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## Coming Home to a Place We've Never Been Before

I'm dating myself by this memory—but I recall very well these lines from John Denver's Colorado Rocky Mountain High about a young man who “came home to a place he'd never been before.” In the context of that song, the line means something about going to a place you've never been and discovering that it feels like home.

We may experience this line in the opposite way soon. As the pandemic ebbs and we are able to worship in our sanctuary we may discover that we have come “home” only to discover that it is a place we have never been. We have never been in this place as a congregation. We've never been a church that has survived a pandemic. We've never been a church discerning God's call to reach out and help our community heal from the scars of a global pandemic and a year of bruising political dissension and upheaval. We've never been a church that learned new technology at lightning speed in order to stay connected during quarantine. The sanctuary is the same: it is our beautiful and sacred space—but we are in a place that we have never been before as a congregation. The sanctuary will embrace our return--but in many ways we can never go back to where we were when we last worshipped there together in early March of 2020. We will celebrate being there together... and we will pray for wisdom as we search for new ways of being faithful in this new post-pandemic place that we find ourselves.

At its April 28 meeting, the Session will consider a recommendation to begin in person worship in the sanctuary on the first Sunday of June, (the 6<sup>th</sup>). Soon after that, we will publicize plans via our church website, social media, e-newsletter, and a letter to our mailing list. God will be with us as we celebrate being both home and in a new place.

*Karen Sapio*

## Upcoming Worship

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

**May 2, 10:00 AM**

Fifth Sunday of Eastertide

John 15:1-8

Karen Sapio preaching

**May 9, 10:00 AM**

Sixth Sunday of Eastertide

John 15:9-17

Karen Sapio preaching

**May 16, 10:00 AM**

Seventh Sunday of Eastertide

John 17:6-19

Karen Sapio preaching

**May 23, 10:00 AM**

Pentecost Sunday

*Installation of Officers*

Acts 2:1-21

Karen Sapio preaching

**May 30, 10:00 AM**

Trinity Sunday

Brian Gaeta-Symods preaching

Evening Prayer on the Lawn will continue on Saturday evenings through

May 22. There will not be Evening Prayer on the Lawn on Memorial Day Weekend.

## Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

The One Great Hour Special Offering is collected on Easter/Palm Sunday. The funds donated from the congregation for this offering are given 100% to Presbytery. Those funds are divided to support three major ministry areas, 36% Hunger, 32% Disaster, and 32% Self Development

From the start of the pandemic through the end of 2020, the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance response program gave 476 grants totaling \$3,469,619.28 to 56 countries and 125 Presbyterian mid-councils supported in the US. Because of the church's historic generosity and One Great Hour of Sharing, \$2.7 million from reserves was able to be pulled to respond to COVID19. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance facilitated an additional \$300,000 for Matthew 25 Continuity of Ministry Grants of up to \$7,500 each for congregations whose survival might have been in question due to the impact of COVID19. Some of the grants supported Native American communities including the Dakota Presbytery, Navajo Nation and the Wind River Reservation. 2020 also saw record numbers of wildfires, and PDA was able to provide support. In total, PDA was able to provide support of more than \$6.5 million.

During the month of November, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua were struck by back to back hurricanes resulting in flooding and the loss of housing and food. In Guatemala alone, PDA's support included providing food to about 1,560 people, garden seeds to 144 families, and hygiene kits to 1,090 people. Grants were distributed to countries in Africa, including Nigeria, where 500 water sanitation and hygiene kits were distributed, along with water storage and hand-washing stations. In South Sudan mosquito nets, face masks, sleeping mats, plastic sheets for shelter, rubber ropes, blankets and kitchen essentials were distributed to 55 households after flooding and 1,500 hygiene kits were also given out to households in need. After the Beirut explosion material relief for rebuilding was provided, food and hygiene support for 150 refugee families from Palestine and Syria were also given to Lebanon, as well as 1,500 hygiene kits. In Nepal PDA distributed gloves, masks and hand sanitizers as well as provided education around pandemic preventive measures and psychosocial support.

As of April 9 CPC has donated \$2837.00. Fish banks are being collected and added to these funds. The Mission Interpretation Commission thanks the CPC congregation for all your support of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance ministries.

## Session Approves Summer Sabbatical for Pastor Karen Sapio

At its March meeting, Session approved an 8 week sabbatical for Pastor Sapio from June 28 - August 23. Pastor Karen's last sabbatical was during the summer of 2014. She plans to spend the time doing some writing projects, and visiting family she has not seen since the beginning of the pandemic. She is working with Pastor Brian, staff, and Session to ensure continuity of worship and administrative leadership during her time away.

