



# COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

April 2017



## Worship Plans

**Sunday, April 2 10:00 a.m.**

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

The Rev. Krista Wuertz preaching

**Sunday, April 9 10:00 a.m.**

*Palm Sunday*

The Drama of Holy Week

**Thursday, April 13 7:00 p.m.**

*Maundy Thursday*

Worship with Communion

Joint service Emmanuel Hispanic  
Presbyterian, GPIB Indonesian Fellowship  
and Claremont Korean

**Friday, April 14**

*Good Friday*

2:00 p.m. Community Service at

St. Ambrose Episcopal Church

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service in

Claremont Presbyterian Church Chapel

**Sunday, April 16 10:00 a.m.**

*Easter Sunday*

Special Music: *Gospel Mass* by Robert Ray

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

**Sunday, April 23 10:00 a.m.**

*First Sunday of Eastertide*

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

**Sunday, April 30 10:00 a.m.**

*Second Sunday of Eastertide*

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

## From the Pastor

Once upon a time, churches could count on full sanctuaries for Easter Sunday. They could count on all church members to show up for this high holiday. They also knew that cultural habit would propel many of those who were not regular churchgoers into the pews.

Those days are gone. Cultural tides no longer automatically deliver masses of visitors through the church doors for Easter and even faithful church members may no longer see attendance on Easter Sunday as a high priority.

The message of Easter, however, is more important than ever. When we speak of resurrection, we speak of a love stronger than the powers of death and evil. When we speak of imperial powers disrupted by the victory of God over oppression and injustice, when we speak of resurrection, we speak of new life emerging where people had lost all hope. In these early months of 2017, people are longing to hear the news that

*The powers of death have done their worst*

*But Christ their legions hath dispersed*

In 2017, though, we have to make a more focused effort to invite people to hear and celebrate this news. This is the work of the whole congregation. As Easter approaches, choose one or more of these actions as your part to play in reaching out to share the joy of Resurrection with others.

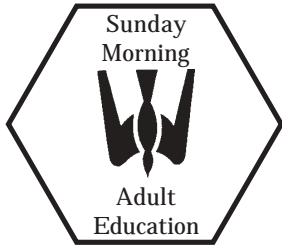
1. Come! Offer your own presence in gratitude and celebration.
2. Invite your family. Many of those who don't worship regularly are open to an Easter invitation.
3. Speak with visitors to our church over the next several Sundays and invite them to be there for Easter worship.
4. When CPC posts information about Easter worship on its Facebook feed, share it on yours.
5. Invite someone you know who is new to the area and not yet affiliated with a faith community.
6. Pray for our Easter worship to be a blessing that will overflow into our community.

See you Easter Sunday!

*Karen Sapio*

## Sunday Morning Adult Education

Throughout the season of Lent, the usual Adult Education offerings will be replaced by Lenten Small Group gatherings.



### 9:00 a.m. in Room 1

"CPC Coffee & Twitter." This program focuses on dealing with current social, political and international issues. It provides an opportunity to share our various experiences in the world to strengthen our sense of justice and love and keep us asking how to live in this world as Christians.

04/23/17 Charles Kerchner will lead the discussion on public education.

04/30/17 Duane Bidwell will lead the discussion on "More than a War: Walls, Bridges, and Vietnam."

Please be advised this schedule may be subject to change.

### 11:15 a.m. in the CPC Library

A Bible study which leads people to learn more about the Bible, Christianity and its theological aspects can deepen the faith that we confess and help mature our Christian spirituality. We are using the curriculum of "Living the Word: Small Group" and "Life Mosaic" that correspond to the "Narrative Lectionary" that we are following in worship. Every week's material will correspond to the sermon on Sundays.

If you have a question, please talk to the Rev. Dongwoo Lee. (revdongwoolee@gmail.com)

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## Holy Week



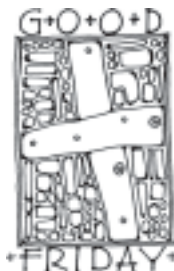
### Sunday, April 9 - Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m. worship in the CPC Sanctuary- The Drama of Holy Week  
Children will assemble Easter Baskets for the children living at Our House Shelter.

### Thursday, April 13 - Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. worship in the CPC Sanctuary

Communion worship will be combined with Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, GPIB Indonesian Fellowship and Claremont Korean Presbyterian Church.



