



claremont presbyterian church

# COMMUNICATOR

July 2020



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## The Church Has Left the Building, Part 2

Greetings, friends, as our church community continues to bear witness to the compassion and mercy of God during these difficult times.

On July 16, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health updated its protocols for places of worship. Due to the surge of new infections in our region, “the State Public Health Officer Order... requires the closure of all indoor operations by Places of Worship. Indoor operations at places of worship are closed to the public. Public activities, including services, weddings and funerals, may continue to be conducted outdoors on the grounds of places of worship in compliance with this revised protocol or virtually, using the site or other location as setting.”

At our Session meeting on July 22, the Session voted that we would continue to be in compliance with State and County Health Department directives. Therefore, there will continue to be no indoor worship or other activities on our campus until further notice. The congregations who worship here may plan outdoor services on campus as long as they are in compliance with local health directives. In addition, no activities on our campus will serve food. The new Health Department orders for faith communities do not impact our Children’s Center which operates under separate protocols for Childcare services.

While it is disappointing to have to delay a return to our sanctuary—perhaps for several more months—we are confident that this is the most faithful response our congregation can make in this moment. We want our church to be aligning itself with efforts to reduce the impact and the duration of this pandemic.

In the meantime, our many ministries continue! We worship daily with Morning and Evening Prayer. Sunday morning worship is streamed live through

# Upcoming Worship

(all worship services are accessible through Facebook Live unless otherwise noted)

**August 2, 10:00 AM**

*Communion Sunday*

“What Paul Saw in Ephesus”

Ephesians 3:14-20

Pastors Brian Gaeta-Symonds  
and Karen Sapio dialogue  
sermon

**August 9, 10:00 AM**

“What Paul Saw in Colossae”

Colossians 3:1-17

Pastor Karen Sapio preaching

**August 9, 7:00 PM**

Service for Healing and  
Wholeness

In-person in Angel Courtyard  
and available on Facebook Live

**August 16**

“What Paul Saw in Philippi”

Philippians 4:1-9

Pastor Karen Sapio preaching

**August 23**

“What Paul Saw in  
Thessalonica”

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Pastor Karen Sapio preaching

**August 30**

“What Paul Saw with Timothy”

2 Timothy 1:3-14

Pastor Brian Gaeta-Symonds  
preaching

our Claremont Presbyterian Church Facebook page, and Saturday evenings at 7 PM, we gather outdoors on the church lawn for Evening Prayer on the Lawn—a service of prayer, instrumental music, and reflection on scripture. Beyond worship, we meet online for weekly Bible Study, two anti-racism gatherings, children’s ministry activities, parenting groups, mission engagement and coordination efforts, and much more. Please read through this month’s newsletter to learn how we are being the church in the world.

Peace be with you,



## Claremont Presbyterian Children’s Center Reopens

On July 1, Claremont Presbyterian Children’s Center (CPCC) welcomed children into their classrooms for the first time since March 13. Because of the strict protocols for child care centers operating during the COVID-19 pandemic, many things were different:

- Parents drop off their children at the building door, but cannot come inside.
- Each child has their temperature taken before entering the classroom for the day.
- Teachers all wear masks and aprons which they change frequently.
- Classrooms are self-contained and can have no more than 10 children.
- Teachers no longer serve snacks.
- Classes are encouraged to spend as much time out of doors as possible.

Yet we are also thankful that many things were just the same:

- The teachers welcome each child with enthusiasm.
- Families are grateful to have quality child care that is attentive to the safety of all.
- Each child is cherished and nurtured by a well prepared teaching staff.
- The CPCC Director, Sacha Lord, is committed to creating a community of care and compassion for all of our CPCC families.

The entire childcare industry has been hit very hard by the COVID-19 crisis and our Center is no exception. The coming months will find CPCC rebuilding its enrollment and recovering its footing financially. During this time of transition, CPCC would welcome your support. If this ministry of our church is close to your heart, consider a gift to sustain our Children’s Center as it returns to providing this service that is vital to the economic and social recovery of our whole community.

