



COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

December 2017



WORSHIP PLANS

Sunday, December 3 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

Rend the Heavens!

Isaiah 64:1-9

The Rev. Karen Sapiro preaching

Sunday, December 10 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

Prepare the Way!

Isaiah 40:1-11

The Rev. Karen Sapiro preaching

Sunday, December 17 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

Proclaim the Good News!

Isaiah 61:1-4

Choir performing John Rutter's

Joy to the World

with Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve

10:00 a.m.

Carol Singing and Family Friendly
Worship

11:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols with
Choral Music, Ensembles
and Candle-lighting

Sunday, December 31 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Christmas

Jaeger Family Brass Ensemble

Provides music for this service

From the Pastor

During this Season we remember the story of the Magi. They were guided by a vision in the shape of a star which sent them on an unexpected journey. At our October meeting, the Session of Claremont Presbyterian Church affirmed this guiding statement for our journey as we run toward the vision that God is giving us for our future.

Claremont Presbyterian Church: A Platform for Gospel-shaped dreams

Our platform:

Jesus got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore.

Jesus used Peter's boat as a platform to proclaim his message. We passionately believe that our church – its people, its resources, its building, its network of relationships – can be like that boat: a place where Jesus invites people to place their dreams, gifts and talents in service of the gospel.

Christ's Message:

Then Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

From Peter's boat, Jesus shared a message of hope with the people. We too want to share this message of hope. In spite of the evils we see around us and within us, we hold fast to what is true: that the love of God is stronger than the power of death, and that God's love can work through us to transform the world as it is into the world as God longs for it to be.

Your Journey:

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."

Jesus called Peter to put out into the deep for the journey of risky faith. With grateful hearts, we invite you to join us in saying "yes" to following Jesus as together we seek faithful and courageous ways to:

- ◇ Nurture one another in life giving faith
- ◇ Tell the great story of our faith to children
- ◇ Engage young people in spiritual formation for real life
- ◇ Discover God's call for us in every stage of our life's journey
- ◇ Embody the love and justice of Christ to the vulnerable
- ◇ Forge local and global partnerships that break down walls that divide and bear witness to the universal love of God in Christ.

We know the journey will be long – so we pray for God's strength.

We know the journey will have dangers –so we pray for Christ's courage.

We know we cannot make this journey alone – so we pray for companions, especially those who surprise us or reveal to us a path we did not expect.

Soli deo gloria.

Karen Sapiro

Sunday Morning Adult Education

The Adult Education offerings in December will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 9:45.

December 3 - **Peru Mission Network** - Octavio Guerrero, one of our delegates for Peru's Living Waters of the World, will lead the discussion regarding his work in Peru.

December 10 - **Celtic Spirituality Class**: Dr. Tina Blair, Co-director of New Theological Seminary of the West's Doctor of Ministry degree program and author of *The Art of Listening to the Multicultural Church*, will be presenting on the Celtic Spirituality program's recent pilgrimage to visit sacred sites in Scotland, including time spent on the holy island of Iona.

Looking ahead: stay tuned for exciting Adult Education Plans in the works for the New Year ahead. Items on the docket include a winter writer's workshop, social justice awareness and discussion opportunities, and a Lenten Series (plus more!)



Christmas Breakfast Sunday, December 24

Invite your friends and family to join you on **Sunday, December 24 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!



Sanctuary Choir and Children Join for Special Presentation

John Rutter's *Joy to the World* is a compilation of a variety of the finest and best-loved sacred carols and Christmas hymns in choral arrangements. While these choral arrangements may be performed separately, Rutter also designed them to be presented as a complete Christmas service or concert: "Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God, and the glorious redemption brought us by the Holy Child."

Join us in worship on **Sunday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m.** as our Sanctuary Choir and children of the congregation perform this glorious work.

Please note the schedule for worship on Christmas Eve. It is different than the past several years because it falls on Sunday. The family-oriented worship service is at 10:00 a.m.



Advent Workshop - Sunday, December 3 11:15 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

An all-ages craft-fest with art activities
for the messy and meticulous!

TEN crafting stations
ranging from Wreath-making and Marbled Paper Notecards,
to Tea Light Snowmen, Candy Cane Reindeer and much more,
along with a light lunch, cookie decorating,
carol-singing, and more.

Join us for this festive afternoon!

Please RSVP: catherine.taylor@cst.edu



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.
- ♦ During the 10:00 worship hour children grades K - 5 will be excused from worship following the "Time with the Children" to go to the Christmas Pageant rehearsal on December 3 and 10. December 17 the children will stay in worship to participate in the pageant. There will be no Godly Play on December 24 or 31.
- ♦ 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.



Please join us
to celebrate the holiday season!

Traditional CPC Christmas Party & Ornament Exchange

Saturday, Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m.

*Kent & Lynn Miller's
No RSVP necessary – just come!

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 to share

*Note this is a new location.



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.

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 10. 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.



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 17 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*.

Jazz Vespers

"Turning Toward the Light"

CPCC Christmas Program

Join Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center (CPCC) for their annual Christmas Program on Friday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m. beginning in the Sanctuary. Following the presentation by the children a meal and silent auction will take place in Fellowship Hall. Email Center Director Sacha Lord at slord@claremontpres.org for more info or to RSVP.

