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From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

As I write this, the roses are blooming outside my window reminding me how many weeks have passed since the COVID-19 crisis blew into our lives during the rainy final week of winter. And even though nearly ten weeks have passed, it is still not clear how long it will be until we can gather together to worship, pray, and serve together on our church campus, or in face-to-face ways in our community.

Though we cannot set a date, the CPC Session and other church leaders are discussing a process and protocols for moving forward. In this we are following these guiding standards.

1. We will comply with the directives of the Center for Disease Control and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. We will not resume public gatherings until advised by these bodies that it is permissible to do so. If there is a difference between the guidance from CDC and LA County DPH, we will follow the guidance of the county as that will be most nearly focused on current, local conditions.
2. When gatherings do resume, we will follow Health Department requirements regarding wearing masks, maintaining social distance, providing hand sanitizing stations, and sanitation of public spaces.
3. We will ask our community to be mindful of Health Department recommendations that those over 60 or with underlying health issues avoid public gatherings.
4. We will invest in equipment and training to ensure that we can live stream worship and other events taking place on campus so that those choosing to stay home can continue to access and participate in those events.

There are other things to consider as well: recommendations against serving and sharing food, singing together in enclosed spaces, or passing objects from hand to hand--such as hymnals or offering plates.

We are also dreaming of creative solutions to some of these barriers: outdoor worship gatherings, BYOCH (Bring Your Own Coffee Hour), virtual choir collaborations, and Staycation Bible School designed for families to enjoy at home. We remember that, throughout its history, the Church of Jesus Christ has been led by the Holy Spirit to adapt to changing circumstances and unexpected challenges. We are grateful for the ways we have continued to hear and live the gospel during our current crisis.

(Continued on page 2)

Upcoming Worship

(all worship services are accessible through Facebook live unless otherwise noted)

Sunday, June 7, 10:00 AM
Trinity Sunday - Celebration of Graduates

“What The Believers Saw”

Acts 2:37-47

Brian Gaeta-Symonds preaching

Sunday, June 14, 10:00 AM

“What Stephen Saw”

Acts 6:8—8:1

Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, June 14, 7:00 PM

Evening Prayer for Healing and Wholeness on Zoom

Sunday, June 21, 10:00 AM

“What Philip Saw”

Acts 8:26-40

Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, June 28, 10:00 AM

“What Gamaliel Saw”

Acts 5:17-40

Karen Sapio preaching

Please continue to consult our church website (www.claremontpres.org), Facebook page, weekly e-newsletter (*the Latest*), and YouTube channel for updates on opportunities to worship, learn, serve, and connect in the coming weeks and months.

Peace Be with You!



Evening Prayer for Healing and Wholeness

On Sunday, June 14, at 7:00 PM, join us for a Zoom worship service to pray for ourselves, loved ones, our community, and our world.

During Zoom worship, we can see one another's faces on the screen as we share prayer concerns and pray together. We can listen together to contemplative music to center our thoughts and intentions. We can read scripture together to focus our hearts on the Holy Spirit working among us. We encourage those who plan to participate to have a candle with them. We will light them together to kindle the flame of hope and compassion in our hearts.

To participate, log onto zoom.us with Meeting ID 884 1584 3264.

How Can We Keep From Singing?

During Quarantine, the choir cannot gather to practice and we cannot gather **in the sanctuary to hear them leading us in song and prayer. But you can't keep a good choir down!** Geri De Masi and budding sound engineer, John Watts, from our Worship Commission, are exploring ways to make music using online recording software. Choir members — and other singers — record their parts separately at home, send those recordings to John, and he layers the recordings using software designed to create virtual choirs. Our first two virtual choir videos premiered during worship on Sunday, May 17. If you **missed them, they are available on Claremont Presbyterian Church's YouTube channel:** www.youtube.com/channel/UCGekp7NBF0iKEWmt47zs1pA (or **simply go to YouTube and search “Claremont Presbyterian Church”**).

The choir plans to continue making music in this manner going forward. Anyone can participate from any location! If you would like to be part of the next project, contact Director of Music, Geri DeMasi, at gdemasi@att.net.

Jazz Vespers on Facebook Live

On June 21, 7:00 PM our beloved Jazz Vespers moves online, offering music, readings and reflections to help center, inspire, and heal our community during these difficult times. The Ron Kobayashi Trio along with vocalist Deb Ebert offer their musical gifts, while CPC members and friends offer the readings and reflections. Find us live streaming on the Claremont Presbyterian Church Facebook page: facebook.com/claremontpres/

13th Annual Special Gifts and Bequests Sunday

The Special Gifts and Endowment Committee is delighted to announce that the 13th Annual Special Gifts and Bequests Sunday will take place on Sunday, June 21. There will be lots to celebrate – be sure to tune into the service on Facebook Live!

