



claremont presbyterian church

# COMMUNICATOR

October 2021



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## Hold Fast to Joy!

The COVID 19 crisis is nearing the twenty month mark. What we first thought was a sprint became a marathon, and then an ultra marathon. Now it seems like an Iron Man triathlon in which we, as unwilling participants, are required to battle a deadly disease, economic peril, and political chaos.

What does our faith and our church have to offer our community in these days?

Willie Jennings, an African-American Baptist pastor and Professor at Yale Divinity School once said, “Joy is an act of resistance against despair and all its forces.”

Despair and all its forces have been working overtime recently. I believe that our church has and continues to resist these forces with joy: the joy of virtual choir music and soloists practicing with Geri even through masks, the joy of outdoor Vacation Bible School bringing families together, the joy of providing “reunion packs” to child asylum seekers at Fairplex, the joy of new additions to our Prayer and Meditation Garden, the joy of new streaming equipment to enable those who need to to worship from home—and so much more.

The theme for our 2022 Stewardship Drive is “Hold Fast to Joy!” Your generosity is another aspect of the joy that helps us resist despair and all its forces.

Watch this newsletter, *The Latest*, and our church’s social media platforms for more information on this year’s Stewardship efforts. Mark your calendars for a special celebration on the church lawn on the afternoon of Saturday, November 6.

*The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we rejoice! Psalm 126*

*Karen Sapio*

## Upcoming Worship

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

**Sunday, October 3, 10:00 AM**

*World Communion Sunday*

Questions Jesus asked: "Do You See This Woman?"

Karen Sapio preaching

**Sunday, October 10, 10:00 AM**

Questions Jesus asked: "Do You Want To Be Healed?"

Brian Gaeta-Symonds preaching

**Sunday, October 17, 10:00 AM**

Questions Jesus Asked: "What Are You Arguing About?"

Karen Sapio preaching

**Sunday, October 24, 10:00 AM**

Questions Jesus Asked: "Why Are You Afraid?"

Karen Sapio preaching

**Sunday, October 31, 10:00 AM**

*All Saints Sunday*

Count it All Joy

Karen Sapio preaching

## All Saints Sunday Remembrances

On Sunday, October 31, we would like to remember in worship those from our congregation who have passed away since last All Saints Day. We would welcome pictures or brief remembrances to include as part of worship that day. If you have lost a close family member in the last year, we invite you to send a picture of your family member so they may be remembered as well. Please send pictures or notes to Delight Slotemaker de Bruine ([delight@claremontpres.org](mailto:delight@claremontpres.org)) by October 15.

## Unaccompanied Minors at Fairplex

There is a new need for people interested in helping Central American refugee kids at Fairplex. Every week some in that age group "age out" of the system. That means that after they turn 18 they can no longer stay at the Emergency Intake Shelter. They then need assistance getting to their next destination, typically being united with a sponsor, friend, or family member.

Ingrid Salazar, the Volunteer Coordinator for Fairplex, is in need of volunteers who are willing to escort the kids who "age out" to the airport and see that they get on their flight. Currently about ten kids "age out" each week. Ingrid needs people that will accompany them through the transportation process.

Once at the airport, the transport volunteer needs to get a pass from the airline's check-in desk that will allow them to go through the TSA checkpoint with the young immigrant in order to help them get to their gate. In some cases, advocacy is required in order to help them get through TSA screening. Not all of them have the required identification, although all of them have paperwork that shows they were released from the Emergency Intake Shelter by the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Then the volunteer will wait with them until their plane departs explaining, if needed, what they will need to do if they have an interim stop where they have to transfer to a different plane.

If you are interested in serving as a transportation volunteer, please contact one of our pastors. Additional information and training will be provided to those who wish to participate.

## Angel Network Baby Shower

This year's Angel Network Baby Shower will be once again held virtually like last year. We will be collecting items for newborns at USC Medical Center. You may bring your donations to church with you on October 3 and 10. Items may also be dropped off at the church office during office hours or they may be brought to the back parking lot at Temple Beth Israel (3033 N. Towne Ave) on Tuesday, October 12 from 10 AM - to 1 PM. Monetary donations are also welcome. Make checks payable to "Angel Interfaith Network." Thank you for your donations. Any questions, call Barbara Patch - 624-5767.

