

Clinton Presbyterian Church

91 Center Street
Clinton NJ 08809

April 2021



Dear Friends,

Today, April 1, we begin the Easter Triduum, the three days before Easter Sunday. Would you journey with me through these days from your home, that our Easter worship, whether it be in our living rooms or in our parking lot, might be all the more meaningful?

It's always tempting I know to move quickly from the hosannas of Palm Sunday to the hallelujahs of Easter Sunday and to skip the days in between. They are troubling days. Or we might fall into the temptation of moving through the ritual of these days without really paying attention to the One whom we are called to worship in them. After all, there are plenty of other things demanding our time, attention and worship. As I have prepared for another Holy Week at a distance, I have had to be careful not to fall into the trap of worshipping all the logistics or worshipping technological excellence or worshipping looking good as a pastor. My job this week and every week is simply to help us see Jesus more clearly. So I offer our Holy Week and Easter services to you with humility this year, with a prayer that they may indeed help us to worship our Saviour who meets with at the table and cross as well as at the empty tomb.

Slow down, hear the story anew and wonder at his love for you and me. This is the gift we need this Holy Week and Easter.

In faith and hope,

Tracey

Our Mission

Clinton Presbyterian Church is a welcoming congregation called to share Christ's love.



Welcoming to All



Growing in Faith



Serving with Love

www.clintonpresbyterian.net

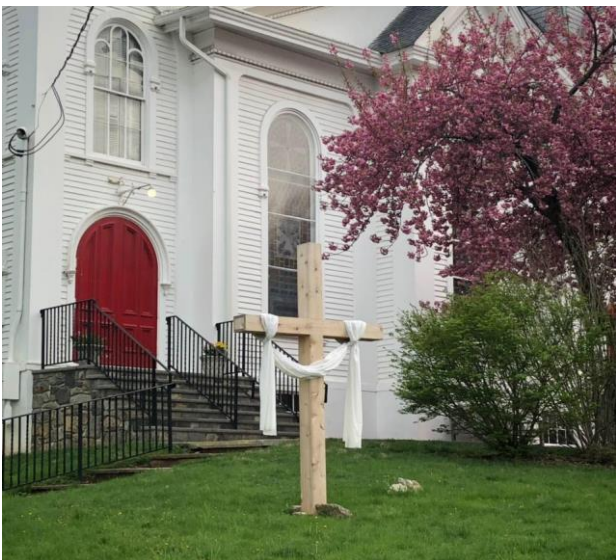
Holy Week & Easter at CPC



Services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday will be offered online. On Maundy Thursday we will share in communion from home and our Good Friday Tenebrae service will guide us through the entire passion narrative with scripture and music.

Children's Services will also be available on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with activities for families to share in together.

Emails will be sent to members and friends of the congregation with unique links to each service. You can also access the services by clicking [here](#).



Outdoor **EASTER** worship
April 4th | 9:30am
Clinton Presbyterian - 91 Center Street

Please bring your own masks and lawn chairs
Registration requested but not required
www.clintonpresbyterian.net



Clinton Presbyterian Church

On Easter Sunday, we will offer a fully pre-recorded Easter Worship Service [online](#) as well as an Outdoor Worship Gathering at 9:30 am on Easter Sunday. If you will join us outdoors, please [register here](#) to help with our planning. Please bring your own chair and wear a mask.

In-Person Worship Resumes April 11

On the Sundays after Easter, we will offer an abbreviated in-person worship service each Sunday, following the same guidelines we established in the fall. For a period of time, we will continue to also offer a pre-recorded worship service, with the goal of moving to a fully live-streamed service from the sanctuary by late spring.

For a reminder of worship guidelines, [click here](#).

*Any changes in the schedule will be communicated via email.

Children's Ministry Pre-K thru 5th Grade Sunday School

2020 brought us a year of uncertainty, struggle, and isolation. It showed us even more how much we need God. We turned the calendar to 2021 with much on our mind and in our hearts. We know that God listens. We know that God cares. We know that God loves us and wants us to love each other. We know that God wants to walk with us and to be our friend. So, kids – God wants to hear from you (more than ever!). Pray to Him every day!

In March, we introduced our lesson theme of *Prayers for the New Year*. We will focus on prayer for the remainder of our Sunday School year (ending in May). Through our *Sunday Connection* emails, we'll be praying for something specific each week. What have we prayed for so far?



Our Sunday School families
Good health
Those who are hungry
Our church
Jesus and His love

STAY TUNED! Look for your *Sunday Connection* email each week to see what we'll pray about next!

Wishing all our Sunday School friends a Happy Easter!

God isn't looking for a perfect prayer. He is listening to whatever you want to tell Him. If you are not sure what to say as you pray, try one of these:

Wow! - Thanks - Sorry - Please

And if you still can't think of the right words, God's okay with that too.

A Sunday School Prayer (as we look toward the fall)

Dear God,

Wow! You have blessed us with such amazing children at CPC.

Thanks for trusting us to share your love with them in Sunday school.

Sorry that we don't always have the time or hands to do even more.

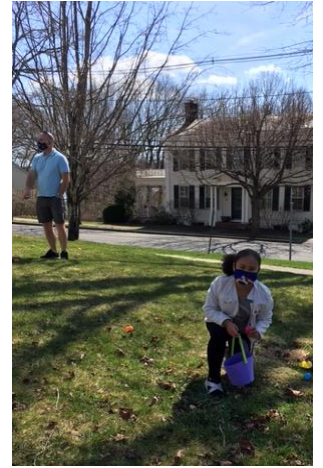
Please touch the hearts of our congregation and encourage others to join our Sunday school team. We do it for the kids. We do it for you, Lord. Amen.

