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From the Pastor

All The Earth Is Waiting

Waiting, expecting, preparing, watching--all these are words used to describe what we do during the season of Advent. We turn our eyes from **the consumer driven frenzy of "the holidays" and train our vision instead on the slow unfolding of God's promises within us, among us, and around us.**

There is so much we are waiting for, watching for: signs of peace where there is violence, signs of hope where there is despair, signs that mercy is blooming in fields where hate and resentment have grown for years. This process of waiting and watching transforms us. As poet Mary Oliver has written, **"We become what we pay attention to."** As we wait and watch for signs of God's promises unfolding we become part of those promises: part of the hope, peace, joy, and love that is coming to the world with the coming of Christ.

The theme for our Advent worship, preaching and devotions this year is **"All the Earth is Waiting."** We wait and watch, not just as private individuals, but as part of the whole grand cosmos, waiting and watching for the promises of God to unfold. As we watch for God's promises, we become bearers of the promises.

Spanish poet and musician Alberto Taule expressed our hope in his Advent hymn:

All the earth is waiting for the Savior
 He comes to bring us the truth
 He comes sowing seeds of love through the world
 For all the poor, his arms hold salvation.

*Toda la tierra espera al Salvador
 Viene a traer a los hombres la verdad
 A sembrar por el mundo semillas de amor
 A todos los pobres su brazo salvara.*

Karen Sapio

Upcoming Worship

Sunday, December 1, 10:00 AM
First Sunday of Advent
“All the Earth is Waiting....for Hope”
Pastor Brian Gaeta-Symonds preaching

Sunday, December 8, 10:00 AM
Second Sunday of Advent
“All the Earth is Waiting....for Peace”
Children’s Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 8, 6:00 PM
Advent Jazz Vespers

Sunday, December 15, 10:00 AM
Third Sunday of Advent
“All the Earth is Waiting....for Joy”
Kristi Van Nostran preaching
Choir presents *Magnificat!* by Mark Hayes

Sunday, December 15, 7:00 PM
Evening Prayer for Healing and Wholeness

Wednesday, December 18, 5:00 PM
Messy Midweek Church

Sunday, December 22, 10:00 AM
Fourth Sunday of Advent
“All the Earth is Waiting....for Peace”
Pastor Karen Sapio preaching

Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24, 5:00 PM
All-ages Worship with stories and carols

Tuesday, December 24, 9:00 PM
Contemplative Worship in Chapel

Tuesday, December 24, 11:00 PM
Traditional Lessons and Carols with choral music

Sunday, December 29, 10:00 AM
First Sunday of Christmas
“New Year, New Vision”
Pastor Karen Sapio preaching

Dos & Don’ts When Speaking With a Young Adult

As is a truth throughout generations of young adults, this moment in their lives is a time of life-altering transition and self-discovery. After only 18-20 years of lived experience they are expected to know how they want to spend the next 60 years of their lives. The gravity of this is not lost on them and, in fact, to them it poses some of their biggest frustrations and struggles.

At the end of a three-week series on launching into adulthood, the CPC young adults, along with Pastor Brian, worked diligently to come up with a **list of dos and don’ts they hoped will be helpful to guide others in how to engage a young adult in conversation.**

This list was formed out of a deep appreciation each of them has for the parents and adults in their lives. They strive to find balance between the care others desire to show them and the great expectations that have been driven into the way they navigate the world around them.

Their hope and prayer is that this list becomes a gift in opening and nurturing healthy and helpful conversation that is longed for by both young adults and the adults in their lives.

1. **Don’t ask me about my X-Year-Plan.** I may not be ready to share.
2. **Ask me if I’m enjoying or have enjoyed something I’m involved in, or how I would like to have seen it played out differently.**
3. **Share with me how you feel about things you’ve done in your past.**
4. **Don’t give me a vague Aesop fable, give me specifics and explain your reasoning (i.e. – a lesson thinly masked in a story sounds inauthentic).**
5. Understand that my problems may be different than yours and there may not be a solution; simply listening is helpful.
6. **When it comes to money, don’t tell me what I should have done;** rather, explain what I can do to work towards correcting it.
7. Understand when I speak honestly I am being vulnerable and **appreciate that in that moment I’m listening to everything you say and feeling everything you aren’t saying.**
8. Your stories of failure are sometimes more helpful than your stories of success; tell me how you moved forward through the failure.

