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## The Church Has Left the Building! Mission in the time of COVID-19

Our campus has been shut down for the past three months, but our mission has continued! Throughout this time, our congregation has been actively involved with our local and global mission partners to serve the needs of our community and our world.

### Food Drive for Inland Valley Hope Partners

On Saturday, May 23, our Deacons hosted a Drive Up/Drop Off food drive in the church parking lot. During the three hours of the drive, a steady stream of cars dropped off close to 5,000 pounds of food, hygiene products, and cleaning supplies. In addition, a number of drivers also left checks for **financial contributions to IVHP’s food banks and family shelter.**

### Tijuana Water Project/Centro Pedagogic Didaque

Our Living Waters for the World Team has been working with Centro Pedagogic Didaque in Tijuana (a school for children with disabilities) to install a clean water system for their students and teachers. The project was delayed as schools in Mexico, as here in the U.S., were shut down in March due to COVID-19. **The school’s teachers are not covered by unemployment insurance, so they faced a serious crisis.** Claremont Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church in San Bernadino worked together to address **this need, contributing a combined \$2685 to cover teachers’ salaries for two weeks.** CPC members Octavio Guerra and Sam Atwood crossed the border to hand deliver the funds to ensure that the teachers would receive them in a timely manner.

### Syria/Lebanon Mission Partners

The refugee schools and refugee relief efforts that CPC has long supported in this region found themselves facing the added challenge of responding to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis in the region. PCUSA Mission Co-Workers, Scott and Elmarie Parker, have provided updates on this work. Scott continues in Beirut, while Elmarie was in the U.S. when the outbreak began and was not able to return to the region as travel restrictions were imposed. Both the Mission Interpretation Commission and the Refugee Concerns Team have responded to their needs by

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Upcoming Worship

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

In July we continue our 2020 Vision sermon series. This series explores what we see about faith and life through the eyes of well known and less known people from scripture.

July 5, 10:00 AM

### **“What Ananias Saw”**

Acts 9:1-18

Karen Sapio preaching

July 12, 10:00 AM

### **“What Paul Saw in Rome”**

Brian Gaeta-Symonds preaching

July 12, 7:00 PM

Evening Prayer for Healing and Wholeness

In-person in Angel Courtyard and available on Facebook Live.

July 19, 10:00 AM

### **“What Paul Saw in Corinth”**

Karen Sapio preaching

July 26, 10:00 AM

### **“What Paul Saw in Galatia”**

Karen Sapio preaching

contributing funds to the Parker’s support and to the ongoing relief efforts in the region. Since April, we have committed over \$2000 in aid.

### Uncommon Good Urban Agriculture

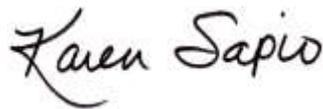
The garden installed on our berm and behind the Fellowship Hall has continued to produce much needed food for our mission partners at Uncommon Good. Much of this food has gone to the families they work with in their mentoring project, many of whom have lost jobs and income during the COVID-19 crisis. The rest has enabled Uncommon Good to continue to sell fresh produce to our community--even as grocery stores ran short.

### One Great Hour of Sharing

We did not worship in person on Easter, yet our annual offering for the One Great Hour of Sharing still came in strong. To date, we have received \$1460 through the church office. This does not include offerings that some sent directly to the PCUSA denominational office. It also does not include the coins still in the Fish Banks remaining in our homes. We look forward to receiving those when we are able to worship in person.

In addition, the Mission Commission has contributed \$1000 each from funds designated for local mission to: CLASP, UnCommon Good, House of Ruth, Crossroads, CHAP, and Inland Valley Hope Partners.

Thanks to all of you! Your generosity has resulted in NO shut down in Mission for our church amidst the challenges of the last few months.



Karen Sapio

## Session Approves Reopening Plan for Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center

At a special meeting on June 11, Claremont Presbyterian Church's Session voted to approve plans for re-opening the Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center on July 1. The plan was developed by a Reopening Feasibility Task Force consisting of Associate Pastor Brian Gaeta-Symonds, Center Director Sacha Lord, Children's Center Board member Barbara Mackenzie, Property and Finance Commission member Stuart Lillich, and Gabrielle Rodriguez who is a CPCC parent, a church member, and a nurse at Children's Hospital in Los Angeles. Their plan included details for how the Center would comply with Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and State Licensing protocols for operating Child Care facilities during the COVID-19 outbreak. These protocols include self-contained classrooms of no more than 10 children, frequent sanitizing of all areas throughout the day, frequent hand-washing schedules for staff and children, temperature screenings upon arrival at school each day, and required masks and aprons for staff. Guidelines also encourage moving activities outside as much as possible.

