

March News from CPC

Updates and Highlights from Clinton Presbyterian Church



From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

On Ash Wednesday, I'll be taking our middle child for his annual well visit. As I reflected on the convergence of those two things, I wondered if we might consider Lent an opportunity for a "spiritual wellness check." Eugene Peterson once spoke of our desperate need for "uncluttered time and space to distance ourselves from the frenzy of our own activities so we can see what God has been and is doing." How would we be changed and challenged this Lent if we asked some honest questions of ourselves. Questions like:

How is it with my soul, really?

Am I growing in love for God and for others?

Am I following Jesus, or am I asking Jesus to follow me?

How can I use the gifts and talents God had given me to make this world a better place?

Does my prayer life need a make-over?

As we find space to ask these questions and others, as we join together for worship and study, and as we draw near to God in our personal spiritual disciplines, may we be reminded once again that God has already drawn near to us. May it be well with your soul.

See you in church,
Tracey

Prayers for Ukraine

As we continue to pray for the people of Ukraine, here is a prayer from the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland.

God who sees the weakness
in acts of naked aggression;
God who feels the fear
in moments of acute helplessness:
cure this warring madness,
and shield all who fall in harm's way.
Leach the poison from the mind
that thinks strength is shown
in a bullying force.

And may an equal strength in solidarity
give resolve to those
whose aim is to protect, and respect,
not just the ones we call our own,
but all with whom we can share
a better, more peaceful world. Amen.

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Sunday Morning Worship & Lent

Lenten Sermon Series: Journey with Jesus

As we have heard from John's Gospel over these last weeks, Jesus came to be the light of the world, the light for us, so that we, as his followers, might in turn be light for others. As those who have the light of Christ and walk in the light of Christ, our task is to dispel the darkness—to bear the light of Christ and embody his light. We'll journey on through John's Gospel in these Lenten Sundays, exploring how we might be shaped and formed more in the image of Christ.

If you are reading along in the Gospel, the texts for each Sunday are outlined here:

March 6 – Communion Sunday

John 10:1-10

March 13 - John 10:11-18

March 20 - John 11:1-44

March 27 - John 12: 1-8

April 3 - John 13:1-11



Covid Precautions Update

In accordance with the latest CDC guidelines, masks will be optional for all gatherings at CPC, effective March 1. Many thanks to Session for their careful deliberations over these last 2 years and gratitude also to each one of you who have remained flexible and compassionate as this journey has taken twists and turns. May we meet this new season with that same level of care for one another.



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.



Lent Devotionals

If you are looking for a short devotional to read each day of Lent, look no further. Each week we'll provide a copy of the devotional provided by the Presbyterian Outlook, "Making the Road." Copies will be available in worship and also in the weekly Sunday email.



Lent Small Groups

Lenten Small Groups will begin next week. We'll be using Kate Bowler's book, Good Enough, as a gentle guide.

As Bowler writes, "Frankly, Lent is my favorite part of the church calendar because it is a time when the whole church is on the losing team. A time when we all get a minute to tell the truth: Life is so beautiful and life is so hard. For everyone." This Lent we'll focus not on being perfect, but on resting in God's mercy as we embrace the life we have right now.

We currently have groups established for Sunday morning and Sunday Evening and would love to add an evening option for during the week. If you haven't yet signed up for a group, reach out to Tracey - tracey4cpc@gmail.com.

Holy Week and Easter



Palm Sunday April 10

As we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, join us as our Children's Chorus leads us in chorus of hosanna while our Bell Choir brings a new offering and Mari Green adds her voice to ours.

Maundy Thursday April 14

Soup Service at 6PM (tentative)

Family friendly soup supper and worship in Fellowship Hall, recalling Jesus' last supper with his disciples.



Maundy Thursday Dinner Service

April 14 6PM Fellowship Hall



Good Friday Children's Gathering April 15 @ 10am in Fellowship Hall

Join us for stories, Crafts and snacks

ALL ARE WELCOME

Good Friday April 15

Children's Gathering at 10AM

Join us for crafts, stories and snacks.

Tenebrae Service at 7PM in the Sanctuary

As we remember Jesus' final hours, we'll read scripture, pray and extinguish candles.