## Fall Adult Ed

This Fall the Adult Education Forum wrestles with the theme “What is Our Responsibility as Progressive Christians?” Examining challenging issues is not new to CPC programming. The goal continues to be encouraging conversations that stretch us and cause us to grow as a community of faith. You are invited to engage with us in the following offerings.

October 18, 7:00 PM - “Reconciliation, Restoration and the Formerly Incarcerated.” Zoom Meeting ID: 813 4716 9120. We will move beyond “stories” as Sister Terry Dodge and a resident of Crossroads join us for a conversation about work with formerly incarcerated persons as justice action.

November 8, 6:00 PM - “The Presbyterian Church and *Roe v. Wade*.” Zoom Meeting ID: 867 0093 3420. Our discussion will be led by Rebecca Todd Peters, a Christian social ethicist and professor of religious studies at Elon University. She is ordained in the PC(USA), has been active denominationally and ecumenically for over 25 years, and is a member of Presbyterians Affirming Reproductive Options. You may wish to order a copy of her book for a closer look at her story and work, “Trust Women: A Progressive Argument for Reproductive Justice.”

## 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.

## Newcomers Gathering

You’re Invited! A gathering for any and all visitors to learn more about Claremont Presbyterian Church, how to become more engaged in the church life, and to hear from others about their experience at CPC. Join us on Sunday, October 24 at 11:15 AM in Room 7.

Individually packaged snacks and refreshments will be provided. Children welcome!

For more info please contact Karry Denton [karryldenton@gmail.com](mailto:karryldenton@gmail.com) or Pastor Brian.

## Online Cooking Class



We have been riveted by the recent news in Afghanistan. The Refugee and Immigration Concerns Team would like to invite you to meet a refugee family from Kabul and learn about their delicious food. In a Zoom class, Mrs. Parwani will prepare a traditional family recipe of “Bolani,” a flatbread with potato filling and a special dipping sauce. We will send the recipe to you ahead of time in case you feel adventurous and want to cook along! Join us on Sunday, October 10, at 3:00 PM. Suggested donation of \$20. To register, go to [claremontpres.org/events](http://claremontpres.org/events). Allow an hour for preparation and baking and up to thirty minutes for any questions.

Your donations will purchase mattresses for incoming new arrivals resettling in our area. Each mattress costs \$150. Claremont Presybryian Church will match all donations! Mattresses will be distributed by NAC, Newcomers Access Center, a local non-profit that resettles refugees in our area. They are already processing families from Afghanistan.

## Congregational Meeting

On October 31 there will be a congregational gathering following worship. We will review the preliminary budget for 2022 and hear from our 2022 Stewardship Team about their goals for this year's campaign. You may participate in person in the sanctuary, or via our Facebook live stream.

## Picnic & Concerts on the Lawn

Our picnic and concert on the lawn series continues Saturday, October 9 beginning at 5:00 PM. Our guest artist will be James Donaldson. James brings with him a large repertoire of American Classic Rock and Folk music. 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.

## Virtual Alternative Christmas Market 2021



Each year CPC holds an event in late November called the Alternative Christmas Market. Members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to make a donation to a charitable organization in the name of a loved one as an alternative to giving them a physical gift.

In the past, the event was a lively affair held in Fellowship Hall after worship. Due to safety concerns regarding Covid, the event was held virtually last year, via mail and on the church website. Our congregation was incredibly generous and the event brought in more donations than ever before.

We had sincerely hoped that the event could be in person in 2021 but alas, Covid is still making itself a major factor in decisions and it has been determined that the event should be held virtually for one more year.

Watch for a special mailer that will give you information regarding the organizations to which CPC will send your donation and a shopping list to mail back that donation to Claremont Presbyterian Church.

The church website [www.claremontpres.org](http://www.claremontpres.org) will also fea-

ture all the organizations, with information and videos, and an easy way to make your donation online. The ACM page of the church website will go live on November 28.

There will be an information table on the patio after worship, hosted by members of the Mission Commission, on two Sundays, November 21 and November 28 for anyone who might have questions they would like to have answered in person.

