

OCTOBER NEWS FROM CPC



Updates and Highlights from Clinton Presbyterian Church

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From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

Several people I have talked with this week have said the same thing: "How is it almost October already?" September is always full to the brim and the adjustment from the relaxed pace of Summer to the faster clip of Fall can take a little getting used to.

As you juggle the many demands on your time and sometimes wonder how it will all get done in a given week, let me offer a gentle invitation to you to make space for weekly worship. I know that at times, getting out the door to church can seem like just one more task, often at the end of a busy week. And yet it can also be the very time and space which recenters us in *who* we are and in *whose* we are – an identity which can be hard to hold on to in the day to day.

More than that, as Eugene Peterson writes, "Worship does not satisfy our hunger for God – it whets our appetite." It is from our worshipping life that all our other acts of love and service can flow freely. We fill up and we pour out, we fill up and we pour out. May this be the pattern of our lives.

If you haven't worshipped with us in a while, know that we miss you and that we are saving a seat for you. If you are joining us online, know that your presence with us is an encouragement (and let us know how our livestream offering might be adjusted to welcome you more fully into worship).

As the Psalmist urges, "Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving!"

I'll see you in church!

Tracey

Hurricane Relief in Florida

At the time of going to press, Hurricane Ian is still stalled over parts of Florida and heading towards South Carolina. The extent of the damage will not be known for some time. Your mission team invites you to keep those affected in your prayers at this time. We are exploring options for a special offering to be directed towards relief work as well as staying alert for opportunities to more directly serve those in need,

Sunday Worship and More

Sunday Worship

We are so blessed to be able to gather for worship Sunday after Sunday in our beautiful sanctuary. This Fall we worship each Sunday at 9:30am and services will be live streamed via our [YouTube Page](#). Worship videos will also be available to watch at a later time. Our chancel steps are filled to overflowing with little ones and we are always looking for ways to involve people of all ages in worship leadership.



Want to share your musical talents?

Contact Ted: ted4cpc@gmail.com



Up for leading a Children's Conversation?

Contact Tracey: tracey4cpc@gmail.com



Willing to be a reader?

Contact Judy Beck



Happy to serve as an usher or greeter?

Contact Linda Schipmann-Pustai



Have AV skills to share?

Contact Matt Hodulik

October Worship Highlights

On October 1, we will share in Communion with one another and hear an anthem from our growing chancel choir. We will also have a Congregational meeting to elect new officers for the upcoming season. Please see page 9 for their photos and bios.

On October 16 we hope to ordain and install our officers ahead of a Congregational Meeting following worship.

October 23 will see our youngest disciples leading us on worship as we celebrate Children's Sunday. Get ready for some movement, signing and plenty of joy!

We'll end the month of October with **Reformation Sunday on the 30th!**

Choir Rehearsal

The **Chancel Choir** rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm and the **Praise Team** rehearses on Saturday mornings at 10:30 am.

Bell Choir is a seasonal group, coming together in late October to prepare music for the Christmas season, and again in late February to prepare music for Easter. Bell Choir is open to people over the age of 10, as long as they can count! No musical knowledge is needed. Bell Choir rehearsals will be on Wednesday nights beginning at 6:00 pm, starting October 26.

Singers and instrumentalists of all ages are encouraged to share their musical gifts throughout the year! Please let Ted know if you would like to participate. ted4cpc@gmail.com

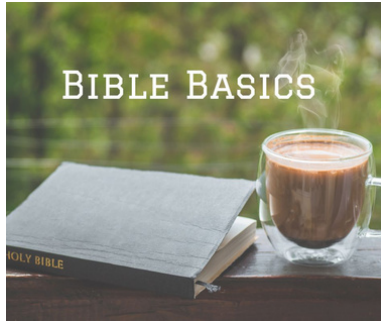


All Saints' Sunday: November 6

It has been our custom in the last few years to pause on the first Sunday in November to remember with gratitude those who have passed away in the last year. If you would like to have your loved one remembered on this date, please email Diane in the church office (office4cpc@gmail.com) and share their name.