GOOD FRIDAY tenebrae service

APRIL 15 7PM IN THE SANCTUARY



EASTER SUNDAY

WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 AM

Easter April 17

Worship Service 9:30AM

Come and celebrate the Resurrection as we remember that God's love for us knows no bounds. Invite a friend to share the pew with you as we recall the Good News of our Faith.

Music and Song at CPC

A Note from Ted Brancto, Director of Music Ministry

I'm happy to report that we will be reconvening the Chancel Choir and Praise Team sometime in March! Rehearsals will be on Wednesday nights at 7pm. Both the Chancel Choir and Praise Team have lost members over the past couple of years so please, if you have any interest in singing with either or both of these groups, notify me!

The Bell Choir will begin rehearsing on March 9th 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.

Last month I told you about my idea of starting up a CPC Drum Circle. That idea is still very much on my mind, but as far as implementing the idea, I am a ways away from putting the group together. I'll keep you posted as the pieces of my plan fall into place. I have already heard from some of you about your interest in such a group. Your enthusiasm will be incentive for me to make this group a reality!

We are still in need of volunteers to man the AV table. We have a small core of people that Matt has trained, but it would be great to have several more trainees so that when the day comes that Matt is hired to do sound for a Broadway road show, we'll have enough people to handle the AV/livestream chores each week. Please contact Matt Hodulik (matthod94@gmail.com) if you're interested in learning any aspect of the AV table.



Meet Our New Members



The Kelly Family (Ryan, Dana and Camryn)

Ryan and Dana met at their college orientation in Providence, RI during the summer of 2009. They decided after four years in the cold of New England, that Ryan's hometown of Pompano Beach, FL would be a nice change of scenery. After a few years in the South Florida heat, they bid adieu to the palm trees and beaches and decided the great Garden State was where they wanted to call home. They have since set some roots in Hunterdon County, where Dana grew up, and decided to grow their family. They welcomed their first child, Camryn in April 2021, who has been their biggest adventure yet, and are loving their new role as parents. Their German Shepard, Bear, has also welcomed his new position as a big brother despite some of the tail pulling he receives from Camryn. They are excited to become a part of the CPC family, and want to thank everyone for how welcoming they have been.



The Dougherty Family (Ben, Abby, Adam, August, Emmett and Marin)

The Dougherty family is originally from Indiana and Ohio and moved to Long Valley in August of 2020. Ben works for GlaxoSmithKline and Abby is a stay at home mom. Adam (10), enjoys golf, creating art, Scouts, reading and 4H. August (6), enjoys gymnastics, tennis, construction projects and board games. Emmett (4) and Marin (3) enjoy singing, making messes and caring for our animals. They all love volunteering, exploring the outdoors, and are always looking for their next adventure together.



The Darocha Family (Joe, Paige and Molly)

Joe and Paige have one daughter, Molly, and a second baby due in July. They enjoy being outdoors, taking care of their horses and working with their hunting dogs. They are excited to join CPC ; they are growing their family and would like their children to be a part of the church.

Generation to Generation - 2022 Capital Campaign



Our Capital Campaign will officially launch on Sunday, March 13. From week to week we will share more about the projects and hear from those whose lives have already been impacted by the ministry of CPC and consider how we each might invest in making this campaign a wonderful success, to the glory of God.

Stay tuned for details on home gatherings, cardboard testimonies and more. To view a copy of our [Vision Brochure](#) click here.

Children's Ministry

Pre-K thru 5th Grade



*It's March...
and we're flying high!*

Our kids are back! Our Sunday School returned to the classrooms last month; the nursery reopened; and Sunday Funday kicked off the year with a Super Bowl themed gathering. Children's Ministry is busy. So much goes unnoticed behind the scenes. Thank you to our amazing Sunday School teachers, nursery volunteers and Sunday Funday leaders. Thank you, Kim Darcy, for being responsible for "all things nursery." Thank you, Judy Moller, for continuing to coordinate our Cradle Roll program, serving our littlest church members (Did you all receive your special valentine card that Judy sent last month?). Thank you, Judi Sifuentes, for leading us now as Children's Ministry chair.

As we look ahead toward Easter... Lent begins on March 2. Lenten scratch-off calendars were distributed to Sunday School families at the end of February. As the children reveal the daily message or activity, we pray they grow closer to God and find even small ways to live like Jesus.

