



hold fast to



Hope

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Stewardship 2021 “Hold Fast to Hope”

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10: 23

When the followers of Jesus encountered difficult times in the early years of the Church, the author of The Letter to the Hebrews urged the community to “hold fast to hope.”

2020 has been a year when God’s love, hope, and faithfulness have sustained us as we were buffeted by multiple crises on the local, national, and global level. Claremont Presbyterian Church has creatively and courageously adapted its ministries to help our members, friends and community hold fast to hope in these challenging days. We are so grateful for your generous gifts in 2020 that enabled our church to sustain these ministries that have helped so many hold fast to hope.

Now we want to be sure our church has the financial resources to continue these and other ministries in 2021. We know that the coming year will hold many opportunities and challenges as we learn to be a faithful and courageous congregation in a post-COVID world.

As 2020 began, we were looking forward to celebrating our 65th anniversary as a congregation. Though the celebration we were planning was cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis, we hope to mark that milestone in another way. Our Pledge Goal for 2021 is \$465,000. On a festive level, this number provides a way to acknowledge our anniversary year. On a practical level, it recognizes that, due to the COVID-19 crisis, some may not be in a position to increase their pledges this year. Nevertheless, we know that some of you will be able to step in with a

Upcoming Worship

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

November 1, 10:00 AM

All Saints Day

“What the Prophets Saw: Amos”
Brian Gaeta-Symonds preaching

November 8, 10:00 AM

“What the Prophets Saw: Micah”
Karen Sapio preaching

November 15, 10:00 AM

“What the Prophets Saw: Ezekiel”
Karen Sapio preaching

November 15, 10:00 AM

Waffle Church on Zoom

November 22, 10:00 AM

“What the Prophets Saw: Jeremiah”
Karen Sapio preaching

November 25

Community Interfaith
Thanksgiving Service online

November 29, 10:00 AM

First Sunday of Advent
“What John the Baptist Saw”
Karen Sapio preaching

Saturdays in November: Evening
Prayer on the Lawn moves to 4 PM.

Winter days mean early sunset, so our outdoor, Saturday Evening Prayer service will move to 4 PM. These services will continue to include prayer, instrumental music, and scripture readings and reflections. We ask all participants to wear a face covering and observe safe social distance.

higher pledge, and with everyone’s commitment, we will be able to meet—and possibly even exceed—our goal.

You will soon receive your 2021 Stewardship mailing. We invite you to fill out the enclosed pledge card and return it to the church in November. Please see the additional information below about our November 8 Parade of Pledges Celebration. We hope to see you there! Of course, you are welcome to mail your pledge card as well, or pledge online at claremontpres.org/annual-pledge.

May God’s love sustain you as you—and our whole community—holds fast to hope and shares that hope with others in 2021.



Stewardship Information and Celebration

As with so many other things, COVID-19 has disrupted our annual Stewardship Luncheon this fall. Your 2021 Stewardship Team has been wonderfully creative and adaptive in offering new ways to give our congregation opportunities for Stewardship INFORMATION and CELEBRATION.

INFORMATION: Congregational Gathering on ZOOM, November 1 at 11:00 AM. Our Stewardship Team will present our 2021 Stewardship Goals and relate those to the Session’s preliminary 2021 budget projections. To join the Zoom meeting: ID 884 5455 2462. Passcode: 534837

CELEBRATION: Parade of Pledges, November 8, 2-4 PM in the church parking lot. Join us for a festive event to celebrate generosity and hope. Drive up to drop off your 2021 pledge card and receive a “thank you” gift bag. Then stay and listen from your car or on the lawn to live music provided by The Ron Kobiayshi Trio--the jazz combo that plays for our Jazz Vespers services. Invite friends from the community to drop by to enjoy the music. (We ask everyone who plans to stay to wear a mask and observe safe distancing)

Directory Update

Where, o where, has our church directory gone?!

COVID-19 has wreaked havoc with our plans and expectations over these last 8 months. And our highly anticipated new church directory was not exempt.

