



# COMMUNICATOR

## News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

February 2019

### WORSHIP PLANS

**Friday, February 1 7:30 p.m.**

Interfaith Exchange  
with Temple Beth Israel  
Friday Shabbat Prayers at  
Temple Beth Israel

**Sunday, February 3 10:00 a.m.**

*Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Luke 4:21-30

The Rev. Karen Sapiro preaching

**Sunday, February 10**

**10:00 a.m.**

*Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Luke 5:1-11

The Rev. Karen Sapiro preaching

**7:00 p.m.**

Evening Prayer  
for Healing and Wholeness  
In the Chapel

**Sunday, February 17 10:00 a.m.**

*Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Luke 6:17-26

The Rev. Brian Gaeta-Symonds preaching

**Wednesday, February 20 5:00 p.m.**

Messy Midweek Church  
Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, February 24**

**10:00 a.m.**

*Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Luke 6:27-38

The Rev. Karen Sapiro preaching

**6:00 p.m.**

Jazz Vespers

### From the Pastor

This newsletter ought to be arriving at your home sometime around February 2 – otherwise known as Groundhog Day. We live in a place where winter weather is so pleasant that we are not overly concerned with the question of whether or not we will get six more weeks of it. Still, we are eager in both our lives and our church that a new season is coming – a time of new life and growth.

Around our campus and through our ministries, we are seeing signs that we are coming into a new season. Our new Facilities Manager, Patrick West, is already at work improving the safety and functionality of our buildings and grounds. We are kicking off “Messy Midweek Church” a dinner time version of our popular Waffle Church gatherings. And we are expanding our Vespers offerings to include a Lenten Vespers in March that will feature the music of the St. Petersburg Men’s Chorus.

February also offers opportunities for a season of growing in faith, and skills for sharing it in various ways. This newsletter includes information about San Gabriel Presbytery’s Winterfest, which offers workshops on Welcoming the Stranger, and Mobilizing Your Church to serve. It also contains an invitation to The Peacemaking Conference of the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii where there will be workshops on addressing violence and confronting racism.

Maybe it’s not about whether the groundhog emerges from his home on February 2, it is about how we extend ourselves to explore new ways of sharing the love and peace of Christ’s gospel.

*Karen Sapiro*

### Waffle Church & Messy Midweek Church

Claremont Presbyterian Church offers many ways for families to become involved in the life of our CPC community. Waffle Church and Messy Midweek Church are two new opportunities for fun and creative fellowship, and dinner, in these family friendly ways to engage the whole family in learning more about their community of faith. Join us and bring your friends. And don't forget to put these dates on your calendar:

Waffle Church at 10:00 a.m

March 24

May 19

July 28

September 15

November 17

Messy Midweek Church 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

February 20

April 17

June 27 (Thursday during VBS)

August 21

October 16

## Sunday Morning Adult Education

Members and friends are cordially invited to the following Adult Education forums at 9:00 a.m. in Room 1.

“The State of Claremont: Housing and Food Insecurity Issues”

**February 3** – Kami Grosvenor, Inland Valley Hope Partners

An overview of housing and food insecurity issues in and around Claremont.

**February 10** – Nancy Mintie, Uncommon Good

A closer look into food insecurity in the east Pomona Valley

**February 17** – Kami Grosvenor, Inland Valley Hope Partners

A closer look into housing and homelessness issues in the east Pomona Valley

**February 24** – CPC Adult Education Forum

A conversation about how CPC can best or most appropriately respond to the issues

**March 3** – To be discerned

Coming up in March – A Lenten Series:

CPC Pastors Karen and Brian will be looking into potential Lenten resources as well as weekly practices to assist us in our Lenten journey together.



### Messy Midweek Church

If you have young ones,  
or are young at heart yourself,  
check out this new initiative  
happening at CPC.

A fun and creative experience  
that brings together games and crafts,  
worship, and dinner that embraces the  
messy-ness of our church community.

Our planning team is hard at work  
putting together meaningful  
explorations  
of faith, fun, and food.  
Invite your friends and your neighbors!

Wednesday, February 20  
from 5:00 -7:00 p.m.  
CPC Fellowship Hall

### February 2 Work Day

Would you be willing to dust books in the library for free coffee and doughnuts? How about cleaning and straightening storage areas in Fellowship Hall or the Sacristy? Or some light gardening on the classroom patios? How about free coffee and doughnuts when you arrive and later when the work is done a free In-N-Out burger and fries?