Pastor Karen and her crew will be using the visual opportunities offered by this mode of communication to honor the generosity and outreach of the CPC community. Recent gifts to CPC of time, talent, and financial resources include:

1. The work of an ad hoc Task Force in obtaining a Federal Paycheck Protection Plan loan for the benefit of employees of **CPC and our Children’s Center**.
2. The establishment of a separate Fund to provide additional aid to **Children’s Center employees**.
3. Significant payments and prepayments by CPC members and friends on their 2020 pledges.
4. Receipt of several generous bequests.

The June 21 service will also recognize the 31 people who are the members of our Loaves and Fishes Society. This is the bequest society of CPC and is sponsored by the Special Gifts and Endowment Committee.

The current members of the Loaves and Fishes Society are:

Sharron Bentley	Taylor Klingerman
Eric Bernal	Joanne McCandless
Teresa Bernal	Paula Pitzer
Doris Chambers	Janet Siedschlag
Susanne Christian	Kathleen Sigtenhorst
David Colclough	Pieter Sigtenhorst
Jo Colclough	Betty Springer
John Connelly	Stan Springer
Geri DeMasi	Marjorie Stoddard
Jane Douglass	Carol Stubblebine
Frank Hungerford	Craig Stubblebine
Delores Kelley	Roger Swartz
Robbin Kelley	Kent Warner
Jeanne Kennedy	Teddie Warner
Charles Kerchner	Dorothy Whitham
Leanne Kerchner	

So, lots of good news, even as we all are still working hard to keep CPC and its outreach programs vigorous and strong during the current pandemic. Join us on Sunday, June 21, as we continue the journey!

-The Special Gifts and Endowment Committee

Online Bible Study Continues

Our 2020 Vision Sermon Series continues in June with “What the Church Saw: Stories for Acts”.

To accompany this series, the Wednesday afternoon Bible study continues with “Acts: Catching Up With the Spirit.” This study will explore the book of Acts with the aid of the book, *Acts: Catching Up With the Spirit* by Matthew Skinner. This book explores six key themes that illustrate the ways in which reading Acts can ignite our imaginations about the nature of the gospel, the work of the church, and the challenges of living faithfully in a complex world. The book is available through Amazon and other booksellers in both paperback and e-book formats.

To participate, log on to zoom.us with meeting ID 862 1883 9113 on June 3, 10, 17, 24 and July 1 and 8.

If you need assistance accessing the Zoom platform, please contact Pastor Karen in advance for some coaching!

Patio Pictures

The Education and Leadership Commission invites you to help decorate the church patio with chalk words of encouragement or pictures. Beginning on Saturday, June 6, there will be paper bags with chalk on the patio by the sanctuary door. Take one and have your family draw or write on the patio or the sidewalk east of the church.



Deacons and Friends Share Hope and Joy on Mother's Day

In the days leading up to **Mother's Day on May 10**, our Deacons and assistants delivered over 100 carnations to women in our church and community. They delivered carnations to parents doing quarantine with young children, to women living in locked-down retirement communities, and to women living alone. Some were mothers, others were those who have nurtured children and youth in other ways during their lives. Thank you to Delight Slotemaker de Bruine, Irene Atwood, Betty Pinkerton and Susan Starr for making these deliveries.



Youth & Young Adult Sunday

Disruption and dismay seem to be the words that best describe the state of all of our lives these days and this includes the young people in our lives and in our homes. May 10 offered some semblance of normalcy as it was Youth & Young Adult Sunday. Eight young people joined Karen, Geri, and me to offer a creative service.

Several of our college age young adults and some youth prerecorded segments of the service, one young adult brought a personal touch to the Time with the Children, and then a couple of our youth joined me for the sermon discussion. The two youth shared with me about how their whole lives seemed to disappear in a weekend. Much of their days used to be spent in class and on campuses with thousands of other people their age, and then WHAM! just like that they lost all of that community. The adjustment has been difficult and they face it with resilience and mature strength. They also shared that they plan on bringing compassion and care back with them into their community as they emerge from behind the closed doors of their homes. People will be nervous and cautious, and they want to make sure that they follow their faith and the example of Christ by offering peace.

Those who participated were Linda Luschei, Andrew Marks, Alejandro Salas, Thomas Randles, Ben Bidwell, Nathan Gaeta-Symonds, Frankie Valenzuela, and Thalia Salter.

Thank you to the CPC Youth & Young Adults!
Pastor Brian

Congregational Meeting, Wednesday, June 24, 7:00 PM

Mark your calendars for an historic occasion: Claremont Presbyterian Church's very first online congregational meeting. The COVID-19 Stay-at-Home order interrupted the good work of our CPC Nominating Committee and prevented us from having our originally scheduled congregation meeting on April 19 to elect church officers. Our outgoing officers generously agreed to continue serving until a congregational meeting took place.