## PC(USA) Special Offerings - Pentecost

Our next special offering will be the Pentecost offering, which is collected during the weeks around Pentecost (Sunday, May 23, 2021). This offering goes to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

While much of our special offering collections are split between the denomination and the presbytery, the Pentecost offering allows for 40% of the collection to stay with the congregation.

This year the Education & Leadership Commission has decided to designate our portion to go to the Immigrant Accompaniment Organizing ministry of the Presbytery and specifically to support the work with unaccompanied minors. TO find out more about this ministry go to: [sangabpres.org/immigrant-accompaniment-organizer](http://sangabpres.org/immigrant-accompaniment-organizer). We encourage you to give generously and with an open heart.

## Session Highlights, March 24, 2021

Highlights from the March Session meeting for your information:

- Adopted CPC operational levels for each LA County colored tier, based on recommendations by the LA County Department of Public Health.
- Approved a two-month sabbatical for Pastor Karen, from June 26 through August 22, 2021.
- Approved a job description for a new position, Livestream Worship and Tech Coordinator. Initial funding will come from the Emerging Ministries funds from the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Capital Campaign.
- Wished Elder Jenny Eazell well in her internship in Hawaii. Barbara MacKenzie will fill in as chair of Children's Center Commission in Jenny's absence.

## Adult Ed Addressing Christian Nationalism

You are invited to join us for two conversations about Christian Nationalism and Polarization & Peacemaking. These issues have played out in our communities and within our political agendas for years now and seem to keep building traction. Why? How? What is our role as a people of faith offering a progressive and inclusive Gospel message? And, how do we keep from getting sucked into combative rhetoric and instead be peacemakers?

Part 1, May 10 - Christian Nationalism co-facilitated by

Dr. Brad Starr and Prof. Jim Butler

Part 2, May 24 - Polarization & Peacemaking co-facilitated by Rev. Brian Gaeta-Symonds and a local guest Pastor

Both of these gatherings will be at 7:00 PM on Zoom - ID: 863-7081-6440 Passcode 957217.

For more information please check out [claremontpres.org/events](http://claremontpres.org/events) or inquire with the church office at 909-624-9693.



## Staycation Bible School

Join us from June 27-August 1 this year for Treasured! A Group Vacation Bible School experience.

*“Embark on an epic quest through hidden ruins, ancient caves, and dense jungles. At Treasured VBS, kids dig into action-packed, faith-filled adventures. They’ll discover God’s greatest treasure isn’t diamonds, gems, or gold—it’s them!”*  
—Group

As things open up across the country more and more, we are going to try something like last year with a little bit of in-person activity.

First, we will have an in-person opening activity on Sunday, June 27 at 5:00 PM at the church on the big lawn.

Then our gatherings will be online Sundays and Wednesdays at 12 noon.

Finally, we will have an in-person closing activity on Sunday, August 1 at 5:00 PM at the church on the big lawn.

When registration opens we ask families to register their children as the number of spots is limited to 50. Also, families will need to provide a home address so the church can deliver weekly materials boxes to the children.

For more info, contact Pastor Brian at [brian@claremontpres.org](mailto:brian@claremontpres.org) or 562-674-8407.





## All-Church Campout

Hey there Campers! Do you like camping, BBQ, hiking, games, movies outdoors, bonfires, and all things nature? Then join us for the All-Church Campout on June 4-6 at the Serrano Campground in Big Bear. Suggested fee: \$50 per family (if assistance is needed, please contact Pastor Brian). Mail or drop-off payment at CPC.

With schools having just restarted in-person education, summer on the horizon, and national parks re-opening this is the time to take a moment to step away for a long weekend and go camping. The group sites have been reserved and planning is already underway for safe and fun camping practices. The last couple of years have posed some challenges for group camping and we've come up with some amazing alternatives, but now it is time to try it the traditional way. We will plan on leaving that Friday afternoon, staying 2 nights, and then returning home that Sunday morning. Register now by heading over to [claremontpres.org/events/all-church-camp-out-2021](http://claremontpres.org/events/all-church-camp-out-2021). Having a clearer picture of the number of campers will help us plan for food and other items. Any questions? You can reach Pastor Brian at 562-674-8407 or [brian@claremontpres.org](mailto:brian@claremontpres.org).

## Young People's Sunday, Graduate Recognition & Third Grade Bibles

Throughout 2020 and now 2021 our children and youth have taken on very present parts in leading worship. And, every year we take a particular Sunday near the end of the school year to invite the youth to lead in the majority of the worship service. The youth are an integral part of the life of our CPC community of faith and our Claremont community. Join us for this, and...

Calling all Graduates! If you are graduating from college, high school, promoting from middle school, elementary grade, or preschool please let Pastor Brian know.

