



How does a weary world rejoice?

In This Issue...

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Upcoming Worship..... | 2 |
| Star Words..... | 2 |
| Deacon News..... | 2 |
| Alternative Christmas Market..... | 3 |
| Advent Labyrinth Meditation..... | 3 |
| Longest Night Service..... | 3 |
| Christmas Breakfast..... | 3 |
| Christmas Pageant..... | 4 |
| Session Highlights..... | 4 |
| Advent Workshop..... | 4 |
| Estate Giving..... | 4 |
| Christmas Concerts..... | 4 |
| Advent Events Calendar..... | 5 |
| Year End Giving..... | 6 |
| Worship Flowers..... | 6 |
| Financials..... | 6 |
| Prayers..... | 7 |

How Does A Weary World Rejoice?

The classic Christmas hymn, O Holy Night, includes the line “...a thrill of hope—a weary world rejoices!” The world certainly is weary as this Christmas approaches. How exactly does a weary world rejoice? This is the question we will explore this Advent in worship, Bible Study, and personal devotions. We will use resources from A Sanctified Art, a worship resource put together by a group of Presbyterian clergywomen who are also artists, poets, and musicians. The themes for the four weeks of Advent suggest possible answers to this question. How does a weary world rejoice?

We acknowledge our weariness—as did the prophets and poets of scripture

We find joy in connection—as did Mary and Elizabeth

We sing stories of hope—as did Zechariah

We make room—as did the stable in Bethlehem

If you don’t have one already, pick up an Advent devotion in the narthex on Sunday or in the church office during the week. Let us bear one another’s weariness and come together in hope.

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, December 3, 10:00 AM

First Sunday of Advent
Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, December 3, 7:00 PM

Longest Night Service
in the Chapel

—

Sunday, December 10, 10:00 AM

Second Sunday of Advent
Christmas Pageant

—

Sunday, December 17, 10:00 AM

Third Sunday of Advent
Chancel Choir presents: *A Midnight Clear*
cantata

—

Wednesday, December 20, 5:30 PM

The Village Dinner Church

—

Sunday, December 24, 10:00 AM

Family Christmas Eve worship

Sunday, December 24, 5-10:30 PM

Open Luminaria Labyrinth Walk

Sunday, December 24, 9:30 PM

Contemplative Christmas Gathering

Sunday, December 24, 11:00 PM

Lessons and Carols with choir and soloists

—

Sunday, December 31, 10:00 AM

New Year's Eve
Star Words 2024

Advent Bible Study

Wednesdays November 29 and December 6, 13, and 20.

Join us on Zoom each Wednesday to reflect together on the themes, scriptures, and artwork presented in our Advent Devotional booklet, *How Does a Weary World Rejoice*. You can find a booklet in the narthex on Sunday or in the church office during the week. If you would like one mailed to you, please contact the church office. Zoom ID: 862 1883 9113

Advent at the Abbey Retreat Dec. 11-13

There are still a few spots left for our Advent Retreat at Saint Andrew's Abbey in Valyermo. If you are interested, please register by December 3.

Falafel Fundraiser for Displaced Persons in Lebanon

Our mission partners serving churches in southern Lebanon have let us know that they are currently struggling to provide shelter and other necessities to families who have had to leave their homes due to border fighting between Hezbollah and Israel since early October. They have asked for help from the Syria Lebanon partnership of the PCUSA of which CPC is a member.

You can help by enjoying some delicious Falafel sandwiches!

When: December 10 - pick up food at 6 PM at Claremont Presbyterian Church

What: Falafel Sandwiches made by the Kanjo family

How Much: Suggested donation - \$12/Falafel

Reserve your sandwich by contacting John Hill - jb17dc@gmail.com.

If you are planning to attend the Covina Band concert in the sanctuary at 7 PM, you can enjoy your Falafel in the Fellowship Hall before the show.

Star Words for the New Year

Worship on New Year's Eve will include an opportunity to receive a "star word" for the New Year. If you are not able to be present in worship, we will have them available in the narthex and the church office during the following week.

