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The Path of Gratitude

November brings All Saints Day, Veterans’ Day, and Thanksgiving—all days that invite reflection and prayer. The Community Labyrinth located on the north side of our church campus, along Santa Clara Street, offers an opportunity to practice walking prayer and meditation. The Rev. Tina Blair has composed this guide to walking our Labyrinth as part of your spiritual practice this month. These are simply suggestions; your own thoughts and words will be guided by the Holy Spirit and may turn in different directions.

As we wind our way towards the end of our year this November, we enter the winding path of the Labyrinth, placing ourselves mentally in God’s presence, stilling and quieting our soul.

On the way to the center, we remember those persons who have been important to us this year and in the past, saying: **“I remember before you, Loving God...”** We choose those we wish to hold in our hearts before God:

- Veterans
- Family members
- Friends
- Neighbors

In the center, we pause, breathe deeply, take in God’s creation around us, feeling the quiet and calm of the moment.

On the way out, we offer our gratitude and thanksgiving to God for blessings and individuals in our lives this past year, saying: **“I give you thanks, Loving God, for....”**

At the exit, we pause, breathe deeply, and ask God to keep guiding us, saying: **“Guide me into your future, Loving God.”**

Karen Sapio

Upcoming Worship

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

Sunday, November 6

10:00 AM

*Communion and
Congregational Meeting*

Psalm 145

Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, November 13

10:00 AM

Anjlo Ajmal preaching

Wednesday, November 16

5:30 PM

The Village Dinner Church

Sunday, November 20

10:00 AM

Psalm 46

Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Wednesday, November 23

7:00 PM

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
at Temple Beth Israel

Sunday, November 27

10:00 AM

First Sunday of Advent
Rev. Brian Gaeta-Symonds
preaching

Advent Bible Study

Beginning Wednesday, November 30 at 4:30 PM, go on a spiritual journey this Advent with this four-session study written by Kathleen Long Bostrom. It introduces participants to several spiritual practices that can help deepen their personal faith journeys. Each session includes Scripture for reflection, activities centered on biblical passages that tell the Advent story, and a prayer practice.

Interested? Materials are available in the church office, following worship on Sundays in November, or in electronic format by request to Pastor Karen. Zoom meeting ID 862 1883 9113.

Church Work Day

Come get our church ready for winter and looking good for the holidays on Saturday, November 5 from 8:00 AM to noon. Gather on the church patio at 8 to select from a wide menu of available assignments from weeding, to raking, to decluttering closets and cabinets. Donuts and coffee will provide energy and inspiration. For more information, contact Kent Miller, chair of Property and Finance, at kent@greensails.net.

Update from Haven New Worshiping Community

In June, the CPC Session voted to serve as anchor congregation for the Haven New Worshiping Community. Haven is part of the 1001 New Worshiping Communities initiative of the Presbyterian Church USA. Their current leader is Presbyterian Pastor Vikki Randalls. Pastor Vikki sent this update to keep us informed of their progress.

This has been an exciting season for Haven fellowship. In September we were approved for the seed grant which makes us an official part of PCUSA's 1001 worshiping communities. We've continued our pattern of meeting monthly for worship. We've added Jess Garcia as worship leader—Jess is part of the Q Worship Collective, helping us lean into our vision of being a queer-led church. With the funds from the seed grant we intend to hire an intern to help with our APU outreach as well as form a youth group (we have a couple of high schoolers already worshipping with us). So, while we are still in our infancy of formation, there is a real sense of moving forward.

Haven continues to be blessed and encouraged by the support we have received from Claremont Presbyterian Church, and the leadership of Pastor Karen and Pastor Brian. We are grateful for your words of affirmation!

Stewardship FAQs

Where do funds for CPC's operating expenses come from?

They come from US! Close to 85% of the income that funds our congregation's operating budget comes from pledges and other offerings. Without your generous pledges, we cannot sustain our ministries.

Why pledge? Can't I just give as I am able? On a personal level, making a pledge is important because it makes generosity a spiritual disci-

pline; a commitment that centers your life.

On a practical level, pledges enable our church leadership to plan. Pledges committed for the coming year form the basis for our annual operating budget. Pledges help our staff and lay leaders move ahead with confidence, knowing funds are committed to sustain their work.