Faith Formation for Adults



Sunday Morning Bible Study

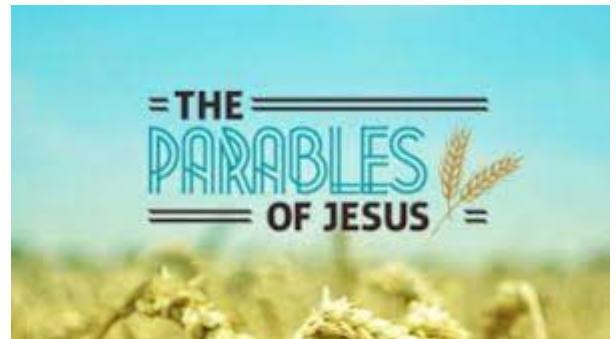
Sunday mornings at 10:40 am in the "computer" room. This weekly bible study class is for beginners and longtime students of the Bible alike. We'll work our way through the Gospel of John as we grow in faith and community with one another. Come and go as you are able. Class will meet every week with the exception of the dates for the "Abide" Forum and the Mission Learning Opportunities. Contact Rick Hyman or Barb Pearson for more information.



October 30 & November 6 10:40 - 11:30 AM

In this two-part forum for adults of all ages, we'll cover many of the concerns, questions and decisions which come to mind when we consider the end of our earthly journey, from wills and estate planning to memorial services and more. Dealing with end-of-life issues isn't something anyone really wants to do, but faithful planning can ensure that your wishes are honored and will alleviate much stress for your loved ones.

Women's Weekday Studies



Weekly Women's Morning Study "The Parables"

Meet on Monday mornings at 9:00 am in the upstairs Coral Spice Room. Any questions, contact Judy Moller.

Women's Evening Group "From Widows to Warriors"

2nd & 4th Mondays at 7 pm

Our study is off to a wonderful start - it's not too late to join us!

From flawed heroes to fierce fighters, encounter our foremothers in the faith in all their messy yet redeemable humanity.

The Matriarchs - October 10

Women of the Exodus - October 24

Women of the Promised Land - November 14

Women of Israel and Judah - November 28

Want to join us via zoom? Let us know and we'll make it happen. RSVP to Tracey at tracey4cpc@gmail.com



Children's Ministry

Autumn is here.



We hope you are too!

Join us in Sunday School each week!

Curriculum

All classes will implement PC (USA)'s Grace and Gratitude curriculum.



What time is Sunday School? 10:40 – 11:30 am

Where do I drop off my child? Teachers will meet the children in Fellowship Hall at 10:40 and escort them to their classrooms.

Where do I pick up my child?

Preschool 3s/4s: Downstairs, Preschool Room 2 - Megan & Ross Traphagen

Kindergarten/1st Grade: Downstairs, Nursery - Jill & Rich Prakopcyk

2nd – 4th Grade: Upstairs, Blue Room - Kim Darcy, Cathy Edelsberg,
Adrienne Hodulik, Judi Sifuentes

5th – 7th Grade: Upstairs, Coral Spice Room - Jim Dornbusch & Ben Dougherty

Is your child registered for Sunday School?

It's not too late! To sign up, register [here](#).

October 23 is Children's Sunday

Mark your calendars!

Join us as our Pre-K through 7th graders lead us in worship at our 9:30 a.m. service.

Support our youngest ones as they greet, read and sing. More info to come.

Sunday Funday Gatherings

Kick back after Sunday School with your friends!

4th through 6th graders

October 2 and November 6

We'll be serving others and having fun doing it!

Sunday School

Schedule

PreK – 7th Grade

Sunday School classes will meet in classrooms every Sunday in October.

Children's Sunday practices will be held in the sanctuary during regular class on 10/9 and 10/16, as needed.

Youth Ministry

Sunday Mornings Grades 8 - 12

Confirmation (8th Graders)

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

High School Conversations (9-12th Graders)

Meet in the Den for food and conversation.



CHAOS Youth Group (9th - 12th graders)

CHAOS meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays from 7-8pm. There's games, snacks, service opportunities and more – join us!

Next meeting: October 2, in Fellowship Hall - there'll be plenty of snacks and fun games!

For more information contact Maggie Bell.

Follow us on Instagram!
@chaosyouthministry



8th Graders



Watch out for details of monthly hangouts for food, fun and service opportunities.

Thanks to Tristan and his family for hosting our fall kick-off for CHAOS! We had a great time swimming, eating and catching up!



