

Clinton Presbyterian Church

91 Center Street, Clinton NJ 08809

February 2021



Dear Friends,

It's Sunday afternoon as I am writing you this note, and we are wondering if the snowfall predicted for tonight is going to be "The Big One!" By the time you are reading this we should know! Our kids are excited about the idea of snow days although the availability of a quick pivot to virtual learning may scarp their plans for days full of sledding adventures!

In adulthood, it's unlikely that we cherish the idea of the snow day in the same way that kids do. Shoveling and plowing are not exactly activities to relish and in a year when we have been at home much more than we would like it can be hard to find delight in the thought of another reason to stay indoors.

But remember that acronym that you may have learned in childhood for joy – Jesus, Others, You? Maybe it can help give some shape to snow filled days this week.

Jesus – can you pause pray as you look out on the wonder of God's creation? If you didn't make time for worship yesterday, tune into [CPC's service](#) today. Mary's words will both comfort and challenge you as she points us to Jesus and, as always, the music invites us more fully into God's presence.

Others – call to mind a friend who might be alone in these days. Can you make the time for a phone call or a chat? And remember too, from the safety of your warm home, all those who have no shelter from the elements. Pray for them. If you are able, check out the work of [The Relief Bus](#) or [Family Promise](#) and see how you might be able to contribute to their ministry.

You – caring for yourself though this week and indeed through this pandemic season, is not selfish. We can't only take care of ourselves, but we can't not take care of ourselves either. So do at least one thing today that brings you joy. Maybe it's cooking, maybe it's resting, perhaps its reading or listening to some favourite music. It might even be taking a walk in the fresh snow. Whatever it is, do it and rejoice, knowing that God rejoices with you.

May you know Joy and Peace this week.

In Christ,

Tracey

Our Mission

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

Core Values

We are grateful for God's grace which allows us to be:

Welcoming to All

Our doors and our arms are open to all who would join us on this journey of faith.

Growing in Faith

At every age and stage of life we recognize the importance of nurturing faith development.

Serving with Love

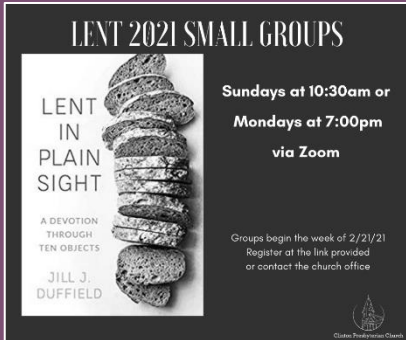
We embrace opportunities for mission.

www.clintonpresbyterian.net



Clinton Presbyterian Church

Clinton NJ • Est. 1831



“God works through the ordinary. Ordinary people, everyday objects, things we bump up against moment by moment...”

Lent 2021 Small Groups

“Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects”

“God works through the ordinary. Ordinary people, everyday objects, things we bump up against moment by moment.... The question for us becomes: Do we have the eyes to see God’s near presence? Do we have ears to hear the word of the Lord?... Can everyday objects remind us to stay awake and pay attention?”

Join us on Sunday mornings at 10:30am or Monday nights at 7:00pm, beginning the week of February 20th as we seek to pay attention to God at work in the everyday ordinary of our lives. The books provide daily readings in and in our time together we will focus on a particular theme.

- Week 1 – Dust
- Week 2 - Bread
- Week 3 - Cross
- Week 4 - Coins
- Week 5 - Shoes

Sign up here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30EoA4CA4AD2EA5F49-lent2>

Purchase the book here:
[Lent in Plain Sight: Duffield, Jill J.: 9780664265465: Amazon.com: Books](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B089780664)

Or contact Diane in the church office for assistance: office4cpc@gmail.com

Lent Devotionals

Downloadable:

The Presbyterian Outlook has once again developed a Lenten Devotional which we are making available to you. Throughout the season of Lent, you will be invited to pray with one passage from Scripture each day and prompted to reflect on what it discloses to you about *movement toward God and movement away from God* in your life. These devotionals written by Roger Gench, Presbyterian pastor and author, will guide you in this daily practice of praying with Scripture. You can download the complete set here: [Lenten Devotionals](#)

We will also include the weekly reflections each week in the Sunday email.

To purchase: The book which we will use for Lent Small Groups this year, *Lent in Plain Sight*, includes daily devotionals for each day of the season, from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday, and it is a resource to which you might return year after year. Even if you are not joining us for small groups, you can purchase the book for your personal use from [Amazon](#).

Looking for a year-round devotional on the go? Visit www.d365.org to download an app which will provide daily prompts for reading, listening and prayer!



Holy Week Services

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 17th. Join us online as we begin this sacred journey once more. Our online service will include at-home communion, so you are invited to have bread and juice ready.