It appears that it will be some time until we can gather in person, however we have been advised by Presbytery that it is possible to conduct a congregational meeting online in an emergency situation. Therefore, Pastor Karen will be requesting that Session call a congregational meeting for Wednesday, June 24 at 7:00 PM—the same night as our June Session meeting. We will be using the Zoom platform to conduct the meeting. Participants may join that evening by logging on to zoom.us with meeting ID 852 3811 7711 starting at 6:45 PM.

Because we want everyone to be able to participate fully, we will hold a "Zoom Practice Session" for those who are unfamiliar with using this platform. If you would like to participate in this training, please contact Pastor Karen at karensapio@claremontpres.org.

Adult Ed Moves Online

In May, for the first time, CPC's Adult Education group met virtually on Zoom for a spirited discussion of the environmentally themed film "Dark Waters."

Participants also talked about the *New York Times* article used as a basis for the film, titled "The Lawyer Who Became DuPont's Worst Nightmare." The article and movie tell the story of Rob Bilott, a lawyer at a conservative Cincinnati law firm, whose career turns from defending chemical companies to suing DuPont for contaminating groundwater and a farm in West Virginia with a toxic chemical known as PFOA. Participants discussed the apparent lack of a moral underpinning in DuPont's corporate behavior and what steps could be taken to shape individual and corporate moral behaviors in the future.

The forum closely followed the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day, on April 22, 1970. CPC's Adult Education team is now planning its next topical discussion, possibly pandemic-related. Stay tuned!



Rocky Mountain Railway

The VBS train is coming down the tracks...ARE YOU READY? Three year olds though 5th graders can join us on Wednesdays and Sundays from July 1 - August 2.

Vacation Bible School is taking on a whole new itinerary this summer. Climb aboard for the scenic route. A VBS package will be provided every week over the course of 5 weeks. The package will be for each household, which will include engaging stories, lessons, crafts, snacks, and activities for the week. Wednesdays we will gather on Zoom to hear from Pastor Brian and others and sing some fun songs. Then on Sundays we will get back together on Zoom for a share out of what we just learned.

VBS was previously an experience of 5 days packed into one week. This year we are offering 1 day each week over the course of five weeks. And, we are strongly encouraging all families to register on the website if you have any passengers interested in climbing aboard:
www.claremontpres.org/vbs

Upcoming Adult Education Opportunities

The reality of pandemics is on everybody's mind at the moment for very obvious reasons. We know that some really want to engage in conversation about it, and others may want to and don't know how and/or are not yet ready because they are still grieving or healing. Join us for the following Adult Ed Forum 3-Part Series:

Discussion 1

Tuesday, June 30, 7:00 PM on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 828 5334 6400. Pandemic: An Historical Exploration—facilitated by Jared Farmer.

Purchase the book *Pale Rider* by Laura Spinney. Available at many online book retailers and watch the following recommended streaming documentaries: *Coronavirus: Explained* (on Netflix) & *Influenza of 1918* (On Amazon Prime)

Discussion 2

Tuesday, July 21, 7:00 PM on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 856 3056 7684.

Pandemic: The Ethics of Dying and Death—Facilitator TBD.

Several news articles will be made available in early July.

Discussion 3

Pandemic: Fatigue and Mental Health.

More information coming soon.

Watch for announcements about Adult Education programming in "The Latest" weekly email, the *Communicator*, Facebook, and on the church website.

To be added to the Adult Ed email list, contact Elaine Walker—
ewconnects@gmail.com.



The *Communicator* is published monthly (except in summer) by Claremont Presbyterian Church. Submissions are subject to editing for content and length. To submit an article or item for the monthly calendar, please contact the church office by the 15th of the month by telephone at (909) 624-9693 or email: lisa@claremontpres.org.

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News from CPCC

As everywhere else for the past ten weeks, it's been very different at the Children's Center. Usually, there are play yards and classrooms filled with the sounds of children every day, and now it's been quiet. I've kept very busy, however, as there has been much to consider and work on, and many decisions to be made.

At the May commission meeting of the Children's Center, looking towards re-opening the center, it was decided to send a survey to parents regarding their plans for registration and feelings about attendance in the summer and the fall. Pastor Brian and two CPCC parents, Chris Cortez-Hernandez and Elizabeth Webb, volunteered to create and send out the survey and we are now reviewing the first responses. At the commission meeting, it was also decided to form a Re-opening Feasibility Task Force. This group, chaired by Brian Gaeta-Symonds, and with Barb MacKenzie, Stuart Lillich, Gabriela Rodriguez, and myself, is assigned with shaping the process of re-opening of the Children's Center. The survey results, as well as meetings with teachers, will help inform decisions around when to re-open CPCC.

