

February News from CPC

Updates and Highlights from
Clinton Presbyterian Church

From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

“Winter is a season of the heart as much as it is a season of the weather.” Church historian Martin Marty said this in his book, *Cry of Absence*, which he wrote to help him recover from a heavy personal loss. I thought of Marty’s distinction between summer spirituality and “the winter sort” as February begins.

January has been hard in many ways. Some of you have suffered loss while others have struggled with ill health. Parents and kids have been stretched by quarantines and virtual learning, turning finely tuned schedules on their heads. Covid fatigue is real and these winter days require from us endurance, constancy, fortitude.

As we restart programming for children, youth and adults this month and encourage those who are comfortable to find their way back to the pews on Sunday mornings, I pray that our nearer company to each other may be a gift of strength and that we will continue to find ways to creatively keep connected to our friends who are worshipping from home. In the midst of it all, we remember – God is in charge, God will provide – Trust God.

You all remain in my prayers as I give thanks for the gift of this life together and pray for our shared health and wholeness in the coming days. May our hearts always be turned towards Christ, whatever the season.

Grace and Peace,

Tracey

CONTENTS

- Worship and More
(pages 2 and 3)
- Music and Song at CPC
(page 4)
- Children's Ministry
(page 5)
- Youth Ministry
(page 6)
- Mission Ministry
(page 7 and 8)
- CPC Capital Campaign
and Annual Meeting
(page 9)
- Per Capita, Giving
Statements, Thank you
(page 10)
- Birthdays/Anniversaries
(page 10)
- Christmas Season 2021
(pages 11 and 12)

Sunday Morning Worship & More

Friendly Reminder - Covid Precautions

Session encourages everyone who is worshipping in-person to wear a mask regardless of your vaccination status. If you are not feeling well or suspect you might be sick, please stay home and worship via our [live-stream broadcast](#).

A Christmas to Cherish!

What a full December and after being apart in 2020, we did not take the privilege of being together for granted. From the joy of Presentation Brass to the chaos of the Christmas Pageant to the stillness of Silent Night by candlelight – surely God was with us in this place. We lit candles to dispel the darkness, we prayed, we told the story for our community, we sang and with great love welcomed the Christ Child. Many thanks to all who served throughout the season of Advent and Christmas. And thanks unending to God for this most perfect gift. Check out the photo recap of Advent and Christmas on pages 11 and 12.



On Super Bowl Sunday (February 13) we will be collecting money and cans of soup. The youth will be using the funds donated to purchase food after the worship service which will be donated to the Flemington Food Pantry along with the cans of soup.

If you would like to participate, please place your donation into any of the soup pots that will be placed at the sanctuary exits. Don't forget to wear the jersey of your favorite team to the worship service. Thank you.

Upcoming in Worship

Throughout the month of February we'll continue our journey through the Gospel of John, lifting up stories from chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8. John's Gospel presents a rich and multifaceted portrait of Jesus – why not read along at home?

February 6

Communion Sunday

John 5:1-8

February 13

Souperbowl of Caring

John 6:35-59

February 20

(President's Day Weekend)

John 7: 37-52

February 27

Transfiguration Sunday

John 9:1-41

Boy Scout Sunday, February 6

Boy Scout Troop 121 will help to lead us in worship on Sunday February 6. Please join us to welcome them and learn more about the Troop's activities throughout the year.