News from our Deacons

The Deacons would like to thank everyone for your generous donations to the Beta Center through our Red Wheelbarrow Sunday. We delivered about 15 bags and some monetary donations. Remember, donations can be made to the Red Wheelbarrow anytime. Our next Red Wheelbarrow Sunday will be in February. THANK YOU!!

The Deacons decorate the Sanctuary every Christmas with poinsettias. Forms for poinsettia donations need to be filled out and turned in by December 6. Donate a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone special to you. Poinsettias may be taken by you after the December 17 service or delivered by the Deacons to a member of our congregation. Forms can be found on the church website at claremontpres.org/poinsettias.

The Deacons greatly appreciate your support!

Adopt-a-Family

As Deacons, we are well on our way toward our goal of providing gift and food cards for seven families through our annual partnership with Uncommon Good. Thank goodness we still have a bit more time to contribute.

This year we are helping "Santa" with seven families consisting of 30

people, 19 of whom are children ranging from 4-18 years of age. These are families with little disposable income whose kids have committed to getting good grades, graduating from high school, and going onto college despite the many challenges that face them. Our goal is to make Christmas a happy time for them by providing a bit of extra money in the form of gift and food cards.

We need your help to do that. The more donations we collect the more we can spread the Christmas joy that is so badly needed in our community. Please donate through the CPC Alternative Christmas Market website.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. We do so appreciate it.

Alternative Christmas Market

The virtual Alternative Christmas Market for CPC is in full swing. You should have received a packet in the mail with descriptions of the various mission partners participating, along with a shopping list and a return envelope. Please send those in at your earliest convenience. If you prefer to shop online go to the ACM page on the church website www.claremontpres.org/acm.

What an easy way to shop for Christmas!

We would like you to complete your shopping by December 10 but will cheerfully receive donations after that date. Please give generously. Because of the lingering effects of the global pandemic these organizations are serving more clients than ever. The need is always there but this year is more severe than ever.

Happy shopping and Merry Christmas!

The CPC Village Christmas Dinner Church

On December 20, 5:30 PM, as we near the close of Advent, come together to experience the Village Christmas Dinner Church. We'll be eating a delicious Christmas meal, hearing the story of the birth of Christ, singing some carols, and decorating cookies. This is a time to share in community with long-time and new friends. Passage for the evening: Luke 2:1-20. Then join us January 17, 2024 to hear from our next guest speaker.

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. Your CPC Village Dinner Church Lead Team: Anjlo & Lubna Ajmal, Shelley Randles, Jenna & Andrew Brooks, Tessa Klarin, Amanda Colclough, and Pastor Brian.

Advent Labyrinth Meditation Rev. Dr. Tina Blair

"But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

The Path In

"We wait, Holy Loving God. The world is dark. We need

your Light! Hear our concerns, our worries, our fears, and our grief."

As you walk, name these areas of darkness in your life and in the world, placing them before our Listening, Loving God.

At the Center

Pause, taking some time for silence. Remember that you stand with God, surrounded by God's love.

The Path Out

"We wait, Holy Loving God. And we trust you. Open our eyes, our minds and our hearts to recognize your work already here. Help us to see your light in our lives."

As you walk, review your concerns and meditate on ways in which God is already laboring in our midst, through circumstances and people. Give thanks for each of these.

Adult Ed – Advent 2023

Adult Ed invites you to participate in quarterly gatherings on Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM before worship. Dec. 3 – A Special Advent Presentation (Sanctuary). The Advent season is a time of great anticipation! This anticipation has been reflected by a heritage of great Advent carols and seasonal music that highlights the excitement of what is to come. Please join us for the Education Hour on Sunday, December 3, as Geri DeMasi shares Advent organ works and interprets Advent carols that capture and express the wonder of the season.

In March, Rev. Dr. Duane Bidwell will share his newest book.

Monday evening Adult Ed classes returns in the new year for a special 2-part series on Aging and Saging, with a special focus on preparing for hospice care. This series will be presented through January and February 2024. Stayed tuned for information on the dates.