After a few unexpected delays in production and long periods of necessary work-from-home situations, LifeTouch now has all they need from us and are in production of our new church directory. Neila and Lisa worked hard at making sure it will include up to date photos of church activities as well as current contact information. We look forward to getting them in your hands as soon as they are hot off the presses... and delivered.

Here’s lookin’ at you!

The Members of the Evangelism & Nurture Committee



Virtual Alternative Christmas Market

What is the Alternative Christmas Market, sometimes called ACM? It is an opportunity for you to make a donation to one or more local, national or international organizations that help those less fortunate as an alternative kind of gift for your family and friends this Christmas. This year CPC's Alternative Christmas Market will be held virtually. You may shop online or by mail, both from the comfort of your home.

In late November you will receive a packet in the mail describing the various mission partners who are participating along with a shopping list to use to donate toward a particular aspect of their ministry. Mail the shopping list back to the church and either include your check or send your payment electronically through Zelle.

The other alternative will be to shop on the church website, www.claremontpres.org. Beginning Sunday, November 29 there will be a special page on the church website for the ACM with information, videos and a shopping list. You will be able to shop and pay online.

Here is a list of the organizations that will be included in this year's ACM:

- Agingnext
- Angel Interfaith Network
- Church World Service
- Claremont After-School Program
- Claremont Meals on Wheels
- Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center
- Claremont Presbyterian Church Deacons
- Clinebell Institute
- Crossroads
- Foothill AIDs Project
- Habitat for Humanity PV
- Heifer International
- House of Ruth
- Inland Valley Hope Partners
- Medical Benevolence Foundation

- PCUSA Mission Co-workers
- Pilgrim Place
- Prison Library Project
- SoCal Presbyterian Immigrant Accompaniment Ministry
- Refugee Concerns
- Tijuana Water Project
- Uncommon Good

November Food Drive Targets Increase in Need

Claremont Presbyterian will be sponsoring a community-wide food drive on Saturday, November 7, 1-4 PM in the church parking lot. All donations will benefit Inland Valley Hope Partners, one of CPC's long-time mission partners.

In addition to an increase in requests for emergency rent/mortgage assistance, IVHP has also seen a substantial increase in homelessness—and with it an increase in requests for nonperishable food and hygiene supplies.

IVHP's food security manager Isaac Vega said that the initial surge in need following the start of the pandemic had started to level off and even decrease slightly over the summer months; however, those numbers are rising again—a trend likely to continue into the holiday season.

The efforts of our congregation and the Claremont community can go a long way toward providing local families much needed relief.

Donations of nonperishable food, as well as personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies, will be accepted in the church parking lot from 1 to 4 PM on Saturday, Nov. 7. Donors can simply pop open their trunk or door and a masked volunteer will remove the items.

Recently requested items from IVHP include peanut butter, jelly, pop open cans of chili and soups (many do not have can openers), can openers, ramen, and cup of noodles.

If you can't leave home, but have items to donate, please contact your deacon or send an email to claremontfooddrive@gmail.com We can arrange a time for a volunteer to pick up your donation.

Tax-deductible, monetary donations are also accepted by mail or online. (Send a check to Inland Valley Hope Partners, 1753 N. Park Ave, Pomona, CA 91768 or drop it off at church.)

Your CPC Deacons

by Lynn Miller, Deacons Moderator

When I think of what Deacons do for the members of CPC, one word comes to mind. **Comfort.** Deacons comfort CPC members when they are experiencing a time of loss, illness, loneliness, and in celebration. Right now, many of us may feel harried and at loose ends. The Deacons want to help. By now you have had a call, a visit, a card and/or flowers from one of the following Deacons : Chinny Agwu, Irene Atwood, Betty Butler, Karee Galloway, Leanne Kerchner, Christine Kolb, Kathy Leff, Mark Nelson, Rita Watts, and me, and I am grateful for their willingness to help all our CPC family. In addition, this summer many CPC members volunteered to serve as Deacons Assistants by joining a team led by one of the Deacons. With fewer Deacons, their help will be invaluable as we reach out to our members.

Though we cannot meet in church, the Deacons are busy. Since March, the Deacons have delivered Easter lilies to parish members. On Mother's Day, they delivered flowers to members living in the retirement communities and to mothers with children who were home from school. For Father's Day, men living in retirement communities or at home with school aged children received masks.