Blow Up the Lawn: A Holiday Wonderland

The Education and Leadership Commission will be having a “Blow Up the Lawn” Christmas gathering on Friday, December 6 at 5:00 PM. All are invited to join us on the lawn of the church. There will be Christmas lawn decorations, cookies, hot cocoa, coffee and juice. Make plans to come join us for a fun evening!

In order to make this evening a success, we need the help of all of you. If you have a large lawn decoration, a Christmas outdoor projector or extensions cords or power strips that we can borrow, please bring them to the church office during the first week of December. Thanks for your help!

Tapestry Fall Retreat

Five of our youth attended this years Tapestry Fall Retreat, November 9-11 in Big Bear, CA. “Taking the Challenge” was the theme and hearing stories from each other’s experiences of taking a challenge was the practice.

The youth were so grateful for the baked treats, the church’s scholarship support, and your prayers. CPC attendees included Linda Luschei, Trayvon Salter, Alex Singleton, Nathan Gaeta-Symonds, and Victor Ramirez.



Advent Workshop

Pizza, crafts, advent wreathes, Christmas carols- Come join us for the Advent Workshop after church on Sunday, December 1. We’ll sing some carols, eat, and then do some Christmas activities. Mark your calendar!

CPCC Holiday Celebration

On December 13, 6:00 PM come celebrate with the families from our Children’s Center and show your support for our amazing staff of teachers and classroom aids. Presentations from each class--more cuteness than you can handle!

Advent Evening Prayer for Healing and Wholeness

A quiet and contemplative service for those struggling with grief or facing illness during this season. December 15, 7:00 PM.

Candlelight Lessons and Carols

For our Christmas Eve 11:00 PM service the story of Christ’s coming unfolds through scripture reading, carol singing and choral music. At midnight, we light our candles and welcome Christmas singing Silent Night together.

Magnificat!

On Sunday, December 15, our Sanctuary Choir will present *Magnificat!*, by Mark Hayes. When setting out to write a new work based on this ancient text, Hayes writes, “I was struck with the unrestrained, yet quiet joy that Mary expressed to God. I knew that I wanted to compose a work that expressed that same joy. I humbly offer my setting with the hope that it will inspire you and bring joy to your heart.”

Shoes that Fit

In the summer, I requested funds for a back-to-school initiative for refugees who have resettled in our area. Most are no longer on refugee visas, but classified as immigrants, like me. However, my family has had thirty years to get established in the States, and these families struggle to make ends meet. The last of the shoes were delivered on November 2nd, at a Family Fall Festival sponsored by NAC (Newcomers Access Center) which has an office at First Presbyterian Pomona. I am pleased to report that deacons funded twenty (20) pairs of shoes for refugees from Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria. NAC provided a list of names and coordinated the drop-offs. In all, over sixty children from eighteen refugee and immigrant families received school supplies and shoes!

This donation from the deacons meant that every kid in a family received shoes, young adults and school aged children, eliminating decisions about which person would be on or off the list. Moreover, we distributed the shoes through a local non-profit organization called Shoes That Fit. They distribute quality, brand-name shoes nationwide and were able to provide the shoes at a discount, stretching our donation dollars even further!

This is my gospel fed dream: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Matthew 25:31-46.

Thank you, thank you. – Judy Kohnen

Deacons provided shoes for these children:
Modoser S – 12 year old male from Afghanistan
Hala H – 8 year old female from Syria
Iqra P – 5 year old female from Afghanistan
Hassan H – 12 year old male from Syria
Amal A – 5 year old female from Syria
Rena A – 17 year old female from Iraq
Moath D – 12 year old Syrian male from Jordan
Benyamen O – 4 year old male from Afghanistan
Sahil P – 14 year old male from Afghanistan
Ibrahim A – 12 year old male from Iraq
Tabusom O – 13 year old female from Afghanistan
Sedra C – 13 year old female from Syria
Musbah – 5 year old male from Afghanistan
Assiel D – 14 year old female from Syria
Amal F – 5 year old female from Syria
Madina P – 9 year old female from Afghanistan
Abdul-Rahman K – 10 year old male from Syria
Benyamen O – 4 year old male from Afghanistan
Farhat A – 7 year old female from Afghanistan
Rama K – 18 year old female from Syria



