



claremont presbyterian church

COMMUNICATOR

May 2022



MATTHEW 25

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A Matthew 25 Church

On April 1, 2019 an invitation went out for Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations and mid-councils to declare themselves to be Matthew 25 churches. In doing that, they commit to working on at least one of the three emphases of the Presbyterian Mission Agency: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and ending systemic poverty.

Matthew 25:13-35 tells of the coming day when Christ says to the righteous:

“Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

In Fall 2021, San Gabriel Presbytery voted to become a Matthew 25 Presbytery and encouraged its member congregations to consider becoming Matthew 25 congregations. Our Session began a conversation about this in January 2022, asking a small group of elders to learn more about the initiative and bring a recommendation back to Session. At its March meeting, this group recommended that Claremont Presbyterian Church join the Matthew 25 initiative and Session voted to approve this recommendation.

What does that mean for us? In many ways, our congregation is already engaged in ministries that support the goals of the Matthew 25 movement.

Upcoming Worship

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

Sunday, May 1, 10:00 AM

Communion Sunday

When did we see you hungry or thirsty?

John 21:1-19

Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, May 8, 10:00 AM

When did we see you naked?

Acts 9:36-43

Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, May 15, 10:00 AM

Ordination and Installation of Officers

When did we see you a stranger?

John 13:31-35

Rev. Brian Gaeta-Symonds preaching

Wednesday, May 18, 5:30 PM

The Village Dinner Church

Sunday, May 22, 10:00 AM

Youth Sunday

When did we see you sick?

John 5:1-9

Sunday, May 29, 10:00 AM

When did we see you in prison?

Acts 16

Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Becoming a Matthew 25 congregation will give us the opportunity to be even more intentional and focused in these areas--and to benefit from the experience and ideas of other Matthew 25 congregations and communities.

During May, we will explore Matthew 25 more deeply through a sermon series and a four week bible study. More details are provided in this newsletter.

Karen Sapio

Back To School: Pastor Brian Begins a Doctor of Ministry Degree!

Many people took up new hobbies and interests during the first couple years of COVID. I took on a 15-month online certificate program in Church Revitalization with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS). From that program the Village Dinner Church, already in the making pre-COVID, gained new energy and launched March 16 with many of you at the helm.

I was so excited with what I learned that I decided it was time to continue my studies with a doctoral program in Missional Leadership, where I will return to PTS. I have already begun my reading and studying in preparation for my first classes this June. This program is such that I will be able to study and practice that which I am learning all while I am serving Claremont Presbyterian Church; and then I will travel to Pittsburgh twice each year to attend intensive coursework.

As your Associate Pastor for Outreach I am so pleased to have the opportunity to learn about neighborhood mission from the experts and grow in my own sense of call, and then simultaneously bring it back to Claremont so that together we can begin to apply it to our ministry and mission. It brings me deep joy to know that I have such a supportive Session and church community cheering me on.

My family and I covet your prayers over the next several years. If you see me in a local coffee shop with my nose buried in a book, please DO stop by and say hi, and ask me what I'm reading. You all share in my journey in this program; but don't worry, I won't share the homework assignments.

Here we go!

+Pastor Brian

Fill the Red Wheelbarrow... and more

As a continuation of CPC's red wheelbarrow project and our ongoing support for Inland Valley Hope Partners, the Board of Deacons will be sponsoring a personal hygiene drive to benefit Inland Valley Hope Partners

as part of Sunday worship and coffee hour on May 1.

Any personal hygiene products of any size (travel, personal, or family) are welcome and may be dropped off on the patio before or after worship. Small items will be packaged into individual hygiene bags to offer to the unhoused. All other items will be available to support regular clients of IVHP, which is still experiencing a significant increase in need over past years.

Suggested items for donation include soap, shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream, hand sanitizer, and lip balm, along with razors, toilet paper, Kleenex, tampons, toothbrushes, dental floss, combs, hair brushes, Band-Aides, etc. Also welcome are basic cleaning supplies such as dish soap, laundry detergent, dishwashing detergent, bleach wipes, and paper towels. We also welcome your collection of individually packaged utensils. No diapers or formula please. Diapers and formula are supported by an ongoing program and are not a specific need at this time.

If you are not able to attend in person worship on May 1 and would still like to participate, donations may be dropped off in the red wheelbarrow in the Narthax any time before the drive or in the church office during regular office hours between now and Sunday, May 1. In addition, you may contact Karee Galloway (kjgalloway@gmail.com) to schedule a pick-up from your home.

And of course monetary donations for Inland Valley Hope Partners are always welcome and needed. You can make a tax-deductible, monetary donation to support Inland Valley Hope Partners (inlandvalleyhopepartners.org) or by mail. (Checks may be addressed to Inland Valley Hope Partners, 1753 N. Park Ave. Pomona CA 91768).

The deacons continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity of our worshipping community, especially in the last two years. Thank you for your continued support!

Books and Brew

Join us on Thursday, May 26 from 5:30-7:00 PM at Claremont Craft Ales as we discuss *Holy Disunity: How What Separates Us Can Save Us*, by Layton E. Williams. (Available on Kindle and in paperback.)

