



COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

December 2016

Worship Plans

Sunday, December 4 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday in Advent

Joel 2:12-13, 28-29

Presbyterian Mission Co-worker Sarah
Armstrong preaching

Sunday, December 11 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 61:1-11

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, December 18 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

A Day for Dancing Cantata and Pageant
CPC Sanctuary Choir, Children and Youth

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m.

Family Oriented Service

11:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols
CPC Sanctuary Choir & Soloists

Sunday, December 25 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Day

Pointing Toward Hope: Singing the Songs
and Telling the Stories
A Great Cloud of Witnesses

Sunday, January 1 10:00 a.m.

Service for Healing, Wholeness
and Hope for the New Year
Luke 2:21-38

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

From the Pastor

This year we are experiencing Advent in a country deeply divided by the results of November's Presidential election. As I write this, folks are on social media asking how they can survive Thanksgiving dinner with family members who voted on the other side of this divide.

What can Christians offer in this time? How do we, as Isaiah urges in that traditional Advent reading, "Prepare the way of the Lord?"

First, the Church must follow Jesus example in speaking and acting on behalf of the most vulnerable among us. Jesus told his disciples that whenever we stand up on behalf of the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the sick, the unjustly detained, we stand up for him. We must become even more aware of how the turmoil of these days is affecting those whom Jesus called us love and protect.

Second, we can recommit to making church a movement in which vastly different people come together in Jesus to discover unlikely joy and possibility. The gospels, the stories of Acts and the letters of Paul and other early church leaders bear witness to a movement that brought together into one community Jews and Gentiles, Romans and Judeans, slaves and free people, merchants and farmers, people of wealth and people with nothing. It was really hard: they struggled with old prejudices, imbalances of power, anxiety, fear and an array of cultural forces that hoped they would fail. Yet they persisted in the face of all these things.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us set aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely and run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Amen.

Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent season, Presbyterian congregations express profound appreciation for our clergy and other servants of the Church by receiving the Christmas Joy Offering. We honor our church leaders both for their faithfulness in tending to our spiritual needs and in recognition of their decision, in many cases, to answer the call to ministry rather than pursue a life of material comfort.

A Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, the Christmas Joy Offering gives vital funding to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions as well as to Presbyterian-related racial-ethnic schools and colleges.

Please give generously.

Sunday Morning Adult Education

Two separate programs are available which it is hoped will meet the diverse needs of the congregation. One will meet before worship and the other will meet after worship.



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.

12/04 He Qi, Artist
12/11 Coffee & Twitter
12/18 No class
12/25 No class

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. The leaders are the Rev. Karen Sapio, the Rev. Dongwoo Lee, the Rev. Mark Carlson and the Rev. Dr. Tina Blair.. Please note there will be no Bible Study session on December 18 or 25.

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

Stewardship 2017: Make a World Of Difference

2017 is shaping up to be a year where, more than ever, the world needs the witness of the church to the good news of Jesus.

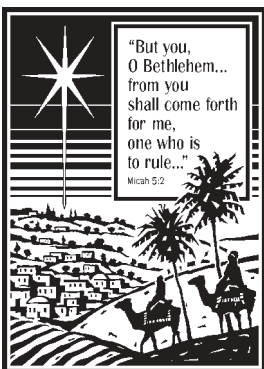
At CPC we strive every day to be part of the gospel of Jesus, making a world of difference in a world of pain. We make a world of difference to:

- * Refugees receiving care and guidance from our Refugee Concerns Team
- * Youth seeking a space of welcome and acceptance at the end of a week of stress.
- * Children learning the gospel story as a counterpoint to the fear and anger they see around them
- * Those who come on Sunday morning yearning to connect with God and to find community and who leave with mind and spirit renewed and strengthened for lives of faith.

- * Non-profits like CLASP, Uncommon Good, AA and Boy Scouts who share our space to do good in our community
- * Villages in Peru building clean water facilities with support from Living Waters for the World
- * Immigrant Fellowships on our campus such as GPIB Indonesian and Claremont Korean
- * Over 75 families who send their infants, toddlers and preschoolers to our Children's Center

And, we hope, to you as you seek to stay faithful and courageous in these challenging times.

If you have not yet made your pledge for 2017, please do so as soon as possible. Your pledge helps CPC continue to Make a World of Difference.