We love to welcome new members! If you are interested in joining our church family, please reach out to Tracey at tracey4cpc@gmail.com

Sunday Morning Worship & More

Sacred Stories Conversation

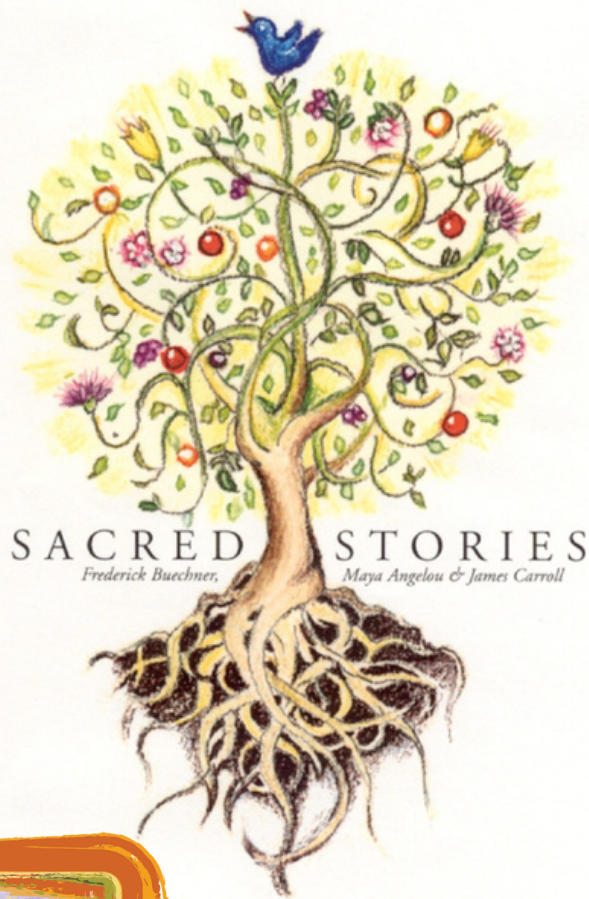
Sundays from 10:40 - 11:30 am

February 6, 13, 20 & 27

Through the month of January, we have heard about Jesus encounters with various people in the gospel of John.

This February, join us as we listen in on yet more sacred stories as they come from the lives of Frederick Buechner, James Carroll and Maya Angelou. Through their storytelling they invite us to discover for ourselves the presence of God, the healing power of memory and the possibilities of changing the future by forgiving the past.

No prep needed. Join us every week or when you can. Meet in the computer room (upstairs).



Ash Wednesday Worship Service

We'll begin our Lenten observances together on Ash Wednesday, March 2, with a worship service in the sanctuary at 7pm. Join us for this reflective time to remember God's grace and forgiveness.



Small Groups in Lent

This year we'll once again be offering small groups throughout the season of Lent and inviting all adults to consider setting aside time for growth and fellowship. Groups will be offered both in-person and online. Stay tuned for more details soon!

Music and Song at CPC

A Note from Ted Brancto, Director of Music Ministry

With the downward trend of the omicron virus, hope is trending upwards! And with the music ministry specifically, there is the hope of reconvening the chancel choir and praise team in the months ahead. Over the course of the pandemic we have lost a few choir members, so I encourage all of you shower-singers and lovers of singing to think about joining one or both of the choirs so that we can present a powerful, full-sounding choir to the congregation! I will give you periodic updates concerning the progress of our plans to bring back choral singing.

The Bell Choir will begin rehearsing in early March for a performance on Palm Sunday (April 10). Rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 7 pm. Please contact me (ted4cpc@gmail.com) if you would like to join the Bell Choir.

Another musical activity that people can participate in with or without a mask is hand drumming. I have done some preliminary research into the idea of having a CPC Praise Drum Circle. The drum circle would be open to people of all ages and would require no previous musical training. Drum circles utilize a "call and response" format in which the ensemble leader plays a rhythmic pattern which is then played back by the ensemble. An example of a church-oriented drum circle can be found on [YouTube](#).

If you or any of your family members has an interest in such an activity, please let me know. Your response will help determine how many hand drums we would need to purchase initially.

Our livestream continues to improve with each passing week. We are striving to improve the production values of the livestream, working to get better sound and video quality, adding cameras to provide new views of the various aspects of our worship services. If you haven't already checked out our livestream, please do. If you have any constructive criticism or ideas on how we can improve our livestream presentation, please let me or Matt Hodulik know. Matt has successfully trained a handful of people to staff the AV desk but we're always looking for volunteers to learn the ins and outs of streaming our services. Stop by the AV desk in the back of the sanctuary if you're interested.



