



COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

March 2017



Worship Plans

Wednesday, March 1

Ash Wednesday

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Labyrinth Walk

7:00 p.m.

Worship Service with Imposition of Ashes

Sunday, March 5 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent

Luke 10:25-42

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, March 12 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday in Lent

Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, March 19 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday in Lent

Luke 15:1-32

The Rev. Dongwoo Lee preaching

Sunday, March 26 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Luke 16:19-31

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Creating a Life with God - Focus on Prayer This Lent

In February the American Psychological Association released the results of a recent survey. The survey indicated that Americans are feeling more stress than they did even just six months ago, and that stress levels were the highest they had been in ten years.

A spokesperson for the Association suggested several strategies to help cope with rising stress levels: spending less time engaged in the 24 hour on-line news cycle, exercising more, or developing a new hobby.

Christians have always found strength for difficult times through being rooted and grounded in prayer and other spiritual practices. These anchors make us more able to withstand the stresses brought about by tumultuous times – and also more able to sustain active, long-term resistance to the evils causing the turmoil around us. Many active Christians, however, say they feel like they really don't know how to pray – or wish they were better at it.

The season of Lent, which begins this year on March 1, is a season to focus on prayer, deepen our current prayer practices, or explore new ones. Our Lenten small groups this year will read together *Creating a Life with God*, by Daniel Wolpert. These groups offer an opportunity to learn more about prayer and how it can anchor our lives and our communities during trying times. Groups will begin meeting on Sunday, March 5. To sign up to be part of a group, cut out the sign-up sheet on page 2 of this newsletter, or call the church office.

Can't join a group? You can still read the book and follow the guide for reading it as an individual. Any of our pastors would be happy to discuss it with you as well.

Karen Sapio

March 1 Is Ash Wednesday

Labyrinth Walk 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Angell Courtyard

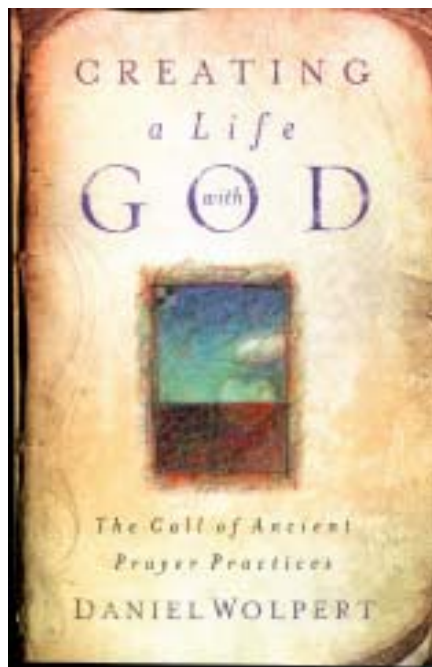
(come anytime during those hours)

Ash Wednesday Worship with Imposition
of Ashes 7:00 in the Chapel



Sunday Morning Adult Education

Throughout the season of Lent, the usual Adult Education offerings will be replaced by Lenten Small Group gatherings.



Creating a Life with God A Small Group Experience for Lent

In turbulent times, it is more important than ever to be rooted and grounded in deep practices of prayer and discernment. This Lent, Claremont Presbyterian Church offers a small group experience centered on the book *Creating a Life with God: The Call of Ancient Prayer Practices*. Each group will read the book, explore the prayer practices it describes, and seek out how a deep prayer life can move us to courageous action in the world.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1 and ends on Saturday, April 15.

Interested? Please use the form below to sign-up. Cut it out and return it to the church.

I would like to participate in a Lenten Small Group Experience

Name _____

Contact email or phone _____

Preferred group meeting time

- ☐ Sunday morning - 9:00 a.m.
- ☐ Sunday following worship - 11:20 a.m.
- ☐ Sunday afternoon - 4:00 p.m.
- ☐ Weekday morning
- ☐ I would be interested in organizing my own group

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.

Waffle Church - Sunday, March 19

Waffle church is coming back in March! Our first waffle church worship was a great experience, so we have decided to make this a regular form of worship at CPC. If you missed it in January, waffle church is a child-centered family worship service that includes eating waffles and worshipping God together through story, art and music.



Waffle church is designed to respect and celebrate the enthusiasm and energy of children in worship, and it includes a lot of movement and child-centered activities – and of course waffles!

Our next waffle church worship will be on Sunday, March 19 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you are able to help in the kitchen preparing waffles, please contact Krista at krista@claremontpres.org.



Lent Art Event - Sunday, March 26

This year we are having a Lent Art Event. This event is designed for children in particular to help them understand the significance of the events of Holy Week – but people of all ages are welcome to help prepare our hearts for Holy Week and Easter.

