



claremont presbyterian church

COMMUNICATOR

August 2021



In this issue...

Upcoming Worship.....	2
Session Highlights.....	2
Morning/Evening Prayer Hiatus.....	2
Kick-Off Sunday.....	2
Adult Ed Forum.....	3
School Supply Drive.....	3
Judy’s Blooms.....	3
Camino de San Diego.....	4
Lemonade Wednesday.....	4
Campus Safety.....	4
Presbytery News.....	4
Fall Retreat.....	5
Youth 30 Challenge.....	6
Flowers for Worship.....	7
Lift Up Your Prayers.....	7

Our Next Most Faithful Step

I just completed my final course in the Certificate in Church Planting & Revitalization program. Our cohort decided it would be best for this class to meet six consecutive Wednesdays for three hours each since we would need to meet online as opposed to the usual traveling to the seminary. We ended our class sessions with a brief yet meaningful ritual. We would go around the Zoom “Brady Bunch” screens and each complete the following statement, “My next most faithful step will be...”

There was no expectation on how grand or small a next step was deemed to be. Our response simply needed to be authentic to each of us. For some it was the act of getting more sleep, and for others it was mending a fractured relationship. The act of stating a next step and calling it faithful invited each of us to more seriously commit to its completion. In the first couple of weeks I shared steps like completing my assignment, but at the last session I stated, “my next most faithful step will be to have more conversations with others.”

I have always spent more energy and time on trying to produce something so I can have something tangible to show for my effort. It often meant that I would all too quickly race past opportunities to sit with and learn more about the people in my life. Stating that I would have more conversations with people is a faithful step to shifting the way I engage with and value the person in front of me.

As a congregation we have taken many faithful steps over the last fifteen months. Recently we took the faithful step to worship in-person and indoors, and then to enhance our technology for live-streaming services. In the next month or two we will begin the next faithful step towards gathering for in-person activities and programs.

We are learning how to once again be present with each other in new ways.

Upcoming Worship

All worship services are in-person and accessible through Facebook Live (facebook.com/claremontpres)

Sunday, August 1, 10:00 AM

Joel 2:28-29

“Dream & Envision”

Rev. Brian Gaeta-Symonds preaching

Sunday, August 8, 10:00 AM

John 6:35, 41-45

“This Bread is Alive!”

Rev. Roger Shirvington preaching

Sunday, August 15, 10:00 AM

CLP Harlan Redmond preaching

Sunday, August 22, 10:00 AM

Rev. Wendy Tajima preaching

Sunday, August 29, 10:00 AM

Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

We are learning how to be the church in a world that has again shifted right in front of us. As we come back to in-person activities I wonder what your next most faithful step will be. Take a moment, take several, to really consider how you might complete the statement, “my next most faithful step will be...” and then let’s chat about it.

-Pastor Brian

June Session Highlights

- Accepted Bernadine Greenwood as an Affiliate Member of CPC
- Treasurer Janet Siedschlag reported receipt of a special gift of \$10,000 toward the new sound system and a bequest of \$10,000 from Suzanne Christian, and that both CPC and CPCC were in the black at the end of May
- Approved Amanda Colclough as a consultant for Sunday Spiritual Formation for Children for a period from July 1 to September 15, 2021
- New protocols now allow single serving beverages and snacks to be served at coffee hour
- Pastor Karen will be on sabbatical from June 28 to August 22

Morning/Evening Prayer on Hiatus!

As we wrap up a very full and rich year of prayer life here within our Claremont Pres. community, your pastors are looking at taking a hiatus from Morning and Evening Prayer for the month of August. This will offer an opportunity to regroup and imagine fresh ideas as we come back to a new year in September.

Please know that Friday Morning Meditation will continue online at 8 AM (contact the church office for more information). You are always invited to come spend time walking the Community Labyrinth outdoors on the north side of the sanctuary. Also, August may offer you the invitation to develop your own spiritual prayer practice. For ideas reach out to Pastor Brian or any of the Friday Meditation team members: Charles Kerchner, Duane Bidwell, and Sam Atwood.

Kick Off Sunday

Just as the summer was beginning we welcomed everyone back to in-person worship. It was a slow and steady homecoming even while many were preparing for vacations and trips.

Let’s welcome everyone back as we live into a long time tradition of launching our new programmatic and ministry year with our Kick Off Sunday - September 12, 2021. You won’t want to miss this!

Adult Education Forum

COVID-19 And Its Footprint. Monday, Aug. 23, 7 PM on Zoom. Meeting ID: 813 7744 0980 This second part to the conversation on COVID and its impact on our nation and globe continues with discussion exploring the church's role in partnering with especially devastated communities. What is our role and who are we called to be?

