



April 5, 2020

Being the Church During the Pandemic

“Behold, I am Doing a New Thing..” said God, through the prophet Isaiah. Claremont Presbyterian Church leaders have taken strength and comfort in this scripture text through the last two weeks. The sudden eruption of a global pandemic into the lives of our community and our church has required us to adapt to new ways of being church and doing ministry very, very quickly! Here are some examples:

- Pastor Karen and Pastor Brian have been leading Morning and Evening Prayer each day through Facebook Live on our CPC Facebook Page. Sunday worship was on FB Live as well.
- Music Director Geri DeMasi has been posting daily “**Quarantine Interludes**” — piano music to brighten your day.
- Pastor Brian has been posting Godly Play Sunday stories for our church families on the newly established Claremont Presbyterian Church YouTube channel.
- Pastor Karen has moved our weekly Lenten Bible Study to the ZOOM video conferencing platform. Last **Wednesday’s gathering had a great discussion.**
- Our Session also conducted its March meeting on ZOOM—as did our Education and Leadership Committee.
- Our Deacons have been calling everyone in their parish to check in and be sure everyone is safe and well.
- Our pastors also have been making calls — and doing socially distanced pastoral visits. The pastor stands at the end of your driveway while you stand on your front porch so you can have conversation at a safe distance.
- Our new labyrinth is getting lots of use by many Claremonters as walking outdoors is one of the only activities not banned by the quarantine order.
- **While the “Stay at Home” order means our staff is** working mostly from home, our custodian, Jose Colemenares, is on site daily. He is keeping an eye on our building and grounds for safety and security — and

using the time to do some deep cleaning and many repairs that he never has time for during the busy schedule of our normal operations.

- Sunday Coffee Hour has also moved to ZOOM! It was so good to see familiar faces and hear how our various **households are handling “lock down”.**

See information included elsewhere in this newsletter for how to access the various online platforms mentioned above.

The pandemic and the anxiety and suffering it brings are certainly unwelcome, but we are learning so much so fast! We are stretching and growing in ways that we hope will continue to bear fruit long after this crisis has passed.

Karen Sapio

Observing Holy Week and Celebrating Easter

Your pastors and church leaders are getting creative about possibilities for observing Holy Week and celebrating Easter while we cannot gather at church. **Here’s what we have so far:**

Palm Sunday and Easter Worship will be streamed on Facebook Live.

Maundy Thursday Worship will include participation through a ZOOM meeting at 7:00 PM. Watch **social media and “The Latest” for the link.**

Good Friday will include a guide for a Good Friday Labyrinth Walk and a 2:00 PM video reflection on the Stations of the Cross.

Because we will not be gathering in our Sanctuary for **Easter, we have reduced our Easter lily order from Corey’s** nursery significantly. However, we will still have a limited **number of lilies available for “contactless delivery.”** If you know someone who is particularly isolated or struggling during this crisis, let one of the pastors know.

How to Give When There's No Offering Plate

Even as economic uncertainty looms, our church family remains faithful and generous. A number of you have asked how you can continue your regular giving to CPC.

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 QR code in the bottom corner of this page.
- Autopay from your checking account: Your bank should be able to help you set up an electronic payment directly to CPC.

Our staff is not in the building, but they are still working! Our ministries have shifted, but they continue in new forms. Your continued generosity will enable our church to sustain its work and witness amidst this crisis and in the changed world that will emerge from it.

Ways to Help

One of the most frustrating aspects of this crisis is that many the normal channels we engage to serve and help others are blocked. Here are some ideas of ways to serve while staying at home:

Pomona Valley Hospital is seeking donations of basic supplies. For more information, go to pvhmc.org/patients-visitors/the-coronavirus-covid-19-/donate-supplies

Write notes and letters! Revive this lost art by sending notes of support to

- Single people, (young or old), who are alone right now
- Parents of young children working from home while homeschooling
- College students unexpectedly home due to campus closure
- Doctors, nurses, and First Responders
- City Council members and other elected officials making hard decisions right now
- Those you know who have lost jobs or income due to closures.
- Consider including a grocery gift card if there is immediate need and you are in a position to do so.

Ordering delivery of meals, groceries or other necessities? Leave an encouraging note on your doorstep

for the hard-working delivery driver.

Refugees and asylum seekers are particularly vulnerable at this time. For more information on efforts to assist them, contact Kristi Van Nostran:

kristi.vannostran@gmail.com

Online Offerings to Keep Us Connected

On Facebook:

- Godly Play, Sunday, 9:00 AM
- Quarantine Prelude, Sunday, 9:30 AM
- Live Sunday Worship, 10:00 AM
- Live Morning Prayer, Monday-Saturday, 8:00 AM
- Evening Prayer, posted daily, 5:00 PM
- Quarantine Interlude, Monday-Saturday, 11:30 AM

On Zoom:

- Sunday Coffee & Chat, 10:45 AM
- Lenten Bible Study (though April 8), Wednesday, 5:30 PM
- Young Adult Gathering, Sunday, 6:00 PM

On YouTube:

- Godly Play, Sundays, 9:00 AM
- Godly Play, Thursday, 10:00 AM
- Storytime, Friday, 10:00 AM

Head over to claremontpres.org/covid19-response to find links and tutorials to connect to any of these platforms.

Young Adult Gatherings

Catch up with your friends and meet new ones on our Young Adults Zoom Gatherings. You'll want to grab some food and beverage and then cozy up to your computer/laptop/phone while we go around checking-in with each other and sharing our responses to an icebreaker question. Find us on Sundays at 6:00PM on Zoom - zoom.us/j/526484050



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