



claremont presbyterian church

# COMMUNICATOR

September 2022



## NEW BEGINNINGS

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### “I Will Do A New Thing!”

The church year is cyclical in many ways: events repeat, traditions continue, holy days appear right on schedule. Yet we believe that in the midst of all this, God does new things! Through the work of the Holy Spirit among us we welcome newcomers, address emerging concerns in our community, explore new ways of worshiping together, and take risks with new ideas and endeavors.

One of our repeating traditions is New Beginnings Sunday—the first Sunday after Labor Day when we declare summer over and a new year of ministry and mission is ready to begin. This year, on September 11, our New Beginnings Sunday will feature the premiere of a new choral anthem by our resident Organist/Composer Geri Demasi. The piece, entitled “I Will Do A New Thing!,” lifts up the promise of a new start and new possibilities.

After worship, stay for Fellowship Time and enjoy a Kona Shaved Ice Treat from the food truck sponsored by our Evangelism and Nurture team.

*Karen Sapio*

## Upcoming Worship

Sunday worship services are in-person and accessible through Facebook Live ([facebook.com/claremontpres](https://facebook.com/claremontpres)) or YouTube (search Claremont Presbyterian Church).

**Sunday, September 4, 10:00 AM**

*Labor Day Weekend/Communion  
Sunday*

The Road into the World

Matthew 28:16-20

Rev. Brian Gaeta-Symonds preaching

**Sunday, September 11, 10:00 AM**

*New Beginnings Sunday*

Praying with Parables

Luke 15:1-10

Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

**Sunday, September 18, 10:00 AM**

Praying with Parables

Luke 16:1-13

Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

**Wednesday, September 21, 5:30 PM**

The Village Dinner Church

**Sunday, September 25, 10:00 AM**

Praying with Parables

Luke 19-31

Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

## CPC Hosts Syria-Lebanon Partner Network Annual Gathering September 20-22

The Syria-Lebanon Partner Network of the PCUSA will hold its annual gathering at CPC on September 20-22. Our congregation has long been part of this network through our partnerships with the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, with Mission Co-workers Scott and Elmarie Parker, and with schools for Syrian refugee children. The gathering will include presentations via Zoom with ecumenical leaders from the region such as Rev. Najla Kassab, President of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), Rev. Joseph Kassab, Secretary General of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL), and Rev. Elmarie Parker, PCUSA Regional Liaison to Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq. There will also be in-person presentations from local Syrian refugee families. Other highlights will be panel discussions, small group conversations, worship, and a wonderful middle eastern meal on Wednesday (September 21) evening.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about our church's ongoing partnership with churches from Syria and Lebanon and meet other Presbyterians involved with this work. You may register for the whole conference, or for the international presentations and meal on Wednesday only. Virtual attendance via Zoom is also an option. Registration and additional information is available at [syrialibanonpn.org/2022-annual-gathering](https://syrialibanonpn.org/2022-annual-gathering)

## Wednesday Bible Study Returns with an Exploration of Sabbath

CPC's Wednesday Bible Study gathering begins again on Wednesday, September 7 at 4 PM. We will begin the Fall with a nine week study entitled *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*.

Sabbath reminds us to honor God who honors us by giving us a day each week to reset our pace, our priorities, and our lives. In *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*, Carol M. Bechtel leads us through a study of Sabbath over nine lessons. Participants will consider Sabbath anew and will come away renewed. In the nine lessons of this Bible study—with passages from Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Matthew, Luke, and Acts—we'll consider Sabbath: God's intention to bless us by giving us a day each week to reset our pace, our priorities, and our lives.

You may attend this Bible Study in-person in the church library, or on Zoom using meeting ID 862 1883 9113. Books are available in the Church Office. A \$10 donation is appreciated.



## 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, 37 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 Carey 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

## The CPC Village Dinner Church

Join us on Wednesday, September 21 from 5:30 - 7:00 PM on the patio in front of Sanctuary (special location).

This month's reflection is given by special guest - Beatrice Casagran, Artistic Director of Ophelia's Jump.

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: Anjlo & Lubna Ajmal, Shelley Randles, Jenna & Andrew Brooks, Tessa Klarin, and Pastor Brian.

## Coffee & Donuts with the Children's Center Returns

Beginning Thursday, September 8 from 8:00 AM-9:15 AM (and every Thursday after), help us serve mmmmm... delicious – Coffee & Donuts.

That's right, for the last several years (with a small hiatus during the pandemic) the Evangelism and Nurture Commission has sponsored a Thursday morning moment of conversation and refreshments during the morning drop off at the Center. Church members have been volunteering to make sure it happens nearly every week. If you would like to help support this ministry in presence and/or finance please contact Barbara MacKenzie or Pastor Brian. You can offer a donation to help cover the cost, or you can give of your time on a Thursday morning to greet families and hand out refreshments.