### Friday, April 14 - Good Friday

2:00 p.m. Community worship at St. Ambrose Episcopal Church

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae service in the Chapel at CPC

### Sunday, April 16 - Easter Sunday

The early morning service project will be serving breakfast to the women at Crossroads shelter for formerly incarcerated women.

10:00 a.m. worship in the CPC Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Choir will present *The Gospel Mass* by Robert Ray



## Sundays for Children, Youth and Young Adults

Each Sunday morning child care will be available for infants and toddlers up to 5 years of age during both the 9:00 and 10:00 hours.

- ◆ Youth from 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade will meet for Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.
- ◆ Preschool Sunday School meets from 9:15 - 9:45 a.m. in the nursery.
- ◆ During the 10:00 worship hour children grades K - 5 will be excused from worship following the "Time with the Children" to go to Godly Play and Creative Expression.
- ◆ Youth Group for junior high and senior high school students meets Sundays after church for lunch.
- ◆ College and Graduate School Age Drop-In Fellowship Group meets Sunday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

## Godly Play

We invite all elementary age school children to join us for Godly Play during the worship hour. Children will be excused to go to Godly Play after the Time with the Children.

This is a wonderful curriculum that engages children's wonder and budding moral imagination. Our lessons are being taught by our team of adult and youth teachers, all of whom are trained and committed to the Godly Play way of learning together.

If you have questions or would like to get involved with Godly Play, please talk to Krista, or email [krista@claremontpres.org](mailto:krista@claremontpres.org).

## Easter Morning Service Project

In lieu of an early morning worship service on Easter CPC is offering a service project. As we did last year, we are serving breakfast to the women at Crossroads shelter. You can help in several different ways: by helping with planning, by preparing food ahead of time, by providing flowers or table decorations, and/or by serving breakfast on Easter morning. Please contact the church office to volunteer.

Crossroads is one of CPC's many mission partners. Since 1974, the mission of Crossroads is to provide housing, education, support, counseling, and employment training in a homelike environment for women who have been incarcerated. The primary goal is to empower women with new skills to help them step out of the revolving door of prison and move towards economic self-sufficiency. Throughout America, 59% of all women released from prison return to prison within three years. In contrast, 86% of Crossroads graduates are self-sustaining after six years!

## Easter Baskets for Our House Shelter

As they did last year, the children of CPC will be assembling Easter baskets for the children living at Our House Shelter in Pomona. Donations of items to fill the baskets are needed. If you would like to donate gift cards, candy, coloring books or similar items, please bring them to church by Sunday, April 9. We plan to assemble 10 baskets on Palm Sunday which will be delivered to the shelter by Maundy Thursday, April 13.

If you have any questions, please contact Krista Wurtz by email, [krista@claremontpres.org](mailto:krista@claremontpres.org).

Thank you!

## Easter Worship to Feature Choir singing *Gospel Mass* by Robert Ray

One highlight of Easter Worship will be our Sanctuary Choir singing Robert Ray's *Gospel Mass*. When Ray wrote this piece more than thirty years ago, he thought of it as an experiment for one local performance. However, the composition sparked enthusiasm well beyond that original performance. It has been sung by choirs and churches all over the world and is viewed as an important legacy from the African-American church to the body of church music worldwide.

Gospel Mass presents a traditional liturgy using gospel and jazz harmonies and rhythm. Our choir's offering of this piece on Easter will include soloists, guest instrumentalists, and visiting singers.



## Agenda for a Prophetic Faith - Proclaim Jubilee!

The 2017 lecture series of the Agenda for a Prophetic Faith considers what we are called to do now in light of the Jubilee vision. What can we do to renew the conditions for life to flourish in what Pope Francis has called “our common home?”

The final lecture in the series will be:

**Sunday, April 23, 2017, 7:00 p.m.**

Claremont United Church of Christ (UCC), 233 W. Harrison St., Claremont, CA 91711

Mike Kinman - Rector, All Saints Episcopal Church, Pasadena, CA

“Property, Slavery and the Gospel of Economic Growth”

America was built on property rights. Property rights determined who wrote the Constitution, was a primary concern of the Constitution, and determined who got to vote. Today, property value determines the quality of public education, economic opportunity, health care, food and more. Slavery and the genocide of our natives is a story about how property – and the ability to use it to generate wealth – became more important than people. Today, property and the ability to use it to generate more property and capital is still our nation's central concern. The Gospel of economic growth is not allowed to be challenged ... despite the fact that it is ecologically and morally unsustainable. The valuing of economic growth over all else is literally causing vast disparities in living conditions and life expectancies as well as a global environmental catastrophe. Yet every major political and spiritual voice continues to promote it as the greatest good. Tragically, looking through the lens of uprisings in Ferguson, Baltimore, Cleveland, Milwaukee and elsewhere, it is clear that property still matters more than people. What is our call right now as American Christians to intervene on behalf of people?

