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## From Pastor Karen

Hello Friends,

As I write this, I am enjoying my final weeks of Sabbatical and looking ahead to being back with you all as September begins. When I left at the end of June, it seemed that Fall would be a time of discernment and exploration as we entered the strange new world of post-pandemic ministry. The intervening weeks, however, have revealed that we are not done serving, praying, and seeking God’s direction on continuing how to be faithful bearers of God’s love and mercy as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

Two stories come to mind when I consider what this means for us. The first is the story of Jeremiah and his words to the Israelites exiled in Babylon. They were hoping for a prophecy of restored fortunes and a quick return to their homeland. Instead, Jeremiah told them:

*Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*

In other words, their first priority was working for the wellbeing of their entire community right here and now, in whatever circumstances they found themselves.

The other story is of Paul and his companions in ministry attempting to make a mission journey, but being blocked in every direction that they try to go. Finally, a voice and vision leads them in a different direction entirely.

## Upcoming Worship

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

**Sunday, September 5, 10:00 AM**

*Communion Sunday*

Prayers for Workers During Time of Pandemic

Karen Sapio preaching

**Sunday, September 12, 10:00 AM**

*New Beginnings Sunday*

Dedication of Prayer Garden

Brian Gaeta-Symonds preaching

**Sunday, September 19, 10:00 AM**

*Fall Sermon Series:*

*Questions Jesus Asked*

John 1:38

“What Are You Looking For?”

Karen Sapio preaching

**Sunday, September 26, 10:00 AM**

*Fall Sermon Series:*

*Questions Jesus Asked*

Luke 13:18

“What Is The Reign of God Like?”

Karen Sapio preaching

The challenge of the current state of affairs is that it is hard to plan--and we are part of a culture that practically worships planning. In fact, we might say that we've gotten out of balance, relying on our own ability to plan and direct more than relying on God's love to move and motivate us. As September brings us to the Fall Equinox, the day that hours of daylight and dark are equally balanced, let us be open to this invitation to bring our hearts, minds, and souls back into a holy balance—celebrating our own gifts and creativity, but also relying on God's direction as we seek the wellbeing of our neighbors as these days of woe persist.



## Fall Sermon Series: Questions Jesus Asked

Our faith tradition encourages us to look to Jesus for answers. However, in the gospels, Jesus asked far more questions than he answered. In his book *Questions Jesus Asked*, author John Dear lists 183 asked by Jesus in the course of the four gospels. These questions lead Jesus' listeners into a deep contemplation of the nature of God, their own purpose in life, the meaning of suffering and struggle. This fall, we will consider seven of Jesus questions and consider what they are asking us to do and to be during this time that demands so much faith and courage.

September 19	What Are You Looking For?
September 26	What is the Realm of God Like?
October 3	Do You See This Woman?
October 10	Do You Want to be Healed?
October 17	What Does This Have to Do with Me?
October 24	What Are You Arguing About?
October 31	Why Are You Afraid?

## Weekly Wednesday Bible Study Resumes

This Fall our Wednesday bible study returns on September 8 at 4:00 PM. This will be offered in a hybrid format. You may attend in person in Room 1 at the church, or join on Zoom with meeting ID 862 1883 9113.

Our weekly Wednesday Bible Study will kick off the Fall with a nine week study entitled: *What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus*. Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary—Matthew names these women for a reason. How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers? What might the young Jesus have felt as he heard about his family? What might the stories of these women have added to his sense of identity, as part of a particular family in a particular time and place?

Have you thought about Jesus' grandmothers? What can these Grandmothers-of-the-Faith teach us? Their stories will lead us into the gospel, the good news about Jesus Christ. By exploring these stories together, we will have a richer idea of what the good news is.

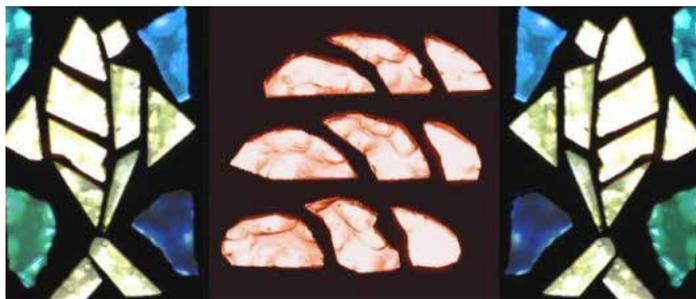
Books are available in the church office. A \$10 donation is appreciated.

This Study will continue weekly on Wednesday afternoons through November 3.

