



COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

December 2018

WORSHIP PLANS

Sunday, December 2 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

Draw Near to Wonder

Luke 21:25-39

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, December 9

10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

Draw Near to Truth

Christmas Pageant

7:00 p.m.

Evening Prayers for Healing and Wholeness

CPC Chapel

Sunday, December 16 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

Draw Near to Justice

Philippians 4:4-7

Choir performing *Sing Noel*

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Draw Near to One Another

Luke 1:39-55

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m.

Family Friendly Worship

9:00 p.m.

Contemplative Prayer Service

CPC Chapel

11:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, December 30 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Christmas

Jaeger Family Brass Ensemble

Provides music for this service

Draw Near

I wonder if the earth is waiting for a Messiah like I am –

Trees bending toward love,
fireflies keeping a promise to be light,
the moon returning over and over again
with hope that the world will look differently
this time.

I wonder if I'll ever really know when it happens –

Those moments when God is in my midst.

Those all the time,
everywhere,
rare kind of moments that I'm terrible at
trusting but know like a rainstorm.

I wonder, because I am human.

I wonder, because
not

wondering leaves me stuck.

And I cannot be stuck in a world
that separates children from parents,
women from their bodies,
and men from their emotions.

So I wonder.

Will the stars ever fall?

Will I see you face to face, and you see me?

Will the moon come back tonight and sigh, saying,

"Ah yes. I can see that God is here. This is what
I've been waiting for."

Prayer by Sarah Are

Happy Holidays from the CPC Office!

Adult Education



Awaiting the Already by Magrey R. de Vega

This year's Advent Study book will take us on a journey through all four Gospels' accounts announcing Christ's birth or making way for his ministry. This study offers thoughtful theological reflection on what we know already happened, questions to help us deepen our chewing on that discussion, and practical steps to explore how we can better live into that weeks scriptural encouragement.

Three groups will meet -

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. - December 2, 9, and 16 (CPC Classroom 1)

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. - December 4, 11, and 18 (CPC Classroom 7)

Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. - December 6, 13, and 20 (TBD)

The cost of the book is \$10 and payment can be turned into Pastor Brian or at the church office.

Christmas Breakfast Sunday, December 23

Fellowship - Food - 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 a.m., 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 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.

Christmas Pageant on December 9

"Picture It!

The Christmas Story in Multi-Media"

This year's Christmas Pageant is being told through a tableau of staged photos, live narrators retelling the story of the birth of the Christ child, and the singing of a few carols by our children and their parents. You are invited to join us for a fun and new way to hear a long-time favorite story during 10:00 a.m. worship on Sunday, December 9.



Advent Workshop - Sunday, December 2 11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

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

Seven crafting stations
ranging from Wreath-making and Ornament Decorating,
to creating Nativity Keepsakes,
Candy Cane Reindeer and much more,
along with a light lunch, cookie decorating,
carol-singing, and more.

Join us for this festive afternoon!

For more information email brian@claremontpres.org

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.

- ◆ 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 2. December 9 the children will stay in worship to participate in the pageant. Godly Play will meet as usual on December 16 but there will be no Godly Play on December 23 or 30.
- ◆ Youth Group for junior high and senior high school students meets the third Sunday of each month at 9:00 a.m.
- ◆ College and Graduate School Age Drop-In Fellowship Group meets Sunday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Parents and children are invited to join in the singing portion of the Christmas Pageant presentation on December 9.



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 16 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*.



Please join us
to celebrate the holiday season!

Traditional CPC

Christmas Party

& Ornament Exchange

Saturday, December 8, 6:30 p.m.

Kent & Lynn Miller's

No RSVP necessary – just come!