Tickets can be purchased online at Eventbrite.com or at the door.

Agenda for  
Prophetic  
Faith proclaim  
Jubilee

## Youth Service Grants

Claremont Presbyterian Youth Service Micro-Grants will provide small seed grants to high school students in Claremont who have a vision for a significant community service project and need funds to make their vision a reality. Students must complete an application and interview process with a team composed of CPC members. The application also asks for references from teachers, coaches, etc. to support their application.

The initial grant cycle will be for summer 2017. Grant recipients will be required to give a report to CPC at the conclusion of their project. At the end of the summer, CPC would invite all grant recipients to



participate in a special worship service celebrating and highlighting their accomplishments. We anticipate that during the initial summer 2017 grant cycle 2-4 grants of \$250-\$500 would be given for students wishing to do a summer service project.

The grants do not have to be for projects that are faith-based or connected to a faith community. The goal is for creative, high impact projects that will benefit the entire community.

Applications are available online at [www.claremontpres.org](http://www.claremontpres.org) or you may call the church office at (909)624-9693 and leave your contact information. Applications will be due April 15. Grant decisions will be made by early May.

## Open Mosque Day

The Claremont Islamic Center invites all its neighbors to an Open Mosque Day on Sunday, April 2 from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. Learn more about Islam, observe a Muslim prayer service, sample middle eastern cooking, try a hijab, ask questions of members about their lives and beliefs.

The center is located at 3641 N. Garey Avenue in Pomona.





## Monthly Bible Study for All

Presbyterian Women invite all interested persons (and all includes men!) to attend a Bible Study led by our own Bear Ride, former Associate Pastor at CPC, the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Southwest Room at CPC.

*Who Is Jesus?* On the way to Caesarea Phillipi with his disciples, Jesus asks, "So what is the word on the streets? Who do people say I am?" The author of this study prays that in the course of the nine monthly discussions you will find your own voice.

## The Latest

Claremont Presbyterian Church is now sending 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](http://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 Jo Colclough in the church office at [jcolclough@claremontpres.org](mailto:jcolclough@claremontpres.org) and tell her you would like to subscribe.



## Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 02/28/17	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$ 68,816	\$ 75,833
Other Income	17,804	21,552
Bequests/Gifts	0	0
Expenses	( 93,870)	( 97,385)
VARIANCE	( 7,250)	0
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 02/28/17	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$ 128,685	126,230
Expenses	( 127,135)	( 126,230)
VARIANCE	1,550	0

A more complete financial report is available in the church office.

## CPCC Fundraiser at El Rancho

On the second Monday of each month you have an opportunity to support the Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center. El Rancho restaurant at 984 Foothill Boulevard in Claremont has graciously agreed to donate a portion of the receipts one night each month to the Children's Center. **All you have to do is go to El Rancho on Monday, April 10 between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. and tell them you are with CPCC (Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center.)** You may eat at the restaurant or take your food to go.

## One Great Hour of Sharing

On Easter Sunday, April 16, CPC will again take part in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA). Our congregation's history of generously supporting this offering is well known, as Easter worship is decked with paper fish banks packed with coins collected by our children during the weeks of Lent. What may be less known are the specific denominational mission programs those brimming fish banks enable: The Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self Development of People, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Each of these mission programs accomplishes important work that no congregation can fulfill on its own. And in times of great need, these works are needed more than ever.

Please prepare for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering by praying for those in need whom the offering helps. As we prepare, let us take as inspiration some of the words of a song composed specifically for this occasion, "One Great Hour to Share":

*When the wind and the rain of the hurricane left  
me homeless on the street*

*Did you give me clothes and shelter, did you bring  
me food to eat?*

*When the Warlords came and I fled the flames;*

*When they made me a refugee –*

*Did you feel my racing heart beat? Hear my cries  
of agony?*

*When the heat and the sand of this barren land  
left me struggling to survive*

*Did you help me find clean water, so my family  
could thrive?*

*When I was lost and lonely and wandering in despair  
My greatest time of need was your one great hour  
to share.*



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, email [jcolclough@claremontpres.org](mailto:jcolclough@claremontpres.org) or fax to (909) 624-4743.