All church volunteer work day February 2, 2019, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Coffee and doughnuts available at 8:30 a.m. burgers and fries served at 12:15 p.m.

Sign-ups on the patio in January.

Do you have a small cleaning or maintenance project you've noticed on campus and thought, "Someone needs to take care of that." or even better, "With a little time and help I could take care of that." Share your work day ideas with Bill Brinegar any Sunday after church on the patio or at [bill@drsbrinegar.com](mailto:bill@drsbrinegar.com).

### Interfaith Exchange Continues February 1

For four decades, Claremont Presbyterian Church and Temple Beth Israel have come together during January/February to celebrate what we share and deepen our understanding of the ways in which we are different. Our friends from the Temple worshipped with us on Sunday, January 27. We will join them Friday night, February 1 for their Shabbat Services at 7:30. The Temple is located at 3033 N. Towne Avenue in Pomona.

### Evening Prayer for Healing and Wholeness

The second Sunday of each month, all are welcome to join in Evening Prayer for Healing and Wholeness in the CPC Chapel. Led by Pastor Karen Sapio and the Rev. Dr. Tina Blair, these services will combine time for quiet contemplation with singing and a time for prayers of healing for yourself, a loved one, or a world situation that is on your heart. Please join us on Sunday, **February 10 at 7:00 p.m.** in the



## Sundays for Children 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 - 6 will be excused from worship following the "Time with the Children" to go to Godly Play and Creative Expression.
- ◆ College and Graduate School Age Drop-In Fellowship Group meets Sunday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

## Souper Bowl of Caring February 3

CALLING ALL YOUTH!

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 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 3. All funds collected will be used to help alleviate hunger in our community.

WE NEED YOU THERE!

## Oakmont Funding

For many years CPC Deacons have supported Oakmont Elementary School in a variety of ways, as a part of the Presbyterian Church's commitment to public education. According to Principal Jenny Adams, the greatest current need this year is funding toward the field study trips each class takes. More than half of the students who attend Oakmont are from low income families, so funding these trips is a challenge.

In 2009 the school became Oakmont Outdoor School, with a focus on studying the

different biomes of our world. Each grade level studies one of the Biomes (Forest, Arctic/Antarctic, grassland, desert, marine and shrubland) with outdoor experiences, culminating in field study trips from one to four days.

The Deacons hope you will support their efforts with a donation to the Deacons' Fund, marked Oakmont and place it in the offering plate, turn it in or mail to the office, or give to a Deacon after church, beginning February 10.

## PEACE-ING IT TOGETHER

How Individuals and Congregations  
Can Bring More PEACE Into Our World

February 23, 2019 8:30 a.m. registration, 8:50 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Lunch included at no cost

at Knox Presbyterian Church, 225 S. Hill Avenue, Pasadena 91106

Are you looking for things you can do that make a difference?  
Come to the Peace-ing It Together conference for answers!

There is no cost to attend this conference,  
but please RSVP to: [PeaceConfSoCal2019@gmail.com](mailto:PeaceConfSoCal2019@gmail.com)  
so we know how many lunches to have available.

## Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA) that celebrate specific ways God has been made known to us. These special offerings represent the largest collective way Presbyterians come together to work for a better world. The offerings actively engage congregations in ministries of compassion, justice, Christian formation, education,

peacemaking and global witness. The

Christmas Joy Offering was received during the season of Advent and CPC gave \$2,012. This offering will go to the Presbyterian Mission Agency and 50% will be distributed to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and 50% will be distributed to racial ethnic education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.

The CPC Mission Commission would like to thank those who gave to support these worthy ministries. If you would like to learn more about this offering you can go to [presbyterianmissions.org/christmasjoy](http://presbyterianmissions.org/christmasjoy).

START YOUR DAY A  
LITTLE CLOSER TO  
GOD



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

## Moment For Mission

Claremont Presbyterian Church contributes to the Presbyterian World Mission. As part of this ministry we have supported Elmarie and Scott Parker. Elmarie works as a regional liaison for Syria, Lebanon and Iraq, and Scott works as an associate for ecumenical partnerships. They share about their work experiences through Mission Connections at [pcusa.org/missionconnections](http://pcusa.org/missionconnections), and we are providing a brief summary of those experiences.