Children's Ministry

Pre-K thru 5th Grade

*I love your happy side, your sad side, your silly side, your mad side.
I love you through and through... yesterday, today, and tomorrow, too.*

- Bernadette Rossetti-Shustak



God's love never changes. God's love knows no limits. He loves us... no matter what... always. God instructs us, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another" and we do.

We love our CPC kids and are grateful to share God's love with them. We pray that this season permits us to do just that. Sunday School has been on "pause" out of love for our CPC kids. While we value classroom time together, we value the well-being of our children even more. Look for updates on Sunday School after the pause is lifted.



Confirmation Class
teaches Pre-K through
5th grade about
Christmas.

Sunday School Classes will resume on February 6

Preschool and Elementary

Kids: Meet your teachers each week in Fellowship Hall at 10:40 am.

Parents: Pick up your kids at classrooms at 11:30 am.

All ages will be using the PC(USA)'s curriculum, Growing in Grace and Gratitude.

Pre-K (3 and 4's) – upstairs Green Room Teachers: Megan and Ross Traphagen

Kindergarten/1st Grade – Nursery Teachers: Rich and Jill Prakopcyk

2nd through 5th Grade – upstairs Coral Spice Room Teachers: Jim Dornbusch and Tina Martin



Sunday Funday (4th and 5th Graders)

Our first Sunday Funday of 2022 will be on Superbowl Sunday - February 13; 11:30 am - 12:30 pm right after Sunday School in Fellowship Hall.

Wear your favorite team colors and we'll enjoy some Super Bowl snacks and games.

Youth Ministry

CHAOS Youth Group

And just like that...it's 2022! We are praying that your family has stayed healthy and happy during these last few weeks. Our "bigs" were hard at work planning our 2021 Christmas Pageant, "Did You Hear What I Heard?", helping to tell the beautiful, old story of Jesus' birth with our Sunday School classes. Our littlest up through high school each had an important part in this service - check out the [YouTube video](#) if you missed it!

Though we had to take a "pause" due to the rise in Covid cases at the start of the year, we are heading into February with hope in our hearts and plans up our sleeves! Chaos will kick off again for 2022 on February 6th! 6th & 7th grades will meet from 5:45pm - 6:45pm, and 8th grade and up will meet from 7pm - 8pm. Masks will be required. We are keeping a close eye on CDC guidelines to best keep our students and volunteers safe. Check out the February and March dates below!

We are truly excited to see what God will do with our time together as we go forward. We're seriously having so much fun & we are so grateful to have y'all along for the ride with us! Follow us on Instagram! @chaosyouthministry

6th & 7th Grade Youth Group Dates:
5:45 - 6:45pm
February 6/March 6

8th Grade & Up Chaos Dates:
7:00 - 8:00 pm
February 6 and 20/March 6 and 20

Follow us on Instagram! @chaosyouthministry



Sunday School for 6th & 7th Grade

Gather in the downstairs Den for some great chats about God, the world and our lives.
Teachers: Paul Morrissette and Bob Tombs

Confirmation (Grades 8, 9, & 10)

The class will consist of Sunday morning faith discussion time, service projects and special guest speakers. Meet in the Wolverton Building.