## El Camino de San Diego - Journeying toward Justice

Join Presbyterian friends from our Synod for a virtual pilgrimage along and across the U.S.-Mexico border. Via International and The Border Church/La Iglesia Fronteriza will be our guides for five virtual encounters. From the comfort of your own home, you will learn from borderlands leaders engaged in “journeys toward justice” by traveling to Chicano Park in San Diego, La Plaza El Chaparral in Tijuana, and Friendship Park at the U.S.-Mexico border. The final day the group will virtually attend worship at Border Church. The upcoming trip is planned for September 1 (meet & greet), 2, 9, 16, 23, and 26. The virtual pilgrimage can only accommodate 18 participants and the cost is \$100 per person. Go to <https://www.presbywelcome.com/border-pilgrimage> for more information & registration.

## The Loaves and Fishes Society: an additional way to give back to CPC



*“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many?”*

John 6:9

The Loaves and Fishes Society, the bequest program at CPC, provides all of us with an additional way to “give back” to our wonderful Church, in response to all that we have received.

While the annual pledge campaign provides the vital funding to support the daily operating budget of the Church, the bequest program serves long-range needs, as described in the Loaves and Fishes Society brochure. If you would like another copy of the brochure for yourself or a friend, please pick one up in the Church office – we hope it will serve as a ready guide and reference for future use.

Just as the loaves and fishes were multiplied to sustain multitudes (John 6:9), our individual bequest gifts, when combined with those of others, will have a far greater impact than any one of us could achieve on our own. Currently, 35 people are members of our Loaves and Fishes Society.

When you too have taken this important step, please inform one of the Pastors, any member of the Committee, or Neila Car-

ey in the Church office – we want to offer our hearty thanks to you, as well!

The Special Gifts and Endowment Committee of Claremont Presbyterian Church: Roger House, Dee Kelley, Kent Miller, Karen Sapio, Janet Siedschlag, Stan Springer, Kent Warner, Mike Wigton

## Project Angel

This year’s “Project Angel” will be held on Tuesday, October 12 at 7:00 PM. at Temple Beth Israel. This annual “baby shower” is your opportunity to bring items for babies born at Los Angeles County USC Medical Center who are in need of basic supplies.

Bring new, unwrapped baby items, such as blankets, clothes, diapers, car seats, toys, etc.

If you are unable to attend the shower but would like to donate items, please bring them to CPC by Sunday, October 10. You may also choose a financial contribution. Checks should be made out to “Angel Interfaith Network.” If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Patch at 909-624-5767.

## Horizons Monthly Bible Study

Our monthly Horizons Bible Study will begin again on Tuesday, September 14 at 9:30 AM. You may come to the church and participate in person in Room 1, or join us on Zoom using the following meeting ID 813 4705 2180.

This year’s Horizon’s Bible Study is *What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus*. Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary—Matthew names these women for a reason. How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers? What might the young Jesus have felt as he heard about his family? What might the stories of these women have added to his sense of identity, as part of a particular family in a particular time and place?

Have you thought about Jesus’ grandmothers? What can these Grandmothers-of-the-Faith teach us? Their stories will lead us into the gospel, the good news about Jesus Christ. By exploring these stories together, we will have a richer idea of what the good news is.

Books are available in the church office. A \$10 donation is appreciated.

This study will continue the second Tuesday morning of each month through May 2022.

## Picnic & Concerts on the Lawn

Our picnic and concert on the lawn series continues Saturday, September 11 beginning at 5:30 PM. Bring your blanket and lawn chairs, a picnic dinner, and relax with us in the warm evening air as we enjoy another great concert from local artists.

## Kick Off Sunday

Just as the summer was beginning we welcomed everyone back to in-person worship. It was a slow and steady homecoming even while many were preparing for vacations and trips.

Let's welcome everyone back as we live into a long time tradition of launching our new programmatic and ministry year with our Kick Off Sunday - September 12, 2021. You won't want to miss this!

## CPC Youth 30 Challenge

On Wednesday, September 8 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, [brian@claremontpres.org](mailto:brian@claremontpres.org). Meeting ID: 867 8160 1982



## Mountain View School Supply Drive

By deadline for this publication, the Deacons have not yet delivered the materials to Mountain View. In fact we have another week to collect school supplies and backpacks for the school. Everything will be dropped off on August 23. We do wish to thank you for your physical and monetary contributions. Also a more detailed account of supplies and the delivery will be forthcoming. Thank you, thank you, and thank you again.

## Adult Education Forum

Adult Ed FALL 2021 – A Hybrid Model. The Adult Ed Team is introducing a hybrid model for gathering online and in-person during this Fall. As a way to celebrate the growth in attendance online and the yearning to gather again in person, a 2x/month model offers both options — choose one or both:

Monday Night Adult Ed – 2nd Monday 7PM on Zoom

Sunday Morning Adult Ed – 4th Sunday 9AM in Classroom 1 & online

Fall Class Theme: What's the responsibility of Progressive Christians?