Plans are in the works for our annual Easter egg hunt, Palm Sunday Children's Chorus and palm procession, and our Good Friday Children's Gathering. It's exciting to put these events back on the calendar! Look for details in the coming weeks.

There will be Sunday School each Sunday in March - don't forget to meet your teachers each week in Fellowship Hall at 10:40 am.

Sunday School Classes Preschool and Elementary

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)

We will meet on Sunday, March 13 from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm right after Sunday School in Fellowship Hall.

Youth Ministry

Spring is right around the corner, friends; don't listen to Punxatawny Phil! We are praying that your family has stayed healthy and happy during these times. Though we had to take a "pause" due to the rise in Covid cases at the start of 2022, we are had a rockin' February and are ready for a roaring March! Our Confirmation class took to the lanes, the bowling lanes that is, along with their mentors early on in February! We had SO much fun but will not be heading up a CPC bowling league anytime soon.

Our Chaos Crew was happy to be back in full swing. Lots of games and lots of laughs – it's been a joy to build a safe, welcoming space for our youth!

We will meet March, April, and part of May to round out the year. Check out the March and April 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!



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.

6th & 7th Grade Youth Group Dates:

5:45 – 6:45pm

March 6/April 3

8th Grade & Up Chaos Dates:

7:00 - 8:00 pm

March 6 and 20/April 3




Follow us on Instagram! @chaosyouthministry

Our Community Impact

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!



September 22, 2021


Clinton Presbyterian Church
91 Center Street
Clinton, NJ 08809

Dear Friends at Clinton Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your support during this unimaginably difficult year. As you know, natural disasters know no quarantine. They strike regardless of other events, even global pandemics.

Your compassion and generosity are fundamental to our successes in helping rebuild the communities we serve. You make possible the programs that not only restore schools and homes -- but hope.

With gratitude,



Bruce Linton
Chief Development Officer

Gift Date	Donor Name	Designated Fund	Amount
9/20/2021	Clinton Presbyterian Church	Disaster Relief Fund	\$250.00


HQJ

Donations are tax-deductible; our 501(c)3 ID # is 20-3414952. We acknowledge that no goods or services were provided or exchanged for this donation.

6 COUNTY ROAD, SUITE 6 | MATTAPOISETT, MASSACHUSETTS 02739 | ALLHANDSANDHEARTS.ORG

Dear Colleen,
I just want to personally thank you and the Clinton Presbyterian Church community for generously supporting All Hands and Hearts, and for your belief in our mission. We find so much comfort in knowing that we have your trust to transform lives for the better - thank you!

yours in service,
Julie



September 27, 2021




Clinton Presbyterian Church
91 Center Street
Clinton, NJ 08809

Dear Friends,

We would like to thank you for your donation of \$250.00 to America's Grow-a-Row. Contributions from generous donors like you allow us to expand our programs to feed more people in need and educate people of all generations about healthy eating.

America's Grow-a-Row's mission is to positively impact as many lives as possible through a volunteer effort of planting, picking, rescuing, and delivering free fresh produce. At America's Grow-a-Row we:

- Provide fresh, healthy produce to those in need
- Educate people of all generations about hunger and ways to help
- Introduce our youth to farming and healthy eating
- Cultivate in tomorrow's leaders the habit of giving back
- Contribute to the sustainability of agriculture

America's Grow-a-Row is an important source of fresh produce for some of the largest hunger relief agencies in the region. Due to the continued pandemic and economic crisis, these agencies are facing unprecedented need right now, as many people are experiencing food insecurity for the first time in their lives. Our partner agencies are relying on us now more than ever before to meet our commitments to them. In order to donate over 2 million pounds, or 8 million servings, of farm-fresh produce typically harvested by our 9,000 volunteers each year, we hired additional seasonal farm staff and mechanized some of our farming practices to help accomplish the work done by our volunteer force. Contributions from generous donors like you allow us to meet this commitment.

We appreciate your support and thank you for helping to provide farm fresh produce for healthy living to those in need!