## Session Highlights, August 25, 2021

Highlights from the August Session meeting:

- Deacon Moderator Irene Atwood reported on a very successful Adopt-A-School campaign for Mountain View Elementary School.
- Pastor Karen reported on her time away on sabbatical. Two books she found particularly insightful were *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going*, and *We Aren't Broke: Uncovering Hidden Resources for Ministry and Mission*
- Discussed faithful use of CPC facilities.
- Heard plans for Pastor Brian to be away on study leave for a week in late September to complete his Graduate Certificate in Church Planting & Revitalization at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.
- Elder Scott Randles shared that the Mission Commission was pleased with the CPC support of \$2,945 for the Esperanza Project to aid refugees at the Pomona Fairplex.
- Elder Barb MacKenzie reported that the Education and Leadership Commission voted to move the Suzanne Christian bequest to a new Christian Memorial Fund for youth programming.

## Children's Spiritual Formation

This Fall we are returning to mostly online Sunday Spiritual Formation for children with a smattering of in-person activities. Check out what's going on and don't forget to register so we can get you all the information you will need.

All groups, when online, will be at 12:00 PM. When in-person, they will gather after the worship service.

Zoom links:

Preschool - Meeting ID: 813 5228 4821. Passcode: 209586

Early Elementary - Meeting ID: 870 2653 2550. Passcode: 317576

## 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](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).



Tweens - Meeting ID: 864 1846 4098, Passcode: 530253

Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24 - Wonders Curriculum (Online)

Oct. 31 - Halloween crafts and games after the service, or possibly a visit to a nearby pumpkin patch (in-person)

Nov. 7, 14, 21 - Wonders Curriculum (Online)

Nov. 28 - Advent Workshop after the service (in-person)

Dec. 5 - Wonders Curriculum (Online)

## Mountain View Needs Crossing Guards

Mountain View Elementary School is looking for volunteer Crossing Guards during their morning drop off from 7:40 AM - 8:15 AM. Maybe you're looking for a new way to serve the community and engage in mission. If you are curious or interested, please contact Pastor Brian.

## Syria-Lebanon Partnership Network Fall Gathering

The Fall Gathering of the Syria-Lebanon Partnership Network (SLPN) is scheduled for Wednesday, October 20, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM Eastern time USA, online using the Zoom platform. Please plan to join us!

Having focused our Spring Gathering on conditions in Syria, presentations during the Fall Gathering will focus on the current situation in Lebanon. We will also include a brief Business Meeting.

Below is a tentative outline of the Gathering.

12:00-1:30 PM Welcome by SLPN Moderator, Rev. Ann Brunger. Rev. Joseph Kassab, General Secretary of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL), will offer the opening prayer. Rami Khouri - Trends and Prospects for Lebanon and the Region. Rami Khouri is an internationally syndicated columnist, Director of Global Engagement at the American University of Beirut, and senior fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School. George Saghri - How Sanctions Affect Lebanon and Syria. George Saghri is a Syrian economist based in New York. Rev. Najla Kassab - Discussion of the Prospects of Dismantling Sectarianism in Lebanon. Rev. Kassab is President of the World Communion of Reformed Churches and Director of the Christian Education Department of the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL). Question and Answer time with the presenters.

1:30-2:00 PM SLPN Business Meeting. Ann Brunger will moderate the Business Meeting, which will include receiving a Treasurer's report and electing new officers.



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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## Pentecost Offering Report

The stated purpose of the PCUSA Pentecost Offering is to unite us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

This year our congregation's Pentecost Offering totaled \$1,490. 60% of the Pentecost Offering, which was \$894.00 this year, goes on to the Presbytery of San Gabriel to fund our Immigrant Accompaniment Organizing Ministry of the Presbytery. 40% of the offering stays with CPC for the Education & Leadership Commission.

The Education & Leadership Commission decided that this year their portion of the Pentecost Offering would go to the Pomona Community Foundation, for the Esperanza Fund to support the needs of the unaccompanied minor immigrants in temporary shelter at the Fairplex as they wait to transition into more permanent housing with family or foster homes. In addition the Education & Leadership Commission gave money from their own funds. The Refugee Concerns Team committed to match the 40% Pentecost Offering and in addition the Mission Interpretation Commission approved giving matching dollars from the Faith Jones to the Esperanza Fund. In summary:

40% Pentecost Offering	\$596.00
Education & Leadership funds	\$506.60
Refugee Concerns Team matching funds to the 40%	\$596.00
Mission Interpretation Commission matching funds to the 40%	\$596.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2294.60</b>

In addition to the Special Offering and Commission donations, individuals from the congregation donated designated offerings in the sum of \$3,715.