Mission Ministry

Service spotlight - HOMELESSNESS



This year we are focusing on learning more about social issues around us and how the church might be called to meet needs and serve others in the name of Jesus. Our first area of focus was on homeless.

CPC has been serving with City Relief (formerly known as The Relief Bus) for many years now. Established in 1989 and with a home base in Elizabeth, City Relief is committed to connecting those experiencing homelessness with available resources. Each week converted buses travel to neighborhoods struggling with poverty and homelessness and set up a kind of “block party” where people can get a hot meal, hygiene kits and socks, and a place to be known. The goal is to break through the loneliness that so many people experience while living on the street.

On Sunday September 25th we were honored to have Brett Hartford from City Relief join us in worship. He shared a powerful message with us about being sure that our heart does not become calloused and closed to the needs of those around us.

Following worship, Brett led an adult forum to help us better understand the struggles and concerns of those experiencing homelessness.

LEARN

- Did you know that the average life expectancy of those experiencing homeless is between
- Even though NYC is a “Right to Shelter” city, some shelters end up being more dangerous than sleeping on the street.

Want to dig deeper? Suggestions for reading/listening

- *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond
- *Dopesick* by Beth Macy (also limited series on Hulu)
- *Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival and Hope in an American City* by Andrea Elliott
- *Neighbors with No Doors* by Josiah Haken – CEO of City Relief (also available as a podcast)



GO

Volunteers from CPC serve with City Relief on the 3rd Friday of each month, departing CPC at 4:00 pm and returning by 8:00 pm. Upcoming dates: October 21, November 18, December 16. Contact Dave Kelly for more information.

GIVE

You can help City Relief by donating new socks and travel size accessories throughout the year to be distributed on the buses.

In addition to the annual support which CPC offers to City Relief, we presented Brett with a check for \$4500 to help with the restoration of their home base in Elizabeth which was affected by Ida. As we continue to make many repairs and renovations in our own building, we are committed as a church to meeting the very real needs which exist outside of our doors and we thank you for your generosity which makes this possible.

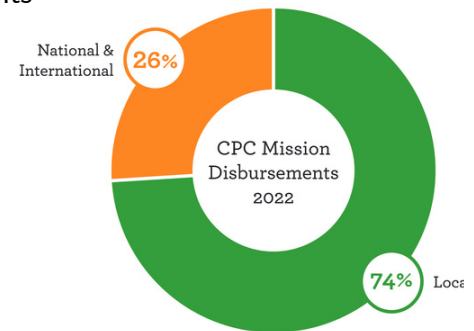
Our next spotlight this year is HUNGER. On November 13 we will welcome Jeannine Gorman, Executive Director of the Flemington Area Food Pantry to CPC to share with us about the needs which exist right in our neighborhood. Jeannine will lead an adult forum at 10:40 am – make your plans now to attend!

Mission Ministry

Mission Disbursements 2022

During our September meeting, the Mission team went through their disbursements for the year, with the focus of the funds serving local organizations.

Of all the disbursements distributed, 74% went towards local organizations (Anderson House, Bible Club Ministries – Philly, Camp Johnsonburg, CASA, City Relief, Clinton Fire Department, Clinton Rescue Squad, Family Promise, Flemington Food Pantry, Friendship Center for New Beginnings, Good News Home for Women, Grow-A-Row, Market Street Mission, Meals on Wheels, Open Cupboard Food Pantry, and Safe in Hunterdon) and 26% went towards national / international organizations (All Hands, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Samaritan's Purse).



We will be collecting and delivering food to local families in need. We are hoping to help families with more of their everyday lives, not just their Thanksgiving meal. The collection will be **from October 16 through November 13**. The boxes will be delivered on **Saturday, November 19**.

We will be collecting the following items:

- Can of Coffee
- Box of Tea Bags
- Ketchup
- Peanut Butter
- Jam / Jelly
- Crackers
- Box of Mac 'n' Cheese
- Box of Dry Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Canned Soup
- Box of Cereal
- Instant Jell-o / Pudding
- Vegetable Oil / Olive Oil (small bottles)
- Jar of Applesauce (no unsweetened)
- Apple Juice (64 oz.)
- Monetary Donations

Note: Ham and/or Turkey donations are welcomed as well.



Please return all items and place them either in the designated areas in the sanctuary or fellowship hall or in the big container on the side porch.

If you are interested in delivering boxes, please keep a look out for sign-ups or reach out to any team member below.