Adopt a Family Follow-up

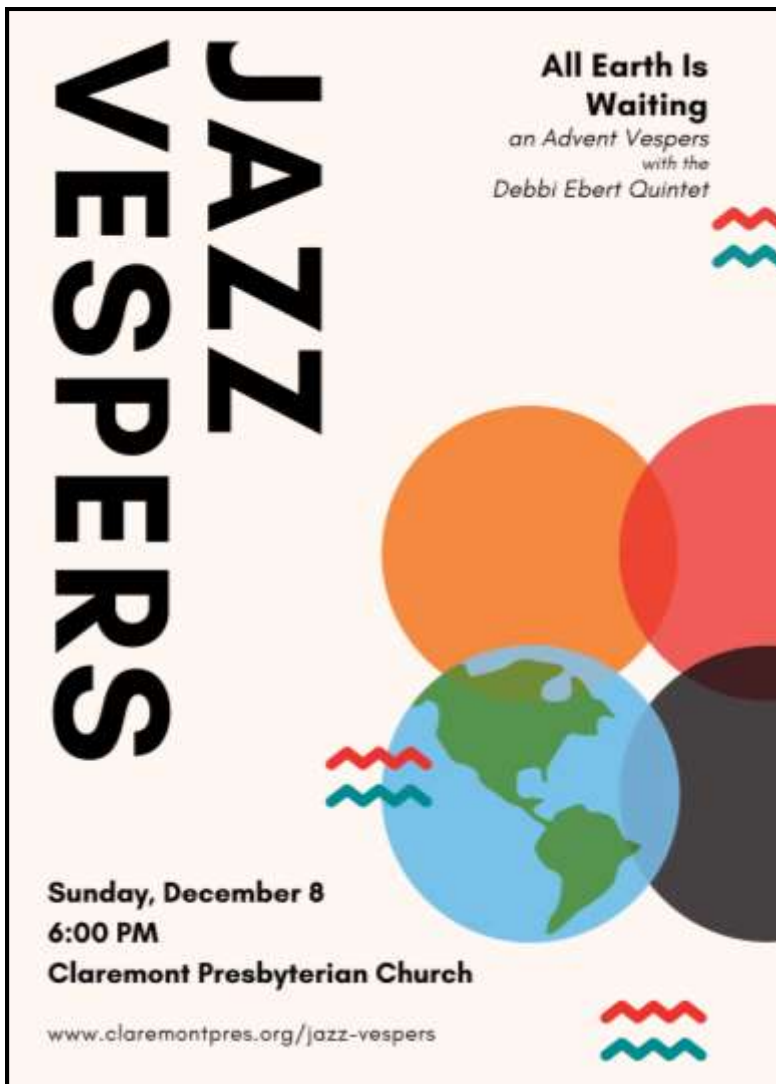
A big thank you to all of you who selected a gift to buy for our needy families at the Alternative Christmas Market last Sunday. Remember, in order to get the gifts to the families in time for Christmas, we need the presents bought and wrapped with the color ornament attached and returned to the church office by Sunday, December 8. Please remember to enclose a gift receipt if appropriate.

If you still want to look into buying another gift, we may have some more selections available after church on the patio on December 1.. And always, we can use a cash donation as well.

Again, thank you so much - Your Deacons

Advent Mandalas

On Tuesdays, December 3, 10, and 17 at 7:00 PM join us in the Chapel and take a quiet moment to share in the advent liturgy and then gracious time using the art of mandala coloring to meditate on the scripture passage for that week. May the warm glow, basic treats, and soft music will help you find rest in this moment.



Christmas Pageant

During worship on Sunday, December 8 our children will present "The Gospel According to Sheep." Ever wonder where the sheep show up in the Gospels and Jesus' birth? Come see and learn where from our sheep, the Professor, and many other familiar friends.

Messy Midweek Church

Join us for our next Messy Midweek Church on Wednesday, December 18 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM.

An especially creative and engaging evening of service designed for children and their families to give back together this Advent season - stuff stockings for children and women in a local shelter, hear the story just before Jesus' birth, and enjoy a delicious holiday meal.

Christmas Party and Ornament Exchange

All are welcome to this fun and festive event on December 14 at 6:00 PM at the Kent and Lynn Miller's - 858 Deep Spring Drive, Claremont. Please bring a wrapped ornament to exchange. (Humor and hilarity encouraged in your selection!) Please also bring the beverage of your choice and a holiday hors d'oeuvre or dessert to share.