Sincerely,



Chip Paillex
President and Founder
chip@americagrowarow.org



Heather Mulvey
Director of Development
heather@americagrowarow.org

America's Grow-a-Row
No goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation. Please keep this written acknowledgment of your donation for your personal records. Our tax-exempt number is 26-2569598. Information filed with the Attorney General concerning this charitable solicitation may be obtained from the Attorney General of The State of New Jersey by calling (973) 504-6215. Registration with the Attorney General does not imply endorsement.

150 Pittstown Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867
www.americagrowarow.org



On Super Bowl Sunday (February 13) we collected 90 cans of food and \$155 to support Souper Bowl of Caring. Thank you to all who contributed!

Deacons

Our first meeting of 2022 was held on February 7, 2022. At that time, the Deacons received a list of the congregational members that they will be contacting. Deacons call those members, part of their “flock”. If you were wondering who your deacon is, see the list to the right. Your deacon should be contacting you over the next month.

Deacon responsibilities are, but not limited to:

- Sending notes/email/phone calls to members in their “flock”
- Do home and/or hospital visits
- Coordinate meals where necessary
- Organize rides as necessary for doctor appointments
- Provide support for funerals
- Help the newer members become involved in the CPC family
- The Deacon of the month is responsible for putting information into the bulletin and the newsletter.
- The Deacon of the month should take any food that is donated from the baskets in the Sanctuary to the Food Pantry

Over the next few months, the Deacons will be discussing other areas of the church where they may be able to help. That might include getting people together for Christian concerts or movies and other social connections such as senior gatherings or single connections. Deacons will try to decide what other type of spiritual support they can provide.

Finally, the Deacons will be helping with the Capital Campaign. They will be contacting their “flock” to pray with them about the success of the campaign and how to support it.

If you have any questions about any of these duties or ideas of other Deacon activities, please do not hesitate to contact your Deacon.

Deacons' Assigned Congregation Members (Flocks)

Tracey Bardecker – Letters D, E, F

Colin Bruno – Letter P

Dick Farrell – Letter L

David Henry – Letters A, C, N, O

Rick Hyman - Letter M

Andrew Kvarata – Letter BI-Bu and W, V, Z

Robin Meyh – Letters I, J, K

Barbara Pearson – Letter Ba-Bi and H, G

Barbara Plundeke – Letters Q, R, T

Jim Pustai – Letter S





**Thank you to
Boy Scout Troop 121
who helped to lead us
in worship
on Sunday, February 6.**



March Birthdays

- 2 Tristen Dornbusch, Patty Heffner,
Micahel Penyak, Fred Sifuentes
- 3 Courtney Morrissette
- 6 Christina Schlegel
- 7 Tom Hodulik
- 8 Colin Twigg
- 9 Abigail Thompson
- 10 Kara Wehrenberg, Jeri Twigg
- 11 Sharon Rosenberg
- 13 Brielle Madriz
- 15 Dorothy Battaglia
- 16 Lauren Edelsberg
- 17 Jeremy Barnes
- 18 Elijah Sudol
- 21 Karen Heine
- 23 Kyle Lundeen
- 24 Abby Jenkin
- 26 Alex Westlin
- 27 Tina Little
- 28 Leslie Hyman
- 29 Janet Traphagen
- 31 Oliver Sudol

March Anniversaries

- 11 Evelyn Lebron and James Jenkin
- 23 Rich and Debra Jackle,
Bob and Lisa Miller
Anthony and Lora Pelose

From the Highlands Presbyterian Women: Prayer Service

Recognizing our need for community, for getting to know one another, and for prayer in these difficult times, Presbyterian Women will be holding a monthly prayer service.

When: Second Tuesday of each month

Time: 7:30-8:00 pm

Format: Evening Prayer of the Iona Community

How: Via ZOOM

To receive the Zoom invitation, please e-mail Donna Rahmann at donnarahmann@comcast.net

Spring Gathering

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of the Highlands
of New Jersey

April 2, 2022

Place - to be announced

Registration 9:30 am

**“How do we have Christian, courageous
conversations about “sticky wicket” issues?”**

How to facilitated by Jenny Lee,
Immediate Past Moderator of PW Churchwide

Practice conversation – What is “fair trade”
and how do we make buying decisions?

Worship will be led by Rev. Amy Lincoln,
Pastor of the Flemington Presbyterian Church.