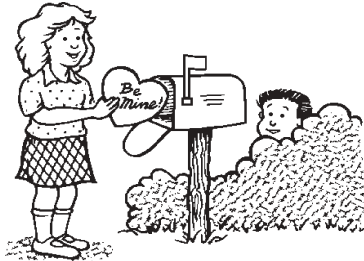




COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

February 2017



FEBRUARY

Worship Plans

Friday, February 3 7:30 p.m.

*Annual Interfaith Exchange with
Temple Beth Israel*

Friday Shabbat Service at Temple Beth Israel

Sunday, February 5 10:00 a.m.

*Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Luke 7:1-17*

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching
Annual meeting following worship

Sunday, February 12 10:00 a.m.

*Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Luke 7:18-34*

The Rev. Krista Wuertz preaching

Sunday, February 19 10:00 a.m.

*Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Luke 7:36-50*

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, February 26 10:00 a.m.

*Transfiguration of the Lord
Jazz Sunday
Luke 9:28-45*

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

2017: The Year of *This Might Not Work*

Already 2017 is shaping up to be a year of new experiments in ministry here at Claremont Presbyterian Church. Last month we experimented with two new kinds of worship services, Waffle Church and Jazz Vespers – both with the vision of reaching out to engage new people in exploring the Way of Christ. We have two task forces at work: one looking at staffing strategy for the future, and the other designing alternative models for funding ministry. Our fund for Emerging Initiatives in Mission and Ministry has received proposals for a project that pairs the work of one of our college students with a class at Mountain View Elementary, co-sponsoring a course on our campus through The New Theological Seminary of the West, and initiating a micro-grant program for local high school students with a vision for community service.

Whenever there is a new venture or risk in the offing, there is energy, excitement, and also the looming thought: *This might not work.*

Author Seth Godin thinks those words are all important. He writes: *At some level, "this might not work" is at the heart of all important projects, of everything new and worth doing.*

This phrase is a double edged sword. It can breed fear and paralyze us into inaction. Or it can let us know that we are right where we need to be – moving out of the comfort zone of what is familiar and has worked in the past and on toward the new frontiers where our gifts and vision and resources can do more than what we have ever imagined before.

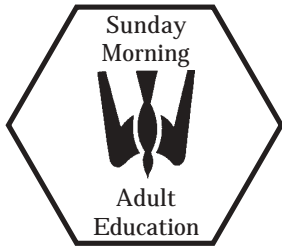
Godin continues: *"This might not work" is either a curse, something that you labor under, or it's a blessing, a chance to fly and do work you never thought possible.*

Do you have an idea for mission or ministry burning in your heart? Is it something so bold that it makes you say, "This might not work"? Then let's talk! This might be your moment to help our congregation move into God's future.

Karen Sapio

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.

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)

Claremont Presbyterian hosts Missional Skills Course sponsored by San Gabriel Presbytery starting February 5

Did you know...

- Over 200 million Americans are not active in any kind of faith community?
- The fastest growing "religious" group in America are the Nones – those who claim no faith orientation?
- Traditional church strategies for engaging newcomers are very ineffective for millennials and many other unaffiliated people?

This winter San Gabriel Presbytery is offering a training course to help those concerned about these trends. Missional Life Skills helps church members learn skills that cross-cultural missionaries have practiced for decades. These skills include:

- Beginning outreach by joining people where they are instead of waiting for them to visit your church
- Learning what is important to this network of people and what their deepest concerns are
- Finding ways to help the group live their values and address their concerns
- Finding opportunities to talk about spiritual questions and practice spiritual disciplines
- Discerning what kind of community of worship and practice might be trying to emerge

This class will meet from 4:00 -6:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons in February. For more information, see our church website or contact Pastor Karen Sapio.



Claremont Presbyterian Church/Temple Beth Israel Annual Interfaith Exchange

Our two congregations will continue our tradition of an annual interfaith exchange. Begun in the mid 1980s, our exchange was a ground-breaking initiative for interfaith work in Claremont. Today, we continue this annual event as a way of keeping our congregations in conversation and keeping our base for other interfaith work strong.

This year's activities include:

Sunday, January 29: TBI members and leaders come to CPC 10:00 a.m. worship

Friday, February 3: CPC members and leaders attend Friday Shabbat service at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Israel, 3033 N. Towne Avenue, Pomona.