## Adult Ed – What's Coming Up?

After a short hiatus during August, Adult Ed is beginning its Fall 2022 Line-Up on September 19. Some planning and details are still underway, but here is a little about this month:

Gun Violence & The Christ-Like Response, pt. 1 - 5:45 PM Screening (Classroom 1). Pt 2 - 7:00 PM Hybrid Discussion (Classroom 1 and Zoom). Meeting ID: 838 6977 5265. You are invited to view the documentary *Trigger: The Rippling Effect of Gun Violence*. You can view the film on your own through Amazon Prime. You may also join us at the church for a special viewing just before the conversation — an informational and conversational dialogue using our

denominations resources on addressing gun violence.

### **Coming Up...**

October Election Season Discussion— A conversation about navigating issues during midterms.

Advent Indigenous Peoples & Realities in Southern California – A 3 part series addressing the issue of racism as it relates to Indigenous realities. Participants will be engaged in exploring these realities by learning through storytelling, hearing about contemporary Indigenous issues as it relates to churches, and what it means to live in a place that doesn't belong to you.

## **Extra Family Camping Experience**

Our very own Catherine, John and Christian Lin are camping enthusiasts, and so they thoughtfully reserved a group site in Joshua Tree National Park to be able to offer an experience for their church family and friends. You are invited to join on September 23-25 to escape the routines of daily life so that none of us forgets to offer ourselves some self-care. This weekend away will be about resting, bonding, and building relationship. Pastor Brian will offer an optional evening devotion and prayer during the two nights. Families will be responsible for providing food for their crew, however sharing desserts and snacks may be offered by families if they wish to do so (not obligated).

To help cover the cost of the site rental we are asking that each camping crew offer a \$50 donation. Any donations given in excess of the cost of the site rental will be placed in the Family Camp account for future camping experiences.

## **Sunday Spiritual Formation for Children Returns September 11**

Children's Spiritual Formation will come back to safe in-person classes, as well as one which will be hybrid. We ask that you fill out a registration form for each child. They will be available in the Narthex (in the Sanctuary) and with the teachers. We look forward to seeing you all in this new year.

Please check out the breakdown below:

Infant/Toddler - In-person child-care in the Children's Center building and playground during the worship ser-

vice.

Early Elementary (4 yr-old – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade) - In-person in the Chapel during the worship service. They will use a new curriculum as well as incorporate a craft, music, or play.

Tweens (3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grades) – Hybrid classroom 1 and Zoom during the worship service. They will use a new curriculum.

Last Sunday of the month activities – Our tweens will be encouraged to participate in the worship service as able; including lighting candles, presenting the elements, and/or presenting the Bible. Early Elementary, Tweens, and preschool aged children are invited to stay with families in the service. Infants/Toddlers will be in childcare. All are invited for activities outdoors following the worship service.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Pastor Brian or chair of the Education & Leadership Commission, Jenny Eazel.

## **Morning/Evening Prayer Return September 6**

Our daily, online prayer services begin again after Labor Day. You can find them on the CPC Facebook page. Morning Prayer posts at 8 AM Monday-Thursday and Saturday. Evening Prayer posts 5 PM Sunday-Friday. Daily Prayer is a wonderful way to begin and end your day grounded in God's love and light.

## **Deacon Mountain View School Supply Drive a Success**

Thank you to our CPC Congregation and friends. Our Deacon Mountain View Back-to-School Supplies community partner fund-raising event was a resounding success!

On Sunday, August 14, Pastor Karen blessed the basket holding a representation of the donated school supplies as well as the hands that will deliver the donations and the hands and hearts that will receive the donations thanks to the generosity of our CPC Congregation and friends. With this incredible generosity monetary donations totaled \$957.00. There was a balance of \$235.00 in the Deacons' "Adopt-a-School"

## Children's Center Spotlight

This summer the Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center hosted two school day enrichment activities that brought out the wild side of the children. Thanks to Penelope's parents, Jennifer and Wesley, the Center was able to bring some summer fun in safe and exciting ways. The first activity, in July, was a marine life and water play day. The kids learned about different sea life, got to touch a few sea creatures, and get their hands wet with some fun and easy water play. And then in August the kids put on their archeologist hats and explored the age of the dinosaurs.

The Children's Center has been doing such a great job following both Public Health and Licensing protocols during the pandemic that these activities proved to provide exciting opportunities to experience creative and fun ways to engage the children while making sure all remained safe.

A boisterous animalistic THANK YOU to Jenn and Wesley Massoll, for their gift of resources and experiences, and to the Center faculty and staff who helped to make sure their kids were able to experience these fun-filled days.



sub-budget fund bringing the grand total to \$1,192.00

Deacon volunteers gathered after church in the library on Sunday, August 21 to separate supplies donated and to determine a shopping list of what was still needed. In addition, gift cards to either Target or Amazon were purchased for each of the 17 classrooms. Committee members Vera Casellas and Jean Perry did the shopping. If there is a balance remaining, these funds will be applied towards the purchase of additional school supplies throughout the year.

More than a dozen boxes of requested supplies and gift cards were delivered prior to the start of school, quite to the delight of Mountain View Staff and students.

## Parish Sunday

Parish Sunday is Sunday, September 25 after church in the Fellowship Hall. Join fellow parish members and your Deacon for conversation, fellowship, and refreshment!