They trained teachers from the church in Iraq on a deeper understanding of autism and on methods of working more effectively with the students and their families. The faculty of the Near East School of Theology based in Beirut, Lebanon, and Presbyterian World Mission organized a visiting team from the Presbyterian Church USA and the United Church of England who met with members of the Assyrian, Syriac Orthodox, Maronite Catholic, Armenian Orthodox, Greek Orthodox, Greek Catholic, Armenian Protestant, and Presbyterian Churches. They also visited with Muslim leaders from Sunni, Shi'a and Druze communities.

They shared about three organizations that were founded by Christians and Muslims: The Lebanese Organization for Study and Training invites people from different religious backgrounds to engage in civic issues. The

## 19th Annual Book Review

A cordial invitation is extended to all for the 19th Annual Book Review, sponsored by Claremont Presbyterian Women.

**Date:** February 9, 2019

**Time:** 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

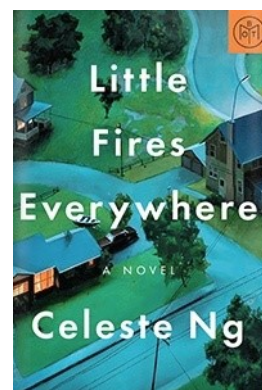
**Place:** CPC Fellowship Hall

**Book:** *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng

### Program Highlights:

- ◆ Author and story insights by Leanne Kerchner and Elaine Walker.
- ◆ Video interview with the author. Memories of "place" from Jo Hardin, Pomona College faculty.
- ◆ Light refreshments including wine and cheese.
- ◆ Book exchange (bring a book, take a book) and opportunity drawings.

Tickets are not required. Reservations are not needed, except for tables of 7. Donations will benefit CPC local mission.



Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue is working in Syria using art therapy with children, and working toward reconciliation between opposition groups and the government, as well as working for religious freedom. The Adyan Foundation works in Lebanon to help people understand shared social responsibility and citizenship in order to move away from the language of "majority" and "minority".

Elmarie Parker hopes that the joyful commitments of these dedicated people, in the face of many challenges, will help us look with fresh eyes at our own context and ask ourselves "How might God be calling us to be bridge-builders, reconcilers, and conveners of a safe place for those holding different opinions, committed to finding solutions that improve the opportunities of everyone in our various communities."

The Mission Interpretation Committee thanks you for your support of the Parker Mission Co-Workers.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
**Presbyterian Mission**





## Presbyterian Women Bible Study

Date: Tuesday, February 12 at 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.

## Winterfest 2019: Mobilizing the Church to Serve

The San Gabriel Presbytery's Annual Winterfest will be hosted at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Diamond Bar on February 2, 2019. This year's theme is *Mobilizing the Church to Serve*. We are eager to welcome Rev. Alexia Salvatierra as our plenary speaker. This year's workshops will focus on mobilizing our churches to serve in our local community and beyond in addition to providing training for elders, deacons, and clerks of Session. All members of your church are encouraged to attend!

The cost is \$10. ***All churches who register five or more participants in Winterfest will receive a free resource bundle as well a sixth registration for free.***

Register at: <https://knoxpresbyterian.breezechms.com/form/Winterfest2019>

## Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 12/31/18	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	459,473	460,000
Other Income	99,406	104,700
Expenses	(537,549)	(588,429)
VARIANCE	21,330	(23,729)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 12/31/18	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	794,530	790,000
Expenses	(790,514)	(790,000)
VARIANCE	4,015	0

## Welcome Patrick West!

We are happy to welcome CPC's new Facilities Manager, Patrick West. Patrick comes to us with extensive experience managing facilities in school districts. He will be particularly valuable helping to coordinate the upkeep of our aging campus. Patrick will be in the office Monday – Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. As Facilities Manager he will also coordinate facility use and maintain the master calendar. He can be reached by calling the church office at (909) 624-9693 or by email at [Patrick@claremontpres.org](mailto:Patrick@claremontpres.org)

2019 NEXTCHURCH Gathering  
Woven Together  
Stories of Dissonance, Sacrifice,  
and Liberation

Seattle First Presbyterian Church & Seattle  
Presbytery, Seattle, WA  
March 11-13, 2019

For more information go to the website at  
[www.nextchurch.net](http://www.nextchurch.net).

