



claremont presbyterian church

COMMUNICATOR

July 2021



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What a Joy

What a joy it was on Sunday, June 6, to gather in our church sanctuary, see one another face to face, and lift our voices together in prayer and praise! God has been faithful to us during the long months of pandemic and separation, and now we come together to continue the work that the Holy Spirit has done in us, around us, and through us during this time.

As I write these words in mid-June, a crew from Binge Network Solutions is completing the installation of our new live streaming system and digital soundboard. These improvements to our communications will ensure that we continue to reach out more broadly as we continue to stay connected as a community. We have discovered that live streaming our services is not just an emergency, COVID measure, but also enables us to reach members and friends who have moved away from Claremont, to be accessible to those who have health issues that prevent their coming to worship in person, allows for members and friends to invite their families to join us for important events such as baptisms, ordinations, weddings, or memorial services, or simply to give folks who are traveling the opportunity to continue to worship with us while they are away. Thank you so much to our Stream Team: John Watts, Sam Atwood, George Trindle, Scott Randles, and Tony Becker for all their hard work to live stream our service since last October.

The summer months should find us worshipping together in person or remotely, preparing our hearts, minds and souls for what God is leading us to do and to be next.

Upcoming Worship

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

Sunday, July 4, 10:00 AM

Philippians 3:12-14

“Casting a New Vision for Your Life”

Ashley Hengst preaching

Sunday, July 11, 10:00 AM

Exodus 15:20-25a

“Sweet to Bitter... Back to Sweet”

Rev. Brian Gaeta-Symonds
preaching

Sunday, July 18, 10:00 AM

Esther 9:24-28

“How Do We Remember?”

Rev. Brian Gaeta-Symonds
preaching

Sunday, July 25, 10:00 AM

Kristi Van Nostran preaching

I am preparing to leave for eight weeks of Sabbatical beginning on June 28. While I am away Pastor Brian and the rest of our staff and leaders will continue to guide and nurture our ministries. See you in September!



Campus Safety Protocols Modified

On June 15, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health issued a new directive lifting many COVID-related safety mandates and replacing them with guidance on best practices. On June 23, session approved these new guidelines.

The Health Department continues to strongly encourage masks for large indoor gatherings where not everyone is vaccinated. We also want to ensure that children, (who cannot yet receive vaccinations) and their families feel safe and welcome in worship. Therefore we will continue to ask those attending worship in our sanctuary to wear masks at this time.

1. Because we are masking, WE CAN SING!
2. To assist in containing any spread of new variants of the virus, we will continue to check in worshipers in case contact tracing is needed.
3. We will continue to seat worshipers in alternate pews for the time being.
4. We will continue to maintain a low touch environment, including receiving our offering in boxes in the narthex following worship, and using pre-sealed cups for communion.
5. Individually packaged drinks and food may be served at Coffee Hour and other events.

Session will revisit these guidelines at its next meeting on August 25 and make adjustments as appropriate. If you have questions or concerns about any of these guidelines, please speak to a pastor or member of Session.

Judy's Blooms

Judy Carrington loved flowers. She enjoyed receiving flowers, passing blooms on the patio and as a deacon delivering some cheer to CPC members who are reminded that they are remembered. In memory of Judy, Doug Carrington has asked that flowers be passed following worship on the fourth Sundays of June-October. Doug and family encourage congregants to select a bloom or two on each Sunday they are available. Every person has the choice to keep the cheer for themselves or pass the bloom(s) onto a friend. Enjoy some of the blooms that Judy loved.

Beware of Scams

There are a number of Internet phishing scams that target members of faith communities. Often these come as an email from someone pretending to be the Pastor or other church staff requesting that a member purchase gift cards for a church project of charitable effort. Often the emails instruct the recipient NOT to call the staff person because they are tied up in meetings.

Please know that no member of CPC's staff would email a church member or friend requesting that they make any kind of financial transaction on behalf of the staff person or the congregation. If you receive an unexpected message from one of us asking you to do this, please delete it and report the incident to the church office. If you are ever unsure if a particular email is actually from a member of our staff, please verify with a phone call to the staff person or to the church office.