Longest Night Service

The Advent tradition of inviting people to come together around the time of the winter solstice, when there are more hours of darkness than light. It's a time to come together for prayers and laments, to mourn the losses and grief of the year, to let the tears flow for the hurting places in our own lives, as well as for our country and our world. It is a safe and sacred space to share anguish, to plead with God to remember us, to pray for justice and restoration, even to hope against hope, through our doubts and tears and fears, that "God will set things right all over the earth." This year's longest night service will be Sunday, December 3, at 7:00 PM in the Chapel.

Annual Christmas Breakfast

Your Evangelism & Nurture Commission is so pleased to be able to once again provide the Annual Christmas Breakfast for our community on Sunday, December 17 beginning at 8:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. This festive gathering which has always warmed our hearts...and our stomachs, is back this Advent season with a way to bring joy, friendship and food. In an effort to add just a bit more holiday spirit we will have special musical

guests.

Let's come together as we ring in the final days before we welcome the birth of the Christ child.

Christmas Pageant Sunday

Our children and youth have a fantastic pageant planned this year during worship on December 10. Amanda Colclough and Heather Chapman, along with many others, have spent the last couple of months planning and preparing to retell the Christmas story, but their plans may not go exactly as they hope. You'll want to be here for this - it will not disappoint. You can be part of this online through the Claremont Presbyterian Church Facebook livestream or in-person in the sanctuary.

For CPC families – Sat, Dec 9, 3:00-5:00 PM (Fellowship Hall) a special CPC family potluck celebration. Watch emails for more information.

October Session Highlights

- Recognized the passing of Delores (Dee) Kelley and the enormous contributions she made to our church, the Children's Center, our financial strength as well as to friends and the broader community.
- Shared the grief of the Doeblen family at the loss of Bob's mother, Phyllis.
- Received the preliminary 2024 CPC budget, noting the increases in expenditures that support our church's goals of outreach, equity and teaching our children and youth.
- Elder Scott Randles shared that the Mission Commission allocated \$1,000 from the Faith Jones memorial fund to Presbyterian Disaster Fund for the Israel/Palestine conflict.
- Reviewed new procedures for serving Communion in the pews.
- Agreed with the Deacons to have Adopt-a-Family serve 7 Uncommon Good families and one CPC family.

Annual Advent Workshop

With Advent on the horizon we look forward to familiar traditions with new flare. One of those traditions is the annual Advent Workshop. On Sunday, December 3, 11:15 AM we will be back in the Fellowship Hall and Angell Courtyard right after the worship service inviting all to participate in making the congregational favorite... Advent Wreaths. We will also have stations for decorating cookies, playing games, pipe cleaner crafts, and a pizza lunch. 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 – however donations are welcome)

First Tuesday Coffee and Conversation

At 9:30 AM on December 5, grab a cup of coffee to go from your favorite Claremont Village coffee shop and join friends in Laemle 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.

The Covina Concert Band Christmas Concert

Join us for a free concert on December 10 at 7:00 PM in CPC's Sanctuary. A free will offering after the concert will support Inland Valley Hope Partners and the activities of the Covina Concert Band, a non-profit organization.

The Covina Concert Band, conducted by Mr. Dan Glass, is made up of professional and talented amateur musicians from southern California. It is the mission of the band to provide opportunities to enrich the musical culture of the local community, provide an environment in which the band members can strive to grow musically, and deliver the joy of music to the community.

Get ready to hear all your favorite Christmas songs from *Jingle Bells* to *Silent Night* and enjoy opportunities to sing along with the band.

Updating Your Estate Plan? Remember the Loaves and Fishes Society

The CPC Special Gifts and Endowment Committee

If updating your estate plan is on your year-end "to do" list, be sure to remember CPC in your planning! The Loaves and Fishes Society, the bequest program here at CPC, provides all of us with an additional way to "give back" to our wonderful Church in response to all that we have received.

The Society was founded in 2008, and presently there are thirty-seven members. You become a member by informing the Church that CPC is included in your estate plans.

Questions? Request a copy of our Bequest Brochure, and the Church will be happy to send one to you. You'll be glad you did – and CPC will be grateful to you.

