

December News from CPC

Updates and Highlights from
Clinton Presbyterian Church



From the Pastor's Pen

"The Lord isn't slow to keep God's promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient toward you, not wanting anyone to perish but all to change their hearts and lives."
2 Peter 3:9

Dear Friends,

This morning at home, we opened the first window of our (Bluey!) Advent calendar. Whether it's Bluey, Lego or sweet treats, our boys are always tempted to peek behind the next door to see what it is coming. It's especially hard to wait for the "big" surprise that lies behind window number 24. (Spoiler alert – it usually something related to Santa!)

Advent Calendars filled with tiny treasures bring little moments of joy to the start of our day, but they also remind us to go slow, to take our time, to be patient. Advent, from the word *adventus* in Latin, which means "coming", is a time for us to wait. To wait not only for the coming of Christmas as we remember Jesus' first coming among us, but also to wait for his second coming, with the promise of redemption for all of creation.

In his Advent Devotional, *All I Really Want*, Quinn Caldwell writes, "Since the earliest days, believers and scoffers alike have been asking "Well why isn't he back yet?" ... The author of Second Peter has an answer for them: he's not back yet, dear humankind, not because he's slow or uninterested or not coming at all, but because he's giving you time to pull yourself together before he does. Time to practice seeing him in small ways so you'll recognize him when he arrives in big ones...It's your job to be patient, to pause, to look, to be prepared for little bursts of delight."

In the midst of the busyness of this season, may we have the eyes to see Jesus when he shows up and may we be filled with delight.

See you in church,

Tracey

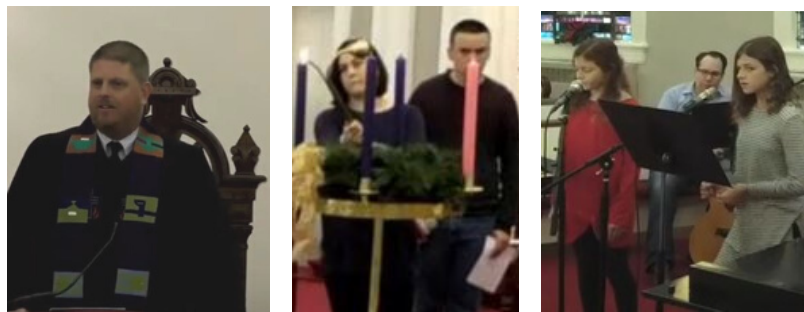
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Advent Sundays at CPC

On **November 27**, we welcomed the Rev. Scott Hoffman to the CPC pulpit as we began our sermon series "Faces around the Manger". Julie Baldassare and Casey Hipsher lit our first Advent Candle and the Madriz girls led us in song.



On **December 4**, our **Bell Choir** will bring a special offering and we'll share in communion with one another!



On **December 11 Presentation Brass**, led by our own Larry Kursar, will join us in worship – invite a friend!



On **December 18**, Join us for **Children's Christmas Pageant and Advent Breakfast** afterwards. If you are able to bring an item or help in any way, [sign up here](#). There will also be a sign-up sheet in worship. Questions – contact Jessica Bruno.



Advent and Christmas at CPC

Devotionals for Adults

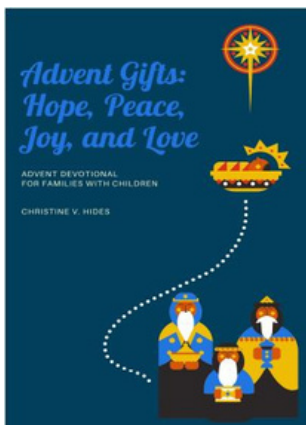
As in previous years, we are making available for your use the Advent Devotional published by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary as a companion for your Advent journey. Printed copies are available in the Sanctuary. If you would prefer to access it online, please visit their website [here](#).



Additionally, should you wish to purchase a different advent devotional, we have a few samples for you to peruse in Fellowship Hall this morning. All of the devotionals we are recommending can be used year after year. Take a look and see which might work best for you.

Devotionals for Kids and Families

We have purchased copies of *Advent for Faithful Families* for families to take home and use. This is not a weekly devotional but rather a resource of different ideas for you as you celebrate the season. You'll find prayers, practices, stories and more than you can adapt to make your own from year to year.



Additionally, copies of *Advent Gifts*, a weekly devotional for families, are available for families to use throughout the season. Each weekly devotional includes a short Bible reading, reflection, activity, and prayer. Instructions for some "ahead of time prep" for parents are included.

Midweek Reflections

Each Wednesday of Advent a Midweek Reflection video will be delivered right to your inbox. These short videos will include, music, prayers and a short reflection from members of the congregation. We invite you to take some time each week to pause and reflect. The first week we heard from Sharon Rosenberg and week two we'll hear from Carol and Dennis Kotopoulos. If you missed week one, you can watch [here](#).