In May, the Deacons held a successful food drive for the Inland Valley Hope Partners and in September, a Back to School Supplies drive for Mt. View School students in need. We thank all of you for your generous support of both drives.

In November- we will hold a second food drive for IVHP and continue our annual Adopt a Family Christmas tradition in support of families from Uncommon Good. In December, Deacons will deliver Christmas poinsettias.

In the meantime, the Deacons will keep an eye on their parishioners and be ready to help as their joys and needs arise. All this happens because the Deacons want to help, but we also need your help, so please remember to donate to the Deacons Fund. Thank you for generous spirits, your prayers and your support.

Anti-Racism Reading Group

Since beginning to meet in July this summer the Anti-Racism Reading Group has struggled with new terminology in the book *Me & White Supremacy*, accompanied a young African American professor on his personal journey through his book *How to Be An Anti-Racist*, and listened to some 'close-to-home' experiences within the education system told in the podcast, "Nice White Parents." Many

members of this group find the conversations and the space for conversation helpful as we all work through raising our awareness and the experiences of personal growth.

With Advent on the horizon, this is a good time to switch gears just slightly as we look to the incarnation of the Holy One by way of the birth of Christ.

In January the Anti-Racism reading will return to weekly discussions. The resource will be the book titled *Good White Racist?* by Kerry Connelly. Connelly takes the perspective of church folks within the church. She also poses three possible action items at the end of each chapter (Learn, Think, Act). This will become the meat of our conversations as we encourage and explore how people have engaged any number of these action items. More information to follow in December.

What can you do now?

Purchase the book and take time to read through it on your own over the next couple of months.

Look for an upcoming opportunity with the Adult Education Forum to watch and then discuss a presentation offered by the author.

Join and listen in on the Anti-Racism Working group meetings.

And then, consider joining the reading group as we explore different ways to engage this important topic.

Online Sunday School - Keeping Faith Formation Interactive

Since September our children and families have been engaging in a fully online Sunday afternoon education and formation program. The coordinating of this program has been the gift and work of Barbara MacKenzie and Jeanine Robertson. They have gathered curriculum, teachers, door stewards, and children, all to make sure Claremont Presbyterian Church is offering spiritually enriching opportunities to even the youngest of our CPC family.

On Sundays our toddlers gather at noon on Zoom with Ms. Brenda and Mrs. Marilu for stories and learning with the Wonders curriculum. At the same time our early elementary aged kids gather on Zoom with the Godly Play teachers for a story and discussion, we even include crafts and games with Ms. Raquel. And then at 1 PM on Sundays our tween youth gather on Zoom to explore the bigger questions of faith with

How to Give when there's no Offering Plate

No offering plate? No organ music? No problem. There are still ways to support your church during this time when we are worshipping online and outdoors. Here's how;

- 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. You may also make contributions through Zelle if your bank offers this electronic payment service.



Mrs. Barbara and Mrs. Jeanine.

We have seen approximately 20 children coming together online to learn about their faith and scripture. Some of these children are new and some are rejoining us. This adventure has launched a Gospel Shaped Dream - that of beginning a program for tweens, as well as offering more enrichment activities and learning for all our kids. If you know a child or family with children who may be interested in learning more about this program, please have them contact Pastor Brian or the church office.

Adult Education Forum: Seasons of Election and Advent

In October we invited CPC and the community at large to a Pre-Election conversation with Prof. David Menefee-Libey and we saw it fitting to offer a Post-Election conversation on November 15. This will be facilitated by Charles Kerchner and David Menefee-Libey and will focus on what the election and legislation mean for our community and country moving forward. An important conversation to be certain. Join us for the Zoom conversation, Sunday, November 15 at 5:00 PM. Meeting ID: 864-4250 4763. Password: 916227.