As you can see, we've been busy! Teachers are working remotely and are staying connected with children and families. Session and CPC members, CPCC parents and commission members, and the CPC pastors and I are committed to retaining staff and to reopening CPCC when it is safe and responsible to do so.

The teachers have started to come back into the classrooms and yards to do cleaning, painting, and sprucing up as they work to create an environment that adheres to the recommended safety protocols, while still being inviting and comfortable for children. We are not sure when we will re-open CPCC, whether it will be early summer or later in the summer, but I do know that I look forward to seeing the children, families, and teachers, and to hear their voices again.

-Sacha Lord

CPC by the Numbers

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 4/30/20	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$181,138.83	\$176,362.54
Other Income	\$84,684.00	\$16,464.00
Expenses	<u>-\$201,096.21</u>	<u>-\$198,787.88</u>
VARIANCE	\$64,726.62	-\$5,961.34
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 4/30/20	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$241,122.00	\$303,246.64
Expenses	<u>-\$306,144.19</u>	<u>-\$303,246.28</u>
VARIANCE	-\$65,022.19	\$0.36

Congratulations Graduates

Graduates from the Busy Bees class (Pre-K)

Averie Ceja
William Dingwall
August Eagerton (grandparents are CPC members Kathy and Ron)
Adeline Hernandez (mom is Ms. Monique)
Hannah Klarin
Aaron Loumagne
Addison Moran
Noah Rodriguez (parents are Matt and Gabby)
Chloe Sun
Kenny Tanaka
Daxton Taylor
Kellan Trueman
Evan Wright

Graduates from El Roble Intermediary School

Andrew Marks
Continuing on to Claremont High School
Son of Stephen and Litha Marks

Trayvon Salter
Continuing on to Claremont High School
Son of Brenda Pintado

High School Graduates

Nathan Cushman - Bonita High School
Continuing on to Institute of Culinary Education in Pasadena
Grandson of Carol West

Raquel Arenas - International Polytechnic High School
Continuing on to University of California, Riverside

CPC Children's Ministry Intern

Dillon Lopez - Claremont High School
Continuing on to California State University, Fullerton
Son of Damon and Sally Lopez

Victor Ramirez - San Antonio High School
Continuing on to Cypress College
Nephew of Brian and Gilbert Gaeta-Symonds

Mason Chapman - San Antonio High School
Entering the Workforce
Son of Jared and Heather Chapman

Haley Hope Yarborough - Bishop Union High School (Co-Valedictorian)
Continuing on to University of Montana, Davidson Honors College
Niece of Janet Yarborough

College Graduates

Nancy Jung - Smith College, BA Biology
Daughter of Jae Min and Kyungah Jung
Clayton Becker - Columbia University, BA-Economics/Political Science
SciencesPo, BA-General Social Science (concentration in International Law)
Son of Karen Sapio and Tony Becker

Alexandria Kindle - Roger Williams University, BA-Communications
Granddaughter of Sandra and Buie Kindle

Jacen Doebler - Oregon State University, Bachelor of Fine Arts
Son of Tracy and Robert Doebler

Jeffrey Doebler - Citrus College, AA-Social & Behavioral Sciences (Dec. 2019)
Son of Tracy and Robert Doebler

Grad School Graduates

Patrick Bernal - Biola University, MA-Christian Apologetics
Son of Eric and Teresa Bernal

Children's Center – Staff Graduates

Clarisabel Butman - High School Graduate
Ms. Lulu

Ashley Sutphin - High School Graduate
Ms. Lacey

Demmo Zeleke - High School Graduate
Ms. Saba Alemayehu

Brianna Flores - Cal Poly Pomona
Ms. Silvia

Sarah Mohajeri - Completed Medical Residency from UCLA Medical Center
Ms. Tooran Moghaddam

COMMUNICATOR



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Deadline for the July *Communicator*: June 15

Weekly Online Events

Sunday

- 9:30 AM Godly Play (Facebook)
- 10:00 AM Worship (Facebook)
- 10:45 AM Coffee Hour (Zoom)
- 6:00 PM Young Adult Gathering (Zoom)

Tuesday

- 9:00 AM Story Time (YouTube)

Wednesday

- 4:00 PM Bible Study (Zoom)

Thursday

- 5:45 PM Community Yoga (Zoom)

Daily (except during Sunday Worship)

- 8:00 AM Morning Prayer
- 11:30 AM Quarantine Interlude
- 5:00 PM Evening Prayer

For links to all these events, visit
www.claremontpres.org/covid19-response



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