



claremont presbyterian church

COMMUNICATOR

October 2020



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Curious, Creative, Compassionate

You all know me well enough by now to know that I am in no way an athlete. However, my husband was a cross country runner in high school and college and my brother was a competitive swimmer all through our childhood and teen years--so I know something about athletes by association. One thing I've learned about both running and swimming is that there is a big difference between sprints, middle-distance, and long distance events. Each requires a different kind of training, pacing, and mental preparation; and very few athletes are good at all three.

As we enter our seventh month of COVID-19 restrictions, I look back and see that we have had to re-envision several times what kind of race we are running. Back in March we thought we were preparing for a sprint: intense effort for a very brief time. Then in the summer months we shifted our thinking as if we were in a middle distance event where one hits a plateau speed that they can maintain for a longer period, anticipating a kick of energy at the end to cross the finish line. Now it's becoming clearer that we are, in fact, in a marathon. Long distance events require incredible reserves of strength and stamina as well as the proper fuel to keep going. It's no mistake that this type of event is sometimes referred to as "endurance running."

What can fuel us for this test of endurance? What can help us go the distance? I think we need to be sustained in these times by a faith that is

Curious: open to learning the hard and inspiring truths this experience is teaching

Creative: willing to try new ways of doing things to sustain people and communities

Compassionate: reaching out to the vulnerable, always expanding our concept of "neighbor"

Upcoming Worship

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

October 4, 10:00 AM

World Communion Sunday
Service designed by San Gabriel Presbytery
Peacemaking Offering

October 11, 10:00 AM

“What the Sages Saw:
Proverbs”
Brian Gaeta-Symonds
preaching

October 18, 10:00 AM

“What the Sages Saw: Job”
Karen Sapio preaching

October 25, 10:00 AM

“What the Sages Saw:
Ecclesiastes”
Karen Sapio preaching

Evening Prayer on the Lawn continues in October each Saturday at 6 PM on the church lawn. Bring your own lawn chair and mask. We ask everyone to maintain safe physical distancing.

These services include prayer, scripture reflections, instrumental music and special elements such as liturgical dance or communion from time to time.

And most of all, **Christlike**: asking in each new challenge, how can we--like Jesus, embody the love and mercy of God in these times.

“*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith*”

Hebrews 12: 1-2

Karen Sapio

Stewardship 2021: Hold Fast to Hope

Our Stewardship Theme for 2021 is inspired by these words from Hebrews 10, “Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.”

As 2020 unfolded in unexpected and dismaying ways, our congregation held fast to hope and shared that hope with others. As we look ahead to the coming year, we trust in God’s faithfulness as we seek to be a congregation that continues to bear witness to the hope of the gospel and embody and enact that hope for those who need it most. Our stewardship drive is one part of assembling the resources to make that possible.

Our 2021 Stewardship Team is at work planning several inspiring elements of this year’s campaign including a ZOOM congregational gathering to hear about stewardship goals and a “Parade of Pledges” event to turn in pledge cards and greet church friends and neighbors. Stay tuned to future newsletters, announcements, and mailings for more information.

Adult Education Forum - Election Season

Join the Adult Education Online class for this year’s election season. It is an important year with much to be considered. As you prepare to vote this November, consider joining us for our pre- and post-election discussions.

Pre-Election - Monday, October 19, 7 PM. David Menefee-Libey is excited to facilitate and engage those present in a pre-election conversation considering the important issues coming up on the ballot and in our society.

Post-Election - Sunday, November 15 (time TBD) - Charles Kerchner will be joined by David Menefee-Libey in a post-election discussion addressing the questions that follow an important election.

To join us through Zoom, use meeting ID: 864 4250 4763 and passcode: 916227.

Service for Healing and Wholeness

For our October 11 Service for Healing and Wholeness, we will gather outdoors at 6:00 PM in Angel Courtyard. Bring your own lawn chair if possible! We will pray for those known to us in need of God’s healing and strength, for our nation, and the tensions around the upcoming election as they increase. We will also stream the service on Facebook Live for those who prefer to worship with us from home.

Linda Luschei and Andrew Marks Confirmed



Committing to learn about the church, our faith, how God is still at work in our lives and world, and our role in all of this is a big task for anyone. Linda and Andrew faced this task with curiosity and a whole lot of the Spirit's leading.