How does our church manage its finances? The Session adopts an annual budget in January and presents it to the congregation. The Property and Finance Commission oversees the church's income and expenditures with the assistance of the church's Treasurer and our Administrative Assistant for Finance. Our financial records are reviewed annually by an independent auditing firm.

What about reserves and endowment funds? The generosity of our members and friends in previous years has given our church both reserves and endowment funds. These are primarily used to fund large capital expenses or major ministry initiatives that fall beyond the scope of our annual operating budget. They may be used to make up shortfalls in the budget with the approval of Session and, in certain cases, a congregational vote. Remembering the church in your estate planning is another way to support our ministries.

Updated Mask Guidelines

At its meeting on September 28, Session voted that starting November 1, masks will be strongly recommended, but not required, for indoor activities at CPC, including worship. We will continue to follow the guidance of the LA County Department of Public Health, which might include reinstating the mask requirement if LACDPH recommends doing so. If you have any questions about this change, please feel free to speak to one of our pastors or Session members.

Advent Season

The Advent season is fast approaching and we invite you and your family to join us at CPC as we prepare for the coming season as a community. We have many opportunities for you to participate. On Sunday, November 27, following the church service, we invite you to join us for our annual Advent workshop. Your family will enjoy crafts, treats and create an Advent wreath to take home. We will be rehearsing for the annual Christmas Pageant throughout November with a performance during the service on December 11. Join us for our annual Family Christmas Eve service to celebrate the birth of Christ with music and storytelling for the whole family. We look forward to worshipping with you this Advent season!

**SHINE
AND CELEBRATE**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

CHURCH LAWN

Drop off your 2023 Pledge Card
✧
Savor a lunch of freshly made tacos
✧
Bring canned food donations for Inland Valley Hope
Partners
✧
Enjoy the music of Jerry O'Sullivan and Friends

Annual Thanksgiving Eve Interfaith Service

Faithful to tradition, the Interfaith Council is coming together for the annual Thanksgiving Eve service. At Temple Beth Israel on November 23, 7:00 PM, join the leadership and many others for a service of sharing in interfaith prayers, liturgy, and reflecting on the act of gratitude. We look forward to an evening of celebration and voices rich in diversity.

Fall Food Drive

Come one come all to CPC's Fall Food Drive on Sunday November 6. It will be held right after church in the south parking lot. Our donations will assist Inland Valley Hope Partners in its mission to provide nonperishable food items to help those that have food insecurity needs in our neighborhood. Drop off your canned goods, rice, beans, cereal, boxed drinks, macaroni and cheese, etc. from 11:30 - 1:00. Afterwards, come get a taco or two and enjoy the music of Jerry O'Sullivan. What a great way to start your Sunday. We look forward to seeing you there.

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 which helps those less fortunate as an alternative kind of gift for your family and friends this Christmas. This year CPC's Alternative Christmas Market will again 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 27 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.

If you would like to speak to someone in person about the Alternative Christmas Market, there will be a representative of the Mission Interpretation Commission available on the patio following worship on both November 20 and November 27 to answer your questions.

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
- 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
- Uncommon Good

The Village Dinner Church

Join us on Wednesday, November 16 from 5:30 – 7:00 PM when our guest speaker will be Dr. Janiel Henry, co-founder of Women Rise in Claremont will be with us. Check out the website www.psychandwellness.com.

CPC Family Outing – Local Hike

Join us on Sunday, Nov. 20 from 2:00 to 5:30ish. The location of the hike is still TBD. We will let people know as soon as we decide on a local trail. Let us know if you would like to participate. Contact Heather Chapman 909-938-7001 or Pastor Brian 562-674-8407 for more information.

Calling All Singers!

The CPC Sanctuary Choir is beginning preparations for this year's Advent/Christmas major presentation, "Sing We Now of Christmas" by Howard Helvey. This major work will be presented in worship on Sunday, December 18.

Howard Helvey is acknowledged as one of America's leading contemporary composers and arrangers of choral music, as hundreds of his works have been published and performed internationally. "Sing We Now of Christmas" is a collection of seven exceptional carol arrangements, intended by the composer to "unfold an elegant narrative pointing to the great mystery of the Incarnation."

The choir rehearses in the Music Room every Thursday night from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. You are invited to attend the entire rehearsal, or join us at around 8:30 as we focus on the Advent selections. In November our rehearsal time will expand to 7:15-9:15 PM as the presentation draws closer.

