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Gratitude in Turbulent Times

Each year the approach of Thanksgiving nudges us toward gratitude. This is always challenging, but never more so than when the news is full of violence and despair or when personal circumstances are particularly difficult or chaotic. This month, CPC offers two opportunities to come together holding both our lament and our gratitude in a time of prayer.

First, on Sunday, November 12 at 6 PM, we invite the community to join us for Jazz Vespers with the Ron Kobayashi Trio and Debbi Ebert. The theme for this time of music, reflection, and prayer will be “Gratitude in Turbulent Times.”

Then, on Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00 PM the annual Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service will take place at The Claremont Center for Spiritual Living. This is an opportunity to join with members of many different faith communities in Claremont to give thanks and pray together for the wholeness and well-being of all.

Karen Sapio

Upcoming Worship

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

Sunday, November 5, 10:00 AM

All Saints Remembrance
Revelation 7:9-17
Karen Sapio preaching

—

Sunday, November 12, 10:00 AM

Matthew 25:1-13
Karen Sapio preaching

—

Sunday, November 12, 6:00 PM

Jazz Vespers
"Gratitude in Turbulent Times"
Ron Kobayashi Jazz Trio

—

Wednesday, November 15, 5:30 PM

The Village Dinner Church

—

Sunday, November 19, 10:00 AM

Matthew 25:14-30
Karen Sapio preaching

—

Wednesday, November 22, 7:00 PM

Community Thanksgiving Service at
Claremont Center for Spiritual Living

—

Sunday, November 26, 10:00 AM

Matthew 25:31-46
Karen Sapio preaching

Calling all singers!

The CPC Sanctuary Choir is beginning preparations for this year's Advent/Christmas major presentation, "A Midnight Clear" by John Leavitt. This major work will be presented in worship on Sunday, December 17.

John Leavitt is acknowledged as one of America's leading contemporary composers and arrangers of choral music, as his works have been performed in over thirty countries. He has written commissioned works for such organizations as the National Endowment for the Arts, and has received annual recognition for excellence from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). "A Midnight Clear" is a collection of nine exceptional choral arrangements reflecting both traditional carols and Leavitt's own original work.

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

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

Community Thanksgiving Service

The annual Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service will take place this year at the Claremont Center for Spiritual Living, 509 S College Avenue on **November 22** at 7:00 PM. The service will feature music, readings, reflections and prayers from many spiritual traditions.

November Family and Youth Outing

We're headed to Mt. SAC Randall Planetarium for their current program, *Legends of the Night Sky* - "Retelling of the tale of a beautiful, but unfortunate princess Andromeda, who in divine punishment for her mother's bragging is sacrificed to a sea monster and rescued by the Greek hero Perseus." Join us for this 30 minute show on Friday, November 17 at 5:00 PM. We will enjoy dinner as a group afterward. The Planetarium can be found at: 1100 N. Grand Ave, Walnut, CA 91789.

The church will be buying a block of 30 tickets. We are asking for \$5/person or \$10 for your family. Please let Pastor Brian, Heather, or Amanda know if you need assistance with ticket costs.

open your WHOLE HEART

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 discipline; 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.

Advent at the Abbey

Take a few days to slow down, listen inwardly, and savor quiet during CPC's contemplative Advent retreat **December 11-13** at Saint Andrew's Abbey in Valyermo.

We'll join the rhythms of the monastery, experience

Benedictine spirituality, and savor winter in the high desert from 3 PM Monday through lunch Wednesday.

Duane Bidwell will facilitate our time, which will focus on contemplative practice and the fundamentals of Benedictine spirituality.

There will be plenty of time to rest, walk, and participate in community worship if you'd like. (The monks pray together five times a day, chanting the psalms, reading scripture, and sitting in silence.) All activities are optional.

Know that the monastery community observes Grand Silence—that is, little to no talking, no media, and so forth—after the last prayer of the night until after breakfast the following morning.

Rooms are simple but comfortable, with a bed, a nightstand, a desk, a rocking chair, a private bath, and a private patio.

Cost is \$200 per person which includes two nights lodging and all meals. Scholarship assistance available. To register please call the church office or speak to Pastor Karen or Pastor Brian.

Advent Bible Study: How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

Our four week Advent Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, November 29 at 4 PM on Zoom. We will be using our 2023 Advent Devotional Guide as the source for our study and conversation. These guides will be available in the Narthex after worship starting November 19 or in the church office any time after that date. The Zoom ID to access the Bible study is 862 1883 9113.