These two young people signed up, attended all of the confirmation classes, met with their mentors, attended the retreat, and even wrote their statements of faith... and all before COVID-19 moved us to shelter at home. That setback did not stop these two from wanting to confess their faith in front of the congregation, virtually that was, during the online worship service on Sunday, August 30. They were joined by their families and all participated in the liturgy and worship. You can find this service on the church website at claremontpres.org/newsermons

Claremont Presbyterian Church finds hope in the youth during these different times. Let's welcome them to the CPC family.

"Meditation on Meditation" Appears on the CPC Web Site

Charles Taylor Kerchner

There is a new addition to the CPC web site: some jottings by me and soon by others about meditation and contemplative practices.

The working title is "Meditations on Meditations," but it could be more accurately called 'confessions of a novice.' As much as I feel called to contemplative practice, it is not my natural state, and there are days when I am not very good at it. You may see my words fumble and wobble a bit.

Why the blog? Over the last few years CPC has paid conspicuous attention to expanding the church's contemplative ministry. We have a new labyrinth and gatherings around it. Each month, we have a service devoted to healing and wholeness led by pastor Karen Sapio and Rev. Tina Blair. We have a soulful Jazz Vespers program about every six

weeks, and it has been growing in popularity even as it has become an on-line virtual event. We sponsor occasional retreats and our associate pastor Brian Gaeta-Symonds offers opportunity for spiritual direction. And on Friday mornings, we gather online for Centering Prayer.

This is an important part of our ministry, and I want to highlight it a bit.

In "Meditations..." I will write a bit about my own contemplative practice and also using writing itself as part of my practice.

And, I am happy to pass the pen to others who would like to write as well.

The blog is located on the CPC web site under the Church Life tab at the top of the page. Click on Church Life and you will find a list that includes "Meditation on Meditation."

Read along. Let me know what you think.

Alternative Christmas Market to Go Virtual



Each year Claremont Presbyterian Church holds an Alternative Christmas Market. Generous members and friends have supported our many mission partners with a donation in honor of a friend or family member.

This year there will still be an Alternative Christmas Market (ACM) but it will have a different look. Because of the safety concerns regarding Covid-19 the ACM will not happen in person this year. The event is going virtual! You will still have the opportunity to support our local, national and international mission partners and share your resources with those less fortunate.

During the month of November many of the organizations we support will share a video during our Facebook Live streamed worship service. Videos and the opportunity to shop will appear on the church website. Watch your mail in November for a packet of information and a shopping list which can be mailed to the church along with your check if that is your preferred method.

We know that no virus can dampen the generosity and enthusiasm for helping others that resides in the hearts of CPC members and friends!

Dave & Jo Colclough

World Communion Sunday 2020

While we will miss our annual gathering with Emmanuel Hispanic Presbyterian Church and GPIB Indonesian Fellowship on World Communion Sunday, San Gabriel Presbytery is working on plans for creative and inspiring service that will bring together the congregations of the Presbytery.

The Presbytery staff and leaders are creating a series of videos for each element of the worship service: call to worship, prayer of confession, Scripture reading, sermon, and Communion.

The videos will feature members of our Presbytery, Presbytery staff, Presbyterian Mission Agency and Office of General Assembly staff, and mission co-workers. These videos will be in a variety of languages and subtitled in English. Claremont Presbyterian Church has contributed some of our virtual choir pieces and Pastor Karen will be offering the Benediction. We plan to use many of the videos developed by Presbytery in our 10 AM service on World Communion Sunday, October 4. This service will be live streamed on our CPC Facebook Page.

Also on World Communion Sunday we will receive our annual Peacemaking Offering. Three-fourths of that offering goes to support the PCUSA's global peacemaking work and 1/4 stays with us to assist our own peacemaking efforts. This year, our portion will go to continue to support relief efforts to those impacted by the explosion in Beirut last August.

Project Angel

The Presbyterian Women's Association usually holds a "baby shower" for newborns at USC Medical Center in October. This year will be a little different. This annual "baby shower" is your opportunity to bring items for babies who are in need of basic supplies.

Bring new, unwrapped baby items such as blankets, clothes, diapers, car seats, toys, etc. You may also choose a financial donation. Checks should be made out to "Angel Interfaith Network." You are asked to drop off your items at Pat Beswick's, 518 W 8th St, Claremont, by October 19. There will be a collection time on October 21 from 10:00-

noon at UCC. Thanks for your participation. Any questions please call Barbara Patch. 624-5767

Thanks from Mountain View Elementary School

Dear Claremont Presbyterian Church,

I want to extend my sincere gratitude for your contribution to Mountain View Elementary School. We truly appreciate your continuous commitment to support our school and community. We feel lucky and grateful to have you as our neighbor and community partner. Your generous contributions of school supplies and gift cards made a HUGE impact on ensuring all Mountain View students have the supplies they need in their homes during distance learning.