Questions?

Contact: Colleen Duerr, Christina Schlegel or Rick Hyman.

Fellowship and Growth



October 8 at 3 pm

Between Halstead & Lower Center Streets

Speeding Superheroes will be hitting the streets and we'll be there to cheer them on!
Join your friends from CPC near the finish line at Citispot to cheer on our CPC littles & their friends!

The first 200 Heroes registered get a free cape!
[Register here.](#)

Arrive early and enjoy the live music, street vendors, local shops, and food as part of the Main Street Half Marathon weekend kickoff!



Trunk or Treat Returns!

When:

Monday, October 31st from 5 to 7 pm

Where:

CPC Parking Lot

What:

A FUN time!!

Come decorate a trunk and help us welcome everyone into our church parking lot.
If you are in need of help decorating or candy, not a problem, we can help! If anyone would like to make a candy donation, please send in all donations by **Sunday, October 23rd.**
[Sign up to decorate a trunk here:](#)
Questions? Contact Jill Prakopcyk or Jessica Bruno.

Women's Club of Clinton celebrates 100 years!

On September 12th, the Women's Club of Clinton celebrated 100 years. Formed in 1922, this group has long served the needs of our local community and has focused on advocacy and support for girls and women. For many years they have met each month at Clinton Presbyterian. Their anniversary celebration gathered together community leaders from Clinton Public School, Hunterdon County Library, the Clinton Guild, the Red Mill and more. Each organization, including CPC, was honored with a financial donation from the Women's Club as a sign of their gratitude and their ongoing service. Rev. Henry received the gift on behalf of CPC from Club President Kathy Mathews (pictured).



New Officers for Upcoming Season

Nominees for Session

Class of 2025 (The following nominees will fill a three-year term)



Deirdre Blaus

Deirdre has been married to Chris Blaus for 10 years. They have 3 girls - Margaret is 7, Charlotte is 4, and Eleanor is 2. She is a Vice President at RWJ Somerset and has been there for 7 years. Deirdre and Chris started coming to CPC 7 years ago when Margaret was just 2 months old. They've loved being a part of this church family. In her free time, Deirdre enjoys spending time with her family. They are in the pool all summer! The rest of the year, she enjoys going for hikes, yoga, cooking, and snuggling with her girls.



Christina Honthy

Christina has been attending CPC since 2012 and moved to Clinton in 2014. Prior to CPC Tina was an active member of Stanhope Presbyterian Church where she taught Sunday School, as well as Elder and Clerk of Session. She works as a Sr. General Manager for JLL overseeing the Headquarters Plaza campus in Morristown. But her true passion is raising awareness about addiction at the local level, with over 16 years in 12 step and as Ambassador of Shatterproof.org.

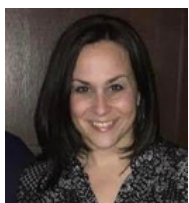


Dave Kelly

Dave joined CPC in 1999. Over the years, he has been involved with mission, organizing youth mission trips and confirmation. Dave works as an IT project manager in the telecommunications industry. In his free time, he enjoys volunteering with City Relief, traveling, reading, and attempting to play golf. Dave and Laurel celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in September and have two grown daughters, Sarah and Heather.

Nominees for Deacons

Class of 2025 (The following nominees will fill a three-year term)



Julie Baldassare

Julie Baldassare and is a resident of Califon, NJ. Together, with her husband they have 5 children ranging from ages 27 - 14. She works as an Office Administrator for Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, and is also a part time vocalist/session singer. Julie and her youngest son Casey joined CPC in February, 2022 and are so happy to be a part of such an amazing congregation!



Robin Carver

Robin has lived in Clinton Township for the last three years, and her favorite life change has been joining CPC. She has two children, Westley, 7, and Ruby, 5 and enjoys spending time with her family curled up in front of the fire, on a long walk, or sitting by the river with her favorite cousins. She also adores her husband, Sean, who is her high school sweetheart. Robin spends her days as a teacher of reading to third and fourth grade students.



