her death on February 8, 2021.

February 20: Flowers in the Chancel: From Pastor Karen Sapio and Tony Becker in loving memory of Victor Sapio on his birthday, February 22. Flowers in the Narthex are given by Teresa and Eric Bernal in loving memory of her sister, Marilou Amores, for her birthday on February 25.

February 27: From Nora Quinn in gratitude for the help provided to her by George and Peggy Trindle and their grand-



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.

Pastor Karen Sapio
Senior Pastor
karensapio@claremontpres.org

Pastor Brian Gaeta-Symonds
Associate Pastor for Outreach
brian@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

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

daughter, after the windstorm in January. Also in recognition of all members of CPC who provided meals, help cleaning up, and other acts of kindness to members of the entire Claremont community after the storm.

Please Lift Up Your Prayers

In celebration and gratitude: We give thanks for our CPC Pastors, Staff, Deacons, Elders, and for all of the volunteers who serve tirelessly on various commissions and committees.

For family and friends, surrounding them with love, as they process the recent death of loved ones: Margie Ross, grandmother of Matthew and Gabrielle Rodriguez, passed on January 27; Lois Weider, Barbara MacKenzie's mother, passed on January 12; and Chet Jaeger, who died in his home, surrounded by family, on January 4.

For the compassionate touch of the Holy Spirit for strength and grace: Carrie Willette, Jan Willette's daughter, for continued navigation through cancer; Barbara Patch; Jean Perry; Phoebe DeVille; Janette Gould, mother of Andrea Gould, daughter-in-law of Larry and Jeannine Robertson; Elsie Harber; Carlynn & Herb Christian; Doris Craig and Mae (Becky) Beck and her nieces; Meredith Clayton & Rocky Supinger.

For on-going concerns for continued strength for: Mary and Ed Hughes; Larry Robertson; Patrick West; Patricia Maine; Sue Likens; Bob Kelly; Frank Pinkerton; Pastor Brian and his family; Jim and Lenore Brashler; Gennie Ransom; Cloyce Morrow; Joyce and Ted Alexander and for their grandson, Peter.

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; 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.

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 01/31/22	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$32,643.50	\$40,000.00
Other Income	\$3,167.30	\$8,185.00
Expenses	-\$43,678.15	-\$54,852.83
Variance	-\$7,867.35	-\$6,667.83
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 01/31/22	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$81,212.48	\$91,423.87
Expenses	-\$82,963.91	-\$90,477.64
Variance	-\$1,751.43	\$946.23

Ways to Give

As we return to in-person worship, following CDC recommendations, we will still not be passing the offering plate. 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.



See All That's Happening...

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

SAVE THE DATE

Author of our Lenten studies, John Pavlovitz, will be with us at Claremont Presbyterian Church the weekend of April 2-3.



With a social media following of more than 100,000 and several books on Progressive Theology, this is a weekend you won't want to miss!

Saturday - Main Speaking Event

Sunday - Preaching during Worship



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Deadline for April Communicator - March 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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