Christmas Breakfast

Invite your friends and family to join you on **Sunday, December 18 beginning at 8:30 a.m.** for a Christmas Breakfast Social in Fellowship Hall. No reservations are required. This holiday breakfast fellowship was started by the late Daisy Najarian, and has become one of CPC's traditions. This is a great time to share the Christmas spirit with your CPC family.

If you would like to offer to bring a dish to the breakfast or to help at the breakfast, please contact the church office at (909) 624-9693.

Hope to see you there!

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 6th - 12th 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 Sunday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ College and Graduate School Age Drop-In Fellowship Group meets Sunday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Please note that there will be no Godly Play on December 18 & 25.

There will be no nursery care on Christmas Day, December 25.

Youth Group will not meet on December 25.

Adopt a Family

Christmas time is rapidly approaching and with it comes our annual Adopt a Family program. Each year the Deacons at Claremont Presbyterian Church coordinate this program in which we "adopt" families from the local community to try to help them have a happier Christmas than they might otherwise have.

We have five families this year so there will be plenty of options. Just choose a "wish" and purchase the item. Wrap it and return it to the church by December 11. Your Deacons will deliver the gifts in time for Christmas.

If you don't have the time, or don't care to shop, you can always make a monetary donation and a Deacon will do the shopping for you. Write your check to CPC and denote "Adopt a Family" on the memo line. Or send your donation through Paypal.

The generosity of the people at CPC never fails to amaze us. We are eternally grateful.

Merry! Merry!

Sanctuary Choir and Children Join for Special Presentation

This Advent season the Sanctuary Choir is preparing an unusual work by noted choral musician and composer Lloyd Pfausch: *A Day for Dancing*. The music tells the Christmas story with medieval carols that were historically used to accompany dancing. Many of these tunes are familiar to modern audiences but are presented with a medieval flavor in harmony and rhythm. The choir will be accompanied by a small

woodwind and percussion ensemble.

To make our performance even more expressive, we are joining forces with the children and youth of CPC. They will dance to many of the carols sung by the choir while other movements will be portrayed in tableau, thus depicting the Christmas story visually as well as aurally. We are also delighted that Katy Lillich will be returning to CPC as the soprano soloist for this performance.

Advent Event December 4

On Sunday, December 4 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. we will gather in Fellowship Hall to work on art projects to keep in our homes during the season of advent. There will be many options that are designed to make this an opportunity for families and people of all ages to enjoy together. From toddlers to adults, you will find something to create and enjoy throughout the season of Advent.

Please join us
to celebrate the holiday season!
**Traditional CPC
Christmas Party
& Ornament Exchange**
Friday, Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m.
Kent & Teddie Warner's
Call the church office for address
(909) 624-9693
PLEASE BRING:
A wrapped, fun, inexpensive
ornament to exchange
(one per person who wants to
exchange)
Beverage of your choice and
A hearty Hors d'oeuvre or Dessert
Children welcome

Poinsettias



Planning is underway to decorate the Sanctuary during Advent and Christmas. You are encouraged to participate by donating to the Flower Fund. Traditional poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary and donations will be acknowledged in the December 18 worship bulletin.

Following worship, Deacons will share the glory of Jesus's birth by delivering poinsettias to CPC members who are hospitalized, ill and homebound. Please use the "Advent and Christmas Poinsettia" form included with this *Communicator*.

Welly Rey, Founder of GPIB Claremont, the Indonesian Congregation

Welly Rey and his wife came to the United States in 1984. Their son was born in 1986 which is the same year Welly founded the first Presbyterian Indonesian congregation in the United States. This congregation, which is now 30 years old, is in Fullerton. Welly continues to worship with this congregation occasionally.

As Welly talked more about his church relationships, I realized that Welly is what we call a “church planter.” He has started Indonesian fellowships in Downey (1988) and Pomona (1989). More recently he founded congregations in Fontana, Ontario and Claremont (2011). He has also helped establish some Pentecostal congregations feeling that Indonesian Christians living in the United States are going to feel more at home if they can worship as they did in Indonesia. Now all of these worshipping communities have pastors from their own Christian traditions.