## Sign up for *the Latest*

As the COVID-19 crisis continues, events and information evolve and change rapidly—as does our church’s response to them. Our monthly, printed *Communicator* can’t keep up! We strongly encourage all friends and members of Claremont Presbyterian Church to sign up for our weekly e-newsletter, *the Latest*. This short, weekly update will keep you informed of news, events, and opportunities that emerge between issues of the *Communicator*. To sign up, go to [claremontpres.org](http://claremontpres.org), scroll to the bottom of the page, and fill in your e-mail under “Subscribe.” Or, email Lisa Strom at [lisa@claremontpres.org](mailto:lisa@claremontpres.org) and let her know you would like to be added to *the Latest* mailing list

## How to Give when there’s no Offering Plate

Thank you all for your faithful giving! Because of your generosity, our church has sustained daily prayer, weekly worship online, educational offerings for children and adults, outreach to the homebound, a food drive for Inland Valley Hope Partners, support for local and global mission partners, a virtual choir, ZOOM fellowship gatherings, and so much more during the four months, (so far) of the COVID-19 crisis. We continue to rely on your support as we move forward; ready to equip our congregation to serve God faithfully in the coming weeks and months.

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.

## Service for Healing and Wholeness

For our August 9 Service for Healing and Wholeness, we will gather outdoors at 7:00 PM in Angel Courtyard. Please bring your own lawn chair if possible. We will pray for our nation and for those known to us who are in need of God’s healing love and strength. We will also stream the service to Facebook Live for those who prefer to worship from home.

## Evening Prayer on the Lawn

As the COVID-19 crisis continues, large indoor gatherings are still the focus of concern for transmitting the virus. However, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has encouraged faith communities to consider outdoor gatherings as a safer alternative.

With this in mind, we are planning to hold Evening Prayer on the Lawn each Saturday evening at 7 PM throughout August. These services will include prayer, scripture, reflections, and music. Participants may bring a lawn chair and sit on the lawn in front of the sanctuary, or listen from their cars parked in adjacent parking areas. We will ask everyone to observe safe distancing and for those gathering on the lawn to wear a mask.

Our Sunday morning worship services will continue at 10 AM on Facebook Live.

## Wednesday Bible Study

Our Wednesday afternoon Bible Study (4:00 PM) will continue in August. Our current study is “Adventures with Paul.” This study coordinates with our July/August sermon series, “What Paul Saw” and follows Paul as he travels throughout the ancient Middle East planting and corresponding with new Christian communities. We’ll be using videos from The Bible Project as well as other materials. This study continues through August 26. The Zoom meeting ID to join is 862 1883 9113.

## Welcome to our new Elders and Deacons

At Claremont Presbyterian Church's very first Zoom Congregational Meeting, the Nominating Committee presented a slate of candidates for Elder and Deacon. This slate was enthusiastically approved by those members attending the meeting. Thank you to our new elders and deacons for their willingness to serve God by serving our church in this way.

### Elders

John Hill: Class of 2023

Thomas Luschei: Class of 2023

Jennifer Eazell: Class of 2023

Sam Atwood: Class of 2022

Tracy Dobler: Class of 2023

### Deacons

Irene Atwood: (extending term) Class of 2021

Karee Galloway: (extending term) Class of 2021

Chinny Agwu: Class of 2023

Rita Watts: Class of 2023

Mark Nelson: Class of 2023

Betty Butler: Class of 2021

Thank you to the Nominating Committee: Jeanine Robertson, Elaine Walker, Gennie Ransom, Eric Bernal, Octavio Guerrero, Sue Likens.

## Welcome Our Newest Members

Jenna and Andrew Brooks, Anna & Caleb



The Brooks family has been attending Claremont Presbyterian Church for nearly two years. Early on they excitedly took part in the family ministries such as Messy Midweek Church, Family Day Trips, and the kids' favorite - Waffle Church, and who doesn't get excited for Waffles?! Anna and Caleb also attend the Children's Center at the church, which has helped round out the Brooks family experience of the CPC community of faith. Join us in officially welcoming the Brooks' to the CPC family.

## Clerk of Session Transition

Charles Kerchner is stepping down as Clerk of Session after serving well and faithfully in that role for nearly a decade. We are grateful for the tenacity, creativity, and vision he brought to that role for so many years. Teddie Warner has graciously agreed, with Session's approval, to take up the Clerk's duties, and began this work in July. We are blessed with so many dedicated leaders, and for this we give thanks.

## Rocky Railway Staycation Bible School

What do 25 children and 11 Leaders add up to? An amazing month-long Staycation Bible School online experience. CPC members did not let COVID-19 stop them from coming up with a totally new way to engage all the familiar and new children in an action packed Bible School during July.