Author, John Pavlovitz, says “*Holy Disunity* is clear,

cool water for those of us emotionally and spiritually dehydrated from navigating the discord around us.” Layton is a PC(USA) pastor living in South Carolina with her growing family. In addition to being a writer and marketing professional she served as a pastoral resident at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago.

Youth Sunday

Our young people will be leading us in a creative worship experience. Make sure you come ready to be engaged and excited to learn from the gifts of our elementary children and youth. We are invited to grow through our mutual gifts as we seek to be taught by our community. Join us May 22.



An ACTUAL Platform for Gospel Shaped Dreams.

Our congregation’s vision statement says that we exist to be a platform for Gospel Shaped Dreams. In March, a group of committed volunteers from our church worked together to create an actual platform on the church’s front lawn. As the pandemic required us to use our outdoor space for worship and other activities, we discovered that our front lawn is a wonderful natural cathedral. All it lacked was a stage to allow us to gather there more easily. The stage’s debut took place at our 8 AM Sunrise Easter Service with Emmanuel Presbyterian Church. We look forward to using this space more and more as summer approaches. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this possible.

Family Camp – Register Today

This year Family Camp will return to the Big Bear Lake Conference Center on May 28-30. Imagine it... hot showers, wi-fi, electricity, all your food is paid for and meals prepared!!

With gas prices rising and the increasing cost to go camping, we wanted to offer an opportunity to get away, closer to home and enjoy the amenities while being able to step out the doorstep and into nature.

Participants ages 16 and up = \$135. Participants ages 15 and younger = \$100. Children 2 years and younger are Free. Scholarships available.

Register with pastor Brian (brian@claremontpres.org) today with your \$50/participant deposit.



The Village Dinner Church

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

All are welcome – 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.

Our purpose is 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!

Join us on Wednesday, May 18 at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

Vacation Bible School

This summer our VBS will be monumental! Seriously, the theme is “Monumental.” This year we’ll gather from 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM on June 27-July 1.

Join our Bible Memory Buddies Harley, Miley, Howell, Rollo, and Jet as they lead us on an adventure through different places like Monument Valley (summer and winter), Havasupai Falls, the Mitten Buttes, and Valley of Rocks. Get registered and let’s hit the dusty trail as we learn, play, and sing together about the monumental love of God.

\$25 per child suggested donation (no child will be denied for inability to donate)

Register at: www.claremontpres.org/vbsregistration

March Session Highlights

- Grieved the passing of member Mary Hughes
- Pastor Karen shared her excitement about the many and varied events and worship experiences coming in April, especially after the last two years
- Heard of the success of Village Dinner Church, with five new families in attendance
- Voted for CPC to become a Matthew 25 Church. See www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/ for information on what this entails.
- Approved new COVID protocols for worship and all church events. Masks will continue to be required indoors to protect the vulnerable.
- Approved painting the inside of Fellowship Hall and renovation of the Memorial Garden after very generous donations for these projects.

Wednesday Bible Study in May

God with Us in Jesus: A Matthew 25 Bible Study

Our Session recently voted to confirm our congregation’s participation in the PCUSA’s Matthew 25 initiative. What does that mean for us as a congregation? This Bible Study is a dive into the scripture upon which the initiative is based. Produced by the Presbyterian Church’s Office of Theology and Worship, this study looks at the wider con-

CPCC Spotlight

The Sieg Family - Natalie, Levi, Mason, Clayton, and Nash. Both Natalie and Levi work at Claremont High School. Natalie serves on the CPCC Commission and all three of their boys have graduated from CPCC. In conversation with Natalie, here is what we found out...

Why did you choose CPCC? Initially we selected CPCC based on its play-based instruction, location to school and work for our family, and dedication to the development of the whole child including the spiritual foundations provided.

Why did you stay with CPCC? We fell in love with the staff at CPCC, we consider so many of them family after these ten years of being part of this community. We truly enjoyed all of the classrooms and all of the Art that would come home over the years. The teachers and Sacha truly make CPCC the best.

What will you miss about CPCC? We will definitely miss the community we have built with the teachers and other families. We will also miss the support and guidance of the pastoral staff that we have received through the center over the years. In addition we will miss the Halloween Parade, the Christmas performances (the BEST).



text of Matthew's gospel, the location of this chapter within that gospel, and its implications for the church in our time. The group will meet on Zoom each Wednesday at 4 PM. Materials are available in the church office, or via email. Contact Pastor Karen Sapio if you would like materials mailed to you. Zoom ID for the gatherings is: 862 1883 9113.

Calling all Graduates!

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

Grief and Trauma Workshop Series

The pandemic interrupted so much in our lives--dreams, health, retirement, community, family celebrations, and more. We'll explore our responses in two, cumulative gatherings from 1:00 -2:30 PM April 24 and May 1. Sponsored by the Contemplative Ministries Team and guided by the Rev. Duane Bidwell, these sessions provide a trusted place to reflect and reconnect through ritual, storytelling, and reflection. We'll share experiences and explore what it means to move forward after two years of grief, trauma, isolation, and thwarted futures. To register, go to claremontpres.org/events.



