



OCTOBER NEWS FROM CPC

Updates and Highlights from Clinton Presbyterian Church

From the Pastor's Pen

Friends,

In mid-September, I was elected to serve as the Moderator of the newly formed Presbytery of the Highlands. I understood that my term of service would begin in January 2022 (which it does!), but no sooner had the votes been cast than an email arrived in my inbox: "Would you write a prayer for our weekly 'Presbytery in Prayer' email for October 1?" There were no instructions other than to focus on the events of the week or the time of year.

Now, I am holding off until October 1 – today!! – to indulge in some of my favorite pumpkin treats, but I doubt this is what they had in mind! Rather I imagined as many Sessions and Pastors turn the page from September to October, their minds turn to budgets and stewardship season, work which in this liminal season is quite challenging. And so I offered a prayer that I hope will be helpful to others and also seems fitting and timely for us here at CPC.

Over the next weeks you will hear about the possibility of a capital campaign in the months ahead and you will also be invited to participate in the fall stewardship drive. As we embark on that work, may we not get lost in the numbers and projects, in the budgets and balance sheets, but may we instead see beyond those, to the transformative work of ministry which they enable as we grow in our discipleship and follow Christ faithfully.

Generous and Good God, all that you have, you gave to us. Freely. Fully. And yet, we confess that we are still people who often live with a mindset of scarcity; never enough people in the pews, never enough dollars in the bank. In this fall season, remind us anew of your abundance and stir us to trust in your provision once more. Help us to lay aside anxieties that accompany our way and to live instead with hearts and hands which are wide open to your call. As we step forward in faith, may we be equipped with all we need to share your love. Freely. Fully. Amen.

I am grateful to be back in community with so many of you. I am hopeful about our future as we follow God's lead. May our life together be lived in thanksgiving.

Peace and Grace to you,
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 resumed indoor worship. 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.



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.

Upcoming In Worship

As we continue to journey through the narrative lectionary over the next month, we'll be hearing more about Moses, days of wandering in the wilderness, God's call to Samuel, to David and more.

October 3 – Communion Sunday

(We will serve pre-packaged elements during worship. If you are tuning in from home, please use elements which you have on hand.)
Exodus 3:1-5, 4:10-14 – “Here I am – send someone else!”

October 10

Exodus 16:1-18 – “Wilderness Wanderings”

October 17

1 Samuel 3:1-21 – “A Surprise Caller”
Guest Soloist – Mari Wilson Green

October 24 – Children's Sunday

Join us as we are led in worship by our youngest disciples!

October 31 – Reformation Sunday

1 Kings 8:1-13 – A Place to call Home

Want to Help with Worship?

Everyone is invited to join us in worship leadership.

Children's Conversation - contact Tracey:
tracey4cpc@gmail.com

Liturgist - contact Judy Beck

Greeter - contact Linda Schipmann-Pustai

Live streaming support - contact Ted Brancato:
ted4cpc@gmail.com

Sunday Worship and More

Now that we have initiated in-person worship in the sanctuary, you've had a glimpse of what our music ministry will look and sound like in the immediate future. It's not what we're used to, but I would humbly offer that it's pretty darn good! In addition to individual soloists and duets, we will be incorporating new video content into services and are in the process of assembling a bell choir to perform during Advent and on Christmas Eve. Instrumental music will also be featured so if you have secret musical talents, please come out of the shadows and join in the fun!

Bell Choir will be rehearsing in Fellowship Hall on Thursday evenings at 6pm. We have a good crew of bell-ringers assembled but can always use more. Please let me know if you'd like to participate before we initiate rehearsals on October 7th. A commitment to attending most of the rehearsals will be required, and especially a commitment to our "concert" dates which are December 5th and Christmas Eve. Masking will be required during rehearsals as we want to be mindful of children who will be participating.

For people who would like to sing a solo or duet for church services, I will make myself available for rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7:15pm, or at another time that is more convenient for you.

Concerning our virtual Children's, Youth, Chancel, & Praise Team Choirs: 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 the other choir member's parts to create an audio/video, similar to what you may have seen in our YouTube online services. Please let me know if you'd like some help with this so that we can schedule a recording "session". Virtual choir videos will be blended into our live stream and in-person services.

A Message from



the Director of Music Ministries

Speaking of **live-streaming**, I'm happy to report that we are making steady progress in this regard. Matt Hodulik and I have been brain-storming to find ways of improving the production values of our live-stream broadcasts. We will need people to man the production station at the rear of the sanctuary. If you have any interest in the exciting world of video and audio production, please let us know and we will be glad to set up a training session with you!

In spite of the pandemic and the challenges it has presented to our congregation, we are looking for creative ways of incorporating music into our services, and to move slowly, and safely, towards the day when we can sing together, unmasked!