Jeanine Robertson and Barbara Mackenzie coordinated preschool and elementary aged programs full of games, snacks, stories, and much more. Pastor Brian and Cam Track (Mark MacKenzie) began each week on Wednesday at noon on Zoom with Sing and Play where the kids learned the Bible points, sang songs, and dug into their weekly activities boxes that were delivered to each kids home every week. Thanks to Elaine Walker and Teri Eazel for assisting Jeanine and Barb in packing up the weekly boxes. Raquel Arenas, Clara Becker, Jenny Eazel, Shelley Randles, and Pastor Karen shared a craft and told Bible stories every week to help the kids learn about all the things Jesus power can help us do.

During the third week of Staycation Bible School the kids learned that Jesus' power helps us be bold. This summer we all learned that when we work together to learn about the power of Jesus we can do bold things... like consider what children's ministries at CPC can look like despite not being on the church campus.

## Delight Slotemaker de Bruine to serve as Parish Care Coordinator

At its meeting on August 22, Session voted on an enthusiastic recommendation from our Personnel Committee for Delight Slotemaker de Bruine to serve as Parish Care Coordinator for Claremont Presbyterian Church.

At the end of 2019, Kristi Van Nostran stepped down as our Parish Intern in order to focus on her work with San Gabriel Presbytery. At that time, Personnel agreed that this position should continue and that it could be filled by a Pastor/Seminarian as it has been in the past—or by someone who is not clergy but who has gifts for compassionate care, strong organization skills, and a lively and contagious faith.

In Delight, we have someone who knows CPC very well, who has served as both an Elder and a Deacon, and who “delights” in caring for others and equipping others for service. Like previous Parish Associates/Interns, her work will focus on providing staff support for our deacons, and assisting our pastors with parish calling and visitation. She will work 8-10 hours/week and will begin on August 1.

### Adult Ed

The reality of pandemics is on everybody’s mind at the moment for very obvious reasons. We know that some really want to engage in conversation about it, and others may want to and don’t know how and/or are not yet ready because they are still grieving or healing. Join us for the last of the Adult Ed Forum 3-Part Series:

Monday, August 24, 7:00 PM on Zoom. Meeting ID: 831 5520 2812. “Pandemic: Fatigue and Mental Health.” More information coming soon.

Adult Ed this Fall will continue with the online format and monthly discussions based on readings and/or screenings.

### Children’s Ministries Are Getting a Makeover this Fall.

The Education & Leadership Commission (E&LC) is working hard at designing meaningful spiritual formation experiences for our preschool, early elementary and upper elementary kids, as well as our youth.

Moving online during COVID-19 has truly shown us that there are many gifted people in the congregation who are able to lead in different ways, even when they can’t make it to the church campus (COVID or not).

E&LC has decided to move children’s ministries online for the Fall season as well as incorporate new and engaging curriculum and opportunities for spiritual learning and growth that they hope will excite and challenge all of our kids. Keep watch for more information in your emails.

These are exciting times - and the harvest is full of creativity and ingenuity.



*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 contact the church office by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month by telephone at (909) 624-9693 or email: [lisa@claremontpres.org](mailto:lisa@claremontpres.org).

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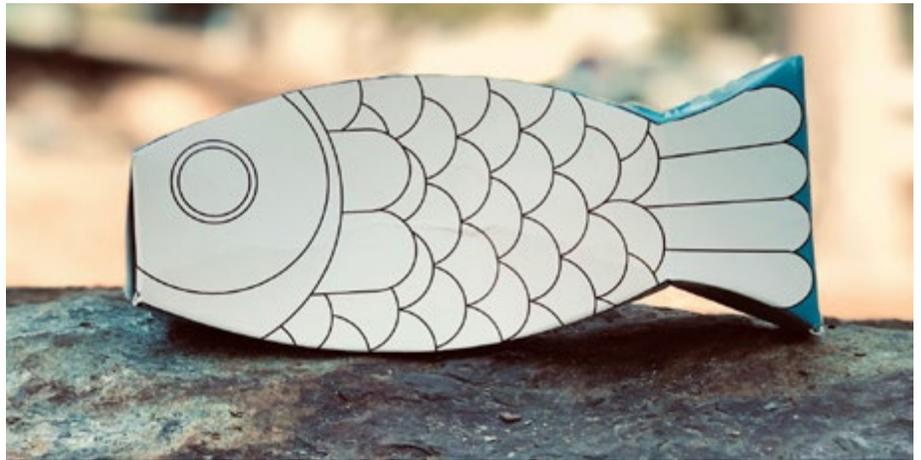
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## One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks



The COVID-19 shut down left a number of Fish Banks stranded in the homes of church members when our scheduled ingathering on Easter was disrupted. We would like those fish and the coins they contain to make it to the Presbyterian Mission Agency to help in the work of responding to needs in our country and around the world.