CPC Youth 30 Challenge

Beginning Wednesday, July 14 at 7 PM on Zoom we will gather monthly 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, brian@claremontpres.org. Meeting ID: 867 8160 1982

Celebrate July 4 with the Kids at Pomona Fairplex: Fill Their Going-home Bags

As we remember the American dream of freedom on July 4, let's also remember the children who have crossed our southern border alone in search of freedom from oppressive situations, including violent crime and poverty. So far about 500 children, "unaccompanied minors," mostly between 8 and 17 years old, have been housed at the Pomona Fairplex site at a time, but the numbers are constantly

changing as some are released to relatives and others arrive.

Claremonters are asking how they can help. We've been advised that while the children are there, they are cared for by professionals and there is little opportunity for volunteers to interact with them. They receive schooling, medical care, recreation, and emotional support care, since many are seriously traumatized by their previous lives, the journey here, and separation from their families. Still there are needs.

The Latino Family Institute in Pomona is looking for bi-lingual teachers and teachers' aides. The languages spoken are Spanish, Mandarin, and many indigenous languages of Central America. About 20% of the children have no relatives or sponsors waiting for them. Therefore some foster families will be urgently needed. For information: www.lfi-services.org.

What all of us can do is to help provide materials for departure bags to be given to the children as they leave Pomona and travel to their new homes in the US. On Sunday, July 4, we will be collecting donations. What is needed? Visa, Amazon or other gift cards, books (preferably Spanish or bilingual), school supplies (such as notepads, pens), international phone cards, coloring and doodle books, English learning materials, travel-size hygiene supplies, feminine hygiene products, hair ties, prepackaged snacks (trail mix, nuts, cookies, crackers,) hairbrushes and combs, socks and underwear, sweatshirts/hoodies (S-XL), lightweight throw blankets. Cash donations can also be made electronically or by checks to Claremont Presbyterian Church, with the designation Fairplex kids.

Many thanks for your generosity!

CPC Hosts Red Cross Blood Drive

Did you know that each blood donation can save up to 3 lives? Come by Claremont Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall on Friday, July 16 from 12 - 6 PM.

Please schedule an appointment online by visiting www.redcrossblood.org or on their Blood Donor App and enter sponsor code: CLRPRS or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.

ALL DONORS AND STAFF WILL BE SCREENED BEFORE ENTERING THE DRIVE.

Only healthy donors will be allowed inside. Picture ID Required.



Tapestry Youth Mission Week

ROOTED: Living rooted in Christ from John 15. July 26-30 from 10 AM - 2 PM will be an incredible week of IN-PERSON activities and mission work throughout So. California for 6th—12th graders. In partnership with Tapestry (churches from San Gabriel and Riverside Presbyteries), we will be spending every day engaged with a different non-profit agency doing mission projects and learning about their mission. From Habitat for Humanity, Immigrant Accompaniment Ministry, Uncommon Good, and more! This will be daytime and every day a different city. Cost will be minimal (\$25 per student) and transportation will be arranged with each church. More info is coming! To learn more, contact Pastor Brian 562-674-8407.

Thank You for Making the IVHP Cleaning and Hygiene Drive a Success

Your CPC Deacons would like to thank everyone in the congregation for their wonderful generosity leading up to and culminating in Sunday, June 13, for the Inland Valley Hope Partners toiletries and household cleaning supplies drive!

We received donations that filled over 30 consolidated boxes filled with full size toiletries, trial/travel-sized toiletries, assorted paper goods, and household cleaning supplies!