Before the shut-down in mid March, CPCC had over 100 children enrolled in seven classrooms. When the Center re-opens in July, we anticipate welcoming 20-30 children in four classrooms. Center Director Sacha Lord reports that a survey of CPCC parents conducted in late May indicates that more families plan to enroll their children in August and September. Even so, it will be quite some time until the Center is at full capacity. Much remains unknown—including the scale of the virus outbreak in coming months and decisions locally regarding reopening of the public schools.

**Please hold our Children's Center, our Director, our teachers and our CPCC families in your prayers.** We believe we are providing a much needed service to our community as parents are called back to work, and children need loving care and community after several months of isolation.



## The Farmers Are Hittin' the Dusty Trail

After four years and some change here in Southern California, Amy and Jared along with their two children, Liam and Rowan, are moving back to Georgia. Both Amy and Jared's families live in Georgia and so this will mean more time with cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents for the kids. They are packing their belongings and taking a cross country driving trip with at least a stop in Yellowstone. Anyone who came to know the Farmers know them to be avid campers and hikers. You may even have heard that they have visited all of the California State Parks. Although we are very sad to see them leave, we send them on their way with our blessings and our love. May God continue to bless you as you have blessed us. We'll miss Ya!

## Wednesday Bible Study

Our Wednesday afternoon Bible Study will continue in July. The **current study: “Acts—Catching Up With the Spirit” continues through July 8. A new study, “Adventures with Paul,” will begin on Wednesday, July 22 and continue through August.** The Zoom meeting ID to join is 862 1883 9113.

## Evening Prayer on the Lawn

As the COVID-19 crisis continues, large indoor gatherings are still the focus of concern for transmitting the virus. However, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has encouraged faith communities to consider outdoor gatherings as a safer alternative.

With this in mind, we are planning to hold Evening Prayer on the Lawn each Saturday evening at 7:00 PM throughout July. These services will include prayer, scripture, reflections, and music. Participants may bring a lawn chair and sit on the lawn in front of the sanctuary, or listen from their cars parked in adjacent parking areas. We will ask everyone to observe safe distancing and for those gathering on the lawn to wear a mask.

Our Sunday morning worship services will continue at 10 AM on Facebook Live.



## Kids Zoom Concludes

The Kids Zoom weekly gatherings concluded for this year with a neat science experiment facilitated by Mark MacKenzie. Mark called it Diaper Science. He showed the kids how inside diapers there is a chemical that can absorb 400x the size of the chemical. Throughout the last couple of months the kids were able to gather and do scavenger hunts, draw pictures, and learn about science in fun ways. A great big THANK YOU goes out to Barbara MacKenzie for coordinating these really fun activities.



# Rocky Mountain Railway

The VBS train is coming down the tracks...ARE YOU READY? Three year olds though 5<sup>th</sup> graders can join us on Wednesdays and Sundays at noon 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](http://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 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. Please reach out to Elaine Walker or Pastor Brian for those articles in preparation for the discussion. And do continue watching the docuseries on Netflix “Coronavirus: Explained.”

### Discussion 3

Monday, August 24, 7:00PM on Zoom. Meeting ID: 831 5520 2812.

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](mailto:ewconnects@gmail.com).

## Sign Up for “the Latest”

As the COVID-19 crisis continues, events and information evolve and change rapidly-- **as does our church's response to them. Our monthly, printed Communicator can't keep up!** We strongly encourage all friends and members of Claremont Presbyterian Church to sign up for our weekly e-newsletter, “the Latest.” **This short, weekly update will keep you informed of news, events, and opportunities that emerge between issues of “The Communicator.” To sign up, head over to [claremontpres.org](http://claremontpres.org) and scroll to the bottom of the page to enter your e-mail and subscribe.**



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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month by telephone at (909) 624-9693 or email: [lisa@claremontpres.org](mailto:lisa@claremontpres.org).

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## Grad Sunday Was a Celebration Unlike any Other...