Will you spare 1 or 2 Sundays per month to share God's love with our children?

Preparing for our hopeful return to in-person Sunday School this fall, we are forming our PreK-5th grade teaching team. We're recruiting multiple teachers within each class, enabling us to rotate teaching weeks. Would you join us? Simply email Cathy Edeslberg.

Do it for God! Do it for the kids! They will leave you laughing and filled with joy for your week ahead.

Looks like everyone had fun at the Easter Egg Hunt!



CHAOS Youth Group



We are a year into staying-at-home and are continually blown away by the loyalty, community, and fun we are able to foster together on Zoom with our CHAOS Crew! Our virtual Sunday night youth group time has been so amazing!

Come hang out with us on the first and third Sundays of each month, depending on holidays – we're continuing with fun, games, fellowship! We took a deep dive into Lent together, talking about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. We went back to the basics and learned about the Holy Trinity and how each element can guide us through the tough and joyful events of our lives. We hope you'll join us as we continue to deepen our faith.

As we move into the Spring, we are hoping to have the opportunity to more in-person get togethers outdoors.

We're seriously having so much fun & we are so grateful to have y'all along for the ride with us! Weather/Virus permitting, on April 18th, we'll have a fire pit at the Manse for 6-12th graders from 7-8pm. More details to follow.



May dates for CHAOS are May 2 and 16. We'll keep you updated on times and locations, whether virtual or in-person.

Follow us on Instagram! @chaosyouthministry



Mission Team is Looking for New Members!

Thank you for your generous support over the years, without you, we wouldn't be able to serve the organizations and communities that we do.

If you are interested in continuing our efforts to support those in need by being part of the Mission Team, please reach out to Colleen Duerr.



On Sunday, March 14, we had the privilege of welcoming Eleanor August Blaus to the family of God as we celebrated the sacrament of baptism. Parents are Chris and Deirdre Blaus and sisters, Margaret and Charlotte.



What a great afternoon of online cheese tasting with our friends from Furchette on March 21st! Thank you to Meredith for spending this time with us. We are so glad to have this amazing store right in our amazing town!



CPC is hosting a blood drive for the American Red Cross on Monday, April 26 from 11 am – 4 pm
To register go to www.redcrossblood.org and use the sponsor code ClintonPres

Do you need help? – A note from Pastor Tracey

I know this has been an incredibly challenging year and I want to offer a reminder for you that you do not have to go it alone.

Perhaps you need **spiritual support**. Maybe your **mental health** is struggling. Perhaps you are feeling **financial strain** or are just plain worn out from **everyday stresses**.

Please remember that I am here for you as your pastor. If you could use a conversation, a prayer, a listening ear, a visit, reach out. I can help make referrals to other professionals as needed, connect you with friends in the congregation, or let you know about ways our deacons might be able to help. Thanks to the generosity of our church family, we are also in position to offer financial support to you should that be a worry.

We are a family. This is how we love one another.

April Birthdays

- 2 Debra Jackle, Parker Warren, Mia Wehrenberg
- 3 Julia Morrissette, Erica Tunney
- 4 Beth Ballentine
- 6 Davis Henry, Melanie Kreutel
- 7 Brenda Krushinski
- 8 Foster Barnes
- 9 Jeff Hazelette
- 10 Tom Brankner, Steven Kotopoulos, Sara Twigg
- 12 Connor Berson, Steven Dhein
- 13 Tammy Warner
- 19 Matthew Kursar
- 21 Ruby Carver
- 22 Dan Nuzzo
- 24 Steve Hovey
- 25 Liza Battaglia
- 26 Jennifer Thompson
- 28 Rebecca DiPace
- 30 Makenzie Holmsborg, Andrew Westlin

April Anniversaries

- 3 Ken and Kimberly Westlin
- 21 Chris and Deirdre Blaus
- 23 Jens and Colleen Duerr
- 24 Andrew and Cathy Edelsberg



Deacon Update

We are continuing to regularly check in with our flocks to make sure everyone is doing all right.

Here is a list of your Deacons, for your reference:

David Henry – Letters A, N, O
Barb Pearson – Letters Ba - Bi
Andrew Kvarita – Letters Bl – Bu
Betty Ann Dhein – Letter C & H
Laurel Kelly – Letters D & E
Stephanie Ramos-Dominko – Letters F, G, V, & W
Robin Meyh – Letters I, J & K
Wendy Morrissette – Letter L
Rick Hyman – Letter M
Colin Bruno – Letter P
Barb Plundeke – Letters Q, R & T
Jim Pustai - Letter S

We are also currently providing meals to Sharon Rosenberg as she recovers from hip replacement surgery. There are a few openings left, so if you are able to help out, please click on the following link.
<https://takethemameal.com/meals.php?t=PKUFo883>

We have organized some socially distanced outdoor walks over the past few months.

Stephanie organized a few churchwide “Winter Walks” at Spruce Run Reservoir to get people out enjoying the beauty of winter.

Robin, Stephanie and Laurel organized a walk, also at Spruce Run Reservoir, for current and former educators on a beautiful warm March afternoon. There are plans to arrange similar “Educators Unplugged” outings in the future.

We are so thankful for our church community and appreciate all the offers of help we have received over the past many months.