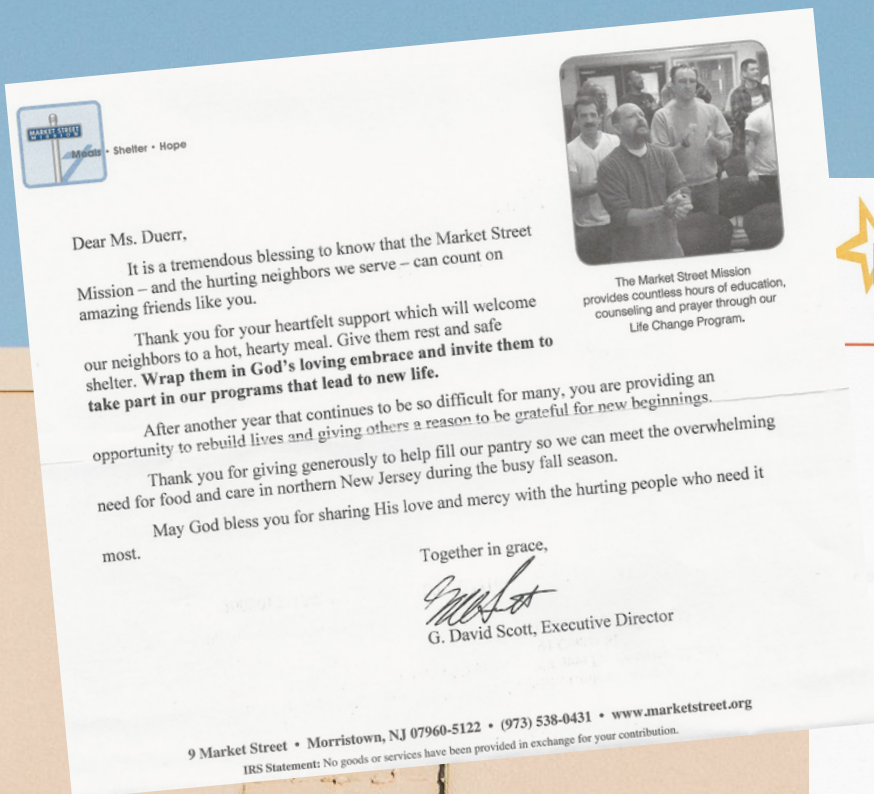


Mission Ministry

The Mission team would like to share the wonderful thank you messages we have received from our 2021 disbursements to organizations. The disbursements served both local organizations (79%) and national / international organizations (21%).

We will continue to share these messages throughout the year within the newsletter so that everyone can see the impact we are making in both local and greater communities.

Thank you for your ongoing support!



Family Promise of Hunterdon County

8 Bartles Corner Rd.- Suite 11
Flemington, NJ 08822
Phone: 908-782-2490
Fax: 908-782-4685
www.familypromisehc.org

September 21, 2021

Clinton Presbyterian Church
91 Center Street
Clinton, NJ 08809

Dear Clinton Presbyterian Congregants,

We cannot thank you enough for your contribution of \$250 to support Family Promise of Hunterdon County. Your gift will go a long way in helping better the lives of under-resourced families in Hunterdon County. As a volunteer-powered organization, we rely on your generosity to provide much-needed services to children and families. These gifts help us to achieve our mission and facilitate successful outcomes.

Our residential support services remain our core program and a fantastic example of neighbors helping neighbors succeed. In addition, we manage a highly effective prevention program to help keep community members who are facing eviction as well as a rapid re-housing program to help re-house families quickly. Our programs are made stronger with Mental Health, Financial Empowerment, and Neighbors in Need programs. We are a comprehensive support agency, but we could not do what we do without you.

Family Promise of Hunterdon County's desire is for our families to maintain long-term stability. Thank you for choosing to give to our mission. We are grateful that you made our families a priority.

Sincerely,

Angela Fields
Executive Director

We wish to state, herein, that no goods or services were received by you in exchange for this contribution.

Mission Ministry

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. During the pandemic they adjusted their outreach hours.

On Friday, February 18 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 at DLSH27@comcast.net or (908) 391-6372 for more information.

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



Mini-Fridge Ministry

Help us partner with the Flemington Area Food Pantry to provide mini-fridges to those who are housed in motels and hotels.



WANT TO HELP...

