



From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Even as we live through our second month under a “Stay at Home” order, we can say, “God is good!” Even as we get restless, even as we experience financial difficulties or family pressures, we remember that, as God has been with our ancestors in similar circumstances, God is with us. When the rain stopped after 40 days, Noah and his family must have thought their ordeal was almost over--but Genesis 8 reports that it was another 150 days until the flood waters subsided enough for the ark to rest on dry ground.

When the Hebrew people crossed the Red Sea to freedom from Pharaoh, they danced and sang with joy. But Exodus tells us that they wandered in the wilderness for **40 years before reaching the Land of God’s Promises.**

After the stunning revelations of Easter morning, Jesus followers knew that the world had changed, but they waited 50 days until the Holy Spirit arrived at Pentecost to give them a true direction and purpose.

So it is with us. We are eager for this ordeal to be over. We know that life may never be the same. And we are waiting. Waiting, learning, seeking, and praying for God to show us the way. While we wait we care for one another, we reach out to those in need, we speak out on behalf of **the vulnerable, and we explore new ways of being Christ’s church.** On every step of this journey, God is present with us.

Keep the faith, reach out to brothers and sisters of faith, speak out for the powerless.

Christ’s Peace be with you.

Pastor Karen Sapio

Horizons Bible Study

The final Horizons Bible Study on *Love Carved In Stone --a Look at the 10 Commandments*, will take place at 9:30 AM on May 12 via Zoom. If you would like to participate, please email Pastor Karen Sapio at karensapio@claremontpres.org and she will send you the link for the meeting.

Letters to Graduates

With the school campuses all closing down for the remainder of this academic year, we can certainly appreciate all the milestone moments that many of our graduates will be missing out on such as Grad night, the BIG DAY ceremony, senior sit-in day, orientation days, saying goodbye to friends, parties, and many more.

As they fight on to finish this year strong let’s flood their mailboxes with notes and letters of encouragement, love, and support. If you would like to send a note or letter, please let the office staff or your pastors know and we will be sure to get you mailing addresses.

Let’s show them how much we care about them and are thinking of them.

Honoring Graduates

While it is unclear whether we will be able to gather in person for worship in June, we still want to honor our new graduates. If you have a family member graduating from high school, college or graduate school, please email that information to Pastor Brian Gaeta-Symonds at brian@claremontpres.org.

Youth Sunday

On May 10, the CPC youth along with Pastor Brian will be **leading worship on Facebook Live.** You won’t want to miss the youth bringing this Sunday’s message, “What the 11 Saw.”

Upcoming Worship

During the Sundays of Eastertide (April 19-May 24) we will continue our 2020 Vision theme of looking at the world through the various lenses in scripture. In May we will consider what we see when we look at the world through the eyes of those who encountered the resurrected Christ.

Sunday, May 3, 10:00 AM
Fourth Sunday of Easter
John 20:24-29
“What Thomas Saw”

Sunday, May 3, 7:00 PM
Evening Prayer for Healing and Wholeness

Sunday, May 10, 10:00 AM
Fifth Sunday of Easter (Youth Sunday)
Matthew 28:16-20
“What the 11 Saw”

Sunday, May 17, 10:00 AM
Sixth Sunday of Easter
John 21:1-14
“What Peter Saw”

Sunday, May 24, 10:00 AM
Ascension Sunday
Acts 1
“What the Apostles Saw”

Sunday, May 31, 10:00 AM
Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21
“What the Pilgrims Saw”

While we all miss gathering in the sanctuary, we are discovering new ways to worship as we gather online. To find us Sunday mornings at 10 AM join us on Facebook live: [facebook.com/claremontpres](https://www.facebook.com/claremontpres) (no Facebook account is needed to view our live videos).

Waffle Church on Zoom

On May 17 at 10:00 AM, make your own waffles or pancakes and gather together for an exciting and engaging experience for children and their families as we explore what Peter saw in Jesus. Barbara MacKenzie will provide a couple of tutorials in the days prior on how to make pancakes or waffles. Catch the videos on our YouTube channel - Claremont Presbyterian Church.

Vacation Bible School Update

We want to make sure that your VBS experience is one that is meaningful, fun, and safe. Considering that due to COVID-19 schools are closed through the end of this academic year your Education & Leadership Commission has decided to move VBS to mid/late August. While we are still uncertain of the dates, we are working on making sure your children will be offered an exciting, engaging, and creative faith-based experience this summer.

All Church Campout Going Viral...

Join us May 23-25 for a virtual campout on Zoom. Pastor Brian and many others are planning morning and afternoon devotionals, 2 nights of bonfire camp services, and a closing ceremony. You are encouraged to set up your tent in your backyard or living room, grab your sleeping bags and pillows, plan campfire meals and snacks, and create a camping experience for your family in your home – one that you will be sure to never forget. And, there is no cost to you.