Looking forward to Advent this year? Pastor Karen and The Adult Education Forum will be facilitating a group study using Adam McHugh's book, *The Listening Life: Embracing Attentiveness in a World of Distraction*. Deep listening is a very useful tool not just during advent when it is appropriate to be attentive to the birth of Christ, but also during this time in our nation's social climate. McHugh says, "In this noisy, distracting world, it is difficult to truly hear. People talk past each other, eager to be heard but somehow deaf to what is being said. Listening is an essential skill for healthy relationships, both with God and with other people. But it is more than that: listening is a way of life."

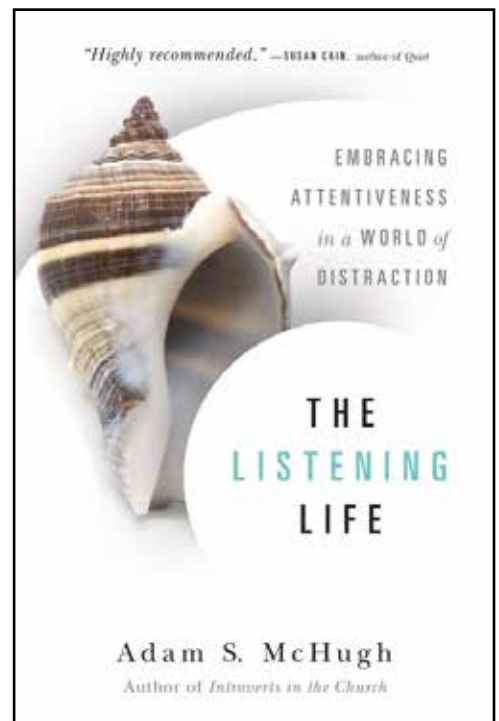
This year we will offer two groups (same study, different dates and times):

Group 1 - With Pastor Karen on Wednesdays at 4 PM (Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23).

Zoom Meeting ID: 862 1883 9113.

Group 2 - With the Adult Ed Team on Mondays at 7 PM (Nov 30, Dec 7, 14, 21). Zoom Meeting ID: 814 0044 7715.

You are encouraged to order a copy of the book through most online book distributors (Barnes and Noble, Amazon, etc. - Avg cost is ~\$13-\$15). The Church will have a limited number of copies for purchase at \$15. We hope you'll decide to be part of exploring this skill and what should prove to be good conversations.





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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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Worship Flowers in October

October 10 - given by Frank and daughter, Emily, Pinkerton in honor of Betty Pinkerton's Birthday.

October 17 - given by Bill & Pat Reed in Memory of Pat's parents and brother: John, Lucile, & Robert Howley and in memory of Bill's parents: Alfred & Helen Reed.

October 24 - given by Jeanne Kennedy in honor of Geri and Karen's wedding and marriage.

All of the October donated worship flower arrangements were divided and distributed to those in our CPC family of whom we are especially thinking and to whom we are offering cheer and hope. We hope this is a meaningful way to stay connected, to extend joy, cheer, and to remind people that they are remembered, thought of and lifted in prayer.

Upcoming open dates for worship flowers: November 14 & 28. Should you wish to donate flowers to add beauty and cheer to our CPC worship services on one of the above dates, or for a future date in 2021, please contact Delight Slotemaker de Bruine via email delight@claremontpres.org or via text 909.373.5106.

You may request to have the flowers delivered to your residence, or distributed amongst specific individuals to spread cheer and love.

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 9/30/2020	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$325,974.16	\$352,494.00
Other Income	\$120,463.96	\$81,365.94
Expenses	-\$421,432.55	-\$449,147.73
Variance	\$25,005.57	-\$15,287.79
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 9/30/2020	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$356,690.30	\$682,304.94
Expenses	-\$603,339.41	-\$682,304.13
Variance*	-\$246,649.11	\$.81
*Note: these numbers do NOT include the PPP Loan amount. This income will be included once the loan is forgiven.		