When I asked Welly why he has started all these churches, he answered, “This is my way of helping people. I am a leader of the Indonesian community in the United States. People seek me out because I am a lawyer and I understand US law. When pastors come to the United States, they stay at my house, even the Pentecostal pastors. There are more than 100 Indonesian congregations in southern California; many of them are Pentecostal. I put pastors in touch with congregations that need pastors.” Welly was responsible for bringing Pastor Nova from New Hampshire to the Claremont GPIB congregation.

How did Welly find Claremont Presbyterian Church for GPIB’s home? Jan Worang, who has been a member of CPC for eleven years, is from Indonesia. Jan knew that a group of Indonesians were worshipping in homes. At the same time they were looking for a Presbyterian (Reformed)

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 Room 7 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.

Church in which to “nest.” GPIB is among the many Indonesian churches that are historically related to the Reformed tradition of Protestantism because Christianity came to Indonesia through the Dutch Reformed Churches. Welly understood that churches from the reformed tradition in Indonesia and churches from the reformed tradition in the United States, such as our Presbyterian church, can usually work well together. Jan Worang introduced Welly to Karen Sapio; hence the relationship between GPIB and CPC began about six years ago.

Through an Indonesian friend in New Hampshire Welly heard about Pastor Nova who had immigrated to the United States with her husband and two daughters. Welly was responsible for the family’s move to southern California with the understanding that Nova would become the pastor of the GPIB congregation. “All the time I was praying to God,” says Welly. There were about 89 members of GPIB when Pastor Nova arrived. God has continued to open doors for the congregation. Welly is grateful that their financial situation is stable. He is not on the church council now but serves as an advisor. GPIB is thankful for the efforts of “Church Planter” Welly Rey who has brought their congregation, CPC and Pastor Nova together.

Gail Duggan and Ruth Auld have been worshipping with this immigrant congregation for about 18 months. We are thankful to be sharing our campus with these friends.

Waffle Church

On Sunday, January 22 at 10:00 a.m. we will have our first Waffle Church at CPC. We will gather for worship in Fellowship Hall for a service that lifts up children’s leadership and participation. Waffle Church is made of songs, stories, the love of Jesus, and maple syrup!

Save the Date for PW Book Review

CPC Presbyterian Women will host a Book Review and Tea on Saturday, February 4 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. *The Summer Before the War* by Helen Simonson is the selected book. Set in an English seaside village, the novel begins during the summer of 1914. Themes, characters, and author insights will be explored by Elaine Walker and Leanne Kerchner. Details will be given in future announcements.



Session Has Appointed a Staffing Strategy Task Force

The Task Force will bring recommendations to the CPC Session and congregation regarding a creative, forward thinking staffing plan for our church as it responds to changing realities and new opportunities. Our Session will then use the recommendations as the basis for developing job descriptions, nominating search committees and hiring new staff.

The group will consist of nine members representing a range of CPC demographic groups: Brenda Hill, Elissa Elder, Hannah Lewis, Tom Luschei, Jennifer Eazel, Barbara Anderson, Sam Atwood, Dayle Keller and Paula Pitzer.

In their work together this group will consider:

- The goals and priorities identified during our New Beginnings process
- The financial resources available to support pastoral, ministry program and support staff positions
- Staffing configurations at churches similar to ours in size and context
- Local resources available for staff: seminaries, colleges, retirement communities
- Projected demographics for our area
- Possibilities for collaboration with other congregations
- Insights of current staff
- Insights from the congregation

Pastor Karen will be staff resource to this team. We will also explore the possibility of working with a consultant knowledgeable about issues and possibilities in church staffing today.

Timeline:

- ☐ First meeting late October
- ☐ Recommendations to Session by March 31
- ☐ Job Descriptions and searches in late spring-fall of 2017
- ☐ New staff on board by year end 2017

Offering Envelopes

If you have submitted a pledge for 2017 and indicated that you will pay weekly, monthly or quarterly, pledge envelopes have been printed for you. Please pick yours up in the Narthex.

Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 10/31/16	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$ 376,920	\$ 397,500
Other Income	64,013	80,083
Bequests/Gifts	5,000	0
Expenses	(455,330)	(477,857)
VARIANCE	(9,397)	(274)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 10/31/16	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$ 630,468	604,663
Expenses	(615,455)	(604,663)
VARIANCE	15,013	0

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

Year-End Giving

Current economic conditions have already required many of us to "go the extra mile," as we strive to fulfill our 2016 pledges and to pledge generously to CPC for 2017. If you are in this group, thank you for your support.