Adult Ed FALL 2021 – A Hybrid Model. The Adult Ed Team is introducing a hybrid model for gathering online and in-person during this Fall. As a way to celebrate the growth in attendance online and the yearning to gather again in person, a 2x/month model offers both options choose one or both:

Monday Night Adult Ed – 2nd Monday 7PM on Zoom

Sunday Morning Adult Ed – 4th Sunday 9AM in Classroom 1 & online

Fall Class Theme: What's the responsibility of Progressive Christians?

Entering into difficult conversations is not new to Claremont Presbyterian Church. This Fall, together, we will discover communities traditionally cast aside by the "Christian Church". We will also learn how we played a role in perpetuating that castigation and then practical ways we can break down those perpetuating circumstances.

Mountain View School Supply Drive

We recently discovered under mail unopened due to Covid, several thank-you letters from teachers at Mountain View. The teachers expressed warm thanks for school supplies donated by all of you last summer. With those grateful teachers' and students' continuing needs in mind, the Deacons are beginning their Mountain View Back-to-School Drive. Any school supplies you purchase can be dropped off in a box in the narthex on Sundays July 25 through August 22. If you would care to contribute funds, PLEASE designate your donation toward the "Deacon School Drive."

School supplies in need are:

Boxes of Crayola Crayons (24 count), watercolor or paint sets, pens, pencils, Play-Doh, fine and regular tip sharpies, colored highlighters, and dry-erase markers, hole-punched lined paper, reams of white 8 1/2" X 11" paper, baby wipes, glue sticks, individual white boards, erasers, binder pencil pouches, desk supply boxes, rulers, spiral notebooks, dividers with

tabs and pockets, white 2" and 3" three-ring binders with clear-view covers.

New on the needs list this year include Washi tape for student book publishing and ear buds. One class asked for old buttons and googly eyes, and another class asked for peat pots with Miracle Grow potting soil and seeds for lettuce, Scarlet Runner, beans, and radishes. (Maybe CPC's Pastors will get to do a taste test!)

The week before school begins, boxes of supplies will be dropped off at Mountain View. What an exciting time of year for children!

Judy's Blooms

Judy Carrington loved flowers. She enjoyed receiving flowers, passing blooms on the patio and as a deacon delivering some cheer to CPC members who are reminded that they are remembered. In memory of Judy, Doug Carrington has asked that flowers be passed following worship on the fourth Sundays of June-October. Doug and family encourage congregants to select a bloom or two on each Sunday they are available. Every person has the choice to keep the cheer for themselves or pass the bloom(s) onto a friend. Enjoy some of the blooms that Judy loved.



Look out for Scams

If you receive any email messages from the pastors asking for help or assistance in the form of money, gift cards, or other financial products, please do not reply. First contact the pastor or call the church office and make sure the request was legitimate. Let's work together to protect each other from scammers. As a reminder, Pastor Karen is on sabbatical and not in the office through August 22.

Camino De San Diego - Journeying toward Justice

A virtual pilgrimage along & across the US-Mexico Border

In this unprecedented time, Via International and the SoCal Presbyterian Immigrant Accompaniment Ministry are partnering to build relationships of mutual support with local leaders along the U.S.-Mexico border. Co-hosting the experience will be leaders of The Border Church / La Iglesia Fronteriza, a bi-national community of faith dedicated to accompanying the migrant people of God at Friendship Park, the historic bi-national meeting place at the westernmost end of the border.

The Camino de San Diego will offer participants the opportunity to learn from borderlands leaders engaged in “journeys toward justice” in San Diego and Tijuana. These leaders will serve as hosts and guides, sharing their spiritual journeys and their practices of working for justice at the grassroots. Participants will be encouraged and inspired to celebrate their own journeys toward justice.

The Camino de San Diego consists of six parts:

An Orientation will introduce participants to enduring themes — including colonization, white racism & nationalism — that have given shape to the cultural context of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. The orientation will be hosted by Rev. John Fanestil (Ph.D. in History, USC) and leaders from the Via International and Border Church communities.

Three Immersive Site Visits will introduce participants to local leaders working for justice at three landmark locations in the California/Baja California borderlands:

- Chicano Park, where the journeys of “chicanos” and “fronterizos” will be explored;
- La Plaza El Chaparral, where participants will meet “migrants” and “asylum-seekers”;
- Friendship Park, where “deportees” and “mixed-status families” will be foregrounded.

The Border Church / La Iglesia Fronteriza - Join this unique bi-national community of faith for a 30-minute “virtual hike” (informal conversation), followed by a 30-minute celebration of communion with friends from both the United States and Mexico.