Sunday, December 10th at 6PM

Claremont Presbyterian Church 1111 Mountain Av. Claremont

With The Debbi Ebert Jazz Quartet presented by CalJAS

Free-will offering to benefit
Claremont After School Programs (CLASP)



Vespers are an ancient form of evening prayer and music that has found new meaning in this time of polarization and fracturing communities. At Claremont Presbyterian Church we offer this beautiful service to the whole community; anyone who needs time to reflect, relax, pray, and listen. There will be spoken verse, prayers of the people, and live jazz lifting up our words, thoughts, hopes and feelings. Our theme for this celebration of the Christmas season: ***Turning Toward the Light***

The music will be offered by The Debbi Ebert Jazz Quartet who are a group of professional musicians from the Los Angeles area with numerous credits to their names. They are provided by the California Jazz Arts Society (CalJAS) which is organized under the

Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation law for public and charitable purposes 501©(3). Its mission is to preserve and promote jazz and other American art forms through concerts, workshops and presentations.

A free will donation will be accepted to support the Claremont After School Programs (CLASP). CLASP provides a supportive setting for academically at-risk children from all of Claremont's public elementary schools, so that they may gain the academic guidance and personal mentoring they need to be successful in school and in life. CLASP is a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization and individual donations are a major portion of CLASP'S budget.

Year-End Giving



Current economic conditions have already required many of us to “go the extra mile,” as we strive to fulfill our 2017 pledges and to pledge generously to CPC for 2018. If you are in this group, thank you for your support.

For some, however, 2017 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 2017 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 2017 income taxes

— a win/win situation! Thank you.

~The CPC Special Gifts and Endowment Committee



Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 10/31/17	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	364,182	379,167
Other Income	63,357	79,166
Bequests	34,469	
Expenses	<u>(467,511)</u>	<u>(486,928)</u>
VARIANCE	(5,503)	(28,595)
CHILDREN’S CENTER AS OF 10/31/17	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	645,781	631,148
Expenses	<u>(650,239)</u>	<u>(631,148)</u>
VARIANCE	(4,458)	0

Contribution Note

In order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2017, all donations for 2017 must be either: placed in the offering plate by December 31, 2017, brought to the office by **noon, Thursday, December 28** or postmarked by December 31, 2017. Checks that are placed in the offering plate on January 7, 2018 will not qualify for a charitable contribution in 2017 even if the check is predated to 2017 or was actually written in 2017.

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.

Monday, December 11

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Centering Meditation and Reiki Talk

Gain clarity and serenity during the holiday rush by taking some time for meditation and centering prayer in our chapel. We will be led by Sarah Stockham, a local teacher, author, and Reiki practitioner.

CPCC Fundraiser

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 11 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.

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 Sapio

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 twenty-nine 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

Stewardship 2018: Let's Run with It!!

Many stewardship campaigns emphasize giving to the church because the church is valuable to us as members. This year we have been hearing from members of our community telling us how our congregation's ministries have a much wider impact. Here is what Damian Geddry, marketing expert and CST alumnus, had to say about our new Jazz Vespers evening service.

Outreach in the 21st century is a delicate matter. More and more, people don't really know what the word "church" means. They often think church is closed-minded, socially regressive, anti-science, and very, very judgmental. And then you have the people who have been hurt by "church."

But...What happens when liturgy is wrapped in Jazz music?...we actually hear it differently. What happens when a reading from the gospel is in dialogue with a reading from that charming old children's book, *The Little Prince*?...we can let our guard down. And what happens when a passage from the Old Testament and a letter from Albert Einstein are together, in the same program – as they were in our All Souls event?...well, we see that science and religion share some common goals and aspirations. And when a reading from theologian Paul Tillich declares that atheism is hard to fathom if you believe life has depth and meaning...we might wonder, "maybe God is more than I imagined."

This is what's happening at Jazz Vespers – right here in your church. And although all of you know that Christianity has this kind of openness, people on the outside often don't know. But Jazz Vespers – with its mix of secular and sacred – is changing the conversation about church, little-by-little. One small step at a time.

So, how do I know? I get emails from people after they have been here:

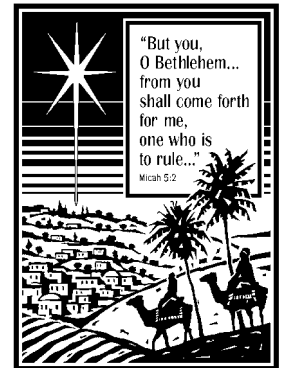
- The neighbor who hasn't been to church in

25 years and now brings his daughter

- The vocal atheist who writes to tell me "you know, Paul Tillich, and his 'Ground of Being', that's an interesting way to think about it.
- Or the deeply doubting young man – a 'spiritual-but-not-religious' youth who now sends suggested readings.

Yes, there is a reason that each night after Jazz Vespers people gather to eat, drink and talk about what they heard, and what it means. I think you would call it good old-fashioned community. Forget social media. These are often people who have driven past your church dozens of times and never knew what was actually inside. But now they do. And *that* is good outreach.

Help us continue running toward our vision of serving our church and our community. Pledge cards are available in the pew racks and in the church office. Or you can pledge online by sending an email to Stewardship2018@claremontpres.org.



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Deadline for next *Communicator*: December 15

Presbyterian Women Bible Study

Date: Tuesday, December 12 - 9:30 a.m.

Place: CPC Library

Leader: Bear Ride

Study Book: *Cloud of Witnesses, The
Community of Christ in Hebrews*

Cost for book : \$12.00 - see Pat Beswick

Offering Envelopes

If you have submitted a pledge for 2018 and indicated that you will pay weekly, monthly or quarterly, pledge envelopes have been printed for you. Please pick yours up in the Narthex.

“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.

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.