This is a great opportunity for all who would like to sing in a choir, but whose time commitments otherwise prevent regular attendance at rehearsals.

CPCC Family Spotlight

The Ma Family – Renee and Jack, Isla and Adara

The Ma family has taken the opportunity recently to show our Center staff just how much they appreciate them through the gift of food. The Ma's and all of our families understand that serving a Children's Center is more than simply caring for and teaching the children. It is about caring for the whole family. Knowing that your children are lovingly being taken care of means that the parents and family can have time and space to do all the things that it takes to manage a home, make a living, and ultimately provide for their family.

Thank you Ma Family! Read a little more about why they love the Claremont Presbyterian Church Children's Center...

Why did you choose CPCC? Proximity to our home was important, but we also really liked the atmosphere; it gave us a more homey and comfortable feeling compared to other places we had seen.

What helped you decide that you wanted to do this for the teachers? This was just a token of our appreciation for all the teachers that we have had the pleasure of meeting throughout our kids' transitions. We wanted to thank them

for caring for our daughters, especially with the difficulties arising from the pandemic. CPCC is so much more than just a daycare, it's part of a community that we would like to continue to support however we can.

What is a message you would like to share with the teachers? I'm sure that dealing with parents on a daily basis is a difficult task, especially if there are conflicting ideas regarding educational principles/philosophies; however, their dedication and commitment in doing what they think is the best for the children is undoubtedly acknowledged. The parents do see the positive influence the teachers have on their children. It is very special to have teachers that genuinely care for your children and to see the bonds they form as they make their way through the different classrooms.



No previous choral experience is necessary! So please join us Thursday evenings in the Music Room, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus through song. We look forward to seeing you!

September Session Highlights

- Received a mental snapshot of one Wednesday, with Lemonade Wednesday, Village Dinner Church and the national meeting of the Syria/Lebanon Partner Network National Gathering keeping our campus buzzing
- Prepared for the Session Retreat to be held on October 2
- Voted to have wearing masks indoors encouraged but optional, when allowed by the County Health Department
- Approved updating the telephone wiring throughout the campus
- Approved a motion to encourage members to participate in the Bread for the World's Annual Offering of Letters on issues regarding world hunger
- Visited with our new intern, Anjlo Ajmal, who is assisting with Village Dinner Church, Wednesday Bible Study and worship.



The Communicator is published monthly by Claremont Presbyterian Church. Submissions are subject to editing for content and length. To submit an article please e-mail Lisa Strom (lisa@claremontpres.org) by the 15th of the month.

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Adult Ed – What's Coming Up?

Beginning this month, CPC's Adult Ed Planning Team invites you to spend a few moments leaning into the lives of our native friends and neighbors via a 3-part series titled "Indigenous Peoples & Realities in Southern California." Three guest presenters will be 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.

Part 1 Nov. 14 – 6 PM Dinner in Fellowship Hall followed by 7 PM presentation in the sanctuary by Susan Suintree.

Part 2 Dec. 5 - 7 PM in Room 1 and on Zoom. Presentation by Lisa Delinger.

Part 3 Dec. 19 - 7 PM in Room 1 and on Zoom. Presentation by Anne Walker

Adopt-a-Family is Coming

This year, the Deacons are again partnering with Uncommon Good to "adopt" five families. The goal, as always, is to provide the parents and children with some deeply needed economic assistance for the upcoming holiday season. Our objective is to raise enough money from the congregation that we can give each family \$200 in gift and food cards for a total of \$1,000. Last year our congregation was so generous that at the last moment we were able to "adopt" an additional family. That was truly a Christmas miracle for a very needy Uncommon Good family.

Please give your contribution through the Alternative Christmas Market by December 11. Checks can be made out to "Claremont Presbyterian Church" with a notation on the bottom for "Adopt a family."

Thank you in advance for your generosity. It is deeply appreciated.

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 09/30/2022	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$316,752.65	\$360,000.00
Other Income	\$144,060.10	\$80,849.99
Expenses	-\$489,143.94	-\$499,473.51
Variance	-\$28,331.19	-\$58,623.52
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 09/30/2022	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$823,779.82	\$825,814.51
Expenses	-\$815,043.87	-\$810,248.60
Variance	\$8,735.95	\$15,565.91

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. 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.