At the same time we will also be gifting Bibles to those completing 3<sup>rd</sup> grade this year. If you are or know of a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, please let Pastor Brian know as soon as possible. We would like to make sure all graduates and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are recognized and honored with a gift.

All of this is being celebrated during the worship service on June 13.

## Pop-In on the Wednesday Bible Study

Our Wednesday Bible Study is titled "Lessons from the Vineyard" and we're looking at passages in the Bible that reference wine or the vineyard. These are deep teachings that hold truths that may be missed if we're unfamiliar with vine dressing and wine making. Even if you can't make the whole study, feel free to drop in for the passages that interest you:

May 5 - John 15:1-11, Growth

May 12 - Luke 5:33-39, New Wine

May 19 - Romans 11:13-24, The Graft

May 26 - John 2:1-11, The Best for Last

We meet at 4:00 PM on Zoom. Meeting ID: 862 1883 9113. If you would like to download the study guide, go to [www.claremontpres.org/vineyardlessons](http://www.claremontpres.org/vineyardlessons).

## CPC Seeks a Livestream Worship & Tech Coordinator

Part time: 10-15 hours per week including in-person work on Sundays and some holidays.

The role of Worship Tech Coordinator is to take the lead in overseeing the livestream and audio visual worship needs of the Church, including leadership of volunteer technical teams for Sunday Morning Services and other worship events needing production and tech support. The right candidate has sufficient technical abilities to help advance our live-stream ministry.

### Duties:

1. Support of Live Stream for Sunday morning worship is the number one priority of this position.
2. The Technical Coordinator will oversee all technical

## 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](http://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](mailto:giving@claremontpres.org).



aspects to include but not limited to:

3. Sound set up and maintenance including wireless lapel microphones
4. Computer graphics including creating lyrics and other text in ProProducer as required
5. livestream and video presentation, both live and pre-recorded, of Sunday morning services.
6. Lead our tech team by training, assisting, scheduling and coordinating tech arts volunteers. Work with clergy and lay staff to identify and recruit tech team members.
7. Build a community of tech volunteers rooted in CPC's mission of hospitality, nurture, mission and inclusion.
8. Collaborate with the Pastor and Director of Music in the production and development of our worship services, and other gatherings as necessary and ensure appropriate level of media support. In addition to onsite live streaming, this may include actual production of pre-recorded service elements.
9. Research and develop new ways to broadcast/stream media via satellite, fiber, and the web to our local retirement communities and the wider online community.
10. Ensure CPC maintains audio and video archives of worship services.
11. Assist staff and volunteers in mastering AV technology, empowering and equipping our CPC team to use technology in discipleship and ministry.
12. Coordinate volunteers and assist with special services such as weddings or funerals as needed.
13. Assist the leadership team in securing equipment bids/upgrades as projects develop.
14. Understanding of preparing recorded material for linking to the church website is a plus
15. Assess future technology needs and work to implement purchase strategies and timelines in coordination with the Tech task force or committee and the business office.
16. Responsible for maintaining inventory of purchases, technology, passwords, etc.
17. Practice excellent stewardship of church funds.
18. Ability to oversee tech interns.
19. Perform other duties as assigned.

### Qualifications:

- Working knowledge of current audio, video, livestream, social media technology, lighting and video production systems in a live worship setting.
- Experience or familiarity with running a live stream via OBS to platforms such as Vimeo, Facebook, YouTube for



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streaming the services and special events

- Experience with presentation software such as ProPresenter or similar programs for creating slides and lower thirds and/or other methods of creating animated titles, displaying lyrics, etc.
- Familiarity with Blackmagic switchers, MAC and PC computer hardware and trouble shooting including regular minor maintenance and troubleshooting. Networking knowledge would be a plus.
- Understanding PTZ Optics cameras (or similar) and the interfaces and image influences such as SDI, USB, and HDMI connections and lighting levels.
- Familiarity with Viewsonic projectors
- Ability to setup and support Zoom meeting for live stream
- Ability to think quickly and react/troubleshoot appropriately in high stress situations
- Understanding of audio mixing with either an analog or digital sound system for both the in-house worship and stream.
- May be called upon for lifting, pulling, climbing, bending, carrying, and pushing as needed to set up activities and events. Ability to lift 50 pounds preferred.
- Understanding of video storytelling and editing experience for creating videos for broadcasting during the service (promotions, announcements, etc.)
- Commitment to an inclusive vision of ministry that affirms all people as having sacred worth.
- Ability to teach and lead others in all aspects of online technology relevant to CPC requirements
- Good communication and interpersonal skills.
- Previous team oriented volunteer experience is a plus.

