

Clinton Presbyterian Church

# New Year Notes



Dear Friends,

What a joy it was to journey with you through the season of Advent and Christmas. Each Sunday worship service seemed to build on the next, from Bell Choir to Brass to Children's Pageant, all carrying us to joy-filled celebrations on Christmas Eve.

And it wasn't just our Sunday worship which brought joy, but also the opportunity to connect with our community during the Christmas Parade and our Live Nativity, the chance to give back through our Giving Tree and the gladness of being around tables with each other for an all-church breakfast.

So many of you shared your time and talents freely, as you always do from this place. Thank you.

What a honor to share the story of God's love with the people around us. This year, may we continue to share it with our very lives as we welcome, grow and serve together.

See you in church!

Tracey

## A Prayer for the New Year

And I said to the man  
who stood at the gate  
of the year,  
"Give me a light that I  
may tread safely into  
the unknown."

And he replied:  
"Go out into the darkness  
and put your hand  
into the hand of God.  
That shall be to you  
better than light and  
safer than a known way."

-Minnie Louise Haskins

## Giving Tree

These photos simply do not do justice to the extraordinary generosity of CPCers - this year's Giving Tree had 180 tags and you gave more than we could have imagined. In addition to all the gifts collected, we also received 60 gift cards for local organizations and over \$1000 for the CPC Preschool Scholarship fund - THANK YOU for blessing our community!



## Christmas Parade

CPC kids wished everyone in town a very Merry Christmas as they cruised through Main Street on our newly designed float. We have never seen a bigger crowd for the parade and we were so happy to be included.



## Special Music at CPC

Our Bell Choir, Praise Team, Chancel Choir, Kids' Chorus, soloists and instrumentalists all went above and beyond in the month of December (and all year long!) to bring special musical offerings to our worship services. We were also delighted to welcome Presentation Brass to lead us in worship in mid-December. What joy!



## Live Nativity

This year our Live Nativity was a walk-thru event, with opportunity for kids and adults to visit with the animals, enjoy the stillness of the sanctuary and even grab some hot dogs and s'mores before heading home. We estimate that over 300 people attended. Thanks to all of our fabulous volunteers for making this a cherished event. Same time next year!



## Christmas Caroling

Country Arches staff and residents loved the visit from the CPC carolers on December 19 and would really like to make it an annual event. A big thank you to everyone who participated!



## Christmas Pageant

What a fabulous pageant by our CPC kids. In song and rhyme, with joy and conviction, they made the story new for us once again. Thank you to our pageant directors, teachers, parents and musicians for wonderful memories. We are still singing "It was on a Starry Night!" And afterwards Fellowship Hall was filled to overflowing for a delicious breakfast.





# Christmas EVE

The weather outside was frightful, but the church was so delightful – delightfully warm and delightfully full as members, friends and community members gathered to sing, to pray, to light candle and to remember the miracle of Christmas.



## **Epiphany Worship**

On Sunday January 8, we will celebrate Epiphany (a couple of days late!) at CPC. Join us as we remember the journey of the Magi and mark the end of the Christmas Season. As has been our practice in the last few years, we will also receive Star Words during the worship service.

PS: If you can lend a hand to “de-decorate” the sanctuary after worship that would be much appreciated!

## **Sunday School Classes will resume on January 8**

### **Preschool and Elementary**

Kids: Meet your teachers 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.

### **Sunday School for 5th through 7th Grade**

Meet in the Coral Spice Room.

### **Confirmation (8th Graders)**

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

### **Bible Basics for Adults**

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 are working our way through the Gospel of John as we grow in faith and community with one another. Come & go as you are able.

## **Women's Bible Studies**

### **Weekly Women's Morning Study “The Minor Prophets”**

Monday mornings at 9am starting on January 16 Meet in Fellowship Hall

### **Women's Evening Group: From Widows to Warriors Resumes on January 23**

Meets on the 2nd & 4th Mondays at 7pm

From flawed heroes to fierce fighters, we have been encountering our foremothers in the faith in all their messy yet redeemable humanity. We'll conclude our study in the Old Testament this month

Want to join us via zoom? Let us know and we'll make it happen. Want to be part of this group?