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday,

March 26 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Our Artist in Residence, Jordan Nesbit, is creating multiple opportunities for children to learn about Holy Week so that they can better understand the significance of Easter.

Please direct any questions to Krista at krista@claremontpres.org.



**Come One, Come all to the
Intercongregational Picnic
Sunday, March 12 - 4:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall & Angell Courtyard
Bring a potluck dish to share**

Come share food and fellowship with members of all
the congregations that call
1111 N. Mountain Avenue home.

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 are 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 the Southwest Room 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 01/31/17	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$ 36,042	\$ 37,917
Other Income	11,589	10,776
Bequests/Gifts	0	0
Expenses	(44,968)	(48,693)
VARIANCE	2,663	0
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 01/31/17	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$ 63,910	63,115
Expenses	(61,547)	(63,115)
VARIANCE	2,363	0

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

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, March 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.

Playing Piano for God's Glory

"My fingers are from God," says Grace Lieferly, the pianist for the GPIB (Indonesian) congregation. Grace adds a great deal to the GPIB weekly worship because she is a very talented pianist. She easily accompanies the various musical groups and soloists that sing for worship. Music is an important part of each service. It is expected that almost all members will participate in at least one singing group.


Grace arrived in the United States in 2007 when she started college at Pensacola Christian College in Florida. After getting her BA there, she moved to southern California to get her MA at La Sierra University in Riverside. Now Grace teaches at Yamaha Music School in Cerritos. Her dream is to have her own music school someday.

Grace was born in Jakarta. Her parents were fairly new Christians who, in gratitude to God for their first child, named her Grace. Today her parents still live in Jakarta with her younger sister. They visit Grace here in the states every year or two.

Grace feels very deeply that God has called her to use her musical talents for God's glory. She has a busy life, especially on Sundays, because of her "mission." She plays the piano for three different "Indo" congregations: one in Baldwin Park at 11:00 a.m., GPIB at 3:00 p.m. and a church in Chino Hills at 5:00 p.m..

What does Grace like to do in her "free time"? She enjoys going out to eat with her friends.

If you would like to hear Grace play the piano, join Ruth Auld and Gail Duggan on Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. for the GPIB service.


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

Jazz Vespers Returns! **Sunday, March 26 at 6:00 p.m.**

Vespers are an ancient form of evening prayer and music that has found new meaning in this anxious age. 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 the evening: Finding Beloved Community.

We are delighted to welcome back the Ron Kobayashi Trio and vocalist Debbi Ebert who are 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(c)(3). Its mission is to preserve and promote jazz and other American art forms through concerts, workshops and presentations.



New Theological Seminary of the West

Celtic Spirituality Class and Pilgrimage

This spring, Claremont Presbyterian Church will host a course on Celtic Spirituality taught by The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Pritchard through the New Theological Seminary of the West. The class may be taken for credit or as an active auditor. Next fall, experience a pilgrimage to Scotland to see the landscape and culture out of which Celtic spirituality developed. You may participate in the Pilgrimage without taking the class, or take the class without going on the Pilgrimage.

Class dates/time: April 23, 30; May 7, 14, 21 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.

A revival of interest in Celtic art, history, and culture has led to the rebirth of a spirituality that is rooted in the sacred geography of these Celtic peoples. "New" Celts such as John Philip Newell and John O'Donohue can teach us a spirituality that is creation-centered and embodied, that nurtures connection and community, and that draws wisdom from many sources. In this course, we will consider the writings of some of these New Celts and their ancient roots in pre-Christian times and in medieval Christianity. Spiritual practices inspired by Celtic art and the liturgies of the Iona Community will be part of our time together. The relevance of Celtic spirituality in our present context will be considered.

In Fall 2017, we will travel to Scotland and visit Celtic sites in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and further north. The two-week pilgrimage will include a stay on the Isle of Iona, a center of ancient Celtic Christianity and of the renewal of Celtic Spirituality in our times. The pilgrimage will be limited to twelve participants. Students in the spring course will have priority. A detailed itinerary will be available early in 2017. Dates for the Pilgrimage are the last week of September and the first week of October.

For more information please contact The Rev. Dr. Tina Blair, or Pastor Karen Sapio

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Claremont Presbyterian Church
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Deadline for next issue of the *Communicator*: March 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.

An Opportunity

Stan Springer has been the CPC contact person for the Agenda for a Prophetic Faith lecture series since its inception. He is now forced to retire because of vision issues. A replacement is needed. This is a chance to meet and break bread with the fascinating speakers. If you are interested, please contact Stan the church office at (909) 624-9693.

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.