How to return your One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Bank:

1. Drop off in the church office on Wednesday August 5 or 12 between 9 and noon.
2. Call the church office to drop off by appointment at another time.
3. If you are not able to come to the church, call the church office to arrange for a home pick up by a church volunteer.

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 6/30/2020	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$246,464.84	\$234,996.00
Other Income	\$106,702.26	\$54,243.96
Expenses	-\$270,785.75	-\$301,931.82
Variance	\$82,381.35	-\$12,691.86
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 6/30/2020	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$246,474.40	\$454,869.96
Expenses	-\$456,981.04	-\$454,869.42
Variance	-\$210,506.64	\$0.54

## Weekly Morning Meditation

Morning meditation has resumed on-line and on Fridays at 8 AM. In the tradition of Centering Prayer, we quiet ourselves in the presence of the Holy Spirit. We have joined with the world-wide Meditation Chapel, an interfaith online meditation community that allows people from afar to join us. After a brief introduction, we keep silence together for 25 minutes, have a short time of greeting one another and depart with a benediction. To participate, email [charlestaylorkerchner@gmail.com](mailto:charlestaylorkerchner@gmail.com). He will send you the internet link and you will be able to meet with us on Fridays and participate in any of the scores of meditations on the Meditation Chapel calendar.

## CPC's Antiracist Reading Group

This group, open to all who are interested even if this is your first time, will once again come together once each week for discussion about Ibram X. Kendi's book, "How to Be an Antiracist." We will gather on Thursdays in August at 6:30 PM via Zoom. The meeting ID is: 894 6751 7267 and the passcode is: 816706.

This book is set up slightly different than the first book, and so we have created a helpful reading schedule to assist you in following along:

Aug. 6	Intro - Ch. 5
Aug. 13	Ch. 6 - 10
Aug. 20	Ch. 11 - 15
Aug. 27	Ch.16 - 18

Check out the following ways to access the book:

- Possibly at the LA Library, but you may have to wait for either formats, book or ebook
- Ordering directly from Mr. Kendi's website: [ibramxkendi.com/how-to-be-an-antiracist-1](http://ibramxkendi.com/how-to-be-an-antiracist-1)
- Amazon is always a possibility, but consider patronizing an independent bookstore, such as Vroman's in Pasadena: [vromansbookstore.com](http://vromansbookstore.com) or Eso won Bookstore in LA.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastors Karen or Brian.

## Tapestry Youth Mission Week

Nearly 40 youth and several of their leaders came together virtually from all points So Cal to learn, laugh, and love on their communities. Claremont Pres. had three youth join the fun - Andrew Marks, Linda Luschei, and Nathan Gaeta-Symonds. These extraordinary youth grew in their spiritual formation and had fun along the way.

Justice, Community, Advocacy, and Encouragement are just a few of the words used to explore how we all can share Christ's love especially during a pandemic. Writing cards and giving thoughtful gifts, looking for justice issues in our neighborhoods, having conversations about what issues tug on our hearts, and looking for ways to encourage each other along the journey are a just a few ways the youth showed that love of Christ.





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## Deadline for September *Communicator* - August 15

### Weekly Online Events

Sunday

10:00 AM - Worship (Facebook)  
10:45 AM - Coffee Hour (Zoom)



[claremontpres.org](http://claremontpres.org)

Tuesday

9:00 AM - Story Time (YouTube)



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

Wednesday

4:00 PM - Bible Study (Zoom)  
5:45 PM - Community Yoga (Zoom)



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

Daily (except during Sunday Worship)

8:00 AM - Morning Prayer (Facebook)  
11:30 AM - Quarantine Interlude (Facebook)  
5:00 PM - Evening Prayer (Facebook) (7:00 PM Saturday)



[giving](#)

For links to all these events, visit  
[claremontpres.org/covid19-response](http://claremontpres.org/covid19-response)