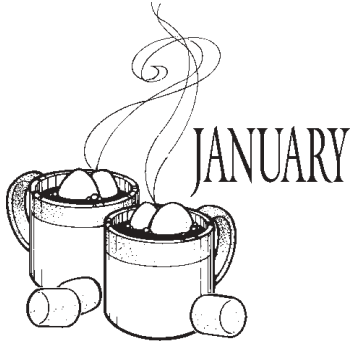




COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

January 2016



Worship Plans

Sunday, January 3 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday after Christmas
Service of Healing and Wholeness
for the New Year
The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, January 10 10:00 a.m.

Baptism of the Lord
David Cortes Fuentes
sharing in worship
The Rev. Rocky Supinger preaching

Sunday, January 17 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday after Epiphany
The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching
Farewell Lunch for Pastor Rocky
following worship

Sunday, January 24 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday after Epiphany
The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, January 31 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

From the Pastor

One of my very favorite pieces of Godly Play storytelling that we use with our children here at CPC explains the seasons of the church year by assembling a circle of white, purple, red, and green wooden blocks. The storyteller then encircles the blocks with a golden cord and reveals the mystery that the year has "A beginning that is like an ending and an ending that is like a beginning."

A beginning: we are draped in purple at the Advent-marked beginning of the church year.

An ending: another calendar year full of triumphs and tragedies is ending.

An ending that is like a beginning, and a beginning that is like an ending.

I am holding on to that phrase for dear life these days.

A beginning: signs of new beginnings are everywhere among us, from a growing garden to room renovations. There is a new Korean Presbyterian church starting in our midst; there are new expressions of spirituality in our worship and new experiments in our mission outreach.

An ending: my time as the Associate Pastor here is ending after eight years. I cannot say all the "thank yous" I need to say. I cannot impress upon you the weight of impact you have had on my and my family's life. I am doing my best to end well, sad yet hopeful. More than anything, grateful.

And prayerful. In this season of personal and church transition, may we all experience God's embrace in the holy paradox of beginnings that are like endings and endings that are like beginnings.

Yours in faith,
Rocky

Farewell for Pastor Rocky

On Sunday, January 17 we will be saying "Farewell" to our Associate Pastor Rocky Supinger. We will take time in worship to give thanks for his ministry among us and gather after worship for a light lunch and a time of sharing. Everyone is invited to contribute to a memory book for Rocky, Meredith and Laura that they can take with them to Chicago. Members of our Evangelism and Nurture team will have pages to sign after worship on January 3 and 10. You can also drop off notes or photos for the memory book in the Church office through Sunday, January 10.

Sunday Morning at Nine Adult Education

Sunday Morning at Nine Adult Education classes begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 9:45.



Adult Education for 2016 begins on January 10 with a special visit from David Cortes Fuentes, former pastor of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church currently serving as a PCUSA Mission Co-worker to Cuba. David and his wife Josey Saez Acevedo have spent the last three months in training and preparation for their departure to Cuba. They are eager to share what they have learned and what they anticipate as they get ready to leave the U.S later in January.

Soup Fridays to Return in January

Watch the Sunday Bulletin, Facebook, and "The Latest" for the date on which Soup Fridays will return in January. This new initiative was a big success this fall, offering a time of food and conversation for all those weary after a long week.

A big thanks to Judy Kohnen for the inspiration for this event and for coordinating the first several months. We need volunteer coordinators for the Fridays in January and February!

Being Head Soup Wrangler for one Soup Friday involves:

- Making a pot of soup and soliciting other food contributors
- Checking supplies of paper goods and replacing as needed
- Arriving early to set up, (tables already in place)
- Recruiting a clean-up team to clean up at evening's end

Do you feel called to take on a night as Head Soup Wrangler? We will be doing signups at the first soup night in January.

New Year's Broom

Holy One, forever new and ageless,
we who live in space and time begin the new year of 2016
desiring that it - and we - be truly new.
O God who makes all things new, help us to be new creations.
New Year's broom, sweep clean our home of the old year's
grudges, mistakes, angry words...and unkindness.
Sweep clean our home of old 2015's
dusty, dull routines, ruts, and patterns
which keep us from a greater love of one another.
New Year's broom, sweep from our hearts all fear,
angry memories, and broken dreams.
May we see clearly again the beauty and blessings of the history we share,
the bonds that unite us.
May our hearts, now swept clean,
have room for new dreams and new beginnings,
so that we, and the year 2016, can be truly new.