Live Nativity December 17 5:00 – 6:30 pm

This year our Live Nativity will be a "walk-thru" event – including lots of live animals! Pick up a hot chocolate then walk around the scenes of the Christmas story and on to the Sanctuary. Afterwards we'll be serving hotdogs in Fellowship Hall and there are rumors Santa may be there.

Cookies Needed - We would love to have cookies available for guests. If anyone would be willing to make cookies for that night, please contact Jessica Bruno.

Advent and Christmas at CPC

Blue Christmas Service December 18 4:00 pm



This year we will offer a quiet meditative worship service - making time for remembering, for sharing our hurting places with God, and for preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Christmas Caroling December 19 at 7pm

Cathie Sayre is organizing a group of folks from CPC to go caroling at Country Arch on Monday, December 19 at 7pm. If you would like to join her in spreading some cheer, please let Cathie know .

Carolers will meet at Country Arch that evening. The address is 114 Pittstown Road in Pittstown.



Christmas Eve Services



5 pm Family Service

We will retell the story of Christ's birth with the angels, the shepherds and the sheep.

11 pm Candlelight Communion Service

Come and be lifted in joy through word and song as we welcome the Christ child and usher in Christmas Day at this candlelight service.



Christmas Day Online Worship

On Sunday December 25, our worship service will be online only. In her role as Moderator of the Presbytery, Tracey is working with several other pastors in the Presbytery to produce a service which is a collaborative effort between churches. The worship video will be posted to our [YouTube Channel](#) and our [Facebook](#) page on Christmas morning. We hope it will be a blessing to you!

MEET OUR *New Members*



MIKE AND JACKIE BRUNO

Mike and Jackie recently got married in March of 2022. They moved from Bergen County into the Clinton area in July. Mike recently started at Chubb Insurance as a Project Manager and Jackie enjoys being an emergency trauma nurse. They both look forward to getting more involved in the church and community!



MARY MORGAN

Mary grew up near Buffalo, NY. She has a BS in Music (piano major) and a MS in Education. She's lived in Clinton for over 40 years. She still has a few piano students and loves to bake.



LEIGH PERRY

Leigh lives in Stewartsville with her husband, Ron, and children, Mitchell (12) and June (10). Formerly a high school biology teacher, Leigh is a stay at home mom and enjoys traveling, reading, and the outdoors. She is originally from Maine and moved last year from her home of 15 years in East Windsor, NJ.

All Saints' Sunday

On Sunday, November 6, we remembered those whom we have loved and lost in the last year. We give thanks for these dear friends, for their life, their faith and their witness to the love of God.

Gary Anderson
Helen Ballantine
Edward Carafello
Gordon Cooper
Betty Ann Dhein
Charles Fehnel
Bill Goodyear
Patricia Gray
Jacqueline Harney
Donna Ange Harris
Kai Holmsborg
Angela Intili-Stokes

Lennart (Lenny) Larson
Annabelle Lindquist
Bill Mansfield
Gertrude Mento
Lois Meyh
Joyce Morgan
Elsie Muschar
Patricia Mundle Spitzer
Ruth Tappe
Gisela Tidaback
Elaine Zartman

Baptism



Henry Patrick Plimpton was baptized on November 20. His parents are Rob and Jessica Plimpton.

Congratulations to all!



CPC Serves

Thanksgiving Baskets, Giving Tree

THANK YOU to our wonderful, generous, and caring congregation for this season of giving! Thanks to all of you, we delivered baskets of food to several families within our community. Thank you for all the donations of food and money as well as your time delivering to families. We are grateful for ShopRite for their annual generous discount on our food purchased at their store.

Thanks to everyone who took a tag from the tree and bought gift cards, children's clothing, winter coats and boots, books for kids, hats and mittens and other needed items that will go to several agencies and families right here in Hunterdon County and across the miles to old friends in Maine.

You have helped make a happy holiday season for many of our friends and neighbors in need.

*Many thanks and
Merry Christmas to all,
— Your Mission Team*



Mission Ministry

On Sunday, November 13, we were joined by Jeannine Gorman, Executive Director of the Flemington Area Food Pantry. This was an opportunity to learn more about the needs in our local area from Jeannine and consider how to continue in an impactful partnership with the Flemington Area Food Pantry.



Mission Opportunity: City Relief

CPC continues to support City Relief (the Relief Bus). This organization serves the homeless and others in Newark and New York City.

On Friday, December 16 we will leave CPC at 4pm, serve food outside Newark Penn Station and return to Clinton by 8pm. If you would like to join this outreach please contact Dave Kelly or the church office for more information.



Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve those in need!