Entering into difficult conversations is not new to Claremont Presbyterian Church. This Fall, together, we will discover communities traditionally cast aside by the "Christian Church". We will also learn how we played a role in perpetuating that castigation and then practical ways we can break down those perpetuating circumstances.

## 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.

## Lemonade Wednesday

As we cautiously keep our eye on the pandemic and changing protocols, Lemonade Wednesday is still planning to return to our front porch this Fall after school at 1:00 PM on Wednesdays. The start date is still in flux as we hear of any changes in protocols. Pastor Brian is still seeking folks to consider being part of the Lead Team.

Pre-COVID we saw 30-50 children along with their parents come together every week for snacks, music, crafts, sports, and conversation. These last few months the Mountain View Elementary children and families have been asking for us to bring it back. Let's answer the call.

If you have an interest in being part of facilitating or supporting this mission, please contact Pastor Brian at [brian@claremontpres.org](mailto:brian@claremontpres.org).

## Thanks for Supporting the Work of the Deacons

The Deacons wish to give a shout out to all of you who help support our work. A printed thanks in the Communicator

## Ways to Give

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



doesn't express our appreciation for your donations. Nora Quinn is a great addition as a spokesperson for fundraising. We thank her too for her continued care and enthusiasm in her support for Claremont Presbyterian Church. Her wonderful announcement on Sunday, August 1st was a blessing. As we continue seeing Covid numbers rising, Deacon Parish Care and outreach is more important than ever.

## Save the Date: Fall Retreat

On September 19 from 1:00 - 2:30 PM, CPC will host a Fall Equinox Labyrinth Retreat and Workshop. Our guest presenter is Dr. Rebecca Prichard. Dr. Prichard has taught theology, worship, and spirituality in a variety of congregational and academic settings. A 2007 Lilly sponsored sabbatical drew her more deeply into the study of Celtic history, art, and spirituality. Rebecca has traveled widely through the British Isles, having lived and worked in Scotland. A calligrapher, she draws upon the words and artistry of the Celtic Gospel books as prayerful practice. In recent years she has taught Celtic spirituality at the Graduate Theological Union, Whittier College, Chapman University, and the New Theological Seminary of the West. Rebecca has served as a Presbyterian minister for over thirty years and is now happily retired from full-time ministry. She continues to teach and preach on occasion and is looking forward to more travel.



## Are You Under 40?

Two years ago our young adults were meeting regularly, sharing laughs, catching up, playing video games, and checking in with each other. This was not a typical scene on the campus of a mainline church. This shifted with COVID, and probably due to many other things as well.

Pastor Brian would like to reconnect with folks who are under the age of 40. Grab coffee (or other beverage), lunch, or go for a walk. 1-on-1 or in a group. Nothing fancy, just share in conversation so we can reconnect. Let him know if you'd like to set up some time.

Pastor Brian 562-674-8407 [brian@claremontpres.org](mailto:brian@claremontpres.org)



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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

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## You Are Invited to Donate Flowers for Worship

Do you have a special occasion, a celebration, a beloved individual, family member or friend in whose memory or in whose honor you would like to donate worship flowers to a Sunday morning CPC worship service? We have five Sundays open for you to share flowers with the CPC congregation for the balance of the year.

October 31 - All Saint's Day begins Monday, November 1, 2021. CPC will be doing a creative event to remember those in our CPC family who have passed away this past year. Do you have a loved one whom you would like to remember? Perhaps you would like to honor all of those in our CPC community who have passed this past year, or during Covid? What a lovely gift and remembrance this day could be for you, and/or for others.

November 14 & 21

November 28 - This is Thanksgiving weekend. This is also the first Sunday of Advent. This would be a special day to donate an arrangement for all to enjoy during CPC Worship on Thanksgiving weekend, in recognition and in gratitude for all for which we have to be thankful, and to light the path as we observe the beginning of Advent.

December 5

Flowers are arranged and designed by Sherwood's Florist, according to your color and floral selection and preferences. You may designate how you would like the flowers distributed. Recognition of your donation to worship and your dedication is acknowledged during worship on a slide, in the Sunday morning bulletin, and in the Communicator in the month following your donation. Please contact Delight Slotemaker de Bruine (delight@claremontpres.org) for more information.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and generosity.

