



claremont presbyterian church

COMMUNICATOR

February 2023



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Lent 2023: When Did We See You?

The two pillars of Jesus’ teaching in Matthew’s Gospel are The Sermon On the Mount in chapters 5-7 and The Judgment of the Nations at the conclusion of chapter 26. During Lent 2023 we will continue our sermon series on The Sermon on the Mount, while our Lenten Devotional will focus on the central question of Matthew 25: When Did We See You? Our journey begins with our Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 PM on February 22 in the sanctuary and continues through the Sundays of Lent and into Holy Week. The devotional booklets will be available in the narthex beginning Sunday, February 19 and will be available there and in the church office throughout Lent. If you would prefer an electronic copy, please call the church office.

Dates to Remember:

- Sunday, February 19 Jazz Sunday
- Wednesday, February 22 Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 PM
- Sunday, February 26 First Sunday of Lent

Karen Sapio

Upcoming Worship

Sunday worship services are in-person and accessible through Facebook Live (facebook.com/claremontpres) or YouTube (search Claremont Presbyterian Church).

Friday, February 3, 7:30 PM

Temple Exchange

Shabbat Service at Temple Beth Israel

Sunday, February 5, 10:00 AM

Communion Sunday

Matthew 5:13-20

Brian Gaeta-Symonds preaching

Sunday, February 12, 10:00 AM

Matthew 5:21-37

Karen Sapio preaching

Wednesday, February 15, 5:30 PM

The Village Dinner Church

Sunday, February 19, 10:00 AM

Jazz Sunday

Matthew 4:12-16

Karen Sapio preaching

Wednesday, February 22, 7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday

Matthew 6:1-5

Sunday, February 26, 10:00 AM

First Sunday of Lent

Waffle Church

Matthew 6:13-34

Jazz Sunday February 19

It has been a long standing tradition at Claremont Presbyterian Church to mark Transfiguration Sunday, the Sunday before Lent begins, by worshipping to the sounds of Jazz. This year our guest musicians are Roy Durnall and Friends--a combo including bass, guitar, chromatic harmonica, and violin. Plan to stay after worship and enjoy New Orleans style Crepes along with your coffee.

Generosity Abounds

The members and friends of Claremont Presbyterian Church are well known for sharing their abundance with others through various mission projects. The Alternative Christmas Market (ACM) is one of those projects in which donations are made to our various mission partners as an alternative to giving physical gifts to loved ones. Our mission partners are always sincerely appreciative of the support your donations represent. The 2022 ACM saw your generosity flow abundantly. The following amounts were distributed:

Aging Next - \$170.00
Angel Interfaith Network - \$514.00
Church World Service - \$373.00
CLASP - \$580.00
Claremont Meals on Wheels - \$350.00
CPC Deacons Adopt a Family - \$1,340.00
Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center - \$1,025.00
Crossroads - \$604.00
Foothill AIDs Project - \$230.00
Habitat for Humanity - \$650.00
Heifer International - \$810.00
House of Ruth - \$1,095.00
Immigrant Accompaniment - \$128.00
Inland Valley Hope Partners - \$1,108.00
Medical Benevolence Foundation - \$235.00
National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon - \$425.00
Near East School of Theology - \$175.00
PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers - \$195.00
Pilgrim Place - \$415.00
Prison Library Project - \$275.00
Refugee Concerns Team - \$50.00
Refugee Resettlement - \$585.00
Tijuana Water Project - \$760.00
Uncommon Good - \$668.00

Total of donations - \$12,760.00

Youth and Family News

This Advent season brought us immense joy and connection as our children and families prepared our first in-person Christmas Pageant (in recent years), created crafts and Advent Wreaths at our Advent Workshop, and just spent time together playing during the service. We are so grateful for all the children, youth, and their families that participated in some way this past season.

Going into the new year, we look forward to enjoying even more opportunities to build our faith and connect as a church community. During Spiritual Formation this month, we will be learning about recycling and how to take care of the planet with Nora Quinn. We also will continue learning about our faith with activities for all types of learners through art, science, games, cooking, and more. We also eagerly await the return of Waffle Church on February 26. As we grow our Spiritual Formation time, we encourage your child to invite a friend and help grow our community. We look forward to growing in faith with your family this month!