Christmas Breakfast

On Sunday, December 22 join us for fellowship, food, and fondness. It is a very special community that holds onto a tradition that feeds the soul as much as the body. As has been our tradition here at CPC, before worship on the Sunday just before Christmas, beginning at 8:30 AM, we will gather together with our church family and guests for the annual Christmas Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. This holiday tradition that began decades ago by Daisy Najarian, the wife of beloved pastor, Rev. John Najarian, is an opportunity to exchange warm wishes, share the spirit of Christmas, and enjoy a delicious meal. All are welcome, no reservations necessary.

Year End Giving

Current economic conditions have already required many of us to "go the extra mile," as we strive to fulfill our 2019 pledges and to pledge generously to CPC for 2020. If you are in this group, thank you for your support. For some, however, 2019 may have been a year of unexpected financial good news. If this is true for you, please consider making a special year-end gift to CPC.

A special gift of this type may be unrestricted or restricted. If unrestricted, the Session may choose to use your gift to close our 2019 books on a positive note. If restricted, you may designate **your gift to support a particular part of our Church's program and outreach.**

You might think of your special gift as a Christmas present to CPC, for all that our Church means to you and to each of us. An added bonus: if your gift is made by December 31, it may help reduce your 2019 income taxes – a win/win situation! Thank you.
 ~The CPC Special Gifts and Endowment Committee



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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Adult Education
9:00 AM

Worship
10:00 AM

Nursery Care
available both hours

Updating Your Estate Plan? Remember the Loaves and Fishes Society

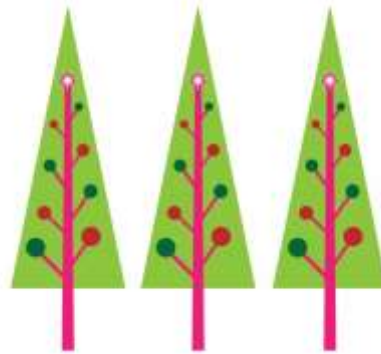
If updating your estate plan is on your yearend “to do” list, be sure to remember CPC in your planning! The Loaves and Fishes Society, the bequest program here at CPC, provides all of us with an additional way to “give back” to our wonderful Church, in response to all that we have received.

The Society was founded in 2008, and presently there are thirty-two members. You become a member by informing the Church that CPC is included in your estate plans. Questions? Pick up a copy of our bequest brochure in the Church office or at the **Information Kiosk on the patio after church any Sunday morning. You’ll be glad you did** – and CPC will be grateful to you.

~The CPC Special Gifts and Endowment Committee

A Quiet Moment

Sanctuary will be open for personal reflection and prayer on Wednesdays in Advent. Stop by for a moment of quiet starting at 7:30 AM on December 4, 11, or 18.



CPC by the Numbers

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 10/31/19	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$374,404.69	\$391,666.68
Other Income	\$69,758.41	\$92,249.96
Expenses	-\$491,118.69	-\$500,868.16
VARIANCE	-\$46,955.59	-\$16,951.52
CHILDREN’S CENTER AS OF 10/31/19	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$725,152.48	\$671,583.32
Expenses	-\$708,960.97	-\$671,739.60
VARIANCE	\$16,191.51	-\$156.28
Shoes Donated to Children		20

Sunday, December 1

10:00 AM Worship
 11:00 AM Advent Workshop
 11:15 AM Adult Ed Committee, Lib.
 6:00 PM College-age Gathering, Rm. 4

Monday, December 2

7:00 PM Firm Believers, FH

Tuesday, December 3

8:00 AM Firm Believers, FH
 9:00 AM Music & Movement, Rm. 7
 10:00 AM REPL, Rm.1
 4:30 PM Community Yoga
 7:00 PM Advent Mandalas

Wednesday, December 4

7:30 AM Sanctuary open for Prayer
 10:00 AM Staff Meeting, Lib
 11:00 AM Petite Feet, Rm. 7
 1:00 PM Lemonade Wednesdays

Thursday, December 5

7:00 AM Morning Meditation, Chapel
 8:00 AM Firm Believers, FH
 9:00 AM CPCC Chapel
 7:00 PM Firm Believers, FH
 7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir, MB

Friday, December 6

8:00 AM Coffee & Donuts, CPCC
 9:00 AM Children's Center Yoga, FH
 5:00 PM Blow Up the Lawn

Saturday, December 7

10:00 AM Marcus Wedding
 5:00 PM Christmas Pageant
 Dress Rehearsal, Sanc.