1. *Donate a Fridge*
(we can arrange pick-up/drop off time)
2. *Deliver a Fridge*
(we'll add you to our list of drivers and call you as needed)

Email the church office (office4cpc@gmail.com) for more info



Clinton Presbyterian Church

We are looking for dorm-sized fridges to give to clients of the Flemington Food Pantry who are staying hotels without any refrigeration. If you have a used dorm fridge sitting around, please contact Courtney Morrissette to coordinate pickup.

Thank you!

CPC Capital Campaign

Thanks to your enthusiastic engagement with the feasibility study conducted in the Fall, we will be moving ahead with a Capital Campaign early this Spring. More information will be available to members and friends very soon. Please pray for our Capital Campaign Leadership Team as they begin their work together. The Team will be co-chaired by Sandie and Scott Lundeen and Zan Struebing and Jim Dornbusch. They will be joined by: Jessica Bruno (Home Gatherings & Celebration), Dave Kelly (Gratitude & Ministry), Scott McKenzie (Consultant from the Horizons Stewardship Group), Diane O'Connor (Coordinator) and Christina Schlegel (Communications).



The work of this team is made possible by the support of Session together with the ongoing work of the Ad Hoc Building Task Force : Colleen Duerr, Matt Hodulik, Gwili Marsh, Courtney Morrissette, Jill Prakopcyk and Bob Tombs.



CPC Annual Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Clinton Presbyterian Church was held on Sunday, January 23, with members joining both in-person and via Zoom. Thank you to those who participated. If you would like a copy of CPC's Annual Report or the line item budget for 2022, please contact Diane O'Connor in the church office - office4cpc@gmail.com.

Per Capita for 2022

The 2022 Per Capita apportionment for each CPC member is \$40. This is the amount that we remit to the Presbytery 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 2022!

February Birthdays

- 1 Dick Farrell
- 2 Nancy Hovey
- 4 Eleanor Blaus, Jill Prakopcyk
- 6 Ava Crespo
- 8 Brady Krushinski
- 10 Daniel Prakopcyk
- 11 Jordan Tombs
- 12 Freddie Sifuentes, Diane Wirth
- 13 Owen Plimpton
- 14 Karen Sauers
- 16 Hannah Duerr
- 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



Year-End Giving Statements

Your 2021 Giving Statements were emailed on Thursday, January 13. Please check your spam and junk mail folders as well as your inbox. If you did not receive, please let Diane know – office4cpc@gmail.com. Thank you for your contributions!



Dennis and I would like to thank the congregation for the outpouring of love, concern and support after the passing of my mother, Patricia Spitzer on January 19th. You truly are our family and we appreciate all of you that reached out. My mom did not want a funeral service, but we are having a celebration of her life on her birthday weekend in April in North Carolina.

Carol Kotopoulos



Clinton Christmas Parade

2021



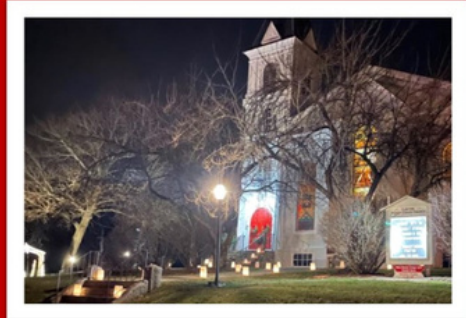
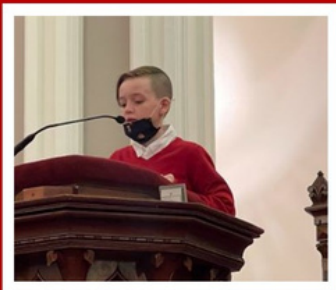
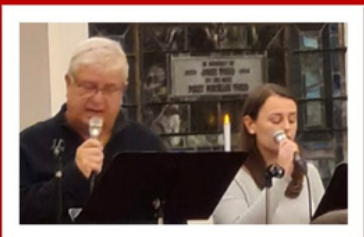
Children's Pageant





LIVE NATIVITY

Drive Thru



Christmas

EVE