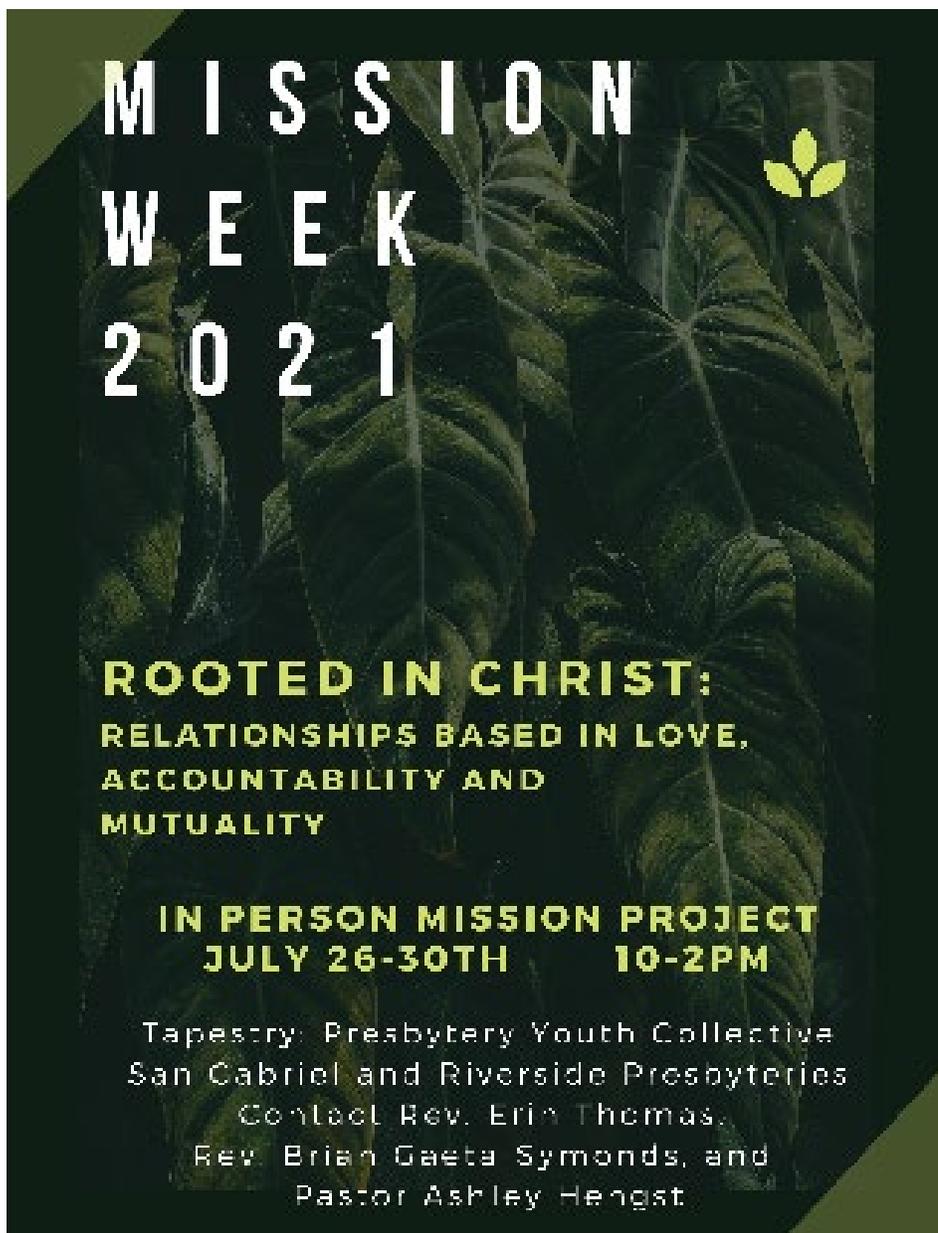
Our volunteer team of Deacons, Karee Galloway, Irene Atwood, Trish, Ron and Jean Perry, Sue

Likens and Susan Starr coordinated the sorting of the donations. So much generosity presented itself that IVHP had to send a truck for the pick up!

Again, your CPC Deacons thank you for your care, compassion and generosity.