RSVP to Tracey.

## **Invitation to Pray for Congregational Leadership**

On Tuesday, January 17, our Deacon and Elder Boards will come together for a shared meeting, to pray, vision and plan together for the next season at CPC. You are invited to pray for our leadership as they prepare for and engage in this time, that God's plan might indeed be clear.

## **Save the Date for the Congregational Meeting**

Session has called our Annual Congregational Meeting for January 29, immediately following worship.

Please make every effort to join us.

**CITY RELIEF**

**MOBILITY  
CONSISTENCY**

**COMPASSION  
CONNECTION  
COMMUNITY**

### **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.

On Friday, January 20 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 for more information.

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



### **Mission Trip in February 2023**

Did you make a New Year's resolution to spend more time serving others? Why not join us as we head to Florida to serve with All Hands and Hands ([www.allhandsandhands.org](http://www.allhandsandhands.org)) from February 10-15 and would love to have you join us. Want to find out more?

Reach out to Tracey or Mission Chair, Elder Collen Duerr.



### **Save the Date:**

#### **Pot Luck and Game Night**

Come join us for a family-friendly  
Pot Luck and Game Night on  
Sunday, February 5 at 5pm.

We are looking forward to trying each other's  
delicious dishes and playing some fun games.

RSVP to Jes Bruno.

## Deacon Update

Deacons meet once a month. At the beginning of each meeting congregational needs are discussed. Currently there are 3 different committees: Social, Practical and Spiritual. Each committee brainstorms how needs can be addressed throughout the year. Once an idea is identified and a plan formulated, it is rolled out to the congregation. One result of these smaller groups is a Bible Study offering which the Spiritual committee started.

Deacons are in prayer during the final part of meeting. They share the needs of their individual 'flocks' with each other. Then they spend time going through the directory so eventually, prayers are offered for all members of the congregation.

Delivering meals is always a top priority for the Deacons. Families and Individuals in need are supported through this program. If you know of someone who would benefit from a meal delivery please contact your assigned Deacon.

Clinton Food Pantry deliveries continue! Toiletries and non-perishable items are collected in the baskets at the front of the Sanctuary. Items can be placed in there throughout the month and all items are appreciated by the organization.

The Well Wishes Table is located in Fellowship Hall following worship. When needs are identified a card is placed on the table for all to sign. There for a variety of reasons for our cards, such as sympathy, congratulations, and special occasions. This is a great way to reach out and let our members know we are thinking of them.

May God's blessings pour upon you and grant you a prosperous, healthy, and pleasant year to come. Happy New Year to you and your family from your Deacons.

Julie Baldassare (BI-Bu, W, V, Z)  
Tracey Bardecker (D,E,F)  
Robin Carver (P)  
Abby Dougherty (G,H)  
Dick Farrell (L)  
David Henry (A,C,N,O)

Rick Hyman (M)  
Robin Meyh (I,J,K)  
Barbara Pearson (Ba-Bi)  
Barbara Plundeke (Q,R,T) 1  
Jim Pustai (S)

The letters next to deacon names indicate which member of the congregation are part of their flock.



## January Birthdays

2 Kelly Christopher  
3 Jaxon Crespo, Rich Prakopcyk, Alyssa Tombs  
4 Charlotte Blaus  
6 Rebecca Tombs  
7 Ben Prakopcyk, Pat Sinko  
8 Courtney Fernandes, Spencer Holmsborg,  
Chris Honthy, Rick Hyman  
13 Kenneth Wirth  
14 Domenic DiPace, Marin Dougherty  
15 Cliff Sayre  
16 Bill Kreutel

18 Chad Longell  
20 Donavyn Meyh, Chelsea Rosario  
21 Marissa Annese  
22 Angela Penyak, Steven Polaski  
23 Emmaline DiPace  
25 Carly Krushinski, Mason Pozarycki  
26 Brian Barnes  
27 John Roth  
29 Bob Ballantine  
30 Parker Henry,  
31 Dave Boyer, Megan Traphagen