On behalf of Mountain View Elementary School. I want to thank you for helping us make a positive difference.

*Thanks again for your generosity and support,
Rria Cruz-Soto, Principal
Mountain View Elementary School*



Congratulations to our Director of Music, Geri DeMasi on his marriage to Karen Huff Biggs on August 29. May your lives together be full of joy and blessings!



This past August Pastor Brian, along with the support from the Session and Pastor Karen, applied and was admitted to the Graduate Certificate Program in Church Planting and Revitalization at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Over the next 15 months Pastor Brian will be attending class online, and maybe in person next year, focusing on Church Revitalization. This program is designed especially for pastors so that they can continue to serve the congregation while attending class periodically throughout the year.

He is hopeful that the knowledge he gains will help support the members and ministries at CPC as we all look towards the future of CPC in this community. Please keep Pastor Brian, his family, and even this congregation in prayer as he continues his studies.

David Cortes-Fuentes and Josey Saez Acevedo conclude their service as PCUSA Mission Co-workers

In early September, we received this news from David Cortes-Fuentes and Josey Saez Acevedo:

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

We are writing to thank you for all the ways you have supported us over the years. We will conclude our ministry in mission service on September 17, 2020. We do this with grateful hearts for the care, hospitality, and generosity received from you.

We have so much to be grateful for. We remember arriving in Cuba to serve the Seminario Evangélico de Teología in Matanzas, Cuba, and later moving to the Dominican Republic to work with the Iglesia Evangélica Dominicana and the theological education institutions in the broader Caribbean. It was an exciting time, filled with many opportunities for learning, companionships, and the understanding that we were to walk with our partners in all their joys and struggles.

In January 2020, The Iglesia Evangélica Dominicana welcomed us with open arms and much love. We regret that our time with them was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, while we were there, they witnessed to their love for Christ, their commitment to Christian Education, and their passion for serving and empowering the broader community.

While we will be ending our service on September 17, 2020, World Mission is providing us with continued support to help us with our re-entry and transition back to the United States.

David and Josey

The PCUSA Mission Agency celebrated their years of service with a ZOOM Prayer Service attended by people from all over the world, including Pastor Karen and our Mission Commission Chair, Carol Sittig. Josey and David have purchased a home in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico and look forward to living near their family there and becoming active in the Presbyterian churches in that area.





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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Taste & See - A Pass the Salt Recipe Exchange

Pass the Salt is a long-time tradition at CPC in which members and visitors have been invited to gather to share a light meal and conversation around a sermon series or topic offered during the worship services. Many have desired an opportunity to discuss the sermon in a casual setting with others, and this is a new way of doing just this.

On Saturday, October 10 at 5 PM on Zoom, Evangelism & Nurture invites you to a virtual Pass the Salt gathering around the tradition of a recipe exchange. Below you will find the simple recipe for Chicken Salad. Give yourself some time before the gathering to prepare the dish, adding your own ingredient to zhuzh it up with your own flare if you would like. We will spend some time sharing how we liked the dish and what we may have done to zhuzh it up. And then the remainder of the hour we will share in conversation about the September sermon series: "What the Poets Saw: a look at the Psalms."

Here is the recipe - Mt. Sac. Chicken Salad

1 quart chopped cooked chicken	6-9 chopped hard boiled eggs
1 pint chopped celery	1 small can chopped black olives
1/2 cup chopped onion	2 cups seedless grapes

Mix all of above ingredients in a large bowl and then add the following dressing, mixing well:

1/4 bottle Catalina Salad Dressing
1 Tablespoon mustard
2 teaspoons sugar

Cover and refrigerate. Just before serving add:
1 regular size can of chow mien noodles.

To join in on Zoom: Meeting ID: 838 8212 8775, passcode: 174416

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 8/31/2020	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$299,741.55	\$313,328.00
Other Income	\$119,619.95	\$72,325.28
Expenses	-\$371,680.44	-\$400,075.76
Variance	\$47,681.06	-\$14,422.48
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 8/31/2020	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$307,394.22	\$606,493.28
Expenses	-\$548,973.27	-\$606,492.56
Variance*	-\$241,579.05	\$.72
*Note: these numbers do NOT include the PPP Loan amount. This income will be included once the loan is forgiven.		
Students blessed by School Supply Drive By		491
Gift cards distributed to teachers and administrators		31

Worship Flowers in September

CPC is continuing the long-standing tradition of extending the opportunity to our members and friends to donate floral arrangements, in honor or in memory of a loved one. Donors have the option of retaining the Sherwood Florist arrangement in its entirety, or to have the arrangement divided into multiple smaller arrangements which will be distributed to those who especially might be uplifted by a "cheer bouquet."