Amen

(Anonymous)



Jazz Sunday coming February 7!

**Don't miss this annual service
prior to the beginning of Lent
with music by**

Chet Jaeger and the Night Blooming Jazzmen

Sunday Morning for Children and Youth

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. There will be a time of music and movement with our nursery age children from 9:15-9:45 each Sunday morning.

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 from 6th - 12th grade will meet for Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

Godly Play

We invite all elementary age school children to join us for Godly Play during the worship hour. Children will be excused to go to Godly Play after the Time with the Children.

This is a wonderful curriculum that engages children's wonder and budding moral imagination. Our lessons are being taught by our team of adult

and youth teachers, all of whom are trained and committed to the Godly Play way of learning together. In January we will be focusing on Epiphany.

If you have questions or would like to get involved with Godly Play, please talk to Krista, or email krista@claremontpres.org.



Souper Bowl of Caring - February 7

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 7. All funds collected will be sent to the Beta Center food pantry in Pomona to provide food for hungry people.

Please give generously.

Join Claremont Presbyterian Women and friends for the 16th annual Book Review and Luncheon on Saturday, February 13, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The featured book is *Some Luck* by Jane Smiley, the first novel in a trilogy about Iowa farm life (and beyond) and what it means to be family. Leanne Kerchner will introduce the author, and themes and characters will be explored by Elaine Walker.

Please contact the church office for information about to reserve a space or a table for 8. The donation requested is \$12.00. Checks should be made out to Presbyterian Women.



People in the Church: Sam and Irene Atwood

Claremont Presbyterian Church is a “wonderful community” that delights both Irene and Sam Atwood. They find the presence of God here in many ways. Yet if you ask about a deeply inspirational moment in their lives, they each turn, separately, to experiences in Southern Africa. As a Peace Corps volunteer Irene lived in Lesotho for two years while teaching at an Anglican mission. On Sundays she would see the women, shoes under their arms, arriving from their villages (the men were in South Africa working in the mines.) At the door to the church they would wash their feet, put on their shoes, and enter. Once inside they would fill the church with their glorious a capella songs. Irene knew the depths of their poverty; she marveled at the richness of their faith. Her own faith was solid but lacked a church home. Years before, she had left the Catholic Church in Minnesota where she grew up. Lesotho reaffirmed her faith, provided her the knowledge of other paths to communion, and set her on a new career as a teacher.

Sam and Irene were already members of CPC when Sam participated in a PCUSA month-long Mission Study Trip in 2000 to Southern Africa. His group visited congregations to learn about post-apartheid experiences. For Sam the worship services were “life-changing,” a vivid experience of “the presence of God.” His three trips more recently to Peru as part of the Living Waters Project reminded him again of that intensity of faith experience in the local congregations.

Sam grew up in Annapolis, Maryland on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. He was a precocious child, entering public school at the age of four and graduating high school at fifteen. His real love, however, was nature – wilderness – and at some point Henry David Thoreau’s *Walden* spoke so deeply to him that it became a personal bible. It takes little to imagine Sam reading the following words from *Walden* and saying “Amen.”

It is no dream of mine,
To ornament a line;
I cannot come nearer to God and Heaven
Than I live to *Walden* even.

There is in *Walden* a deep spirituality that melds Nature to God and self. Writing about *Walden Pond*, Thoreau noted

“A lake is the landscape’s most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth’s eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature.”

Thoreau was like a kindred spirit. He did not reveal things so much as he affirmed what Sam already felt. So it was no great surprise that when Sam chose to go to St. John’s College, he chose not the campus near his home but rather the stark and wondrous beauty surrounding the Santa Fe, New Mexico site. “I loved the West,” Sam exclaimed. Like Thoreau, Sam combined a mystical awe with a practical awareness of nature, its rewards and its dangers. While in college he taught wilderness programs, and after graduating in 1977, worked as a field

assistant in Antarctica and later did a brief stint as a National Park Ranger, considering the Park Service as a possible career. Instead he pursued journalism and took a position reporting for the “Santa Fe New Mexican” newspaper. Five years later he moved to Redlands to work for the San Bernardino Sun, lured by the opportunity to write about environmental issues. He and Irene met at a ski club party in 1992.