At this time, we are planning online services for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. More details will be available as Holy Week draws closer.



Winter Walks

Have your sneakers been sitting in the closet a little too long? Have you been missing your fellow CPCers? Do you just need a reason to get out of the house for an hour? If yes, then bundle up (mask included) and join us for a winter walk through Spruce Run Reservoir!

All ages and fitness levels are welcome to attend. We will be meeting Saturday, February 6 at 9am and Sunday, February 21 at 1pm. We will park in the second parking lot on the right and begin our stroll from there. Hot chocolate will be provided.

If you plan to attend, please email Diane at office4cpc@gmail.com or text Stephanie at 908-884-4735 to RSVP. We look forward to reconnecting with you!



Educators Unplugged

What an amazing opportunity to share positive ideas and successful approaches to our educational challenges at hand.

We would like to invite anyone in the educational field to join us.

Although the educational piece is a common bond for this group, it is not the focal point.

Once we have gathered a group of interested members, we can discuss the particulars of when, what, & where!

We look forward to creating a group that can be creative and enjoy fellowship with other CPC members!

Deacons - Robin, Laurel & Stephanie

If interested in joining or learning more about this group please let Diane in the office know: office4cpc@gmail.com.

UNPLUGGED



Thank You

A big thank you to everyone who donated coats For the Men's Winter Coat Collection for the Relief Bus. What a huge success! Thanks for helping us to share the warmth.
Mission Ministry



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



Help us support some local families to have a game day of their own!

We are putting a fresh twist on our Souper Bowl of Caring Offering this year. Our youth and mission teams are working hand in hand (in a socially distant way!) to provide game-day boxes for 14 local families. We are looking to supply families with both food and game items. These boxes will include: canned soup, crackers, chips, salsa, pretzels, popcorn, mac & cheese, hot chocolate, cookies, family board games and family movies and will be delivered on Sunday, February 7. It's easy to take part!

Go to our website at www.clintonpresbyterian.net and click on "Souper Bowl Sunday", or visit this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4aa9a722abfe3-souper> to find a list of items needed for each box.

You can also scan this code to get to the signup link:



Add your name next to the item or items you would like to provide (please make sure to mark the quantity of each item that you will be donating) and drop them off to the steps at Fellowship Hall no later than Friday, February 5. Monetary donations are also welcomed. checks may be mailed to the church office (add Souper Bowl on the memo line) or you can make donation online by clicking [here](#) and selecting "Mission Giving Fund"

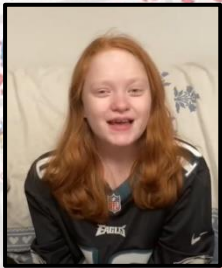
You can also sign up to be a delivery driver. We plan to deliver these boxes on Sunday, February 7, between 12 and 2 pm.

If you are interested in assisting with the delivery of a box, please sign up online.

We know that needs do not disappear after Thanksgiving and Christmas.

So help us tackle hunger, spread joy and share some CPC love by joining with us in this special collection.

Thank you all for your generous support!



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

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." (Matthew 19:14)

Thank goodness He didn't say that it had to be in a classroom. Thank goodness He has kept us connected in other ways with our church children.

PreK-5th grade families – continue to look for your weekly *Sunday Connection* email. We have been attaching a devotional from *Illustrated Ministry* with scripture, discussion questions, an activity, coloring page, and prayer each week. As we plan the weeks ahead, we will keep you posted of what's to come.



Kids – Valentine's Day Craft Event

Join us on Sunday, February 14 - we'll be making photo frames! You will need to supply the following:

- a glue gun (if anyone needs to borrow one, just let us know)
- tacky glue (this will work better than a glue stick for the candy)
- a paper plate for paint drying
- a cup of water for brush cleaning
- a covered surface to work on
- paper towels
- a 4x4" picture of the child or family (4x6" picture trimmed down with work)

Sharon Holmsborg will have these supplies ready for pick up on Saturday, February 13 from 10am – 6pm:

- tongue depressors (4)
- pink/red paint
- paint brush
- candies (a few extra for eating)
- magnet for the back

Please RSVP Tuesday, February 9 to Diane in the church office: office4cpc@gmail.com



CHAOS

What a rockin' few months we have had with CHAOS! Despite a global pandemic, we have managed to come together in fun, in prayer, and...digitally! Our Sunday night youth group time has been so fun on our Zoom meetings. In the Fall we were able to gather outdoors in person – we participated in the Town of Clinton Pumpkin Fest, had a couple firepit nights and got to serve our neighbors by backing Thanksgiving baskets. Over the holidays we were able to deepen our faith with entertaining Advent goodies bags. Though we cannot be together in person now, we are having fun gathering virtually and look forward to the days we can be together again!