If you are interested in attending,  
please speak to one of the pastors.

## Parents' Night Out

We are happy to offer our annual Parents' Night Out at CPCC. Bring your little ones to CPCC on Friday, March 1st between 6 and 9pm for an evening of crafts, movies, dinner, and fun with friends, teachers and volunteers while you enjoy a well-deserved evening out. The cost is \$12 an hour for one child, \$15 an hour for two children, and \$18 an hour for three children. Please be sure to sign up by Thursday, February 28.

## 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, February 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 or email [jcolclough@claremontpres.org](mailto: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

# Jazz Vespers

The Ron Kobayashi Trio featuring vocalist Debbi Ebert

Sunday, February 24th 2019 at 6:00PM

Claremont Presbyterian Church

1111 N. Mountain Ave

Claremont, CA 91711

[www.claremontpres.org](http://www.claremontpres.org)

CalJAS The California Jazz Arts Society CalJAS

## CPC Reaches out to Refugee Families over the Holidays

Once again, Claremont Presbyterian reached out to support refugee families resettling in our area.

**Turkey Distributions.** Many thanks to Supervisor Hilda Solis who offered 15 Thanksgiving turkeys to the Claremont Presbyterian Church. Karen notified me of the donation. Brian picked them up and stuffed the kitchen freezer. Brenda Hill and I handed out 11 turkeys to families. Some Syrian ladies had never roasted a turkey before and were thrilled to participate in this American tradition.

**Christmas gift card donations:** We are excited to share that 30 children of refugee families received \$20 Target gift cards for Christmas. None of the parents celebrate Christmas but they were all touched by our congregation's generosity towards their children.

**Sad News:** I am very sad to report that the Harfoush family lost their beautiful eighteen year old girl on Christmas Day. She died from complications of septic shock due to a kidney infection, however the coroner listed her death as homicide because she had been shot in the back by a sniper in Syria when she was twelve. The bullet snipped her spinal cord, she was a paraplegic for years, but the family had precious time in the presence of a beautiful person before that final medical complication.

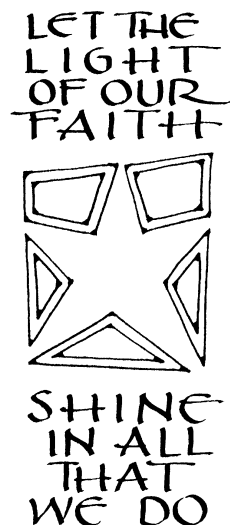
Her memory is cherished.

I am so proud of the way Claremont rallied around this family. Claremont Presbyterian Church was the fiscal sponsor for RRT2, a grass roots movement that called itself Refugee Resettlement Team Two. RRT2 volunteers met the Harfoush family at the airport two years ago and focused on helping them. Claremont Presbyterian Church collected enough money to supplement half rent for over a year. A home of their own and stability helped the family relax for the first time in five years. RRT2 provided assistance for medical appointments, educational support and helped them develop friendships in the community. CPC even offered it's tablecloths for the tables at Nadia Harfoush's funeral.

I am part of the Refugee Concerns Team at our church. This group assists local refugees, asylum seekers and church communities in the Middle East. Our work continues with grit and grace. If you have ideas or questions about this for the group, drop me a line [judy.kohnen@gmail.com](mailto:judy.kohnen@gmail.com).

Thank you CPC, for a blessed collective spirit and heart for refugees and immigrants.

~Judy Kohnen



# COMMUNICATOR



Claremont Presbyterian Church  
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(909) 624-9693

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Deadline for next *Communicator*: February 15

## Too Toxic to Trash

The County of Los Angeles is holding a free hazardous and electronic waste recycling event Saturday, February 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Claremont City Yard, 1616 Monte Vista Avenue in Claremont. The event is open to all Los Angeles county residents. Please bring items in sturdy box, preferable in their original container. Examples of items to be recycled are televisions, cell phones, paints and solvents, fertilizer, medical sharps, etc.

## “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.

## Congregational Meeting

A meeting of the congregation will be held following worship on Sunday, February 3. At the meeting we hear about the church’s life in 2018, the budget for 2019 and will vote on the 2019 Terms of Call of our pastors.

Copies of the 2018 Annual Report are (or will soon be) available on the church website which is [www.claremontpres.org](http://www.claremontpres.org).

## 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.