By then Irene was teaching at a school in a gang-infested neighborhood in San Bernardino. It was rewarding, she felt needed, but it was an overwhelming challenge. “I prayed as I taught,” she revealed, asking God’s help for this particular child, and that one, and that class, and yes, for herself, to have the courage and the strength to meet each challenge. “I prayed every night, I prayed in the morning before school, and I prayed as I taught.” God was her helper, and God helped.

Irene and Sam married in 1994 and moved to Claremont to be closer to Sam’s office at the South Coast Air Quality Management District in Diamond Bar. Irene taught at Oakmont Elementary School in Claremont until her recent retirement. When they came to Claremont, neither Irene nor Sam had been attending church. However, Irene was pregnant with Andrew and they wanted to find a good church community for him “and also for us,” added Sam. How did they discover CPC? Well, we should all be so lucky: Sam’s cousin is John Hill. John recommended CPC. End of story. Call it “genetic predestination.”

The Atwoods have been members since 1994 and have fully participated in the life of the Church. Their son Andrew grew up in the Church. Irene has served as a Deacon and is currently an Elder. Sam has been an Elder and he took a leading role in the Living Waters Project installing water purification systems in several different communities. Reflecting on the importance of CPC to their family, Sam said, “It has been a wonderful community for us to be a part of.” He praised the lay participation, the leadership, and the “wonderful sermons.” Irene added, “I have always loved music. I am so thankful for Geri DeMasi’s organ pieces.” Her comment prompted a confession from Sam: “When we arrived my musical taste was Rock and Roll and no other. Now I also love the music.” Similarly, where at one time Sam saw God only in nature, the experience of CPC has expanded his awareness of God and given it new forms of focus: “the church, the people, the music, the mission work....”

So what’s a church? Among the ready answers are those given by the Atwoods. They offer one more. It’s a blessing.

~Dick Johnson

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 624-9693 with your prayer request. Please be sure you have the permission of the person for whom you are requesting prayer.



Interfaith Interchange in February

Our annual Interfaith Exchange with Temple Beth Israel will take place this year the week of February 12. We will join Temple Beth Israel for their Friday Shabbat service on Friday, February 12. Members of the Temple will worship with us on Sunday, February 14.

Stay tuned for more information about this event in the weekly bulletin, email update and website.

Subscribe to Weekly Email

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. Go to www.facebook.com/claremontpres.

You may 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 11/30/15	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$ 440,000	\$ 458,333
Other Income	60,019	94,509
Bequests/Gifts	3,000	0
Expenses	(565,325)	(574,481)
VARIANCE	(62,306)	(21,639)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 11/30/15	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$ 653,686	\$ 642,088
Expenses	(652,018)	(642,088)
VARIANCE	1,668	0

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

Conscientious Projector

Conscientious Projector is a monthly gathering of mindful, passionate people coming together to screen documentaries about important current justice issues, and to discuss these viewpoints from a variety of perspectives. Screenings are free to the public; just bring an open mind and a desire to discuss!

Wednesday, January 20 there will be a screening of the film *Heist: Who Stole the American Dream? (And how we can get it back)* at 7:00 p.m. at the Forum Bookstore in the far west end of the Old Packing House in Claremont.

The film is stunning audiences across the globe as it traces the worldwide economic collapse to a 1971 secret memo entitled "Attack on American Free Enterprise System." Written over 40 years ago by the future Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell, at the behest of the US Chamber of Commerce, the 6-page memo, a free-market utopian treatise, called for a money-fueled big business makeover of government through corporate control of the media, academia, the pulpit, arts and sciences and destruction of organized labor and consumer protection groups.

But Powell's real "end game" was business control of law and politics. Heist's step by step detail exposes the systemic implementation of Powell's memo by both US political parties culminating in the deregulation of industry, outsourcing of jobs and regressive taxation. All of which led us to the global financial crisis of 2008 and the continued dismantling of the American middle class.

Dinner for a Good Cause



Claremont Presbyterian Church maintains a Children's Center that provides care for children from six weeks of age to Kindergarten.

On the second Monday of each month you have an opportunity to support the 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, January 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. What could be easier?



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

Pastors
Karen Sapia
Rocky Supinger

Church School
9:00 a.m.
(Except in Summer)

Worship
10:00 a.m.

