

# SEPTEMBER NEWS FROM CPC

## Updates and Highlights from Clinton Presbyterian Church



### From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

It was such a relief to finally see and hug my family in Northern Ireland after many months apart. Our reunion was delayed several hours longer than expected when a combination of Hurricane Henri and a customs strike in Portugal led to a missed connection. I found myself with 9 hours to spare in Lisbon airport.

At first, I was really frustrated. I was tired, I was hungry and all I wanted to do was get to my destination. After a strong cup of tea (the British solution to any problem that ails you), I realized what I needed was to adjust my mindset. It was easy enough to focus on what was lacking, but there was still a lot to be thankful for. I was traveling alone and didn't have to worry about entertaining three little boys. I had a credit card to cover the cost of any food I needed. I was safe and warm. The airport had a reliable internet connection and with the purchase of a European adapter, I was able to settle in and get some good work done while I waited for my flight to my final destination.

It reminds me of the journey we are on as a church. We had hoped this fall to be "back to normal" or at least to have settled into a "new normal", but that is not the case. It's not hurricanes and strikes which have set us back but rather continued uncertainty and concerns about an ongoing pandemic that pays no mind to our plans. We are tired, frustrated and want this unwelcome journey to be behind us. It is easy enough to focus on what is lacking.

And yet, we have a lot to be thankful for. We have found ways to worship both online and in person. We have welcomed new members to our church family. We blessed 19 little backpacks for the new school year this past Sunday. We have capable elders and deacons in place to help guide us this fall. There are plenty of opportunities for us to grow in our faith and to serve others. If we are willing to adapt, we can get some good work done even as wait for the challenges of this time to be behind us.

Let's not waste this time. This fall, say "yes" at CPC more often than you say "no". Worship the Lord with gladness. Serve the Lord with a grateful heart. Be ever thankful for all that we have been given.

See you in church!  
Tracey

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# Sunday Worship and More

## Sunday Worship

This fall we will continue to offer worship both in-person and online.

*If you are worshipping with us in person:* We'll be worshipping outdoors (weather permitting) on Sunday, September 5 and Sunday, September 12. Our Worship on the 12th will be followed by an Outdoor Kick-Off Breakfast. (See page 4 for more details.)

*We plan to resume indoor worship on Sunday, September 19.* All worshippers are encouraged to mask and while individual pews will no longer be closed off, everyone is invited to space appropriately throughout the sanctuary in friendship/family groups. Please be aware of differing comfort levels as we gather.

*If you are joining us online:* Sunday Worship Services will go live on our [YouTube Channel](#) at 9:30 am each week. You can tune in live by clicking on the appropriate video link or you can watch at a later time. Many thanks for your patience as we have figured out this new format for worship and deepest of gratitude to all those who used their time and expertise to help make livestream worship a reality.

## Want to Help with Worship?

If you would like to help with live-streaming support or with the children's conversation, please contact Tracey - [tracey4cpc@gmail.com](mailto:tracey4cpc@gmail.com). If you are interested in serving as a greeter or as a liturgist, please contact Judy Beck or Linda Schipmann-Pustai.

## Preaching in a New Season

This fall, rather than using the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) as a guide for preaching texts, I will be using the Narrative Lectionary. This is a set of readings for Christian worship that focuses on story. Over the course of nine months (September to May), we will sweep through the overarching story of scripture.

In the fall, the Narrative Lectionary moves quickly through the Old Testament story – beginning in Genesis on September 12 and culminating with the promise of the Messiah during December (Advent). In the winter, we'll move through one Gospel (this year it is the Gospel of John) to trace the story of Jesus in canonical order from birth, through ministry, passion, and culminating with the story of the resurrection at Easter. In the spring, we'll engage part of the story of the early church, as told in Acts and other New Testament writings.

This will be a change of pace for me, after 14 years of following the RCL and I am hopeful that in these days of re-gathering and new beginnings it might be a gift to us to trace the story of our faith together in this way. When we know our broader biblical story, we can come to appreciate our role in God's story and how God is inviting us in. I look forward to growing with you and welcome your feedback as we go.