CPC Family & Youth Outing

Join us on Friday, February 3 from 6:00 - 7:00 PM at the Mt. San Antonio Randall Planetarium for the Cosmic Comets show!

The planetarium is located at 1100 Grand Ave. Walnut, CA 91789. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children under 13.

Some of us may coordinate a meal following this activity. Tickets will need to be ordered so if you would like to go, let Pastor Brian know. (Assistance with paying for tickets available)

Wednesday Bible Study

For the first three Wednesdays of February, we will be completing our current study: *The Sermon on the Mount - A Beginners Guide to the Kingdom of God* by Amy-Jill Levine. Newcomers are welcome!

Our Lenten study will begin Wednesday, February 29 at 4:00 PM and will make use of our Lent Devotional Book, *When Did We See You?*

The Zoom meeting ID is 862 1883 9113.

Adult Ed – Lenten Study

This February and March we welcome back Lisa Strom to facilitate our Lenten study and to lead us in spiritual practice. Some may have missed this study the last round a couple of years ago, and others may want to dive into it a second time to gain something new. Here is what Lisa has to share about this study:

“The first time wine and a vineyard is mentioned in the Bible is Genesis. Vines have been tended and wine has been drunk as long as Judeo/Christians have been recording history.

As I read the Bible and learn about what goes into making wine, I have seen how many amazing nuances and depths to the proverbs, parables, and tales about wine and the vine can be hidden to those who are less familiar with the world of viticulture (grape cultivating) and oenology (the science of winemaking).

The Bible is so rich in this imagery, but sometimes the depth of the story is lost in translation, the passing of time, or the lack of context. I hope to root some of these stories in the soil of context then pull back the canopy and reveal the fruit underneath.”

During our bible study, we will:

- Learn wine history, vine cultivation, and wine making information that will give deeper understanding to many passages about wine and vineyard practices that we encounter in the Bible,
- Have opportunities to meditate on this learning with a few contemplative practices, and
- Reflect on each passage in the context of our own lives and look for what God might be saying to us through these scriptures.

This Lenten study begins with a soup supper February 27 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. It will continue each Monday evening at 7:00 PM in the Library and on Zoom (Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27). Zoom Meeting ID: 896 2471 1195

It will then conclude with a Wine and Cheese Tasting in late April (Date TBD)

Also, look out for a quarterly series from Adult Ed (4 Sunday mornings in 2023).

Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday February 5

The annual meeting of the congregation will take place immediately after worship on February 5. The congregation will receive the 2023 Final Budget approved by Session and vote to approve the Pastor and Associate Pastor's terms of call.

Save the Date - Youth Winter Camp

March 17-19 at Big Bear Christian Camp & Conference Center for grades 6-12. Cost \$145 (scholarships available, see Pastor Brian for more information).

You are invited:

- To relax with a meal that is already taken care of...
- To know that your family is cared for...
- To engage your faith with other people with similar questions...
- To learn how the Holy Spirit is at work in the community...
- And, to experience the wide and inclusive love of God.

Join us for *The Village*
Feb. 15, 5:30 - 7:00 PM
in the Fellowship Hall



Red Wheelbarrow Collection Sundays

The red wheelbarrow is back! Does anyone remember the days before Covid, when we all filled up the red wheelbarrow in the narthex with assorted food, personal hygiene item, toiletries, paper goods, and cleaning supplies?

Well, during Covid, our generous congregation and inspirational deacons hosted several community drive-through food and household goods donation events. While this was incredibly rewarding and essential during the Covid time, we are moving forward with promoting the red wheelbarrow within our own CPC community and filling it with essential items that will be delivered by volunteers to the Inland Valley Hope Partners (IVHP). Each of us is invited to drop off any size donation on any given Sunday, or at any time during the week.