Growing in Faith

First Impressions Gatherings Sunday, October 3 after Worship & October 6 (via Zoom)

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: Join us **immediately after worship on October 3** to hear from Pastor Tracey, members of the Ad Hoc Building Task Force, and Scott McKenzie, a consultant from the Horizons 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.



Sunday School for Adults

Meet on Sunday mornings at 10:40 am, now through November 7. (No class on October 3.)

Track One: Bible Study
meet upstairs
Teacher: Rev. Kathy Henry



The title of our fall Bible Study is "Jesus Through Old Testament Eyes." The overarching concerns this study seeks to address is how the Old Testament helps us better understand Jesus, how it informs and enhances our understanding of who Jesus is and what Jesus does for us. Contact Kathy Henry for more information.

Track Two: Spiritual Reading – meet upstairs. Join with friends to read Mike Yaconelli's great book, *Messy Spirituality: God's Annoying Love for Imperfect People*. This book was written for the silent majority of us who are convinced we just don't do Christianity right. Full of innovative ideas and concepts, it is a classic that offers timeless wisdom for anyone ready to be free from the bonds of perfectionism. For more information contact Dave Kelly.

Children's Ministry

Sunday School is buzzing!



What a joy to see our little ones back in the classrooms and hallways, with smiles and stories galore! Twenty-five PreK-5th graders attended our first week back and we are excited to share this year with them.

What time is Sunday School? 10:40 – 11:30 a.m.

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: Upstairs, Green Room (Megan & Ross Traphagen)

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

2nd – 5th Grade: Upstairs, Coral Spice Room (Jim Dornbusch & Tina Martin)



Nursery News

Take a peek at the nursery. It has been refreshed and reorganized! Many hours were spent readying this space to welcome our little ones back inside.

Many thanks to Jill Prakopcyk for heading this project. Thanks also to Rich Prakopcyk, Barb Pearson, Kim Darcy, Adrienne Hodulik and Pastor Tracey. Thanks to you all, our nursery is clean and organized, with fresh paint and new blinds. The only thing that makes the room more cheerful is the presence of our church children.

We are always seeking nursery volunteers to care for our children during worship. To join the nursery rotation, contact Kim Darcy.

Sunday School Schedule Pre-K Thru Grade 5

October 3 will be a “One Room Sunday School Gathering” for kids of all ages. We’ll meet in Fellowship Hall for a craft and story, enjoy a snack outside and be back in fellowship Hall in time for parent pick up.

Sunday School classes meet in classrooms:

October 10, 17, 24 and 31

Practices for Children’s Sunday will be held in the sanctuary during regular Sunday School class on 10/10 and 10/17, as needed.

October 24 is Children’s Sunday:

Mark your calendars!

Join us as our Pre-K through 5th graders lead us in worship at our 9:30 am service.

Support our littlest ones as they greet, read and sing.

Sunday Funday

A special gathering just for 4th and 5th graders each month.

CALLING ALL 3RD-5TH GRADERS

YOU'RE INVITED TO SUNDAY FUNDAY!

OUR FIRST GATHERING OF 2021 WILL BE ON
SUNDAY OCTOBER 10
FROM 1130AM-1230PM
(RIGHT AFTER SUNDAY SCHOOL)

JOIN US IN FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR FUN, FOOD AND GAMES!
RSVP TO TRACEY IF YOU PLAN TO JOIN US
TRACEY4CPC@GMAIL.COM



SUNDAY SCHOOL



Youth Ministry

CHAOS Youth Group

We are SO excited and grateful to have kicked off our 2021-2022 year with Chaos and youth programs in September!

We started off strong by launching our newest confirmation class, gathering **8th, 9th, and 10th graders** to deepen their faith and find their place in our church family as “adult” members. This year we will be navigating important faith questions through the Presbyterian confirmation curriculum, “Big God, Big Questions.” We have already had meaningful discussions with a great group of students. We are also grateful to have a dynamic and caring group of mentors along for the ride! Each student has been prayerfully placed with a member of the congregation to walk with through this confirmation year. This group meets in the Wolverton Building.

If your student is in **6th or 7th grade**, they are welcome to join the Middle School Sunday school class (in the downstairs Den) for to develop their faith and have fun! Thanks to Paul Morrissette and Bob Tombs for leading this class. Blessings and prayers as we journey through these next months together!

Chaos (for those in 6th – 12th grades) will be meeting in person, outdoors, socially distanced, and masked (say that ten times fast!) while the weather stays beautiful! We are keeping a close eye on CDC guidelines to best keep our students and volunteers safe. We realize how immensely blessed we are to have been able to gather both on Zoom and intermittently in person through the pandemic. Our time together on screen and off has filled all of our cups and fostered great friendships!

We are truly excited to see what God will do with our time together as we go forward. Chaos meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month from 7pm – 8pm (unless otherwise noted). See dates below for our gathering nights! 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



CHAOS Schedule

October 3

Chaos meets at the manse for s’mores and fun around the firepit!

