



COMMUNICATOR

News from Claremont Presbyterian Church

November 2015



Worship Plans

Sunday, November 1 10:00 a.m.

All Saints Day

The ABCs of Stewardship:
"Abundance"

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, November 8 10:00 a.m.

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

The ABCs of Stewardship:
"Blessing"

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, November 15 10:00 a.m.

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

The ABCs of Stewardship:
"Community"

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, November 22 10:00 a.m.

Christ the King Sunday

"Thanksgiving and Gratitude"

The Rev. Karen Sapio preaching

Sunday, November 29 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday in Advent

"Nativity Seen - Satellite View"

The Rev. Rocky Supinger preaching

From the Pastor

Have you ever paid a mandatory tithe to the church as part of your taxes? Have you ever harvested crops that were part of the "living" for your local parish pastor? Has your household ever remitted a yearly pew rent to retain your family's seating in your church's sanctuary?

No? Well, all of these are methods congregations employed in past centuries to finance their ministries, maintain their properties and pay their pastors. As the United States left state sponsored churches behind, moved into the industrial era and embraced egalitarian values, however, they left these old methods behind. By the early twentieth century, most Protestant churches in the U.S. had settled on a cycle of annual pledges of financial support from their members as the primary means of funding ministry.

When Claremont Presbyterian Church was founded sixty years ago, it followed this pattern. Part of what we had to demonstrate in order to become an officially chartered congregation in 1955 was that we had enough 'pledging units' to be financially self-sufficient.

Today, 95% of Claremont Presbyterian Church's annual operating budget comes from pledges and other regular giving by church members and participants. Just 4% comes from fees we charge for building usage, with an additional 1% from miscellaneous sources such as interest or credit card rebates.

Pledges are absolutely essential to funding our ministries, maintaining our buildings and grounds and paying church staff.

Our Stewardship Theme this year is "The ABC's of Stewardship." We will be exploring the basics of how stewardship functions in our church: what pledges pay for, how the Session makes financial decisions, and what the future of funding ministry might look like for our congregation. We will be inviting the congregation to submit their own questions about stewardship and to share their ideas.

I am looking forward to this journey together.

Peace be with you,

Karen Sapio



Sunday Morning at Nine Adult Education

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

Join Sunday at Nine conversations in November as we discuss *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. The book, written as a letter to his son, was prompted by Coates' reading of James Baldwin and written after a meeting with President Obama. Hailed as "essential," "extraordinary," and a "formidable literary achievement," it was nominated for a 2015 National Book Award in nonfiction. Coates – a journalist, writer, and educator – is a recent recipient of a MacArthur genius grant. Discussion leaders will be Elaine Walker (November 1), David Menefee-Libey (November 8), and Duane Bidwell (November 15).

Adopt A Family

Ho! Ho! Ho!

Christmas time is rapidly approaching and with it comes our annual Adopt a Family program. Each year the Deacons at Claremont Presbyterian Church coordinate this program in which we "adopt" families from the local community to try to help them have a happier Christmas than they might otherwise have.

We will start having names and wishes available at the Alternative Christmas Market on November 22. This means you will be able to hit the Black Friday sales along with thousands of others! We have six families this year so there will be plenty of options. Just choose a "wish" and purchase the item. Wrap it and return it to the church by December 13. Your Deacons will deliver the gifts in time for Christmas.

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.

The generosity of the people at CPC never fails to amaze us. We are eternally grateful.

Merry! Merry!

~Doug & Judy Carrington

Soup Fridays

TGIF!

Celebrate the end of a long week of work, school, or busy-ness by joining your friends and neighbors for a simple supper of soup, bread and conversation. Soup Fridays is an idea whose time has come: we all hunger for good food and for the experience of community. We hope that Soup Fridays will feed both of these hungers. Join us Friday evenings from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to support this effort by signing up for a Friday to make soup, bring bread, set up or clean up, contact the church office at (909) 624-9693.