Sunday, December 8

10:00 AM Worship & Christmas Pageant
 6:00 PM College-age Gathering, Rm. 4
 6:00 PM Jazz Vespers

Monday, December 9

7:00 PM Firm Believers, FH

Tuesday, December 10

8:00 AM Firm Believers, FH
 9:00 AM Music & Movement, Rm. 7
 9:30 AM PW Bible Study, Lib
 4:30 PM Community Yoga
 5:00 PM CPCC Comm, Lib
 7:00 PM Advent Mandalas, Chapel

Wednesday, December 11

7:30 AM Sanctuary open for Prayer
 9:00 AM Staff Calendar Mtg.
 11:00 AM Petite Feet, Rm. 7
 1:00 PM Lemonade Wednesdays
 7:00 PM Property & Finance, Library

Thursday, December 12

7:00 AM Morning Meditation, Chapel
 8:00 AM Firm Believers, FH
 9:00 AM CPCC Chapel
 1:30 PM PCU Mtg, Rm. 7
 7:00 PM Firm Believers, FH
 7:00 PM Mission Commission
 7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir, MB

Friday, December 13

8:00 AM Coffee & Donuts, CPCC
 9:00 AM Children's Center Yoga, FH
 6:00 PM CPCC Holiday Party

Saturday, December 14

6:00 PM Christmas Ornament
 Exchange, Miller Home

Sunday, December 15

10:00 AM Worship
 11:15 AM Adopt a Family, Library
 6:00 PM College-age Gathering, Rm.4
 7:00 PM Healing & Wholeness, Chapel

Monday, December 16

7:00 PM Firm Believers, FH

Tuesday, December 17

8:00 AM Firm Believers, FH
 9:00 AM Music & Movement, Rm. 7
 4:30 PM Community Yoga
 7:00 PM Deacon Board, Library
 7:00 PM Evangelism & Nurture
 7:00 PM Advent Mandalas, Chapel

Wednesday, December 18

7:30 AM Sanctuary open for Prayer
 10:00 AM Staff Meeting, Lib
 11:00 AM Petite Feet, Rm. 7
 1:00 PM Lemonade Wednesdays
 5:00 PM Messy Midweek Church
 7:00 PM Session

Thursday, December 19

7:00 AM Morning Meditation, Chapel
 8:00 AM Firm Believers, FH
 9:00 AM CPCC Chapel
 7:00 PM Firm Believers, FH
 7:00 PM Mission Comm, Lib
 7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir, MB

Friday, December 20

8:00 AM Coffee & Donuts, CPCC
 9:00 AM Children's Center Yoga, FH

Sunday, December 22

8:30 AM Christmas Breakfast. FH
 10:00 AM Worship
 6:00 PM College-age Gathering, Rm.4

Monday, December 23

7:00 PM Firm Believers, FH

Tuesday, December 24

8:00 AM Firm Believers, FH
 9:00 AM Music & Movement, Rm. 7
 12:00 PM OFFICE CLOSED
 5:00 PM All-Ages Christmas Eve Service
 9:00 PM Contemplative Christmas Eve
 Service
 11:00 PM Candlelight Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 25

OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, December 26

7:00 AM Morning Meditation, Chapel
 8:00 AM Firm Believers, FH
 7:00 PM Firm Believers, FH

Sunday, December 29

10:00 AM Worship

Monday, December 30

7:00 PM Firm Believers, FH

Tuesday, December 31

8:00 AM Firm Believers, FH
 12:00 PM OFFICE CLOSED

COMMUNICATOR



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Deadline for the January *Communicator*: December 15



Prayer Chain

If you (or a loved one) are in need of prayer, the Prayer Chain of the Presbyterian Women is there for you. You may call Joyce Alexander at (909) 621-0493 with your prayer request. Please be sure you have the permission of the person for whom you are requesting prayer.

The Latest

Claremont Presbyterian Church sends out a weekly email update for last minute news and announcements. **The email is called “The Latest.” You can sign up to receive “The Latest” several different ways.**

One way is to go to the church website at www.claremontpres.org and look in the bottom left corner of the home page. Forms to sign up appear on other pages of the website but usually on the bottom right.

The church Facebook page has an Email Signup App. You may also contact Lisa Strom at lisa@claremontpres.org and tell her you would like to subscribe.