The Deacons will combine parishes, two to a table, and serve refreshments. This will provide an opportunity for community and connection between parish members and their Deacon and vice-versa.

Put the date of Sunday, September 25, after church on your calendar for Parish Sunday.

## Horizons Monthly Bible Study begins September

Our monthly Horizons Bible Study will begin again on September 13 at 9:30 AM. You may attend this Bible Study in person in Room 1 or on Zoom using meeting ID 813 4705 2180.

Sabbath reminds us to honor God who honors us by giving us a day each week to reset our pace, our priorities, and our lives. In *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*, Carol M. Bechtel leads us through a study of



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Books are available in the Church Office. A \$10 donation is appreciated. This study will continue on the second Tuesday of each month through May 2023.

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



## Flowers for Worship

Flowers were donated generously and lovingly by the individuals named below. The flowers given in memory of, in honor of, and in celebration of individuals also benefit us all as our worship space is enhanced by the floral beauty and as our hearts are touched by the thoughts and memories of loved ones.

August 7 - Diane Fencil-Ntephe in honor of and in loving memory of Rev. Dr. Robert Kelley, husband to Dee, father to Robbin, and mentor to Azike.

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 07/31/2022	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$203,127.35	\$280,000.00
Other Income	\$122,666.94	\$62,741.65
Expenses	-\$381,534.26	-\$391,787.09
Variance	-\$18,925.57	-\$49,045.44
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 07/31/2022	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$644,694.16	\$641,966.85
Expenses	-\$623,840.28	-\$630,643.36
Variance	\$20,853.88	\$11,323.49

August 14 - Jean Perry in honor of her daughter, Janice Montgomery's birthday.

August 21 - Marcia Reich in celebration of Kelly Ruiz, my beautiful daughter's birthday on August 22.

August 28 - Geri DeMasi in loving honor of his wife, Karen, on their second wedding anniversary, on August 29.

Please contact Delight via email [delight@claremontpres.org](mailto:delight@claremontpres.org) if you have a special date that you would like to donate worship flowers. They can be distributed on the patio, or you may take them with you, or the Deacons may distribute at their discretion.

## Please Lift Up Your Prayers

*For those who have died, as we surround their grieving families and friends with prayer and love:* Clint Robertson; Gertrude Davids.

*For healing and recovery:* Paula Pitzer; the Jaeger family with Covid; Irene Cuevas, Jeanine Robertsons's neighbor; Lisa Frazier; Ron Perry; Jean Perry; Gennie Ransom; Steven Marks; Cori Eazell; Kyungah Jung; Phoebe Frankeberger; Catherine Lin; Mike Layne; Mark Nelson; Kelsey, Brad, and Susan Starr's daughter-in-law; Larry Robertson; Frank Pinkerton; Cloyce Morrow; Joyce and Ted Alexander.

*For the compassionate touch of the kind and tender Holy Spirit for strength and grace in very "real-life" situations for:* Kerry Ryan, as she grieves the loss of her 20-year companion dog, Baxter; Ron Perry; Trish Perry; Jean Perry; Greg Stout and for his sister, Margie Stout Ludwig; Gennie Ransom and her friend Sandra; Denise Mann, Sandra's daughter, and her sister, Jennifer, and sister's boyfriend, Joseph; Herb & Carlynn Christian; Pastor Brian's aunt; Bonnie and Dennis Symonds, parents of Pastor Brian; Pastor Brian and family; the Agwu family; Sean, Matthew, and Ed Hughes; Carrie Willette, Jan Willette's daughter; Barbara Patch; Phoebe DeVillie; Doris Craig and Mae (Becky) Beck and her nieces.

*For those whom we tenderly remember on an ongoing basis:* Kevin Kessler and his brother, Ken, as they prepare for a move to Nashville on October 1; Judith Rios; 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; Jean Cochran.

We also lift up all of those who remain unnamed here, but whose names and spirits are strongly engraved within our hearts.

Please contact [delight@claremontpres.org](mailto: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.

## Welcoming New Faces to CPC



Claremont Presbyterian Church is excited to welcome a new staff member and its newest Seminary Intern. Heather Chapman will join the team as the Children, Youth, and Family Ministries Coordinator, and Anjlo Ajmal joins as the CPC Seminary Intern. Both will begin their time with the congregation on September 1, 2022.

Heather comes with many years of administrative and creative experience as a co-owner of a local Gymboree. And her knowledge of and familiarity with CPC and the families in the congregation will serve as a true blessing to this community. Anjlo, CST student, has been regularly attending CPC for much of this year with his wife Lubna and daughter Mojza. He had previously participated in leadership for



several years with the American Church in Paris, and is in the ordination process with the PC(USA).

The staff and the Session are elated to have Heather and Anjlo join the team and we all look forward to their shared gifts.



# COMMUNICATOR

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Deadline for October Communicator - September 15*

## Weekly Online Events

### Sunday

10:00 AM - Worship (Facebook & YouTube)

### Wednesday

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

### Friday

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



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