Co-hosted by Kent & Lynn Miller and

Kent & Teddie Warner

Questions? (909) 398-4431 Miller

Or (909) 621-2580 Warner

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

Children welcome



Sanctuary Choir Presents "Sing Noel" December 16

By American composer Hal H. Hopson, *Sing Noel!* is a creative compilation of both familiar and less familiar Christmas carols, provided as choral arrangements for presentation as either a service or a concert. The work draws inspiration from hymn texts as well as readings drawn from many centuries of sacred English poetry. Hopson has composed over 3,000 published works, which reflect almost every musical form in modern American church music. The spirit of the piece is portrayed by its "annunciation" as originally translated by John M. Neale: "Blest in the message Gabriel brought, Blest in the work the Spirit wrought; Most blest, to bring to human birth The Long-desired of all the earth." The presentation also will include an arrangement of "Joy to the World" by fellow American composer Richard Proulx.


Adopt a Family

The Annual Adopt a Family program sponsored by your Deacons to help families who might otherwise not have a Merry Christmas, had its kick-off at the Alternative Christmas Market. If you chose a gift tag, please buy and wrap the present and bring it to church by Sunday, December 9 with the ornament attached. 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.

Thank you for your generosity!

CPCC Christmas Program

Join Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center (CPCC) for their annual Christmas Program on Friday, December 14 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.



DRAW NEAR

A Jazz Vespers for the Advent Journey

Sunday December 2nd at 6:00PM
 Claremont Presbyterian Church
 1111 N. Mountain Avenue, Claremont
with the Ron Kobayashi Trio featuring vocalist Debbi Ebert

California Jazz Arts Society (CalJAS), under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation law for public and charitable purposes 501(c)(3), and help 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 Jazz Vespers series and the CPC Refugee Resettlement Team which supports refugee families from Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq. The Team provides child care, makes medical appointments, assists with employment searches and subsidizes rentals and job training and transitions refugees to a new culture with dignity.

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-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

For some, Advent has deep spiritual significance, while for others it might be a faint memory of special calendars and the coming of Christmas. Either way, Claremont Presbyterian is inviting you to draw near for the beginning of this sacred season. There will be uplifting jazz, thoughtful poetry and ancient wisdom on wonder, justice, and community. And we welcome you – all of you – to follow along throughout December as we await the coming of a most unlikely Messiah. The music is offered by The Ron Kobayashi Trio featuring vocalist Debbi Ebert, a group of exceptional musicians from the Los Angeles area. They come through the

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.



Year-End Giving



Current economic conditions have already required many of us to “go the extra mile,” as we strive to fulfill our 2018 pledges and to pledge generously to CPC for 2019. If you are in this group, thank you for your support.

For some, however, 2018 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 2018 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 2018 income taxes – a win/win situation! Thank you.

~The CPC Special Gifts
and
Endowment Committee



Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 10/31/18	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	367,846	383,333
Other Income	66,594	87,250
Expenses	(439,916)	(486,946)
VARIANCE	(5,476)	(16,363)
CHILDREN’S CENTER AS OF 10/31/18	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	655,748	658,333
Expenses	(663,760)	(658,555)
VARIANCE	(8,012)	0

Contribution Note

In order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2018, all donations for 2018 must be either: placed in the offering plate by December 30, 2018, brought to the office by **noon, Monday, December 31** or postmarked by December 31, 2018. Checks that are placed in the offering plate on January 6, 2019 will not qualify for a charitable contribution in 2018 even if the check is predated to 2018 or was actually written in 2018.

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” by contacting Jo Colclough in the church office at jcolclough@claremontpres.org and tell her you would like to subscribe.

START YOUR DAY A
LITTLE CLOSER TO
GOD



25 MINUTES
THURSDAYS AT 7:00 A.M.
PRAYER AND MEDITATION
IN THE CPC CHAPEL

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 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.



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

Editor: Jo Colclough

Pastor
Karen Sapio

Associate Pastor
Brian Gaeta-Symonds

Adult Education
9:00 a.m.

Church School
10:15 a.m.

Worship
10:00 a.m.

Nursery Care
available both hours

Refugee Concerns Team Members visit Adelanto Detention Center

In October, Karen Sapio and Judy Kohnen traveled with members of Pilgrim Place and United Church of Christ to visit detainees at a privately operated, federal prison in Adelanto, California. The ride was an hour from Claremont, into the high desert of San Bernardino County. Since 2011, ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) has contracted there for prison beds for federal immigration detainees, adults only, no children. The building has an impersonal, institutional feel of an airport with an expansive lobby, polished floors and oversize ICE recruitment posters filled with the faces of ethnically diverse, smiling men and women.