Generous Pentecost Offering Will Aid Unaccompanied Immigrant Children

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Pentecost Offering. Sixty percent of that offering goes to the Presbyterian Church, USA to support its ministries that encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. Forty percent stays with the local congregation to support its own work with these same initiatives. This year, CPC agreed to contribute our 40% to assist unaccompanied immigrant minors currently housed at the Pomona Fairplex. These children, as young as nine months and as old as 17, come from violent areas of Central America and are housed at Fairplex until they can be safely reunited with relatives or other family connections in the United States. Our funds will



**MISSION
WEEK
2021**

**ROOTED IN CHRIST:
RELATIONSHIPS BASED IN LOVE,
ACCOUNTABILITY AND
MUTUALITY**

**IN PERSON MISSION PROJECT
JULY 26-30TH 10-2PM**

Tapestry: Presbytery Youth Collective
San Gabriel and Riverside Presbyteries
Contact Rev. Erin Thomas,
Rev. Brian Gaeta Symonds, and
Pastor Ashley Hengst

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. 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.



help provide “reunification boxes” that will include supplies and gift cards for groceries to help ease the transition of the child to its new household. Our 40% totaled \$556 which will be matched by funds from our Mission Commission and Refugee Concerns Team. Our prayers and blessings go along with our contributions.

Claremont Presbyterian Church Expands Solar Array

In 2016, our church installed its first solar panel array on the south facing roof of our Fellowship Hall. On Friday June 4, our solar contractor completed installation of our new PV solar. The 15 new panels, one array of 3, and one array of 12, are on the west end of Fellowship Hall. This orientation captures sun power in the afternoon, when electric rates are highest. With our mostly sunny weather right now, we can compare production before and after addition of the new panels and inverter. On May 31, with our old configuration, our power output was 82 kWh. On June 6, with our new panels installed and operating, our output was 110 kWh, a 34% increase. These new panels are helping our congregation be better stewards of the planet God entrusted to our care. Thanks to CPC member Thomas Bleakney whose vision, dedication, and generosity made this new installation possible.

2021-2022 Deacons and Parishes

Chinny Agwu	Parish 1	Abusharr - Brashler
Rita Watts	Parish 2	Bray - Croughan
Mark Nelson	Parish 3	Currie - Grant
Jean, Patricia, and Ronald Perry	Parish 4 & 5	Guerrero - Kindle
Irene Atwood	Parish 6	Leff - Lord
Vera Caselles	Parish 7	McAllister - Osgood
Susan Starr	Parish 8	Oyrmade - Robertson
Katherine Leff	Parish 9	Rodriguez - Swarthout
Karee Galloway	Parish 10	Swartz - Worang
Sue Likens	Parish 11	Luchei - Master, King - Lee



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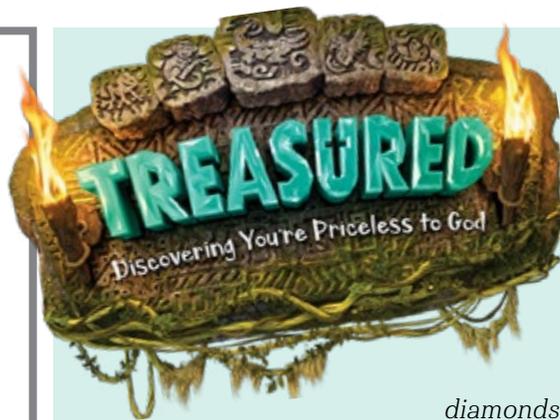
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Join us from June 27-August 1 this year for Treasured! A Group Vacation Bible School experience.

"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, go to claremontpres.org/events/bibleschool2021

May Session Highlights

- Welcomed new elders Bill Brinegar, Karry Denton and Scott Randles, and the new Moderator of Deacons, Irene Atwood.
- Thanked outgoing elders Jim Brashler, Carol Sittig and Peggy Trindle for three years of dedicated service.
- Re-elected for one-year terms Treasurer Janet Siedschlag and Clerk of Session Teddie Warner.
- Shared hopes and expectations for in-person and online worship, meetings and activities.

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 05/30/21	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$202,827.54	\$191,665.00
Other Income	\$31,319.00	\$38,630.00
Expenses	-\$223,124.08	-\$225,068.10
Variance	\$11,022.46	-\$24,773.10
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 05/30/21	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$313,012.43	\$267,309.24
Expenses	-\$311,609.57	-\$267,495.23
Variance	\$1,402.86	-\$185.99
PPP Loan Proceeds to date not included above: CPC -\$80,949 CPCC -\$127,521		

- Re-approved facility use for previous users.
- Approved maintenance to the electrical system for the sanctuary sound system.
- Approved plans for a meditation garden near the labyrinth, funded by a special gift from Charles Kerchner in memory of his wife, Leanne Kerchner.
- Elder Sittig reported that the Mission Interpretation Commission will match the local mission portion of the Pentecost offering, to go to Esparanza Fund for Unaccompanied Minors at the Fairplex.
- Heard that Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center now has an enrollment of 85 students and will resume Chapel sessions outdoors.