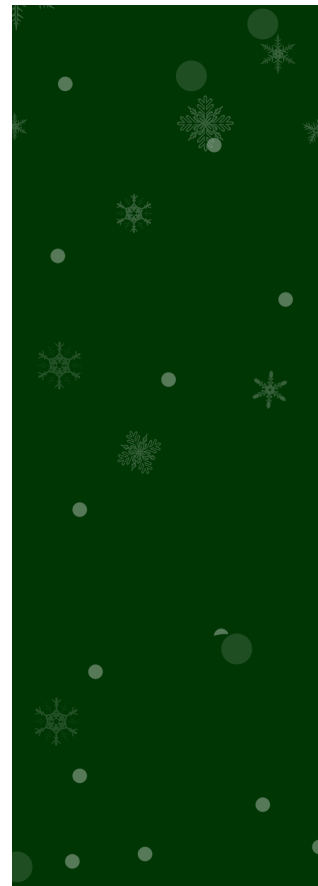
Additionally, in 2023, we are focusing on four specific Sundays to sponsor the Deacons' initiative to fill the Red Wheelbarrow to overflowing!!

Please mark these Sundays on your calendars:

- March 5
- June 4
- September 10 (New Beginnings Sunday)
- November 12 (Hunger and homelessness Sunday)

Food and shelter insecurity is very real and is growing, even in our own immediate communities. No donation is too small. Let us joyfully consider how we might each contribute to filling the red wheelbarrow!

Thank you very much for your prayerful and inspired donations.



San Gabriel Presbytery Winterfest

Winterfest is hosted by the Equipping, Empowerment, and Education Committee of the Presbytery of San Gabriel. This year's event will take place in the evenings on February 1-3 from 7 to 9 PM. The plenary session will take place on Saturday, February 4 from 10:30 AM to noon. We hope you will join us for the Presbytery meeting starting at 9:00 AM. All evening sessions will take place only on Zoom.

Sessions being offered: Healing Stories, Understanding Asian America for Ministry and Justice, New Elder and Deacon Training, General Assembly Amendments Q&A, Legal and HR Issues in Congregations.

The Plenary Session is titled "Re-imagining Church Building Use."

There is no cost for this event. For more information and registration, go to <http://bit.ly/3J4qcXg>.

An Invitation to a Retreat at St. Andrew's Abbey

Sometimes your soul just needs to get away. On March 20-22, Claremont Presbyterian has reserved places at St. Andrew's Abbey in Valyermo for the retreat, "The Reality of the Unseen: Looking at Mysticism and Religious Experience as a Gift of Being Human." You are invited to join us there.

The retreat leaders write, "This retreat will reveal and illumine our inner experience of God, in its subtle and dramatic forms. Being human is acknowledging our dependence on the Unseen, the Transcendent, the Creative Source — God. Made in God's image and likeness, mystics experience this more-than-human knowing and loving that comes from their Creator. Are we not all called to be in mystical communion with God? Paying attention to God's interventions in saintly lives can illumine our personal path of religious experience that draws us closer to God and to our true selves. The works of William James, Evelyn Underhill, and Bernard McGinn will be a few sources in our explorations."

The retreat will be led by Fr. Francis Benedict and Tony Verhallen. Benedict served as the Abbey's abbot for 16 years. His special areas of ministry include spiritual direction, preaching retreats, and working with 12-step recovery groups. In





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.

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In addition to many responsibilities at the Abbey, he now serves as the Director of Oblates.

Verhallen is a retired high school teacher who taught at Pius X High School in Downey, St. Bernard High School in Playa del Rey, and Servite High School in Anaheim. He does volunteer work for the Western Service Workers Association, an organization that assists low-income families, and weekly conducts discussions and reflections on the Scriptures at St. Boniface parish in Anaheim.

You can register by calling the Abbey at 661-944-2178. You can also register online at bit.ly/3IEv9pL.

The fee for the retreat is \$216 for shared accommodation (bring a friend) or \$246 for a single. The fee includes a room for two nights and all meals.

The program starts Monday evening March 20; arrive late afternoon in time for vespers and dinner. The program concludes after lunch on Wednesday. Tuition assistance may be available from Claremont Presbyterian.

If you want to attend, register right away. Space is limited; the retreat is likely to be fully subscribed soon.

Join us at the Abbey!

Ways to Give

- Place offerings in offering box in narthex after worship.
- 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. or by scanning the QR code to the right.
- 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.



CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 12/31/2022	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$482,337.99	\$480,000.00
Other Income	\$216,380.41	\$157,800.00
Expenses	-\$683,048.31	-\$662,152.13
Variance	\$15,670.09	-\$24,352.13
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 11/30/2022	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$1,083,685.46	\$1,097,086.00
Expenses	-\$1,076,241.38	-\$1,079,218.00
Variance	\$7,444.08	\$17,868.00

Flowers for January Worship

Glorious worship flowers, designed by Sherwood Florist, were donated with care and loving thought to enhance our worship space by the following individuals in the month of January

January 1: given by Mike and Chanielle Serret in loving memory of Marilyn Serret, wife and mother, on her birthday, January 2.

January 8: from Eric and Teresa Bernal, in loving memory of Frances Bernal, Eric's sister, for her birthday on January 12.

January 15: Flowers given in memory of Lois and Earle Wieder by the MacKenzie and Chapman families.

January 22 and 29: these arrangements were donated and beautifully crafted by Kim Brinegar and Paula Pitzer for all of us to enjoy in worship.

We thank each of our generous donors, for sharing such lovely beauty in our worship space. Should you wish to donate an altar or Narthex arrangement, in honor of, in memory of, or in celebration of a loved one or special event, please contact Delight Slotemaker de Bruine delight@claremontpres.org.

Please Lift Up Your Prayers

In gratitude for: each moment we are given to quietly contemplate the gift of life God has given us.

For those who have died and for their families: Ted Alexander on January 18; Kasita Smith, beloved CPCC staff member, passed on December 31. Kasita's family: Mark Smith (son), Delia (sister), as well as her second sister; Chris Hartmire on December 18; Ed Hughes on December 12, and for Sean and Matthew; Jean Underwood, on December 2, long-time Presbyterian Missionary in Korea for 44 years and her sons, James & Tom Underwood. We also lift up two of our Deacons, Jean Perry and Marcia Reich, as each one grieves the death of their best friend.

For those in hospice: for those unnamed, for privacy, as we lift up these individuals and their families.

For those who are hospitalized, ill, facing upcoming surgery, recuperating, or continued treatments: Bill Brinegar; Patrica Yu, Catherine Lin's mother; Joan Kelly's sister and Donna Kelly's aunt, who suffered a stroke; Corinne Tolles, Delight's cousin; Nia Amores, Teresa Bernal's mother; Teresa's brother, Chito Amores; friends, and neighbors who are recovering from Covid and the flu.

For those for whom we wish the continued healing grace, peace, and comfort of the Holy Spirit: Dennis and Phoebe Frankeberger; Wadie and Rita Alkhouri.

For the strength, grace, and peace of the Holy Spirit for those of us who may find ourselves in vulnerable, sensitive, or health-related family situations: Catherine Lin; Greg Stout and for his sister, Margie Stout Ludwig; Herb & Carlynn Christian; Pastor Brian's aunt; Pastor Brian's parents, Bonnie and Dennis Symonds; Pastor Brian and family; the Agwu family; Kevin and Ken Kessler.

For those whom we remember on an ongoing basis: Mike Layne; Larry Robertson; Frank Pinkerton; Cloyce Morrow; Ron and Trish Perry; Jean Perry; Gennie Ransom; Sue Likens, Brad Starr's father, Phil Starr; Lisa Frazier; Peggy Nall; John Najarian; Roger Shervington; Carrie Willette, Jan Willette's daughter; Barbara Patch; Phoebe DeVille; Doris Craig and Mae (Becky) Beck and her nieces; Suzanne and Kay Brown; Tom Bleakney; Eileen Jaeger; Carolyn Kingshill; Claire McDonald; Barbara Myers; Doris Chambers; MaryAnne Blaine; Marianne Hillman; Sandra Deibel; Carolyn Whitham; Marion Thompson; Jean Cochran.

We also lift up all of those who remain unnamed here, but whose names and concerns are engraved upon our hearts.

Please contact delight@claremontpres.org 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.



COMMUNICATOR

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Deadline for March Communicator - February 15

Weekly Online Events

Monday - Thursday, Saturday

8:00 AM - Morning Prayer (Facebook)

Sunday - Friday

5:00 PM - Evening Prayer (Facebook)

Sunday

10:00 AM - Worship (Facebook)

Wednesday

11:30 AM - Mid-Week Mini Concert (Facebook)

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.



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