# Sunday Worship and More

## Message from the Director of Music Ministries

As you know, we will be moving worship indoors beginning on Sept. 19. Per CDC guidelines, Session is recommending masking for all indoor worship. The congregation will sing while masked, and worship leaders will unmask only when speaking or singing. To reduce risk, I will invite only one or two vocalists to lead the congregation. I will try to give those vocalists plenty of time to prepare their music.

Given the current uncertainty around variants and the spread of disease, we will not be resuming traditional rehearsals for the Chancel Choir or Praise Team. As an alternative, I'd like to offer rehearsal time to soloists and duos at 7 pm on Wednesday evenings.

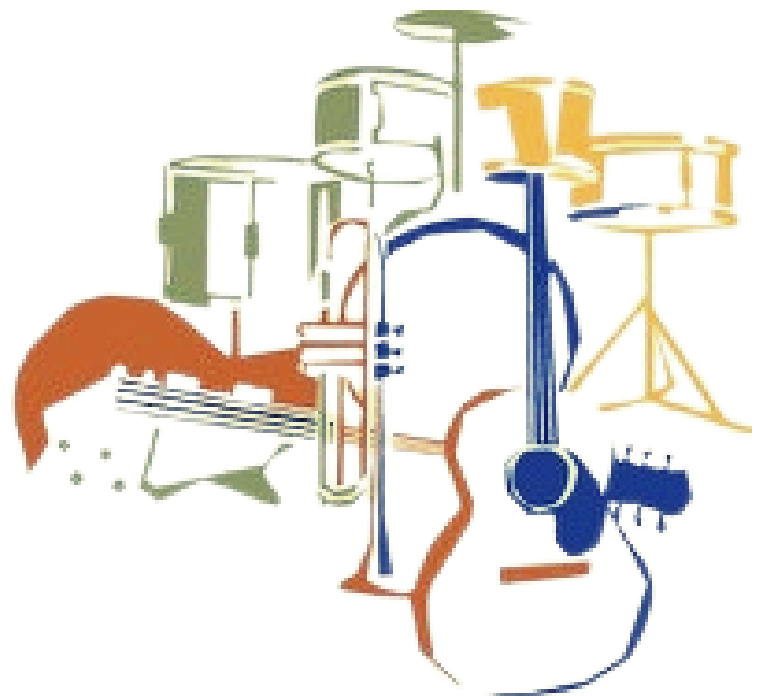
I would also like to offer rehearsal time at 6pm for the bell choir. If you would like to participate in the bell choir, please let me know. I will ask for names during church services in September. Rehearsals would start in early October. Rehearsals will be held in Fellowship Hall.

An alternative to indoor full choir singing could be pre-recorded "virtual" choir. For those choir members who found the technical challenges of recording themselves these past 18 months too daunting, I would gladly record your individual parts at church, then mix them with other choir member's parts, and create a video, similar to what you may have seen

in our YouTube online services. These virtual choir videos would then be blended into our live stream services.

Speaking of live-streaming, I'm happy to report that we were able, for the first time, to successfully live stream both the audio and video of the service this past Sunday, and it has been posted to our "Clinton Presbyterian Church Online Worship" channel on YouTube, in case you missed the live stream. So, in addition to in-person worship, we now offer a live-stream option that will always be available for viewing once posted to our YouTube channel.

In spite of the pandemic and the challenges it has presented to our congregation, we will look for creative ways of incorporating music into our services, and move slowly, and safely, towards a "normal" music program.



# Fellowship and Growth



We are excited to bring back our Fall kick-off breakfast and get the school year started off together. This year we will be holding it outside in the parking lot after worship on Sunday, September 12 with a rain date of Sunday, September 19. We will be doing things a little differently this year with more individual food items and drinks and need your help to get everything set up. Please sign up at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B48AFAA2AA1F85-cpcfll>

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jessica Bruno.



Fellowship time after worship is an important time for our church family and we are looking for families to sign up to host. A small card table of light snacks is all you will need to provide. Any questions, please reach out to Jessica Bruno. If your family would like to sign up, please click on this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B48AFAA2AA1F85-lemonade>

Sunday School is not just for the kids! We are always growing in our faith and learning more about how to follow Jesus. Adult classes begin on September 19 at 10:40 am.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL AT CPC**

Groups will meet on Sunday mornings  
1040am-1130am  
September 19 - November 7  
(no class on October 3)

**TRACK ONE: BIBLE STUDY**  
JOIN REV. KATHY HENRY TO DIG INTO SCRIPTURE EACH SUNDAY MORNING. WE'LL DECIDE TOGETHER WHERE TO BEGIN AT OUR FIRST MEETING

**TRACK TWO: SPIRITUAL READING**  
JOIN WITH FRIENDS TO EXPLORE BOOKS THAT WILL STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH. WE'LL PICK OUR FIRST READ OF THE YEAR ON THE 19TH.