In September, flowers graced our Saturday evening worship service on the lawn. A smaller bouquet graced the chancel on Communion Sunday. Each of the arrangements this month were generously shared and distributed.

The September flower arrangements, generously donated were as follows:

Saturday, September 5 were given by Jean Perry in honor of her son Ronald's birthday on 9/6

Saturday, September 12 were given by Janet Siedschlag in honor of her Granddaughter, Charlotte Patricia Raff's birthday on 9/16, and in honor of Charlotte's parents, Christine Raff (Janet's daughter), and Tobit Raff.

Saturday, September 19 were given by Betty & Frank Pinkerton in memory of Dorothy Gray Zimmer, Betty's mother who was born and died on the same day on her 98th birthday, 9/23.

Saturday September 26 were given by Paula Pitzer in Memory and in honor of her parents, Ruth & Harland Goodrich, faithful devoted members of CPC

Future available dates: October 3 & 24, and November 21 & 28. October 31 and November 14 are open, with special pick-up/distribution arrangements TBD.

Flower arrangements can be personalized, by color and by "theme" and are created exquisitely by Sherwood Florist. The one who gives the flowers will be billed by the church at the end of the month, at cost. Additional details can be provided by Delight Slotemaker de Bruine delight@claremontpres.org or text 909-373-5106.

Please lift up your prayers for...

As we share in the grief of our friends, and in the celebration of the life of our loved ones, who have entered the space reserved for them with Christ, we pray for: the family of Sue and Earl Thorndyke on the death of her brother-in-law, Daniel, married to Sue's brother, John, for the family of Joyce Alexander on the death of her sister, for the family of Phyllis DeLeo on the death of her cousin, Wes, and for Tracy Doebler and the family for the passing of Maxine Ross, Tracy's mother.

As we lift up those for whom we ask for healing, for strength, for the grace, peace and comfort of the Holy Spirit, we pray for: Gennie Ransom, Phyllis DeLeo, Suzanne Brown and her son Jay, Kay Brown, Chinny Agwu, Alan Jack: abdominal issues/in recovery, the family of Barb MacKenzie, for Barb's mother undergoing treatment, and for Barb, as she remains in New Jersey to be with her, Jean Perry, Lenore Brashler, Jim Braschler, Marj Stoddard, Chris Hartmire, Thom Bleakney, Ruth Auld, Phoebe DeVille, Geri Lindell, Jane Glenn, John Najarian, Jean Underwood, Chet & Eileen Jaeger, Lee & Claire McDonald, Mike Layne, Barbara Myers, Mary & Ed Hughes, Sandra Deibel.

For celebrations, for support, for comfort, for calmness, for direction, for security, we lift up and pray and thank God for: All students beginning a new school year with new in person - hybrid and remote learning experiences and challenges, Carolyn Whitham

For our CPC new confirmands, Andrew Marks and Linda Luschei, as they continue to follow their path and journey with Christ.

For the celebration of new life, we welcome the birth of new babies brought into God's world, in our CPC Children's Center. We rejoice in the new birth:

Baby Eva Alanis was born to Kelly Zimmerman and Chad Alanis on August 6.

Baby Ethan Randall Rufener was born to Melissa and Ryan Rufener on August 24.

Should you or 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 email your requests to: Delight Slotemaker de Bruine delight@claremontpres.org. You may indicate that you wish only the name listed and if you wish to include details, then they will be shared confidentially at the weekly staff meeting.

Remembering Our Loved Ones

Do you have 1-2 favorite photo(s) of a loved one you would like to lift up in memory this All Saints Sunday (Nov. 1st)? Please submit it to Pastor Karen by Oct. 26 at karensapio@claremontpres.org. Please include the person's name and relationship to you.

During worship online we will take a moment to recognize these special people with an All Saints Sunday photo montage.



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Deadline for November *Communicator* - October 15



Congratulations to Catherine Taylor, our 2017 seminary intern. Catherine was ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament on Sunday, September 13 by National Capitol Presbytery. She is serving as a hospital chaplain.



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