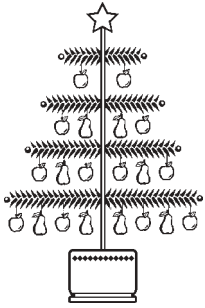
For some, however, 2016 may have been a year of unexpected financial good news. If this is true for you, please consider making a special year-end gift to CPC.

A special gift of this type may be unrestricted or restricted. If unrestricted, the Session may choose to use your gift to close our 2016 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 2016 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, email jcolclough@claremontpres.org or fax to (909) 624-4743.

Editor: Jo Colclough

Pastor
Karen Sapiro

**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

Updating Your Estate Plan? Remember the Loaves and Fishes Society

If updating your estate plan is on your year-end “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 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*

The Latest

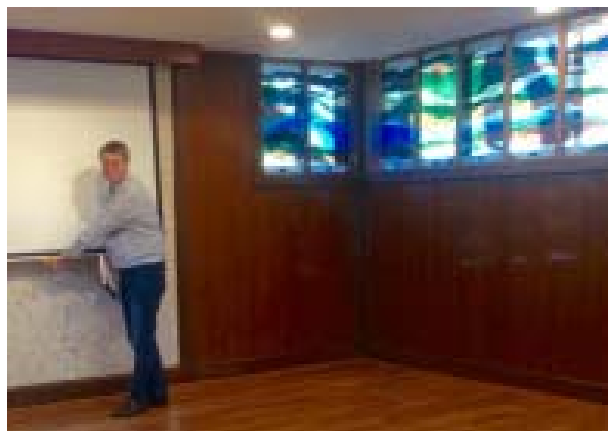
Claremont Presbyterian Church is now sending out a weekly email update for last minute news and announcements. The email is called “The Latest.” You can sign up to receive “The Latest” several different ways.

One way is to go to the church website at www.claremontpres.org 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 and tell her you would like to subscribe.

Progress in Capital Campaign Projects

We’ve moved back into the renovated Chapel! Stop in to appreciate this new worship space, perfect for small services, vespers and discussions. The new chairs can be stacked so Godly Play can take place on Sunday mornings and for the Children’s Center. And lovely new closed cabinets keep the Godly Play materials safe while others use the Chapel. The pull-down screen adds flexibility of use, from showing slides to projecting hymns.



Artist He Qi Coming to CPC

A special art installation of works by noted Chinese Artist He Qi will be at Claremont Presbyterian the first weekend in December. You are invited to join us on Saturday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the CPC Sanctuary for a conversation with the artist. On Sunday, December 4, He Qi will be our guest at the Adult Education “Coffee & Twitter” forum.

Currently a Minnesota residence (USA), He Qi has studied at Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing Art Institute in China and Hamburg Art Institute in Germany. He was the first among Mainland Chinese to earn a Ph.D. in Religious art after the Cultural Revolution (1992). He also received his Honorary Doctor Degree from Australia Catholic University in Melbourne (May, 2011). He is also a member of the China Art Association and a former council member of the Asian Christian Art Association (1998-2006). He received 20th Century Award for Achievement in recognition of outstanding achievements in the field of Religious Art Theory and Christian Art Creation of IBC in Cambridge UK. His art works have been displayed in museums, galleries, universities and churches, in New York, San Francisco, Berkeley, Chicago, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Birmingham, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Hartford, Elizabethton, Richmond, Tokyo, Kyoto, Hong Kong, Nanjing, London, Oxford, Gevena, Aachen, etc.



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

Contribution Note

In order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2016, all donations for 2016 must be either: placed in the offering plate by December 25, 2016, brought to the office by **noon, Thursday, December 29** or postmarked by December 31, 2016. Checks that are placed in the offering plate on January 1, 2017 will not qualify for a charitable contribution in 2016 even if the check is predated to 2016 or was actually written in 2016.

Soup Friday

Soup Friday will not meet in December, we are taking a break for the holidays. Please join us again in January.

CPCC Fundraiser at El Ranchero

On the second Monday of each month you have an opportunity to support the Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center. El Ranchero 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 Ranchero on Monday, December 12 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.

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 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.

"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.