The San Dimas Brass Ensemble

On December 17 at 7:00 PM, The San Dimas Brass Ensemble will present, "Christmas: The Joy and Spirit, a collection of traditional and original Christmas Music" written and arranged by Sammy Nestico.

The San Dimas Brass Ensemble was formed by Ed Wolfe shortly after his retirement from teaching. The Ensemble gathers once a week to enjoy playing a wide variety of music arranged for brass. The group includes brass players from LA, Orange and San Bernardino counties, many personal friends, and former students of Mr. Wolfe's. It is an outstanding group of professionals playing the finest brass literature written by the

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Nov 29 - 4:00 PM | Advent Bible Study Begins |
| Dec 2 - 6:00 PM | Ornament Exchange at the Millers' |
| Dec 3 - 9:00 AM | Adult Ed with Geri DeMasi, Sanctuary |
| 10:00 AM | Advent 1 |
| 11:00 AM | Advent Workshop |
| 7:00 PM | Longest Night service with the Haven |
| Dec 6 - 4:00 PM | Advent Bible Study |
| Dec 8 - 3:00 PM | Children's Center Christmas Event |
| Dec 9 - 3:00 PM | Pageant Rehearsal and Party |
| Dec 10 - 10:00 AM | Advent 2-Christmas Pageant in Worship |
| 7:00 PM | Covina Concert Band |
| December 11-13 | Retreat at Saint Andrew's Abbey, Valyermo |
| Dec 13 - 4:00 PM | Advent Bible Study |
| Dec 15 | Poinsettia Set Up |
| December 17 - 8:00 AM | Christmas Breakfast |
| 10:00 AM | Advent 3 & Choir Cantata |
| 7:00 PM | San Dimas Brass Ensemble |
| Dec 19 - 7:00 PM | Deacons' Christmas Party |
| Dec 20 - 4:00 PM | Advent Bible Study |
| 5:30 PM | Christmas Dinner Church |
| Dec 24 - 10:00 AM | Advent 4 - Family Christmas Eve Worship |
| 9:30 PM | Contemplative Service in the chapel |
| 8:00 PM | Luminaria Labyrinth Walk |
| 11:00 PM | Lessons and Carols |
| Dec 31 - 10:00 AM | New Years Eve: Stars for 2024 & Congregational Meeting |



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.

Pastor Karen Sapio

Senior Pastor
karensapio@claremontpres.org

Pastor Brian Gaeta-Symonds

Associate Pastor for Outreach
brian@claremontpres.org

Sacha Lord

Children's Center Director
slord@claremontpres.org

Neila Carey

*Administrative Assistant,
 Finance and Personnel*
ncarey@claremontpres.org

Patrick West

Facilities Manager
patrick@claremontpres.org

Delight Slotemaker de Bruine

Congregational Care Coordinator
delight@claremontpres.org

Heather Chapman

Amanda Colclough
*Children & Youth Ministries
 Coordinator*
heather@claremontpres.org
amanda@claremontpres.org

Geri DeMasi

Director of Music, Organist
geri@claremontpres.org

Lisa Strom

Communications Coordinator
lisa@claremontpres.org

Angel Ku

Worship Technician
angel.alfonso.ku@gmail.com

world's finest composers and arrangers.

Sammy Nestico was one of the world's most gifted and versatile composers and arrangers. Sammy was a member of the United States Air Force Band in Washington D.C. for 15 years, serving as staff arranger and leader of the famed Airmen of Note. From 1970 until 1984, Sammy was the composer/arranger for the Count Basie Orchestra, directing the recording of ten albums of original music and garnering four Grammy awards.

Year-End Giving

The CPC Special Gifts and Endowment Committee

Current economic conditions have already required many of us to "go the extra mile," as we strive to fulfill our 2023 pledges and to pledge generously to CPC for 2024. If you are in this group, thank you for your support. For some, however, 2023 may have been a year of unexpected financial good news. If this is true for you, please consider making a special year-end gift to CPC.