Advent Workshop

With Advent on the horizon, beginning in December this year, we look forward to familiar traditions with new flare. One of those traditions is the annual Advent Workshop. This year we will be in the Fellowship Hall on **December 3** after the worship service and invite all to have lunch and participate in making the congregational favorite... Advent Wreaths. We will also have stations for making ornaments, playing games, practicing art, and a few other activities. Stay for this familiar and fun event and then pick up your home Advent Devotional guide on your way out. No cost and no registration necessary.

Adopt a Family is Coming...

This year the Deacons are again working with families from Uncommon Good to provide some very needed monetary assistance during this very special time of year.

With a bit of an excess in our budget left over from last year, we have decided to adopt seven families. Our goal is to provide each family with at least \$200.00 in gift cards (\$1,400 total) for them to spend at local businesses as they wish. We adopt families with children ranging in age from newborns well into their teens. We also provide food and gift cards to their parents as well. As you probably know, these families have limited means of support so adding gift cards and food are an incredible help to them.

Please give your contribution through the Alternative Christmas Market by December 10 - we need time to buy the gift cards and get them over to Uncommon Good in time for Christmas.

Thank you so much for your generous support. The Deacons truly appreciate it.

The Village Dinner Church

Join us Wednesday, **November 15** at 5:30 PM for an exciting speaker, fresh music, a delicious meal, and great company. William (Bill) Huff, local entrepreneur, joins us to share of his work of passion in the community. Often times we feel a deep hunger that is difficult to satisfy; could be physical or spiritual. When we walk past someone or interact with them it's hard to know exactly what they are struggling with, and for them to know what we're struggling with. How much better could it be if we reached out compassionately to one another?! Passage for the evening: Matthew 25:35-36.

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, Amanda Colclough, and Pastor Brian.

Adult Ed – Fall 2023

The Adult Education Planning Team invites you to the final part of our three part series on Climate Change. The changing climate impacts more than just our environment, it impacts the very lives of different people all over the globe. On Monday, November 13 at 7:00 PM in Classroom 1

and on Zoom (ID: 531 953 6959) our topic is "What is Being Done? Participating in fixing the problem."

Our next quarterly gatherings on Sunday morning will be December 3 at 8:45 AM where we will enjoy a Special Advent Presentation in the Sanctuary.

September 27 Session Highlights

- Discussed the Local Legends concert series as an embodiment of our Gospel Shaped Dreams, and a model for how we can grow
- Adopted new language for asset depreciation for the operating manual
- Approved some pay raises for the Children's Center
- Learned about the new play equipment for the Children's Center made possible by a grant
- Heard about plans for Advent

Waffle Church

Join us on Sunday, November 26 at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall for this exciting family friendly abbreviated worship experience followed by a real waffle breakfast with all the toppings. Our children are invited to gather up front in the Fellowship Hall on blankets and with pillows to participate in prayer, listen to a story from scripture, and hear a captivating message. Heather Chapman and our youth will help lead all those gathered in worship.

An Evening of Sacred Chant

Lixin Chen, a newcomer to Claremont and regular visitor at CPC will present an evening of sacred chant from a variety of spiritual traditions on November 4, 7:00 PM at CPC. This concert will also feature Hao Huang, Ami Radunskaya, Angel Lin, and others.

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, claremontpres.org. Beginning Sunday, November 26 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 19 and November 26 to answer your questions.

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

Adopt a Family – CPC Deacons	House of Ruth
AgingNext	Inland Valley Hope Partners
Angel Interfaith Network	Medical Benevolence Foundation
Church World Service	PCUSA Mission Co-workers
Claremont After-School Programs, Inc. (CLASP)	Pilgrim Place
Claremont Meals on Wheels	Prison Library Project
Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center	Refugee Concerns:
Clean Water Projects	Local Refugee Support
Crossroads	Near East School of Theology
Foothill AIDs Project	National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon
Habitat for Humanity PV	Uncommon Good
Heifer International	



First Tuesday Coffee and Conversation

At **9:30 AM on November 7**, grab a cup of coffee to go from your favorite Claremont Village coffee shop and join friends in Laemmle Square for a time of conversation and building friendships. This is a great chance to get better acquainted with members of our community. Questions? Call the church office at 909-624-9693.

Christmas Poinsettia Donations

It's that time of year to think about the opportunity to donate a Christmas poinsettia in memory of or in honor of a loved one, or in celebration of a special event. 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 17 worship bulletin. 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 PayPal. Please make sure you include the form or donate online at claremontpres.org/poinsettias. DEADLINE for orders



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in order to be included in the bulletin dedication recognition: Wednesday December 6.