A Closing Retreat gives participants an extended opportunity to explore their place within “the migrant people of God,” to embrace their own journeys toward justice, and to identify ways to live out their own callings in their home contexts and communities.

Dates : Meet & Greet, Wednesday, Sept. 1, 5:30-6:30 PM, Thursdays Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 10:00-11:30 AM, and Sunday, Sept. 26, 1:00-4:00 PM.

Registration Deadline for September Camino: August 25. Go to <https://www.presbywelcome.com/border-pilgrimage> for more information.

QUESTIONS? Contact Kristi Van Nostran presbywelcome@gmail.com

Lemonade Wednesday

Lemonade Wednesday returns to our front porch this Fall after school beginning September 8 at 1 PM (continuing Wednesdays at 1 PM). As we look to take this ministry to the next phase Pastor Brian is asking for folks to consider being part of the Lead Team.

Pre-COVID we saw 30-50 children along with their parents come together every week for snacks, music, crafts, sports, and conversation. These last couple of months the Mountain View Elementary children and families have been asking for us to bring it back. Let’s answer the call.

If you have an interest in being part of facilitating or supporting this mission, please contact Pastor Brian at brian@claremontpres.org.

News from the Presbytery

The Presbytery invites anyone in our Presbytery who is interested to take the Intercultural Development Inventory. Each church will have the opportunity to have a church report generated if you have more than 10 people from your church sign up to take the IDI. For more information go to: <https://sangabpres.breezechms.com/form/IDI>

Processing the Pandemic groups are meeting weekly on Zoom. The group is facilitated by Rev. Dr. Sophie Eurich-Rascoe: Church Members and Friends: A safe, “clergy-free” zone for people wanting to share their learnings and challenges experienced in these past 16 months and support each other as we tend to our own care. Meets Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89596393814?pwd=aVNOMVphSXFMtXo5VUVFa3FpaXkydz09>

Our hybrid Presbytery meeting on September 18 will be hosted on Zoom and at San Marino Community Church. A part of this meeting will be dedicated to a time of remembrance for those we lost in the last year.

Ways to Give

As we return to in-person worship, following CDC recommendations, we will still not be passing the offering plate. There will be a collection box in the Narthex and all these methods are still available:

- 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 following QR code:
- 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.



Save the Date: Fall Retreat

On September 19 from 1:00 - 2:30 PM, CPC will host a Fall Equinox Labyrinth Retreat and Workshop. Our guest presenter is Dr. Rebecca Prichard. Dr. Prichard has taught theology, worship, and spirituality in a variety of congregational and academic settings. A 2007 Lilly sponsored sabbatical drew her more deeply into the study of Celtic history, art, and spirituality. Rebecca has traveled widely through the British Isles, having lived and worked in Scotland. A calligrapher, she draws upon the words and artistry of the Celtic Gospel books as prayerful practice. In recent years she has taught Celtic spirituality at the Graduate Theological Union, Whittier College, Chapman University, and the New Theological Seminary of the West. Rebecca has served as a Presbyterian minister for over thirty years and is now happily retired from full-time ministry. She continues to teach and preach on occasion and is looking forward to more travel.





The Communicator is published monthly by Claremont Presbyterian Church. Submissions are subject to editing for content and length. To submit an article or item for the monthly calendar, please e-mail Lisa Strom (lisa@claremontpres.org) by the 15th of the month.

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CPC Youth 30 Challenge

On Wednesday, August 11 we will continue our monthly gathering for a brief time of learning, being challenged, and growing in your faith and as a person. This is not meant to be a long stay, but rather an opportunity to come together for 30-45 minutes. We will check in with each other, hear from experts, and explore growth through challenge. I challenge you to be part of this new youth gathering (Jr/Sr High welcome).



For more information contact Pastor Brian 562-674-8407, brian@claremontpres.org. Meeting ID: 867 8160 1982

Campus Safety Protocols Modified

On June 15, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health issued a new directive lifting many COVID-related safety mandates and replacing them with guidance on best practices. On June 23, session approved these new guidelines.

The Health Department continues to strongly encourage masks for large indoor gatherings where not everyone is vaccinated. We also want to ensure that children, (who cannot yet receive vaccinations) and their families feel safe and welcome in worship. Therefore we will continue to ask those attending worship in our sanctuary to wear masks at this time.

1. Because we are masking, WE CAN SING!
2. To assist in containing any spread of new variants of the virus, we will continue to check in worshipers in case contact tracing is needed.
3. We will continue to seat worshipers in alternate pews for the time being.
4. We will continue to maintain a low touch environment, including receiving our offering in boxes in the narthex following worship, and using pre-sealed cups for communion.