We received the names of detainees to visit from an immigration advocacy group. At the back of the lobby was a reception desk with two lines. One line was marked “official visitors,” for lawyers and attorneys, and one “unofficial visitors”, mostly family members dressed in their Sunday best even though it was a weekday.

We were instructed to put all items, purses, cell phones, and even random papers in our pockets, into lockers. We handed over our driver’s license in return for a locker key. Everyone in the waiting area was screened by security and lead through a corridor, into a locked room, and then into a visiting area.

Christian waited for us wearing a denim-colored jumpsuit. He was one of the youngest people in detention, eighteen years old but he looked like he was thirteen. He had chubby cheeks, soulful brown eyes and a relaxed demeanor. Christian was pleased to have visitors because he found the days boring. Chatting with middle-aged church ladies he’d never met before was a welcome distraction.

He told us his story. He was visiting with his grandmother when a gang told him to run drugs or they would kill his grandmother. The very next day he left Honduras, cutting through a corner of Nicaragua, travelling by foot and bus all the way to Mexico City, then onward to Tijuana. At the American border he requested asylum. He was 17 years old and sent to a juvenile detention center. He made friends with other kids, played soccer. A kind lady, she sounded like their guardian, taught English lessons. His eighteenth birthday was one of his happiest days ever, the first time he had a birthday cake with candles and friends singing around a table. It was also a terrible day. Later that evening ICE officials took Christian to Adelanto. He was no longer a minor, but an adult.

Christian finds the new facility extremely boring. He sees the sky three days a week for one hour. Days are long, starting at 5:00 a.m. with breakfast with a commercial chicken taco, some lettuce, rice, beans and vanilla ice cream. There are no classes, no books, but some television. Lunch is served at noon; a chicken taco wrapped in plastic with a side of lettuce, rice and beans plus vanilla ice cream for dessert. Dinner is at five; a chicken taco wrapped in plastic with a side of lettuce, rice, beans and vanilla ice cream. No second servings. Christian said he is always hungry.

We pressed Christian about the conditions in jail. He told us that it was the saddest place in the world. That was his most descriptive word. *Triste*. He had not heard about suicides or ill health; his specific complaint was bad food and boredom. He has a lawyer, but he does not understand the process. Christian’s case is currently on the desk of one of eight Adelanto judges. He told us the first thing he will do when he is released is to call and check on his grandmother because he is worried about her safety. Then he will eat a real meal. He has relatives in New York City and he hopes to start work as a car mechanic in America. We compared his comments about Adelanto with our other traveling companions who interviewed other detainees and the experiences were remarkably similar.

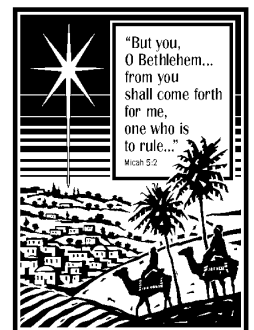
A group of local churches, advocacy groups and interested individuals has established a fund for Justice for Immigrants Seeking Asylum, (JISA) This fund would:

1. Raise bond money to sponsor the release of a detainee
2. Raise money for legal representative for detainees
3. Provide monetary assistance upon release phone calls to and transportation to relatives either in the United States or in their homeland, if deported.
4. Help with settling refugees granted asylum status.

For more information about JISA or to join a group visiting Adelanto, contact a member of our Refugee Concerns Team or call the church office.



“...You will bear a son, and
you will name him Jesus.”
Luke 1:31



“But you,
O Bethlehem...
from you
shall come forth
for me,
one who is
to rule...”
Micah 5:2

COMMUNICATOR



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Deadline for next *Communicator*: December 15

Presbyterian Women Bible Study

Date: Tuesday, December 11 - 9:30 a.m.

Place: CPC Library

Leader: Kristi Van Nostran

Study book: *God's Promise—I Am with You*

All are welcome - men and women alike!

Offering Envelopes

If you have submitted a pledge for 2019 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.