October Worship Flowers

We are all so grateful for the generosity in contributing to the enhancement of our worship space. Worship flowers in the month of October were donated as follows:

October 1 - Chancel: given by Stuart and Lori Lillich in memory of Stuart's mother, Ann Lillich. Narthex: Flowers are given by Teresa and Eric Bernal as an expression of the goodness of God

October 8 - Chancel: given in honor of Pastor Brian's parents, Dennis and Bonnie Symonds, on what would have been their 45th wedding anniversary (October 7). Remembering a legacy of laughter and love! Narthex: Flowers are given with deep gratitude by Saba and Mary Elyousef in appreciation of our entire CPC staff during October staff appreciation month, and also in special recognition of our Pastors, Karen and Brian, on this Pastor appreciation Sunday.

October 15 - given by Pat & Bill Reed in fond memory of our parents, John and Lucile Hawley, Alfred and Helen Reed, and Pat's brother Robert Hawley. Communion Table Rose: was in celebration of a new great-grandson of Nancy Rice! The baby boy is: Jack Andrew Bromley, born to Monica and Ryan Bromley in New York on October 12! Monica is Nancy's granddaughter.

October 22 - given by Bill & Kim Brinegar in commemoration of the October birthdays of John B. Brinegar and Elouise W. Brinegar, beloved and dearly remembered grandparents of Aaron and Eva Lawson and Kyle and Wesley Brinegar.

October 29 - given by Scott Carrington in thoughtful and loving memory of his parents, and our friends, Doug and Judy Carrington. May they remain ever in our hearts. His parents loved to share blooms in abundance.

If you'd like to donate flowers for worship and celebrate all kinds of

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 09/30/2023	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$342,344.62	\$363,753.00
Other Income	\$134,774.53	\$139,487.00
Expenses	-\$544,877.98	-\$540,296.53
Variance	-\$67,758.83	-\$37,056.53
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 09/30/2023	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$904,651.29	\$839,545.00
Expenses	-\$882,332.61	-\$837,580.75
Variance	\$22,318.68	\$1,964.25

exciting special events within our community or within your family by making a donation of a Sunday worship flower arrangement, it's easy! The suggested donation is \$60.00, payable to "CPC Worship Flower Fund." Contact Delight Slostemaker de Bruine and she will take care of all of the arrangements, including dedication, flower colors, and distribution in collaboration with you!

The following Sunday Chancel Worship Flower dates are open:

November 12 (Deacon Red Wheelbarrow-PCUSA Hunger & Homelessness Sunday), November 19 (Alternative Christmas kick-off), and November 26 (Thanksgiving weekend). December 3 (Beginning of Advent) and December 10 (Children's Pageant and Blessing of Adopt-a-Family gifts), December 31 (New Year's Eve)

Narthex flower space is open every Sunday from November 5 through December 10 and December 24 and 31.

Please Lift Up Your Prayers

In praise: Thanks be to God, from whom all blessings flow! We celebrated staff appreciation month, we celebrated the life of CPC on Stewardship Sunday, and we celebrated the life of Delores (Dee) Kelley.

In contemplation: As we reflect upon the theme our Stewardship this year, Open Your Whole Heart: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart" -Jeremiah 29:11-13 NRSV

For those who have died, may God wrap each one left grieving in love and peace: Delores (Dee) Kelley; Phyllis Doebler, Bob Doebler's mother.

For those for whom we wish the gentle soothing grace, wisdom, and comfort of the Holy Spirit as they navigate life at this time: Ann Hanson; Pam and Roger House; Herb & Carlynn Christian; Phoebe Deville; the Gaeta-Symonds family; the Perry family; the Hughes family; Catherine Lin and her mother, Patricia; Sally Lopez's sister, Suzanne; Marcia Reich, her family, brother, and especially her niece; Joyce Alexander, as she requests prayers for healing and no pain; Lisa Blix, Joyce Alexander's niece.

For those living homebound or in retirement facilities: We lift up our prayers of love and support for all of our friends and members in these living communities.

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

Please be assured that your CPC staff, along with your Congregational Care Coordinator and Deacons are praying and caring for each one of you. Please contact Delight 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.

Ways to Give

- Place offerings in offering box in narthex after worship.
- **Check:** We can receive contributions by checks mailed or dropped off at 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 below.
- **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.





COMMUNICATOR

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Deadline for December *Communicator* - November 15

Weekly Online Events

Monday - Friday

9:00 AM - Daily Prayer (Facebook)

Sunday

10:00 AM - Worship (Facebook & Youtube)

Wednesday

4:00 PM - Bible Study (Zoom)

Friday

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

See All That's Happening... For the most up-to-date calendar of events, go to www.claremontpres.org/calendar.



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