October 17

Chaos gathers at CPC and helps plan Trunk or Treat

November 17

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

November 21

Cookie Baking Extravaganza!

We’ll prepare for the Clinton Christmas Parade cookies & cocoa!

December 5

Christmas Movie Night 7pm – 8:30pm

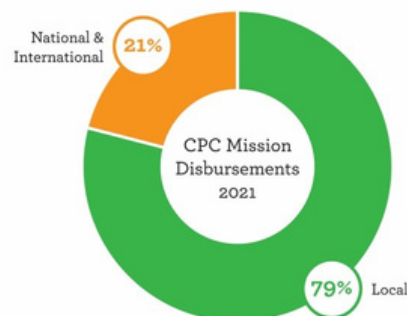
Wear your favorite Ugly Sweater!



Mission Ministry

Mission Disbursements

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, 79% 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, and Open Cupboard Food Pantry) and 21% went towards national / international organizations (All Hands, Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Samaritan’s Purse).



Mini Fridge Ministry

Many of our neighbors in Hunterdon County are housed in motels, sometimes for weeks or months, or even longer. As you can imagine, that makes eating, cooking, and storing food a challenge. In partnership with the Flemington Area Food Pantry, our church stores mini fridges that we deliver to our friends in hotels and motels. The initial supply of fridges came from the Flemington Order of the Moose, who collected and delivered them to CPC. We’ve delivered six of these fridges since the program started in May of 2021, with several needed over the past few weeks due to Hunterdon County residents being displaced due to the flooding. You can’t imagine how grateful these folks are to receive a small refrigerator. Courtney Morrissette has taken over management of this ministry and she is thrilled to do her part to help our neighbors in need - and the Mission Team is thrilled to have her help!

Mission Opportunity: City Relief

CPC continues to support City Relief (Relief Bus). This organization supports the homeless in the Newark area and New York City and are based out of Elizabeth, New Jersey. When the CPC team is on the relief bus, we help out by providing hygiene kits to the guests. We are getting low on some of those supplies and we are asking the congregation to help out by supplying the following items: individually wrapped soap, travel size toothpaste, travel size deodorant and travel size hand sanitizer. Deadline: October 17. Please drop off your donations in the bins on the steps outside of Fellowship Hall. Any questions, please contact Rick or Leslie Hyman .

We will be serving with the City Relief in Newark on the third Friday of each month in the fall. (October 15 and November 19). Contact Dave Kelly for more information.



Mission Ministry

Art Museum Clean Up

Following the flooding in Clinton in early September, members of CPC stepped up to help out with clean up at the Hunterdon Art Museum. What a wonderful way to love and serve our community in a time of need.



Thanksgiving Baskets

We are looking forward to serving local families once again this Thanksgiving season. Please look for more information mid-October regarding the collection items needed and dates for the collection and delivery. This information will be listed in bulletins and the November newsletter.

Thank you!

Fellowship and Growth

Beneduce's Gathering

October 16 at 5:00 pm

It's time to meet up at Beneduce's again and enjoy a night of fun, fellowship, drinks and food. Reservations are required, so please sign up at the link below by October 3rd so that Jes can book the reservation.



This event is for adults (18+) only. We ask that each family bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

Questions? Contact Jessica Bruno at jessicaqbruno@gmail.com or 908-328-6943.

Sign-up here by October 3:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B48AFAA2AA1F85-beneduces>



Trunk or Treat Returns!

CPC Parking Lot on Sunday, October 31
from 4 to 7 pm

Doctor D Entertainment will be leading the festivities!

We would like to welcome the community back with more trunks than ever! If you need help with trunk decorating ideas we have lots of fun, easy ideas to share!

Please reach out to Jill Prakopcyk for details.

* Due to COVID restrictions we will be spacing the trunks out throughout the parking lot. Unfortunately we will not be handing out hotdogs or water.





Preschool is off to a great September start! We are very excited to welcome Jill Battle and Kathy Powick to our team. They join our seasoned teacher, Cathy Edelsberg and bring creative ideas, experience and a love of children to our program. What a talented, faithful team this is!

It is going to be a year filled with learning and fun! Stay tuned for more of this year's Clinton Presbyterian Preschool story.

What a joy to baptize 5 precious children here at CPC over the last two months! Welcome to the family of God Jace, Lia, Destiny, Jayden and Owen! We are so delighted that God has called us to be a special part of your lives.



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
- 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
- 13 Roy and Cindy Christopher
- 14 Matthew and Candice Pozarycki
Justin and Kara Wehrenberg
- 15 Dennis and Carol Kotopoulis
- 17 Clifford and Cathie Sayre
- 22 Kevin and Jennifer Thompson
- 25 Jim Dornbusch and Zan Struebing