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 03/31/21	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$133,949.76	\$114,999.00
Other Income	\$13,468.40	\$23,178.00
Expenses	-\$138,746.68	-\$150,526.74
Variance	\$8,671.48	-\$12,349.74
Other*	\$36,000.00	
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 03/31/21		BUDGET
Revenue	\$147,250.43	\$160,383.24
Expenses	-\$157,007.86	-\$160,569.41
Variance	\$9,757.43	-\$186.17
*Bequest - to be transferred to Endowment Fund		
PPP Loan Proceeds to date not included above: CPC -\$55,966.62 CPCC - \$71,386.60		

- Appreciation of traditional mainline worship
- Strong organizational skills

For more information, go to:

[claremontpres.org/employment-opportunities](http://claremontpres.org/employment-opportunities)

## Flowers for Worship

Donors and dedications, for the month of April, are listed below, with appreciation and gratitude for your thoughtful generosity.

April 4, Easter Sunday - With tender acknowledgment to and for all of the CPC members and friends who donated and dedicated 114 Easter Lilies that were all delivered by our Deacons, to offer compassion, empathy, cheer, comfort and gratitude to so many!

April 10 & 11 - Donated by Drs. William and Kimberly Brinegar to all Mountain View Staff in recognition of their compassion and dedication to all Mt. View students through on-line and in classroom learning experiences that enhance student achievement! The flowers reside in the staff office, reminding them of our CPC presence and support.

April 17 & 18 - There were two arrangements lovingly donated for worship: From Sharron Bentley in memory and in honor of son Andrew Bentley's birthday on April 18. These flowers rest at Andrew's graveside. From Bernadine & Marc Greenwood to the Glory of God in celebration of their wedding anniversary on April 29, and in memory of Judy Carrington. These flowers were distributed.

April 24 & 25 - From Susan Bogosian & Laura Bogosian Pincus in memory of their parents, Tom and Dorothy Bogosian, faithful members and servants of CPC since 1963. Also in recognition of the Armenian genocide - to honour the memory of victims of massacres that began on April 24, 1915.

Contact [delight@claremontpres.org](mailto:delight@claremontpres.org) to schedule your donation and dedication for worship! Flowers are displayed at both the Saturday evening prayer service and Sunday morning worship services.

## Please Lift Up Your Prayers

**As we share in the grief** of our friends, and in the celebration of the lives of our loved ones and friends who have entered the space reserved for them with Christ, we lift up our prayers for: the family of Karen Huff DeMasi and Geri DeMasi, along with Karen's mother, Barbara Huff, and siblings, Mary Bernard and Greg Huff, for the passing of their father/husband, John Huff, on Easter morning while

in rehab from a recent fall; the Emmanuel congregation and family of Ruben Diaz, following his passing.

**We lift prayers for all of our 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.

**We offer praise, and gratitude to the Lord, for helpful surgeries or procedures, and continued healing for:** John Watts, Jim Braschler, Lois Whitbord, Frank Pinkerton, Gennie Ransom, Cloyce Morrow.

**As we lift up those for whom we ask for healing, for strength, for courage, for the grace, peace, and comfort** of the Holy Spirit, we pray for: Jane Glenn, for her on-going heart condition; Gail Duggan; Patrick West; Chet and Eileen Jaeger, as he recovers from a fall; Bob, Joan, and Donna Kelly, as Bob continues treatment;

**For those whom we tenderly remember on an on-going basis:** John Najarian; Suzanne and Kay Brown; Carolyn Whitham; Jean Perry; Lenore Brashler; Jim Brashler; Chris Hartmire; Thom Bleakney; Ruth Auld; Phoebe DeVille; Jean Underwood; Chet & Eileen Jaeger; Lee & Claire McDonald; Mike Layne; Barbara Myers; Doris Craig; Doris Chambers; MaryAnne Hillman; Mary & Ed Hughes; Sandra Deibel.

**As we lift up continuing sustaining prayers:** for Pastor Brian and his family; Joyce & Ted Alexander as they prepare for a move; for Kevin Kessler and his bother Ken, who are displaced due to a fire in their family home. We lift up Judith Rios, a former CPCC teacher, journeying through stage 4 cancer; we lift up Saba Alemaiehu as she bravely and optimistically treats her situation.

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 send your requests via email to Delight Slotemaker de Bruine - [delight@claremontpres.org](mailto:delight@claremontpres.org).

You may indicate that you wish only the name listed or you may wish to include details. Details are shared only as per your direction, otherwise then they will be shared confidentially at the weekly staff meeting.



# COMMUNICATOR

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Deadline for June *Communicator* - May 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)

### Wednesday

- 4:00 PM - Bible Study (Zoom)

### Thursday

- 5:00 PM - Community Yoga (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)

For links to all these events, visit [claremontpres.org/weekly-schedule](http://claremontpres.org/weekly-schedule)



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