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 Sundays after church for lunch.
- ◆ College and Graduate School Age Drop-In Fellowship Group meets Sunday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Souper Bowl of Caring February 5

A simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" inspired a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world.

This prayer, delivered by Brad Smith, then a seminary intern serving at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, gave birth to an idea. Why not use Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football and fun, to

Youth Group Meeting after Church

Youth Group for Junior and Senior High School Students has a new schedule. We are now meeting after church on Sundays and lunch is provided. We would love to have you join us! For more information, please contact Krista Wuertz - krista.wuertz@cst.edu.

also unify the nation for a higher good: collecting dollars and canned food for the needy? Youth could collect donations at their schools and churches in soup pots, and then send every dollar directly to a local charity of their choice.

Your CPC youth will be collecting donations following worship on Sunday, February 5. All funds collected will be sent to the Beta Center food pantry in Pomona.

Please give generously.

Annual Meeting February 5

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held following worship on Sunday, February 5. The purpose of the meeting will be to hear a budget report from Session and to vote on changes to the Terms of Call for our pastors.

All members of Claremont Presbyterian Church are voting members and are encouraged to attend.



Jazz Sunday February 26

10:00 a.m. Worship

Music led by Chet Jaeger
and the Night Blooming Jazzmen

Once again we will round off the final Sunday of Ordinary Time before Lent begins with the sounds of Dixieland Jazz. Invite your friends and come to church ready to clap your hands!



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?”

Sunday, February 26, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Claremont United Methodist Church, 211 W. Foothill Blvd., Claremont, CA 91711

John B. Cobb, Jr. - Author, *Jesus' Abba: The God Who Has Not Failed*

“Can Trump’s Election Become a Positive Factor in World History?” Obviously, on many issues, those working in the prophetic tradition will find themselves in a defensive position in the coming four years. But there some positive opportunities opened up by Trump’s victory and the strong response to it. John B. Cobb, Jr., a long standing leader in the prophetic critique of modern society, will highlight some of the possibilities. The political establishment, consisting of two quite similar parties has been shaken, and fundamental questions about the financial system may surface for reconsideration. The new power of climate change-deniers may lead those who want to save the world from disaster to think more radically about what is required.

Sunday, March 5, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Claremont Presbyterian Church, 1111 N. Mountain Ave., Claremont, CA 91711

Todd Miller - Author, *Border Patrol Nation: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Homeland Security*

“The Creation of a Border Security State” In the heat of the reaction to 911, the Department of Homeland Security has grown by leaps and bounds, and has instituted programs of far-reaching significance to all American citizens. What they have created might be called the Border Security State, and every American citizen ought to be cognizant of what it means for the future of democracy in the United States. What is involved is not just the security of immigrants, legal and illegal, but also the security, and democratic way of life, of all of us in what used to be called the land of the free and home of the brave.

Sunday, March 12, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1700 N. Towne Ave., Claremont, CA 91711

Donna Orange - Author, *Climate Crisis, Psychoanalysis, and Radical Ethics*

Title pending

Sunday, March 19, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church, 724 E. Bonita Ave., San Dimas, CA 91773

Sister Simone Campbell, SSS - Director, NETWORK – Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

“Pope Francis, Donald Trump, and the Way Ahead”

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

Title pending

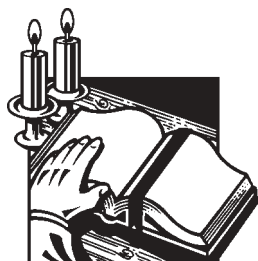
Looking back on 2016

By proclamation of Pope Francis, 2016 was a Year of Jubilee, in honor of the 50th anniversary of Vatican II. What is the meaning of this gesture on the Pope’s part?

In biblical times, once every seven years, debts were to be forgiven, slaves freed, and the land allowed to lie fallow. Furthermore, every 49 years, land that had been alienated from its original owners was to be returned to its families of origin.

The intent of this ancient legislation seems to have been to radically equalize the conditions for life to flourish in terms of the land tenure and productive systems then in place. But whether, and to what extent, such regulations were ever put into practice remains a question, as does what they might mean for us in our very different economic, social, and political conditions.