The Grand Total donations from CPC that was given to the Esperanza Fund for the Immigrant Children at the Fairplex came to \$6,009.60. Thank you to the congregation for your generous giving to these young people who are going through so much in their lives right now. "...For I was a stranger, and you took me in.." Matthew 25:35.

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 08/31/21	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$306,437.00	\$306,664.00
Other Income	\$124,385.60	\$61,808.00
Expenses	-\$418,237.26	-\$404,442.64
Variance	\$12,585.34	-\$35,970.64
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 08/31/21	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$659,486.73	\$427,698.24
Expenses	-\$552,034.98	-\$428,033.96
Variance	\$107,451.75	-\$335.72
Second round PPP Loan has been forgiven. Proceeds are now included in Other Income.		

## CPC Youth 30 Challenge

On Wednesday, October 13, 7:00 PM 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, Meeting ID: 867 8160 1982



## 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 September:

September 5: by Jean Perry in honor of son, Ronald Perry's birthday

September 12 by Marcia Reich in loving memory of her husband, Michael, on what would have been their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

September 19 by Frank and Betty Pinkerton in honor of Betty's mother, Dorothy Gray Zimmer, on her birthday.

September 26 by Doug and Scott Carrington in loving memory of Judy, who loved blooms of cheer.

If you would like to donate flowers for worship, please contact Delight Slotemaker de Bruine, who will take care of all of the details for you.

## Please Lift Up Your Prayers

**In celebration and in gratitude:** We are pleased to include the Ashmael family with us in worship. Please welcome Anjlo, Lubna, and Mojza to CPC! We give praise and are thankful for the recovery of several of our members from various recent medical challenges.

**For family and friends of loved ones passing:** Clint Robertson, Ann (daughter) and Brad Hanson, and Janet Robertson (daughter-in-law), in the passing of Peggy Robertson who passed in San Dimas on Sunday evening, September 19 at 10:30 PM; the family of Trudie Orr who passed on September 26; Joan and Bob Kelly in the passing of her niece; Doug Carrington, whose eldest brother "JJ" passed August 2.

**For strength and grace:** Doris Craig who is at the MSAG

Villas. following a broken hip and Mae (Becky) Beck; Ruth Auld; Larry Robertson; Meredith Clayton/Rocky Supinger as her father is in hospice.

**For successful surgeries, followed by recovery and healing:** Lynn Miller for September 23 surgery on her elbow following a fall; Barbara Patch for a heart valve replacement at Cedar Sinai on September 21; Sandra Kindle for a heart procedure at Good Samaritan Hospital the week of September 20.

**Prayers for continued on-going treatments for:** Mary and Ed Hughes; Larry Robertson; Patrick West; Patricia Maine; Sue Likens; Bob Kelly; Frank Pinkerton; Jean Perry.

**The compassionate, healing touch of the Holy Spirit for: Charles and Virginia Rassieur recovering from Covid at Pilgrim Place;** Gail Duggan; Donah Holmes; Dorothy Whitham; Pastor Brian and his family; Jim and Lenore Braschler; Kathy Holtan; Gennie Ransom; Cloyce Morrow; Mark Nelson, and for all of those who remain unnamed here, but named within our hearts.

**For those whom we tenderly remember on an ongoing basis:** 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; John Najarian; Suzanne and Kay Brown; Carolyn Whitham; Chris Hartmire; Thom Bleakney; Phoebe DeVille; Jean Underwood; Chet & Eileen Jaeger; Lee & Claire McDonald; Mike Layne; Barbara Myers; Doris Chambers; Marianne 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. 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.

**There will be a memorial service** for Trudy Orr on Saturday, October 9 at 2:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.



# COMMUNICATOR

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**Deadline for November *Communicator* - October 15**

## Weekly Online Events

### Monday - Thursday, Saturday

8:00 AM - Morning Prayer (Facebook)

### Sunday - Friday

5:00 PM - Evening Prayer (Facebook)

### 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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