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 06/30/21	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$234,891.22	\$229,988.00
Other Income	\$59,809.80	\$46,356.00
Expenses	-\$281,506.31	-\$304,851.28
Variance	\$13,194.71	-\$28,497.28
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 06/30/21	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$384,366.47	\$320,772.24
Expenses	-\$387,221.99	-\$321,108.14
Variance	-\$2,855.52	-\$335.90
PPP Loan Proceeds to date not included above: CPC -\$80,949 CPCC - \$127,521		

5. Individually packaged drinks and food may be served at Coffee Hour and other events.

Session will revisit these guidelines at its next meeting on August 25 and make adjustments as appropriate. If you have questions or concerns about any of these guidelines, please speak to a pastor or member of Session.

Flowers for Worship

The following worship flowers were donated thoughtfully and generously for the month of July as follows:

July 4: by Frank and Betty Pinkerton, in celebration of their 53rd wedding anniversary.

July 11: in memory of Maxine Ross, Tracy Doebler's mother, given by her family. Also, in memory of and in honor of Sean Frazier donated by parents Lisa and David Frazier and by his special uncle, Georgie, on Sean's 38th birthday:

July 18: by Barbara Patch in memory of her husband, William Patch.

July 25: by Dorothy Whitham in loving remembrance and in honor of her husband, Rick Whitham and their wedding anniversary. And, in loving remembrance and in honor of Judy Carrington - blooms given by husband Doug and son, Scott, in remembrance of Judy and her love of sharing cheer through blooms.

Open Dates for Worship Flower Donations

Please contact Delight Slotemaker de Bruine via email delight@claremontpres.org if you would like to donate a worship flower arrangement with a dedication for any reason. Available dates: August 29, October 3 & 31, November 14, 21, 28, December 5.

Please Lift Up Your Prayers

As we share in the grief of our friends and simultaneously in the celebration of the lives of our loved ones who have passed from this earth to enter the space reserved for them with Christ, we lift up our prayers for: the family of Jane Glenn; the family of Eric Bernal at the passing of his sister, Frances; the family of Barry Gray, who passed while in residence at Pitzer assisted living; Pam and Roger House, in the passing of Pam's youngest sister, Audrey. We continue to lift prayers of comfort and Christ's grace for all of our friends and family who grieve the loss of their loved ones within this past year or who are realizing an anniversary of the passing of a loved one missed so dearly, or who have not yet been able to hold a memorial due to covid complications. We lift up Tracy Doebler as her family was able to hold a long-awaited memorial service on July 10, 2021.

We offer prayers and walk with Christ alongside those who are facing or recovering from hospitalizations and/or surgeries.

We offer prayers of compassion for all of those experiencing medical, physical, emotional, spiritual, or mental health stormy waters. We offer prayers and ask for healing, strength, courage, and for the sustaining grace, peace, and comfort of the Holy Spirit for: Ruth Auld and her family; Pastor Brian and his family; Louise Gustin; Mark Nelson; Sue Likens; John Watts; Jim and Lenore Braschler; Kathy Holtan; Frank Pinkerton; Gennie Ransom; Cloyce Morrow; Bob, Joan, and Donna Kelly; Joyce & Ted Alexander; Kevin Kessler and his brother Ken who are still displaced due to a fire in their family home; Judith Rios, a former CPCC teacher, journeying through stage 4 cancer; Saba Alemaiehu as she bravely and optimistically treats her situation.

For those whom we tenderly remember on an on-going basis: John Najarian; Suzanne and Kay Brown; Carolyn Whitham; Jean Perry; Chris Hartmire; Thom Bleakney; Ruth Auld; Phoebe DeVille; Jean Underwood; Chet & Eileen Jaeger; Lee & Claire McDonald; Mike Layne; Barbara Myers; Doris Craig; Doris Chambers; MaryAnne Hillman; Mary & Ed Hughes; Sean and Matthew Hughes; Sandra Deibel, and Doug Carrington.

Should you, anyone in your family, or anyone of whom you know, be in need of prayer, and you have their permission to share their name, please send your requests via email to Delight Slotemaker de Bruine - delight@claremontpres.org. You may indicate that you wish only the name listed or you may wish to include details. Details are shared only as per your direction, otherwise then they will be shared confidentially at the weekly staff meeting.



COMMUNICATOR

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CLAREMONT, CA 91711

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Deadline for September *Communicator* - August 15

Weekly Online Events

Sunday

10:00 AM - Worship (Facebook)

Wednesday

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

Friday

8:00 AM - Morning Meditation (Online Meditation Chapel)



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