If you are interested in signing up, and want to make sure you get your campers guide, please email Pastor Brian – brian@claremontpres.org.

Adult Education

On May 12, 3:30 PM, join in on Zoom for a discussion of *Dark Waters*, the exciting film based on the article “The Lawyer Who Became DuPont’s Worst Nightmare,” by Nathaniel Rich (found in the *New York Times Magazine*).

As we celebrate Earth Day’s 50th Anniversary this year (April 22), let’s together take a look at one example of an environmental travesty. The film can be found on the following streaming apps: *AppleTV*, *FlixFling*, *Vudu*, and *Fandango Now*.

And then, watch for more opportunities for Adult Education discussions.

Evening Prayer for Healing and Wholeness

On May 3 at 7:00 PM we will gather for a Zoom worship service of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness. If you would like to participate, look for the link on our church website, *the Latest*, or email Pastor Karen Sapio.

What I Saw at the Resurrection: An Easter-tide Bible Study

In many ways, what the disciples of Jesus experienced during the days and weeks that followed Easter Morning is something like we are experiencing now. The world has changed, but it's unclear what that is supposed to mean or what they are supposed to do about it.

On Wednesdays, April 22-May 27, at 4:00 PM on Zoom, Pastor Karen will lead a weekly bible study on the resurrection appearances of Jesus. We'll be using a variety of resources, so there is no book to purchase. It will be helpful to have your bible with you when you log on.

April 22	What Cleopas and his Friend Saw	Luke 24: 13-49
April 29	What Thomas Saw	John 20: 19-31
May 6	What The Disciples Saw	Matthew 28: 16-20
May 13	What Peter Saw	John 21: 1-14
May 20	What the Apostles Saw	Acts 1
May 27	What the Pilgrims Saw	Acts 2

Check for the Zoom link on our Church website or email Pastor Karen at karensapio@claremontpres.org and she will email it to you.

✦ IN MEMORIAM ✦

Wanda Maxine Ross - April 9, 2020

Brad Blaine - April 14, 2020

CPC by the Numbers

CPC AS OF 3/31/20	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$107,317.72	\$117,498.00
Other Income	\$18,865.51	\$27,121.98
Expenses	<u>-\$138,069.04</u>	<u>-\$149,715.91</u>
VARIANCE	-\$11,885.81	-\$5,095.93
CPC AS OF 3/31/20	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$220,509.06	\$227,434.98
Expenses	<u>-\$231,853.59</u>	<u>-\$227,434.71</u>
VARIANCE	-\$11,344.53	\$0.27
Easter Lilies Delivered		53
Views of Easter Online Worship		424*
Morning & Evening Prayer Devotions		60*
Quarantine Interludes		30*
Passion Narrative Readers		15
Average Attendance for Zoom Coffee Hour		27 households
Amount Donated to IVHP for Increased Needs		\$1600
Families Participating in Empty Tomb Story		8

*and counting...

This Is How I Do Quasi-Quarantine! A CPC Photo Project

Have you been waiting for your opportunity to shine? Wanting to show off your best quarantine self? Well, this is your time! Your congregation and friends are curious as to how you spend your days in quasi-quarantine. **Maybe you're serious, maybe you're super silly, or just maybe you're** somewhere in between. Send Pastor Brian (brian@claremontpres.org) your best creative photo of how you do quasi quarantine or post it to Instagram using the hashtag #CPCQQ. If there are others in your **home include them in the fun. Let's make** this the best photo montage yet.

Submissions will be collected May 1-15.

Community Yoga with Joanna Lord

Join Joanna Lord for Community Yoga every Thursday from 5:45-6:45 PM on Zoom! This class is an all-levels Vinyasa style class that combines some restorative practices with breath to movement asanas, or linked postures. Explore a range of movement and breathing practices—from calming reclined postures to active standing poses, as you find strength, balance, and connection from the inside out. Suggested equipment/props: yoga mat, wall space, yoga block or stack of books, blanket/towel, yoga strap/belt, and chair.

Please contact instructor at joannalailord@gmail.com if you have any injuries or conditions or have any questions. Please listen to your own body and adjust accordingly!

Stay Up to Date

Visit claremontpres.org/covid19-response to find all the links you need to participate in our many online activities. You will also find devotions, quarantine ideas, and any worship related news.

COMMUNICATOR



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Deadline for the June *Communicator*: May 17

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.
- AND NOW Zelle: Send money through your bank or the Zelle app. Send your money to: giving@claremontpres.org

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.

Parents of Young Adults Group

We are continuing our support group for parents of young adults. Gather with others in a safe place to share your experiences. Thursday, May 7 at 8:00 PM on Zoom.



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