**Editor:** Jo Colclough

**Pastor**  
Karen Sapio

**Interim Associate  
Pastor**  
Krista Wuertz

**Adult Education**  
9:00 a.m.

**Church School**  
10:15 a.m.

**Worship**  
10:00 a.m.

**Nursery Care**  
available both hours

## Jazz Vespers

Vespers are an ancient form of evening prayer and music that has found new meaning in this anxious age. At Claremont Presbyterian Church we offer this beautiful service to the whole community – anyone who needs time to reflect, relax, pray, and listen. There is spoken verse, prayers of the people, and live jazz lifting up our words, thoughts, hopes and feelings.

If you missed the services in January and March, you will have another opportunity soon. We are hoping to have another Jazz Vesper service in April. Watch your bulletin, the CPC Facebook page and website, and your mail for more information.

You can watch a video of the first service which took place in January on our website, [www.claremontpres.org](http://www.claremontpres.org).



## Southwest Room Renovation

The Southwest Room is being completely renovated by a special gift. The donor felt that she had many happy memories of daily Vacation Bible School and youth activities in this room. She wanted it revitalized for "new beginnings." Cheers for CPC.



## Celtic Spirituality Class and Pilgrimage

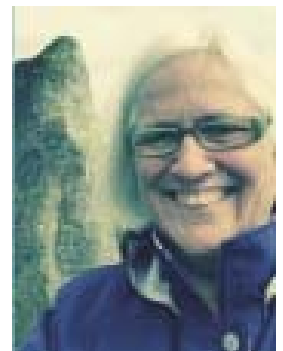
This spring, Claremont Presbyterian Church will host a course on Celtic Spirituality taught by The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Pritchard through the New Theological Seminary of the West. The class may be taken for credit or as an active auditor. The fee to audit the class is \$50.00.

Next fall, experience a pilgrimage to Scotland to see the landscape and culture out of which Celtic spirituality developed. You may participate in the Pilgrimage without taking the class, or take the class without going on the Pilgrimage.

Class dates/time: April 23, 30; May 7, 14, 21 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.

A revival of interest in Celtic art, history, and culture has led to the rebirth of a spirituality that is rooted in the sacred geography of these Celtic peoples. "New" Celts such as John Philip Newell and John O'Donohue can teach us a spirituality that is creation-centered and embodied, that nurtures connection and community, and that draws wisdom from many sources. In this course, we will consider the writings of some of these New Celts and their ancient roots in pre-Christian times and in medieval Christianity. Spiritual practices inspired by Celtic art and the liturgies of the Iona Community will be part of our time together. The relevance of Celtic spirituality in our present context will be considered.

In Fall 2017, we will travel to Scotland and visit Celtic sites in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and further north. The two-week pilgrimage will include a stay on the Isle of Iona, a center of ancient Celtic Christianity and of the renewal of Celtic Spirituality in our times. The pilgrimage will be limited to twelve participants. Students in the spring course will have priority. A detailed itinerary will be available early in 2017. Dates for the Pilgrimage are the last week of September and the first week of October.



For more information please contact The Rev. Dr. Tina Blair, or Pastor Karen Sapio.

# COMMUNICATOR



**Claremont Presbyterian Church**  
**1111 North Mountain Avenue**  
**Claremont, CA 91711**  
**(909) 624-9693**

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**Deadline for next issue of the *Communicator*: April 15**

## **Congregational Meeting**

A meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, April 30 following worship. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect Elders and Deacons. All members of Claremont Presbyterian Church are encouraged to attend.

## **“Like” Us on Facebook**

CPC has a Facebook page. Look for the Claremont Presbyterian Church page on Facebook and click on “like” to begin receiving news feeds about what is happening at CPC.

## **Donate Used T-Shirts**

Starbucks is collecting used, laundered t-shirts for Inland Valley Hope Partner's food banks. The t-shirts will be converted into reusable bags to hold food distributed to the families who visit the local food pantries. T-shirts will be accepted until April 10.

## **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 the church office at (909) 624-9693 with your prayer request. Please be sure you have the permission of the person for whom you are requesting prayer.