Korean New Worshipping Community

In September KyungHwa and YongJung Song, students at Claremont School of Theology, approached Claremont Presbyterian Church about their desire to explore the possibility of a Korean Presbyterian worshipping community in Claremont. Their primary need was a place to meet. Session approved a property use agreement with them and a small group began meeting together in October. They meet weekday mornings at 5:30 a.m.(!) for daily prayer and at 1:00 p.m. on Sundays for worship. Their gatherings take place in our music building. They would welcome any visitors from CPC who would like to learn more about their hopes and plans. Please keep this group – and our partnership with them – in your prayers.

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. We are off to a great start this year. 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 November we will be focusing on the journey of the people of God – the exile and return. We will also begin to focus on Advent.

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

New Beginnings Update

Last spring, our congregation set some goals and priorities based on our New Beginnings process of assessment and small group gatherings. One of those priorities was,

Reaching in: increasing the depth of spiritual practice and knowledge among our members and those who wish to join us.

This fall, church leaders along with our pastors have worked on this priority in a variety of ways.

Worship in September and October has focused on the theme "Yearning to Pray and Learning to Pray." The sermons have explored various forms of prayer such as Praying with Scripture, Silence and Stillness and Embodied Prayer. The Prayers of the People have given the congregation opportunities to experience those forms. A weekly bulletin insert called "The Connection Card" has invited people to share prayer concerns and joys which are then prayed over during the week by various groups in the church including staff at its weekly meetings, our Sunday youth group, and the Wednesday meditation circle. Finally our seminary intern Danielle Zhao, along with Pastor Karen, is leading a weekly Sunday evening Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark.

Plans are underway for additional opportunities for growing in spiritual depth during the Advent/Christmas Season.

November 22 Advent Event

It is our tradition at CPC to have an Advent Craft Event. We offer church members and friends of all ages the opportunity to make something to bring home that will help to focus our attention and reflections during the season of Advent. This year, our Advent Event is in the evening on Sunday, November 22. We will meet from 6:00-8:30 p.m., and we will focus our efforts on making nativity projects. Our theme for this Advent season is "Nativity Seen," and so we will work on craft projects that help us to make the nativity visible to us in our homes.

We will provide warm drinks, and if you would like to contribute dessert type food (cookies, fruit, etc.) to share with your fellow crafters please feel free to do so. If you have any questions about this event, or if you would like to help plan and coordinate the event, please be in touch with Krista at krista@claremontpres.org.



Incarcerated Women's Holiday Gift Project

ACWIP (Action Committee for Women in Prison), which advocates for the humane and compassionate treatment of all incarcerated women everywhere, was founded by Gloria Killian who was wrongly convicted and spent 16 years in prison. Joyce Ride (mother of Bear Ride, former CPC Associate Pastor) assisted in securing her release. Gloria has spoken at Claremont Presbyterian Church as part of our Adult Education Series.

This Christmas, CPC has an opportunity to partner with ACWIP. ACWIP will provide 5,000 holiday gift bags to women incarcerated in Southern California Prisons, Fire Camps and County Jails. These are the only gifts many of these women will receive.

You can help by providing gift items:

shampoo and/or conditioner (travel size)
body wash and lotion (travel size)
toothbrushes and toothpaste,
coffee, tea or cocoa packets
stationery - writing paper, envelopes
combs
wrapped pieces of candy
hair ties



Bring the items to church any Sunday in November. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Just drop a check in the offering plate. Be sure to denote "ACWIP Holiday Gift Bags" on the memo line. You may also send checks directly to ACWIP at 769 Northwestern Drive, Claremont, CA 91711.

Sunday Morning Nursery

Infants and pre-school age children are welcome in our nursery each Sunday. We have a nursery staff and volunteers from the congregation who consistently provide excellent care for the youngest members of our church family. The Director of our Nursery, Ms. Marina Gonzales, currently teaches pre-k at the Claremont Presbyterian Children's Center, where she has taught for over ten years. Our Artist in Residence, Amanda Colclough, will be doing a time of music and movement with our nursery age children from 9:15-9:45 each Sunday morning before worship.

Our nursery hours are designed to let parents participate in both the education hour from 9:00-10:00, and in worship from 10:00-11:00 each Sunday morning. Please contact Krista Wuertz, our Director of Ministry to Children and Families, if you would like more information about our nursery care. krista@claremontpres.org.