Come hang out with us on the first and third Sundays of each month, depending on holidays – we're continuing with fun, games, fellowship – also beginning Lenten lessons thanks to our amazing intern, Kristy! We're seriously having so much fun & we are so grateful to have y'all along for the ride with us!

See weekly email for Zoom login information.

Our CHAOS schedule is below!

All 6th-12th graders are invited to join in the fun on Sunday nights.

Starting on February 21st, we will have a new time frame to gather.

6th & 7th grades will be together 7pm-7:30pm

8th-12th grades will gather 7:30pm-8:00pm

CHAOS Schedule:

February 7 – No CHAOS

February 21 – CHAOS

March 7 & 21 – CHAOS

Follow us on Instagram! @chaosyouthministry



from Tracey

With the blessing and support of Session I have applied and been accepted into the Doctor of Ministry Degree Program at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. A "DMin" is a professional doctorate, focusing on the practice of ministry and the program is designed for those who are working full time in ministry settings. My focus area for this 3-year program will be preaching. Classes are primarily online (they are fully online at the moment) with 2 one-week on campus intensives for the first two years and the completion of a thesis/ministry project in year three. My classes for the first semester, which commenced the last week of January, are "Preaching Via Social Media and Other Non-Traditional Settings" and "The Embodied Word: Preaching as Embodied Performance." Both classes are timely indeed! I am looking forward to this new challenge which I believe will enrich my ministry with you and I am deeply grateful for your support.



Worship Service Recap

Worship with us each Sunday online at 9:30 am. You can find our services on our [YouTube Channel](#) or our [Facebook page](#).

Session voted to continue to worship fully virtually at least through February. They will continue to meet each month and faithfully discern the right time to return to in-person worship, being guided by data from state and denominational bodies.



Christmas Eve Services

A Service for the Young and Young at Heart and a Traditional Worship with Brass and Chancel Choir

Liturgists: Dave Boyer and Sharon Holmsborg

Sunday, December 27

A service guided by scripture, music, poetry
Relighting of the candles: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, Christ candle



Sunday, January 3

Epiphany Sunday & Celebration of Communion
Practice of chalking our doors as a way of blessing our homes for the new year: God Bless Our Home 20 + C + M + B + 21
Scripture reading: Matthew 2:1-12, liturgist Cathy Edelsberg



Sunday, January 10

“Baptism of the Lord” Sunday
Scripture reading: Mark 1:4-11, liturgist Leslie Hyman

Sunday, January 17

Scripture reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, liturgist David Henry
Guest vocalist – Byron Smith



Sunday, January 24

Scripture reading: Mark 1:14-20, liturgist Lisa Miller

Sunday, January 31

We welcomed Mary Morrow to our CPC virtual pulpit. Mary brought both creativity and wisdom to her messages for kids and adults.
Scripture reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20, liturgist Kristy Woodrow





Per Capita for 2021

The 2021 Per Capita apportionment for each member of CPC is \$41. This is the amount that we remit to the Presbytery of Elizabeth each year.

You may satisfy your family's per capita contribution by:

Writing a check and mailing it to the Church office (Note "Per Capita" in the memo line),

OR

Giving through our online donation site and writing "Per Capita" in the notes box at the bottom of the page. The link to give online can be found on our website

www.clintonpresbyterian.net. Just click on the "Giving" tab at the top right and then click on "Give Now".

Thanks for helping us reach our goal in 2021!

Giving Statements

Giving statements for 2020 were emailed on January 12. If you did not receive or have questions, please let Diane know – office4cpc@gmail.com

Dear Sandie and all our dear friends at Clinton Presbyterian,

Your great kindness and generosity in giving the diapers, clothing, toiletries and toys for children in the fatherless families we serve is "overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of these many gifts...people will praise God for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

And in their (and our!) prayers for you their hearts will go out to you because of the surpassing grace God has given you.

Thanks be to God for HIS indescribable gift!"

2Corinthians 9:12-14

God bless you for reaching out in this way!

Jeannie and Mimi and all at

Friendship Center for New Beginnings

February Birthdays

- 1 Dick Farrell
- 2 Nancy Hovey
- 4 Eleanor Blaus, Jill Prakopcyk
- 5 Barbara Allen
- 8 Brady Krushinski
- 10 Daniel Prakopcyk
- 11 Jordan Tombs
- 12 Freddie Sifuentes, Diane Wirth
- 13 Owen Plimpton
- 14 Karen Sauers, Mark Warner
- 16 Hannah Duerr, Christopher LaSpada
- 18 Ellery Spencer
- 19 Janet Vitanza
- 21 Martha LaValette
- 22 Bob Miller
- 24 Roger Twigg
- 25 Audrey Dadouris
- 26 Lisa Heilman, Ryan Seiffert
- 28 John Perez

February Anniversaries

- 14 Reed and Karen Heine