## Flowers for Worship

Our lovely CPC Sunday morning worship flowers, designed by Sherwood's Florist, were generously donated and shared as follows for the month of August 2021:

August 1: Donated by Betty Pinkerton, and daughter, Emily Pinkerton in honor of Frank Pinkerton's birthday. The flowers were a bright display of colorful flowers, featuring Stargazer lilies and a variety of Chrysanthemums. The flowers were distributed

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 07/31/21	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$276,777.90	\$268,331.00
Other Income	\$52,268.57	\$54,082.00
Expenses	-\$329,536.83	-\$354,659.46
Variance	-\$490.36	-\$32,246.46
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 07/31/21	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$452,753.71	\$374,235.24
Expenses	-\$472,898.49	-\$374,571.05
Variance	-\$20,144.78	-\$335.81
PPP Loan Proceeds to date not included above: CPC -\$80,949 CPCC - \$127,521		

to those who could enjoy the cheer of brightly colored flowers.

August 8: Donated by Jean Perry in honor of her daughter, Janice Montgomery's birthday. The flowers were in a red & white theme and distributed to Janice for her birthday and to individuals who recently experienced a death in their family or individuals in Jean's parish

August 15: Donated by Diane Fencel, in memory and in honor of the reverend Dr. Robert Kelley, given lovingly by the Ntephe family. The exquisite arrangement also graced the foot of the cross for the John Bobo family memorial and then were delivered to Dee Kelley and daughter Robbin Kelley following CPC morning worship and the evening memorial service.

August 22: The beautiful stems of assorted alstroemeria were donated generously by Doug and son, Scott Carrington, in memory of Judy Carrington. The "Judy blooms" graced the foot of the cross for worship and then were given out on the patio by volunteers who appreciated and remember Judy's love of cheerful flowers

August 29: Donated generously by Geri DeMasi in loving honor of his wife, Karen's, birthday on August 15 and in loving honor of their first wedding anniversary on August 29. The anniversary flowers will be going home with CPC staff members, Elder Clerk of Session, and Deacon Moderator with Geri's thanks for the past year.

Please contact Delight Slotemaker de Bruine via email [delight@claremontpres.org](mailto:delight@claremontpres.org) if you would like to donate a worship flower arrangement with a dedication for any reason. Available dates: August 29, October 3 & 31, November 14, 21, 28, December 5.

## Please Lift Up Your Prayers

**In gratitude:** For the safe return of Pastor Karen Sapio from her well-earned and well-deserved sabbatical and for opportunities for Pastor Brian to enjoy time for "self-care." We are grateful for the leadership of our pastors and embrace the return of Pastor Karen Sapio.

**Prayers of celebration and joy:** We celebrate the exciting, joyous news shared by Gail Duggan, who is engaged to a fellow "Pilgrim," Dwight Vogel!. We extend our celebratory wishes and join in the excitement! We celebrate with Ted and Joyce Alexander as he celebrated his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 13!

**Prayers of praise:** Requesting prayers of thanks and gratitude for successful surgery and prayers for healing while undergoing continued, on-going treatment for Doris Craig who recently had hip surgery and Mae Beck as she supports her; Patrick West, our CPC Facilities manager, who has had major surgery on his knee and for members Sue Likens, Patricia Maine,

and Mary Hughes.

**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 John Hill in the passing of his elder sister, Linda Hardisty; for John and Brenda Hill, for their friend in Colorado.

**We continue to lift prayers of comfort** and Christ's grace for all of our friends and family who grieve the loss of their loved ones within this past year or who are realizing an anniversary of the passing of a loved one missed so dearly, or who have not yet been able to hold a memorial due to Covid complications. We lift up the family of John Lewis Haley Bobo as his family, children Elizabeth and Brian, along with many cousins and friends, were able to hold a long-awaited memorial service on August 15. Beloved memories, recollections, and love were shared.

**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. We offer prayers and ask for healing, strength, courage, and for the sustaining grace, peace, and comfort of the Holy Spirit for: Ruth Auld and her family; Larry Robertson and his family; Dorothy Whitham; Donah Holmes; Axel Gaeta Symonds; Pastor Brian and his family; Louise Gustin; Mark Nelson; John Watts; Jim and Lenore Braschler; Kathy Holtan; 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; Chris Hartmire; Thom Bleakney; Jean Perry; Phoebe DeVille; Jean Underwood; Chet & Eileen Jaeger; Lee & Claire McDonald; Mike Layne; Barbara Myers; Doris Chambers; Mary-Anne Hillman; Mary & Ed Hughes; Sean and Matthew Hughes; Sandra Deibel, 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](mailto:Delight_Slotemaker_de_Bruine@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

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*Deadline for October Communicator - September 15*

## Weekly Online Events

### Sunday

10:00 AM - Worship (Facebook)

### Wednesday

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

### Friday

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



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