Abby Dougherty

Abby is a Hoosier who recently moved to Long Valley, NJ in August of 2020 from Bloomington, IN with her husband Ben. They have four children: Marin (3), Emmett (5), August (7), and Adam (11). Abby's life revolves around her kids and she stays very busy having fun with them. She's a 4-H club leader, volunteers with several organizations in Morris County, and tends a large garden. Abby loves helping her children be actively involved with helping others and is excited about setting up a children's community service group within CPC. Her interests include exploring new places and trying new things, visiting with extended family and friends, cooking, listening to live music and fostering animals of "almost" any kind. Abby looks forward to serving as a deacon.



Jim Pustai

Jim and his wife, Linda, were married in CPC in 2004, and he's been attending services here ever since. For several years, Linda and Jim taught the 3 & 4 year old's Sunday School class. After graduating from Rutgers College, he spent 23 years in the pharmaceutical industry. Jim currently works as an Assistant Manager in a UPS Store. He's a life-long resident of Piscataway, where he and Linda are now empty nesters (stepson Scott is working in Seattle). Jim has served as deacon since 2019, and looks forward to serving in a more normal time, free of pandemics.



FALL KICKOFF 2022

Thanks to our Fellowship and Member Care Team for coordinating our Kick-Off Breakfast on September 11. It was so good to be back together!





Capital Campaign updates



On Sunday, September 25, our Capital Campaign co-chairs shared exciting updates with the congregation.

THANK YOU!

Total amount pledged = \$891,000 from 71 families/individuals

Total received to date = \$418,556 (47%)

Only 5 months into the campaign this is remarkable!

LET'S CELEBRATE!

Exterior painting began in June and is nearly complete. The painters will return as the exterior wood repair/replacement progresses to paint the new trim and foundation parging. Supply chain challenges delayed the exterior trim work commencement until July. Our contractor has not yet received the full amount ordered for the CPC job but is proceeding with the supply he has. Hopefully it will not impede the progress.

As the deteriorated bottom trim boards were removed for replacement, it became apparent the parging which is the cement coating on the original stone foundation was in very poor condition and coming off in large chunks due to long term water infiltration. It is being addressed. The goal is to complete the trim work, flashing and slates on the bell towers by Thanksgiving so the scaffoldings are down for the Christmas season and winter. The work is detailed and slow but we are confident it is being done in the manner required by this 1890's structure and will last the test of time.

The handicap ramp replacement is on next spring/summer's schedule. The fellowship hall roof will be replaced this fall or in the spring as the roofer becomes available. A temporary repair done gratis should hold us through the winter if need be.

This winter we will turn our attention to the details of the interior renovations, those being the bathrooms, 2nd floor classrooms and kitchen. We want to be ready when the funds are available. Anyone who wishes to be part of the planning and design decisions is welcome. Contact Gwili Marsh if your creative juices incline you to help.

JOIN US!

If you have not yet made a financial commitment to support the Campaign, it's not too late. Commitment cards are available in the sanctuary and you may also [pledge online](#).

OCTOBER

Birthdays

- 5 Eric Crespo, Adrienne Hodulik, Cami Plaxe
- 9 Robin Meyh
- 10 Kimberly Westlin
- 12 Tracey Bardecker, Kevin Treese
- 15 Kristen Polaski, Cole Salemo
- 17 Marybeth Ahmed, Chenge Pusztai
- 19 Cassidy Treese
- 21 Kimberly Bieksha, Wyatt Kunzman
- 23 Liz Scannell, Nicholas Warner
- 24 Andres Madriz, Judy Moller, Griffin Westlin
- 26 Mary Ellen Anthony, Griffin Honthy, Grady Pearson
- 28 Nathan Henry, Dave Kelly, Dorene Longell
- 30 Sandie Lundeen

Anniversaries

- 1 Jeff and Lynn Hazelette
- 3 Michael and Kim Darcy
- 6 Louis Judice and Lauren Farese
- 7 Michael and Angela Penyak
- 10 Michael and Courtney Fernandes
- 13 Roy and Cindy Christopher
- 14 Matthew and Candice Pozarycki
Justin and Kara Wehrenberg
- 15 Dennis and Carol Kotopoulos
- 17 Clifford and Cathie Sayre
- 22 Kevin and Jennifer Thompson
- 25 Jim Dornbusch and Zan Struebing

Congregational
MEETING
October 16th

Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday October 16, immediately following worship, for the purposes of receiving the 2023 budget and voting on the Pastor's terms of call for 2023. We will kick off our 2023 Stewardship Campaign on this date also. Mark your calendar to join us!