The very existence of these regulations in the Hebrew scriptures, however, raises a thought-provoking question for all persons of faith: what would happen if, in the spirit of the Jubilee, we were to give serious consideration about how to renew the conditions for life to flourish, not just among the marginal and threatened sectors of our population, but for the land and the creatures as well – all the residents of what the Pope calls “our common home”?



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.

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.



Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 12/31/16	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$ 466,404	\$ 477,000
Other Income	90,316	96,100
Bequests/Gifts	5,000	0
Expenses	(555,685)	(572,928)
VARIANCE	6,035	(172)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 12/31/16	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$ 758,107	725,596
Expenses	(738,241)	(725,696)
VARIANCE	19,866	0

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

Lent Begins March 1

It is still another month until Lent begins, but now is a good time to plan for making this a meaningful season of reflection and preparation. Here is a preview of what is in the works for Lent at Claremont Presbyterian Church. Watch for more information on our website, bulletin, and Facebook pages.

March 1 Ash Wednesday: Worship with imposition of the Ashes. This service will be held in our newly refurbished Chapel.

Lenten Groups: Creating a Life with God

Any life of actively living the Gospel – in service, in proclamation, in acts of justice and resistance of evil – must be supported by a robust relationship with God and the shaping power of prayer. This Lent we will explore how to create a life with God using the book: *Creating A Life With God: The Call of Ancient Prayer Practices*, by Danile Wolpert. Sign-ups for Lenten Groups will begin in mid-February.

Also in March, a special Lent focused Jazz Vespers.

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, February 13 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.

How to Bring Back the Dead (Animals)

CPC Member Tim Bovard has been a taxidermist for the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles for the last 30 years. He is featured in a recent interview on a website called Science Friday. You can listen to the interview at www.sciencefriday.com/segments/how-to-bring-back-the-dead-animals.

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

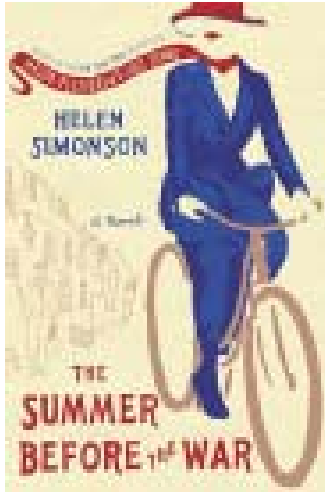
Adult Education
9:00 a.m.

Church School
10:15 a.m.

Worship
10:00 a.m.

Nursery Care
available both hours

***CPC Presbyterian Women extend a cordial invitation
to a Book Review and Tea on
Saturday, February 4, 2017
from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.***



The selected book, The Summer Before the War by Helen Simonson, is set in an English village and begins during the summer of 1914.

Elaine Walker and Leanne Kerchner will explore characters, themes, and author insights.

Molly Arboleda, well-known Claremont High School teacher, will provide historical context for the novel.

Light refreshments will be served.

Advance donations will not be required.

A free-will offering to benefit CPC mission partnership will be accepted during the event.

Companions on the Inner Way Retreat - Liberation Spirituality

Companions on the Inner Way's annual Southern California retreat will this year feature Brian McLaren, author, speaker, activist and public theologian, as the keynote speaker.

Carolyn Foster, Director of the Companions program, wrote this about Brian McLaren and the upcoming retreat: *Brian was our presenter at our northern California retreat several years ago, and I don't think I've ever been as riveted as I was by the combination of his deep theological understanding and his warmth, humor, and eagerness to engage with us. He in turn was delighted by the Companions community and responded immediately to my invitation to return. His topic of Liberation Spirituality draws on ideas from his new book and will, I believe, energize and inspire us.*

Attending a Companions retreat provides the

opportunity for spiritual growth and includes quiet time with God, meaningful daily study, reflection and worship and the opportunity to make new friends from other Presbyterian congregations.

We hope that a group from CPC will be able to attend this retreat during the week of March 5-10. If you have questions check out the Companions website, www.cotiway.org or speak to Jeanine Robertson. There are limited scholarship funds available through the church office. You can register online at www.cotiway.org or fill out and mail in the registration form.

Please let the church office know you are registered so that we can plan to attend as a group.



COMMUNICATOR



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

Return Service Requested

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Claremont, CA
Permit No. 131

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

“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.

2017 Pledge 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.

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.