Flowers for Worship

The following worship flowers were donated thoughtfully and generously for the month of June as follows:

June 6: Mike Serret and his daughter, Chanielle, in loving memory of Marylin, wife and mother, on the 10th anniversary of her passing. Mike and Chanielle also dedicated the flowers in celebration of CPC's sanctuary re-opening.

June 13: Joanne McCandless and her son, Tom McCandless, in memory of Rev. Ken McCandless, former pastor of CPC for his birthday on June 9.

June 20: *Chancel Flowers:* Doug Carrington and Scott and Laura Carrington, in memory of beloved wife and mother, Judy Carrington, who passed on February 8, also shared at her memorial on June 19.

Also, Carol West and her sister, Sandy Garcia, in loving memory of their parents, Hillis and Margaret Folkins, on their wedding anniversary, June 20, and in memory of their sister, Lynn Loser

Narthex Flowers: Leanne Seeger and Todd Bailey as well as by Chuck and Regina, in addition to all the grand and great grandchildren in loving memory of George Bailey on Fathers Day.

June 27: Osvaldo and Zoila Garcia, in honor of the 100th anniversary of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church - Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana Emmanuel -to the Glory of God.

Contact delight@claremontpres.org to schedule your donation and dedication for worship!

Please Lift Up Your Prayers

This month, we are focusing on remembering and lifting in prayer all of our friends and CPC members who reside in Mt. San Antonio Gardens, the Claremont Manor, Hillcrest, Sunrise, and Westminster Gardens.

If you would like to share in a CPC Congregational care ministry by writing notes from your home, please feel to write notes to anyone in our church directory, as you feel "tapped on the shoulder" to do or contact Delight via email delight@claremontpres.org

As we share in the grief of our friends and simultaneously in the celebration of the lives of our loved ones who have passed from this earth, to enter the space reserved for them with Christ, we lift up our prayers for: the family of Jane Glenn who passed in the evening on Thursday, June 3. All three of her children were able to be with Jane the weekend before her passing. Jane and her husband served CPC in many capacities over the decades of attendance at CPC. Also, Pam and Roger House in the passing of Pam's youngest sister, Audrey; the family of Barry Gray, who passed last month at Pilgrim Place; the family of Karen and Geri DeMasi for the passing of her father, John Huff on Easter morning; the family of Stuart Lillich in the passing of his father, Ned.

We offer prayers and walk with Christ alongside those who are facing or recovering from hospitalizations and/or surgeries. We offer prayers of compassion for all of those experiencing medical, physical, emotional, spiritual, or mental health stormy waters: Pastor Brian and his family; Louise Gustin; Mark Nelson; John Watts; Jim and Lenore Braschler; Lois Whitbord; Frank Pinkerton; Gennie Ransom; Cloyce Morrow; Bob, Joan, and Donna Kelly; Joyce & Ted Alexander; Kevin Kessler and his bother, Ken, who are still displaced due to a fire in their family home; Judith Rios, a former CPCC teacher journeying through stage 4 cancer; Saba Alemaiehu as she bravely and optimistically treats her situation.

For those whom we tenderly remember on an on-going basis: John Najarian; Suzanne and Kay Brown; Carolyn Whitham; Jean Perry; 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; Sean and Matthew Hughes; Sandra Deibel, and Doug Carrington.

Should you, 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. 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.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Deadline for August *Communicator* - July 15

Weekly Online Events

Sunday

10:00 AM - Worship (Facebook)

10:45 AM - Coffee Hour (Zoom)

Wednesday

11:30 AM - Mid-Week Mini Concert (Facebook)

Friday

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

Daily (except during Sunday Worship)

8:00 AM - Morning Prayer (Facebook)

5:00 PM - Evening Prayer, Sun-Fri (Facebook)



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