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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Adult Ed – Scholar Soiree Series

The Adult Education Forum is pleased to present the Scholar Soiree Series al fresco. You are invited to bring a blanket or folding chair and hear from a different local scholar each night as they share a bit about their doctoral research and studies in the warm late afternoon foothill breeze of the summer evening. Saturdays, May 14, June 18, July 16 from 5:30PM – 7:15 PM on the front lawn. Our scholars are – Najeeba Syeed, Krista Wuertz, and Yuki Schwartz.

Please bring a picnic dinner and enjoy some light refreshments, music, and the captivating thoughts of three wonderful speakers....and, don't forget to invite your friends.

Ways to Give

- Place offerings in offering box in narthex after worship.
- 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.



Deacons bring Easter Lilies and Care

A team of CPC Deacons and volunteers delivered more than 100 lilies to our Senior Living facilities, hospitalized, home-bound, isolated members, those who could benefit from some cheer, as well as to your pastors, and CPC Staff.

Thank you, deacons, for being so generous with your time on Easter Sunday. Your caring enhanced the Easter beyond for so many! Blessings to you.

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 03/31/22	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$126,980.05	\$120,000.00
Other Income	\$58,000.96	\$26,555.00
Expenses	-\$152,728.081	-\$169,739.25
Variance	-\$32,252.931	-\$23,184.25
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 03/31/22	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$266,233.99	\$274,271.53
Expenses	-\$269,806.79	-\$269,957.88
Variance	-\$3,572.80	\$4,313.65

Flowers for Worship

Our CPC Sanctuary worship space was enhanced for all to enjoy by the generous donations of worship flowers by the following individuals:

April 3: donated by a generous member couple, to contribute to the beauty of our CPC sanctuary for worship.

April 10, Palm Sunday: donated by Susan Begosian and sister, Laura Begosian Pincus, in memory of their parents, Tom and Dorothy Begosian - long-time, active members of CPC. The purple and white colors are also in memory of the anniversary of the April 24 Armenian Genocide.

April 17, Easter Sunday: donated by Sharron Bentley in memory of and in honor of her son, Andrew Bentley, on his birthday, April 17.

April 24: donated by Marc and Bernadine Greenwood to the glory of God and in celebration of their 33rd wedding anniversary this year!

Please Lift Up Your Prayers

In celebration of and with gratitude for: Our CPC, Emmanuel and GPIB Pastoral Ministers and Staff for their thoughtful and meaningful shepherding of their respective congregations through the Lenten Season and Holy Week. We move forward in the Light, Joy, and Hope of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ! Alleluia! Amen! The birth of two baby girls in our CPCC this 1st quarter of 2022. The magnificent, moving premiere presentation on April 10 of Gerald DeMasi's original composition: *Pandemic Requiem* - we celebrate the creative artistic gifts and acknowledge the grief and the experiences that were present during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

For the family and friends of those who have died, as we surround them with love: Bobby Amores, brother of Teresa Bernal; Chuck Freitas, husband of Jeanne Master's daughter, Devon, passed April 15; Mary Hughes and Ed, sons Sean and Matthew, as well as care-givers, Geoff and Armando. Memorial Services and reception will be held for Mary Hughes at CPC on Saturday, June 11 at 11 AM.

For those transitioning to new living situations: Carolyn Kingshill; Marion Thompson; Mary-Anne Blaine; Herb & Carlynn Christian; Pastor Brian's aunt; Cecile Trindle, mother of George and Peggy Trindle; Janette Gould, mother of Andrea Gould who is the daughter-in-law of Larry and Jeannine Robertson. We also lift up the families of each of these individuals, praying for strength, patience, wisdom, rest, and peace.

For healing and recovery from recent surgery or incidents: Patricia Maine; Joan Presecan; David Frazier; Elaine Newton, for heart-valve replacement.

For the compassionate touch of the Holy Spirit for strength and grace for: Bonnie and Dennis Symonds, parents of Pastor Brian; the Agwu family; Sean Hughes; the residents of The Lodge at MSAG as they navigate through lock-down with covid cases; Lisa Frazier; Carrie Willette, Jan Willette's daughter, as Carrie continues to navigate her way through cancer; Barbara Patch; Jean Perry; Phoebe DeVille; Elsie Harber; Doris Craig and Mae (Becky) Beck and her nieces; Meredith Clayton & Rocky Supinger.

For on-going healing concerns and for continued strength for: Larry Robertson; Patrick West; 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; Judith Rios, a former CPCC teacher; John Najarian; Suzanne and Kay Brown; Chris Hartmire; Tom Bleakney; Jean Underwood; Eileen Jaeger; Claire McDonald; Barbara Myers; Doris Chambers; Marianne Hillman; Sandra Deibel, Carolyn Whitham; Marion Thompson, and Jean Cochran.

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 June *Communicator* - May 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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