Ready to sign up?  
Email [office4cpc@gmail.com](mailto:office4cpc@gmail.com) and let us know which class you are interested in!

CLINTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 91 CENTER STREET, CLINTON, NJ 08809  
[WWW.CLINTONPRESBYTERIAN.NET](http://WWW.CLINTONPRESBYTERIAN.NET)

## First Impressions Gathering Save the Dates - October 3 & 6

As you know, the renovations in the Sanctuary are just one part of a vision we have for the restoration and renewal of our church building and we would like to share more information with you about these plans and the possibility of funding them by way of a Capital Campaign.

We have created two opportunities to connect:  
**Sunday, October 3 at 10:40 am** – Join us immediately after worship to hear from Pastor Tracey, Members of the Ad Hoc Building Task Force, and Scott McKenzie, a consultant from the Horizon Stewardship Group. There will be plenty of time for questions and we would love to have you join us.

**Wednesday, October 6 at 7 pm – via Zoom**  
If an online discussion is a better option for you, join us via Zoom. You'll hear all the same information that was presented in-person and also have an opportunity for Q & A. Contact the church office ([office4cpc@gmail.com](mailto:office4cpc@gmail.com)) for the Zoom link or find it in the Sunday morning email.

# Children's Ministry

In Sunday School,

**WE  
ARE  
FAMILY**



and we've missed you!

Our classrooms have been empty for the last year and a half, but we have exciting news!

**Our doors are opening again!**

Sunday School starts on September 19.

Classes run 10:45 – 11:30 am each week.

Please use the time between worship and Sunday School to take your child to the bathroom.

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 4s)

Upstairs Green Room

(Teachers: Megan and Ross Traphagen)

## Kindergarten/1st Grade

Upstairs Blue Room

(Teachers: Jill and Rich Prakopcyk)

## 3rd – 5th Grade

Upstairs Coral Spice Room

(Teachers: Jim Dornbusch and Tina Martin)

**Sign up for Sunday School!** To register your children for Sunday School and youth groups, click here for the [Registration Form](#).

**We can't wait to see you all!**



**Are you ready to teach Sunday School?**

Join our teaching family! We work together and rotate teaching weeks. Please reach out to Cathy Edelsberg or anyone on the Children's Ministry Team.

## Sunday Funday is Back!

A special gathering just for 4th and 5th graders on the 1st Sunday of each month - don't miss it!

**CALLING ALL 3RD-5TH GRADERS -**  
**YOU'RE INVITED TO SUNDAY FUNDAY!**  
FIRST SUNDAYS FROM 1130-1PM  
WE HAVE TONS OF FUN PLANNED!  
OCTOBER 3 - PANCAKE FLIPPING BREAKFAST & GAMES  
NOVEMBER 7 - PIE BAKING EXTRAVAGANZA - WE'LL BE TAKING THANKSGIVING ORDERS FROM THE CONGREGATION!  
DECEMBER 5 - DESIGN YOUR OWN ONE-OF-A-KIND UGLY CHRISTMAS T-SHIRT!

# Youth Ministry

## Sunday School for 6th & 7th Grade

Calling all 6th and 7th graders - come on down to the Den on Sundays after worship and join us for some great chats about God, the world and our lives. Begins September 19 - 10:40 - 11:30 am. Teachers: Paul Morrissette and Bob Tombs



Confirmation Class kicks off beginning Sunday, September 19 from 10:40 to 11:30 am.

The class will consist of Sunday morning faith discussion time, service projects, special guest speakers, and some laughter along the way.

All students who are entering grades 8, 9 and 10 are welcome to join us. If interested, contact Sandie Lundeen.

## CHAOS YOUTH GROUP @ CPC

ALL 6TH-12TH GRADERS ARE WELCOME!