As is a long time tradition at CPC, we held our Graduate Sunday at the beginning of June, on the first Sunday. What made it different is what has made most of everything we've done as a congregation different... it was a Zoom celebration. We recognized our young ones who completed 3<sup>rd</sup> grade by gifting them a Bible, as well as those promoting from 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Our graduating seniors and college graduates received a wooden cross necklace. The Education & Leadership Commission would like to give a shout out to Barbara MacKenzie, Peggy Trindle, Jenny Eazel, and Pastor Brian for hand delivering these gifts to all those recognized during Sunday's service. And a special WELL DONE to Dillon Lopez who blessed the congregation with the message for the morning. It was a faith-full commencement like none other.



## CPC by the Numbers

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 5/30/20	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$213,579.92	\$195,830.00
Other Income	\$102,264.31	\$45,203.30
Expenses	<u>-\$224,841.18</u>	<u>-\$252,859.85</u>
VARIANCE	\$91,003.05	-\$11,826.55
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 5/30/20	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$241,903.40	\$379,058.30
Expenses	<u>-\$377,693.48</u>	<u>-\$379,057.85</u>
VARIANCE	-\$135,790.08	\$0.45

## When Will We Worship in Person?

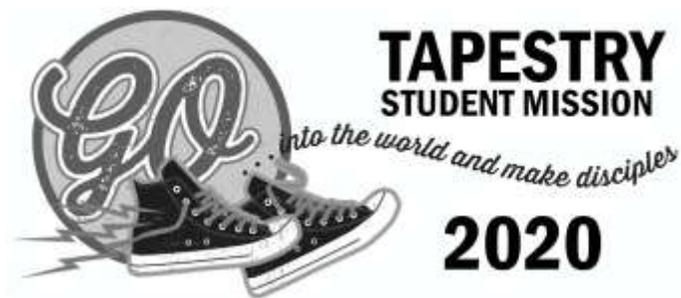
At its May meeting, Session determined that we will not begin to worship in our sanctuary until at least August 1. At its meeting on July 22, Session will reassess the situation in light of the latest information from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, advice from San Gabriel Presbytery, and an upcoming congregational survey.

In the meantime, several outdoor worship services are planned for July. You will find information about those services elsewhere in this newsletter and on the church website. Be sure you are signed up to receive our weekly e-newsletter, *The Latest*, for the most up to date information.

## Anti-Racism Groups Welcome new Participants

We invite you to join us in working through *Me and White Supremacy: A 28-Day Challenge to Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor*. **This book is recommended by “Unbound: An Interactive Journal on Christian Social Justice” which is published by the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (“ACSWP”) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).** Once you have the book, you can begin working through the reflections and journal prompts. We meet once a week for accountability, conversation, and support each Thursday evening at 6:30 PM. Contact Pastor Brian Gaeta-Symonds at [brian@claremontpres.org](mailto:brian@claremontpres.org) for the Zoom link.

We also formed a working group to identify concrete ways in which we can address issues of structural racism. These might include working on legislative or policy changes regarding mass incarceration, police accountability, or simply asking deep questions of candidates for political office during this election year—particularly local School Board and City Council elections. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Pastor Brian Gaeta-Symonds at [brian@claremontpres.org](mailto:brian@claremontpres.org).



## Tapestry Virtual Mission Week for Youth

You are invited and encouraged to sign up for this summer's Tapestry Mission Week, July 20-24, everyday—a Zoom at noon. Our theme: Go & Do, Matthew 28

We understand you are in a time of worry and often you are unsure exactly how you can make a difference or what to do. The Tapestry Team wants to invite you into a place of growing in your understanding in how God reaches out to people through us.

Each day you will connect by Zoom for an hour at noon. During that time, we will connect with each other and God. We will share our projects and ideas. We will challenge each other in activities and through games. We will also make use of Zoom breakout rooms to dig a little deeper.

At the end of the week we will showcase the culmination of our activity all the churches have been working on but also play a big optional game over zoom in an evening teen hangout.

To register go to: [smcc.breezechms.com/form/9ac8ea6812](https://smcc.breezechms.com/form/9ac8ea6812)

## July Service for Healing and Wholeness

For our July 5 Service for Healing and Wholeness, we will gather outdoors at 7:00 PM in Angel Courtyard. Please bring your own lawn chair if possible. We will pray for our nation and for those known to us who are in need **of God's healing love and strength. We will also stream the service to Facebook Live for those who prefer to worship from home.**

# COMMUNICATOR



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**Deadline for the August Communicator: July 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)
- 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 (7:00 PM Saturday)

For links to all these events, visit  
[www.claremontpres.org/covid19-response](http://www.claremontpres.org/covid19-response)



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