Flowers for Worship

October 2: in celebration of the 40th anniversary of Tina Blair's ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament.

October 9: given by Frank and Emily Pinkerton in celebration of Betty Pinkerton's birthday, on October 12.

October 16: given by Pat and Bill Reed in loving memory of our parents, John & Lucile Hawley and Alfred & Helen Reed. Also in memory of our brother, Robert Hawley.

October 23: "Judy Blooms" are given lovingly by Doug and Scott Carrington in memory of Judy's birthday on October 25. Deacons will pass out the cheer of the Judy blooms on the patio.

October 30: given by Tom, Yasmín, Linda, and Andrew Luschei in honor of and in loving memory of Tom's father, Martin Luschei, who died on September 18, 2022. Martin loved sunflowers.

Please Lift Up Your Prayers

For those who have died and their families: Martin Luschei, Tom Luschei's father; Clint Robertson; Will Kohnen's mother, Gertrude Davids.

For those who are contemplating decisions: Sue Likens; Corinne Tolles, Delights cousin; Vicki and Mike Shae as Mike will be looking into cancer treatment plans with his doctor.

For those who are ill, healing and recovering: Lisa Frazier; Judy Hormell; Peggy Nall; family, friends, and neighbors who are recovering from Covid; Kyungah Jung; Catherine Lin; Mike Layne; Larry Robertson; Frank Pinkerton; Cloyce Morrow; Joyce and Ted Alexander; Ron Perry; Jean Perry; Trish Perry; Gennie Ransom.

For the strength, grace, and peace of the Holy Spirit, for those of us who may find ourselves in vulnerable and sensitive family situations: Greg Stout and for his sister, Margie Stout Ludwig; Herb & Carlynn Christian; Pastor Brian's aunt; Bonnie and Dennis Symonds, parents of Pastor Brian; Pastor Brian and family; the Agwu family; Kevin and Ken Kessler.

For those whom we remember on an ongoing basis: Roger Shervington; Sean, Matthew, and Ed Hughes; Carrie Willette, Jan Willette's daughter; Barbara Patch; Phoebe DeVille; Doris Craig and Mae (Becky) Beck and her nieces; Suzanne and Kay Brown; Chris Hartmire; Tom Bleakney; Jean Underwood; Eileen Jaeger; Carolyn Kinghill; Claire McDonald; Barbara Myers; Doris Chambers; Marianne Hillman; Sandra Deibel; Carolyn Whitham; Marion Thompson; Jean Cochran.

Please contact 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.

See All That's Happening...

For the most up-to-date calendar of events, go to www.claremontpres.org/calendar.



COMMUNICATOR
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CLAREMONT, CA 91711

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Deadline for December Communicator - November 15

Christmas Poinsettia Donations

It's that time of year to think about the opportunity to donate a Christmas poinsettia that will enhance the decor of the CPC Sanctuary for Christmas in memory of or in honor of a loved one, or in celebration of a special event.

This year, you will have the option of taking the poinsettia home with you for yourself, or to personally deliver, or you can designate it as a donation to be delivered by our CPC Deacons and volunteers to one of our CPC members or friends who is homebound, isolated, ill, or who is recently bereaved.

Please consider making a donation towards the purchase of one or several poinsettias. Suggested donation is \$25.00 per poinsettia. Your donation and dedication will be listed in the Sunday, December 18 worship bulletin insert. The poinsettias will be delivered by our CPC deacons throughout that following week.

If you would like to donate a poinsettia, you may mail in your check, to Neila Carey at CPC, or donate via Zelle, or via PayPal. Please make sure you include the note or memo "poinsettia." Please utilize the enclosed donation

form or donate online at claremontpres.org/poinsettias

DEADLINE for orders in order to be included in the bulletin dedication recognition: Wednesday December 7.

Big Bear Family Camp & Youth Tapestry Weekend

This November the Tapestry Youth Fall Retreat will be happening in tandem with the Synod's Family Camp - all at the Big Bear Camp and Conference Center. The entire campground is being reserved for the youth and the few selected churches invited to participate in this trial family camp. Claremont Presbyterian is being invited to participate in this trial Family Camp on November 11 - 13. Please keep the youth and families who will attend this event in your prayers.