All meetings are on Sundays from 7-8pm at the church unless otherwise noted. We will stay outdoors when the weather allows. For indoor gatherings, masks are required.

### SEPTEMBER



19

Fall kick off at the manse (105 Center Street) 7-8:30pm  
Let's catch up over s'mores and a firepit!

### NOVEMBER



Bring your leftover Halloween candy and join us for game night!



Cookie Baking Extravanza! Help us get ready for cookies and cocoa after the Christmas parade

### OCTOBER



Meet at the church and we'll walk downtown - lattes are on us!



Halloween is coming! Let's plan a youth group trunk for the CPC trunk or treat event on October 31!



### DECEMBER



Christmas Movie Night- wear your favorite ugly sweater and bring your sweet tooth! 7-8:30pm



Need service hours for school? Ask us about opportunities to help with thanksgiving baskets, Family promise, the Relief Bus, the Christmas parade, Living Nativity and more!



To register for youth programs this fall, please use this [registration form](#).

For all youth programs which are indoors, masks are required for both students and leaders.

# Service Opportunities



THE TIME TO  
**GIVE BLOOD**  
IS NOW

## American Red Cross Blood Drive September 8

CPC is hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, September 8 for the American Red Cross from 11 am – 4 pm. To register go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use the sponsor code ClintonPres.

### Mission Opportunity: City Relief

The Relief Bus outreach consists of two former school buses that have been converted to mobile resource centers that go out to the poor and homeless in NYC and Newark. Volunteers serve food, pass out clothing and befriend the poor and homeless in these cities.

Relief Bus staff also provide social services referrals and spiritual support. We will be serving with City Relief in Newark on the third Friday evening of each month in the fall.

**(September 17, October 15 and November 19)**

Please contact the church office at [office4cpc@gmail.com](mailto:office4cpc@gmail.com) to volunteer or if you have any questions.



*Thank you for supporting the City Relief!*



### Family Promise

CPC will be serving with Family Promise from September 12 through 19. It will be very different than previous years due to COVID. We will not be hosting families/guests; they will be staying at the Sonesta Hotel in Somerset. Our only responsibility will be to purchase groceries on Thursday, September 9 and deliver them on Sunday, September 12. Guests will be doing their own cooking. If you can do a grocery run on the 9th or if you can lend a hand with deliveries on September 12, we would like to hear from you. Please contact the church office at [office4cpc@gmail.com](mailto:office4cpc@gmail.com).



## Preschool News

The hallway has been painted, the playground mulched, the classrooms have been cleaned and decorated, all in preparation for welcoming our preschoolers on September 13.

Jill Battle and Kathleen Powick have joined Cathy Edelsberg to complete our teaching team. The 4-year-old class is full and the 3-year-old class has a few more seats open. We are so excited to start this year and are looking forward to lots of fun and learning.



# SEPTEMBER

## Birthdays

- 2 Connor Flynn, Ross Traphagen
- 4 Rev. Tracey Henry
- 6 Martha Roth
- 7 Lonnie Little
- 8 Aidan Berson, Lisa Miller, Jim Pustai
- 9 Barbara Pearson, Sandra Salemo
- 10 Helen Davis
- 11 Barry Lake
- 12 Stephen Miller, Gabriella Pusztai
- 13 Carolyn Donchevich
- 14 Fred Darcy
- 19 Grant Bruno, Barbara Plundeke, David Thompson, Rebecca Thompson
- 20 Gwili Marsh, Jessica Plimpton
- 22 Ken Westlin
- 23 Bill Mansfield
- 24 Erik Duerr
- 25 Kim Darcy
- 26 Shelley Brankner
- 27 Jim Dornbusch, Shayda Zabihialam
- 29 Robin Carver, Graham Lundeen
- 30 Frank Bell

## Anniversaries

- 7 Al and Kristen Polaski
- 9 Glenn and Barbara Allen
- 12 Jacob and Erica Tunney
- 13 Frank and Greta Bell
- 19 Dave and Laurel Kelly
- 21 Alec and Maryjean Riou, Leigh and Sandra Salemo
- 22 Raymond and Nancy Paul
- 26 Vianel and Chelsea Rosario
- 27 Bill and Jan Kreutel
- 28 Rob and Jessica Plimpton