Please lift up your prayers

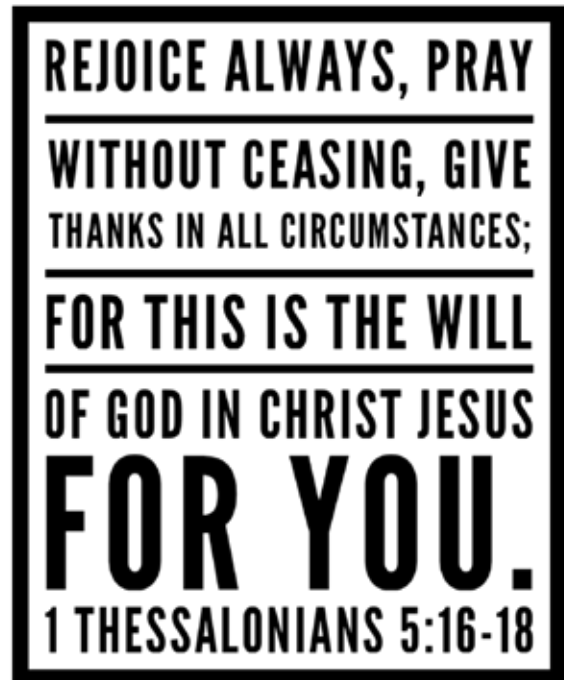
As we share in the grief of our friends and in the celebration of the life of our loved ones who have entered the space reserved for them with Christ, we lift up our prayers for: Gail Duggan, as she remembers the one year anniversary of the passing of her husband, Tom Duggan on October 21, 2019; the family of Geri Lindell in her recent passing; the family of Sue Stoddard Goodspeed and Stu & Jo Stoddard in the passing of their mother, Marj Stoddard, involved with CPC since 1961; the family of Brian Gaeta-Symonds in the passing of his Uncle David; the family of John and Rita Watts, in the passing of their friend, James Vowles, as he starts his new journey.

As we lift up those for whom we ask for healing, for strength, for courage, for the grace, peace, and comfort of the Holy Spirit, we pray for: Chikondi Tamaona, for recovery from surgery on his knee on October 12; John Watts; Gennie Ransom continuing her recovery from surgery; Phyllis DeLeo for peace, relief from pain, and continued strength and courage in her journey; Chinny Agwu; Carolyn Whitham; Irene Atwood's great-nephew, Parker; Rita Watt's niece, Jennica, who suffers from a chronic condition called burning mouth syndrome for which they have found no cure or even treatment; Roger Denton's friend, Roberto, who has many family members facing health crises, Sacha Lord's daughter-in-law, Joanna Lord's mother and father, Mike and Maria Lai; former CPCC teacher, Judith Rios, who has stage four bone cancer; Suzanne Brown and her son Jay, Kay Brown, the family of Barb MacKenzie, for Barb's mother, continuing treatment; Jean Perry, Lenore Brashler, Jim Brashler, Chris Hartmire, Thom Bleakney, Ruth Auld, Phoebe DeVille, Jane Glenn, John Najarian, Jean Underwood, Chet & Eileen Jaeger, Lee & Claire McDonald, Mike Layne, Barbara Myers, Mary & Ed Hughes, Sandra Deibel; the caretakers offering love and support for their loved ones, and they journey through health challenges.

We lift up prayers for our country. We pray for the election, for our leaders, for peace, integrity, and justice for all. We pray for good health, in all nations. We pray for the families touched by Covid-19, both in death and in illness. We pray for the manifestation of the fruits of the Spirit, amongst them: love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control.

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 ASAP 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.



COMMUNICATOR

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Deadline for December *Communicator* - November 15

Weekly Online Events

Sunday

- 10:00 AM - Worship (Facebook)
- 10:45 AM - Coffee Hour (Zoom)
- 12:00 PM - Toddler Sunday School (Zoom)
- 12:00 PM - Early Elementary Sunday School (Zoom)
- 1:00 PM - Tweens Sunday School (Zoom)

Wednesday

- 4:00 PM - Bible Study (Zoom)

Thursday

- 5:00 PM - Community Yoga (Zoom)

Friday

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

Daily (except during Sunday Worship)

- 8:00 AM - Morning Prayer (Facebook)
- 11:30 AM - Quarantine Interlude (Facebook)
- 5:00 PM - Evening Prayer (Facebook) (4:00 PM Saturday on the Lawn)



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[giving](#)

For links to all these events, visit claremontpres.org/weekly-schedule