A special gift of this type may be unrestricted or restricted. If unrestricted, the Session may choose to use your gift to close our 2023 books on a positive note. If restricted, you may designate your gift to support a particular part of our Church's program and outreach.

You might think of your special gift as a Christmas present to CPC, for all that our Church means to you and to each of us. An added bonus: if your gift is made by December 31, it may help reduce your 2023 income taxes – a win/win situation! Thank you.

Worship Flowers

We wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to the below individuals for generously sharing and donating worship flowers to enhance our worship space. What a wonderful way to get to know one another as we celebrate together and as we remember special dates together with our friends!

October 29: Narthex flowers were given by the Kelley family in honor of and in memory of Delores (Dee Kelley).

November 5: by Sharron Bentley in loving memory and in honor of her husband, Bill Bentley on his birthday, November 9.

November 12: by a veteran amongst us to all Veterans - thank you for your service, dedication and love of country. All gave some - some gave all because freedom is never free.

| CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 10/31/2023 | ACTUAL | BUDGET |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Pledges | \$384,790.02 | \$404,170.00 |
| Other Income | \$140,772.69 | \$149,430.00 |
| Expenses | -\$603,783.03 | -\$602,145.05 |
| Variance | -\$78,220.32 | -\$48,545.05 |
| CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 10/31/2023 | ACTUAL | BUDGET |
| Revenue | \$995,746.21 | \$933,050.00 |
| Expenses | -\$972,091.71 | -\$931,276.00 |
| Variance | \$23,654.50 | \$1,774.00 |

November 19: by the Bernals in the double celebration of Teresa and Eric Bernal's 40th wedding anniversary and Eric's 74th birthday on this very day!

November 26: given in loving memory of John & Frances Barham and Ralph & Leora Hill, parents of Brenda Barham Hill and John Hill.

Worship flower donation dates available. If you would like to donate flowers to enhance our worship space and experience, the following dates are open for both the Sanctuary and the Narthex: December 10, January 7, 14, 21, and 28. The cost, made payable to: "CPC flower fund," is \$60. Please contact Delight Slotemaker de Bruine.

Please Lift Up Your Prayers

In gratitude: we continue to celebrate the vibrant life of CPC with our whole hearts!; we share with one another within our CPC community the awesome brilliance as we follow the Star in wondrous anticipation of the birth of our promised Saviour, who is Christ the Lord!

In contemplation: May we continue to be in prayer and thoughtful consideration as we seek to discern how we might be called to follow and to serve Christ with our whole hearts, remembering as Christ teaches us "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed, you were called in one body. And be thankful." Colossians 3:15 NRSV

For those who have died, may God wrap each one left grieving in love, grace and peace: Ted Marchant, Wilma's husband; Dennis Symonds, Pastor Brian's father; Delores (Dee) Kelley; Phyllis Doebler, Bob Doebler's mother.

For healing and recovery: Saba Elyousef

For those for whom we wish the gentle soothing grace, peace, wisdom, and comfort of the Holy Spirit as they navigate life at this time: the Symonds family; Pam and Roger House; Herb & Carlynn Christian; Phoebe Deville; 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, Wendy, now in hospice; Lisa Blix, Joyce Alexander's niece.

For living transitions: Joyce Alexander, who has moved to a board and care facility following a fall in which she broke her hip. She requests prayers for healing.

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. You are remembered.

For all of those who may experience loneliness and/or depression as the holidays approach: May you be blessed by an unfathomable peace, even if for a moment. May you take strength in "just doing the next thing."

We also lift up all of those who remain unnamed here, but whose names and spirits are held deeply 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.

Stay Up to Date!

Subscribe to *the Latest* by going to claremontpres.org and scrolling to the bottom of the page. Here you can enter your e-mail and begin receiving our weekly email with all the most recent events and information.

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.
- **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

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1111 N MOUNTAIN AVE
CLAREMONT, CA 91711

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
CLAREMONT, CA
PERMIT NO. 131

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Deadline for January Communicator - December 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.



claremontpres.org



[claremontpres](https://www.facebook.com/claremontpres)



[claremont_pres](https://www.instagram.com/claremont_pres)



[giving](#)