2016 Book Review

Mark your calendar for Claremont Presbyterian Women's 16th Book Review and Luncheon on Saturday, February 13, 2016. *Some Luck*, by award-winning author Jane Smiley, has been selected. This first book in a trilogy about a farm family (Iowa and beyond), recounts their lives and times over 33 years in a storytelling style described as no-fuss, subtle, and moving. Elaine Walker and Leanne Kerchner will gladly exchange thoughts about the book as you read. Luncheon details will be announced soon.

Daylight Saving Time Ends November 1

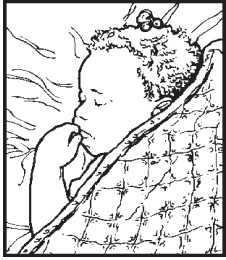
Be sure to turn your clock back one hour
before going to bed on
Saturday, October 31.



Congregational Meeting November 1

Come for a light lunch after worship on Sunday, November 1 followed by important presentations about:

- 2016 Stewardship
- Progress on our New Beginnings Initiatives
- Preliminary Budget for 2016



Angel Interfaith Network

This year's "Project Angel" meeting will be on Tuesday, November 3 at 7:00 p.m. at Temple Beth Israel, 3033 N. Towne Avenue in Pomona. This annual Baby Shower which supports Angel Interfaith Network, supplies items for babies born at Los Angeles County+USC Medical Center to guarantee that they go home with the basic supplies needed.

Bring new, unwrapped baby items such as blankets, hygiene items, clothes, diapers, knit caps, car seats, bottles, toys, books, etc. If you cannot attend the shower but would like to donate baby items, please bring them to church by Sunday, November 1.



Community

Meal - November 22

Our church is one of a number of congregations involved in serving meals three Sundays a month on a rotating basis: Claremont United Church of Christ, Friends Meeting (Quakers), Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Claremont United Methodist Church, Monte Vista Unitarian-Universalist and Nithyananda V. Temple, Montclair.

This meal program is part of the response to discussions more than three years ago led by members of the Interfaith Council on the question: "What can local faith communities do to address the needs of the 'homeless' (or financially challenged) in our midst?"

It's now our turn again on **Sunday, November 22**. On that date, volunteers are needed to (1) prepare a food item for 20 people and bring it to Sumner School by 2:45 p.m. that day or (2) help serve the meal, visit with participants and prepare "to go" boxes.

If you are interested in helping please contact the church office at (909) 624-9693.

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, November 9 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?

Financial Highlights

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 09/30/15	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$ 349,380	\$ 375,000
Other Income	49,793	77,325
Bequests/Gifts	0	0
Expenses	(452,387)	(470,030)
VARIANCE	(53,214)	(17,705)
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 09/30/15	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income	\$ 532,988	\$ 525,345
Expenses	(531,991)	(525,345)
VARIANCE	997	0

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



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 Sapio
Rocky Supinger

Church School

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

Worship

10:00 a.m.

Nursery Care
available both hours

The Latest

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.

Alternative Christmas Market 2015
Claremont Presbyterian Church
November 22, 2015



Preparations are in high gear for the Alternative Christmas Market on its new date of Sunday, November 22. Twenty-five Mission Partners are bringing stories of their work in our community and across the world.

Heifer International has chickens, ducks and livestock that need families.

Near East School of Theology has Syrian students needing financial support to continue their studies and the library needs book shelves for its ever expanding collection.

CLASP needs volunteers and supplies for students in its after school program.

African Ministries has sent beautiful handmade jewelry and crafts.

Medical Benevolence Foundation is supporting doctors in the communities where they live.

Beautiful music will fill Fellowship Hall from **Harp for the Spirit** as a sample of what they bring to the patients in our community.

The Deacons' **Adopt a Family** Christmas Tree, paired with **Uncommon Good**, will be adorned with gift tags to brighten the holiday for six local families.

And there are additional partners we have not mentioned! Come join us, hear the stories, and start your holiday shopping before the turkey is cooked and Black Friday begins!

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

Prayer Chain

If you (or a loved one) are in need of prayer, the Prayer Chain of the Presbyterian Women is there for you. Contact 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.

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.

“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!