Stewardship Round Up

As of the end of November the total number of dollars committed for 2023 is \$269,542. This represents commitments from 65 families and individuals, all of whom have said **“Count Me In!”** In a tough economic season such generosity is remarkable. Thank you!



If you have not yet made a commitment, there is still time to say “Count Me In!”. You can signal your commitment in a few ways:

1. Submit your pledge [online](#)
2. Return a [pledge card](#) to the church office at 91 Center Street, Clinton, NJ 08809
3. Drop your [pledge card](#) in the offering plate during in-person worship
4. Scan this QR code and make your pledge:



Children's Ministry



How many days....?

Advent has begun. We have an Advent calendar for each family in Sunday School to help count down the days until the 25th. Calendars were distributed during class in November. If your family did not receive one, please contact the church office.

As you count down each day, remember also to count your blessings. The Ministry team counts our blessings every day in so many ways. This season our "little blessings" colored Thanksgiving cards which accompanied CPC's Thanksgiving basket deliveries. Along with the congregation's food donations, their Thanksgiving wishes reminded recipients of God's goodness and unending love. Thank you, kids, for blessing our community this season.

Our youngest disciples will be busy in the month of December preparing for the Christmas Pageant which they will present to the congregation on Sunday, December 18. This year 33 kids will be taking part - 33!!!! This will be a "don't miss Sunday!" Check out the photos on page 2 from pageants past!



Sunday School Schedule

- Dec 4** Sunday School: Pageant practice (Grades 2-7) / Singing for all
- Dec 11** Sunday School: Pageant practice (All Grades) / Dress Rehearsal, Singing (rehearsal may run until 12)
- Dec 18** Christmas Pageant during worship - No Sunday School
- Dec 24** Christmas Eve Family Service – Children's Chorus
Merry Christmas!
- Dec 25** No Sunday School
- Jan 1** No Sunday School - Happy New Year!
- Jan 9** Sunday School resumes



Merry Christmas, Sunday School friends!
from your Children's Ministry team
and Sunday School teachers

Youth Ministry



Confirmation Class

Meet in the Wolverton Building on December 4 and 11
as we continue to grow in faith together.

On December 18, there will be no class but everyone is invited to
bring their families to our Advent Breakfast.



Sunday Funday December 4

Let's get into the Christmas Spirit together!
Join us in Fellowship Hall from 11:30-12:30.

Sunday Funday outing
December 2021

CHAOS Youth Group (9th - 12th graders)

The very last CHAOS gathering of 2022
will be on Sunday, December 4,
from 7:00 to 8:00pm.

Let's end the year with a bang -
see you there!

Chaos Christmas party 2021 -
can you guess who is inside??



CPC Preschool

Fall fun with the CPC preschoolers included Boo Crew ghosts, applesauce, blessing mix, pumpkin pie and tons of turkeys!



December Birthdays

- 1 Alice Korab
- 4 Glenn Gray
- 7 Lora Pelose, Zan Struebing
- 9 Dennis Kotopoulos
- 15 Gail Saltvedt
- 16 Mollie Little, George Milligan
- 17 Thea Henry, Jason Krushinski, Karen Kursar
- 19 Mackenzie Ahmed, Victoria Ahmed
- 20 Rich Jackle
- 21 Jessica Fernandes, Tina Martin
- 24 Evie Lebron, Stephanie Wood
- 26 Kim Perez, Bill Sowder
- 28 Henry Kvara
- 31 Melissa Bieksha

December Anniversaries

- 11 Jonathan & Sharon Rosenberg
- 15 Jonathan & Karen Sauers
- 26 Steve and Nancy Hovey
- 27 Ralph and Gwili Marsh
- 28 Scott and Sandie Lundeen
- 30 Joseph and Paige Darocha
- 31 Colin and Jessica Bruno

January Birthdays

- 2 Kelly Christopher
- 3 Jaxon Crespo, Rich Prakopcyk, Alyssa Tombs
- 4 Charlotte Blaus
- 6 Rebecca Tombs
- 7 Ben Prakopcyk, Pat Sinko
- 8 Courtney Fernandes, Spencer Holmsborg, Chris Honthy, Rick Hyman
- 12 Sara Kunzman
- 13 Kenneth Wirth
- 14 Domenic DiPace, Marin Dougherty
- 15 Cliff Sayre
- 16 Bill Kreutel
- 18 Chad Longell
- 20 Donavyn Meyh, Chelsea Rosario
- 21 Marissa Annese
- 22 Angela Penyak, Steven Polaski
- 23 Emmaline DiPace
- 25 Carly Krushinski, Mason Pozarycki
- 26 Brian Barnes
- 27 John Roth
- 29 Bob Ballantine
- 30 Parker Henry,
- 31 Dave Boyer, Megan Traphagen

**Save
the
Date**