Nursery Care
available both hours

World Missions

CPC member Josey Saez Acevedo and her husband, former Emmanuel Hispanic Presbyterian Church pastor David Cortes Fuentes, are just beginning a World Missions appointment in Cuba. The group from CPC that is discerning “emerging experiments in mission” to pursue with the mission pledge portion of our capital campaign funds is eager to build a partnership between CPC and David and Josey as they begin their work. Here is their first update about their new work.

A letter from David Cortés Fuentes and Josey Saez Acevedo, preparing for service in Cuba
September 2015 - Ministry Announcement
Warmest Greetings, dear family and friends,

The summer season will soon come to a close; fall is just around the corner, bringing with it a transition of cooler weather and breathtaking autumn colors. So, too, are we in the midst of a transitional season in our lives. Our transition will take us from southern California to Cuba in a matter of a few short months. We are humbled to announce that we have been appointed as mission co-workers to Cuba through the Presbyterian Mission Agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We are headed to the Seminario Evangélico de Teología (Evangelical Theological Seminary) in Matanzas, Cuba.

For David, being appointed as professor of New Testament and Greek is a continuation of his calling to empower men and women to proclaim and witness to the transformative power of the gospel. As for Josey, she will continue to engage in ministry in the area of Christian education and wherever needed. Our ministries will continue to be Christ-centered with a passion for education, justice, proclamation of the gospel through evangelism, and the ministry of compassion and advocacy.

“For such a time as this” we sense God’s call to continue to build upon the many years of partnership between the PC(USA) and the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba. Together we will forge new ties and new exciting opportunities of ministry. It is with great hope that we will partner with our Cuban brothers and sisters to help bring about reconciliation, address root causes of poverty, and share the love of God through Jesus Christ.

As we begin our orientation this October, we are asking you to join us in supporting one another with constant prayers and to consider contributing to our ministry with a regular monthly gift, or a one-time gift, as you are so moved. As part of the team, we will be praying for your ministry as well. Whether you support us with your prayers and/or finances, please continue encouraging us by corresponding with us.

As part of our “sending” we will be available to visit with you (churches, presbyteries and other interested groups) to share our call to international mission and our coming work with our church partner in Cuba. We would very much enjoy scheduling a time to visit with each of you anytime between November 1 and December 27, 2015. In our next communication we will be able to suggest possible dates for visits and presentations. Feel free to contact us and share contact information with us so we may follow-up with you. We prefer to be contacted through our email to dcortes44@live.com. We look forward to seeing you!

Please be aware that we will be receiving a salary during this time of itineration, so an honorarium is not required. However, the hosting group generally covers travel and is asked to provide meals and lodging. Do you know another church or group nearby that would like for us to visit? These expenses are often shared between two or more hosting groups in the same geographical area. Presbyterian World Mission might be able to assist in some cases.

We thank God for what God has done in the past, for what God is doing in the present, and for what God will continue to do in the future. We look forward to our shared journey together. We will be in touch through correspondence and other social media.

Blessings!

David Cortés Fuentes and Josey Saez Acevedo

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).

Baby Holders Needed

Do you love babies? Would you love the opportunity to snuggle a darling little baby? The Claremont Presbyterian Children’s Center is looking for adults to volunteer to hold babies in the infant room on weekdays, especially between the hours of 7:00 to 9:00 in the morning and 11:00 to 2:00 in the afternoon. If you would like to volunteer, contact CPCC Director Sacha Lord at (909) 626-6261.



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

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

Two Congregational Meetings in January

There will be a brief congregational meeting following worship on January 17 to dissolve the pastoral relationship between CPC and Pastor Rocky Supinger.

Our annual meeting on January 31 will be to approve a budget and Terms of Call for 2016 and will also include recommendations from Session to alter our by-laws concerning the number of Elders and Deacons at CPC and to change the month in which officers are elected. More information will be distributed prior to this meeting.

“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.

Be sure to share it with your friends!

2016 Pledge Envelopes

If you have submitted a pledge for 2016 and indicated that you will pay weekly, monthly or quarterly, pledge envelopes have been printed for you. Please pick yours up in the Narthex.

Annual Report Deadline

Annual Reports by all Commission, Committee and Board Chairpersons are due by Friday, January 15. Please send your report to Joan Leibeck, CPC Office Manager. You may email the report to Joan@claremontpres.org.

Sunday Evening Bible Study

Our Sunday evening Bible Study will begin again on January 10. We will be returning to our study of Mark's Gospel. Join us every Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the church library.