Summer Notes Clinton Presbyterian Church

"O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" Psalm 8:1

Dear Friends.

I have not undertaken any comprehensive research in this, so don't quote me, but if I had to warrant a guess, I would say that more than 75% of the Bible seems to take place outdoors.

The greatest hits of the Hebrew scriptures are all outdoor events: the garden of Eden,

the burning bush,

the giving of the 10 commandments on Mt. Sinai,

the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness,

the crossings of the Red Sea and the Jordan River.

Move into the New Testament and again so many pivotal moments are outdoor moments:

wise men from the east following a star,

the Saviour born in an open-air stable,

the calling of the disciples along the lakeshore,

the feeding of the 5000,

the healing stories,

the Sermon on the Mount,

the parables.

Over and above that, Jesus often used ideas from the world of nature as an object lesson:

"Consider the mustard seed," "Consider the lilies of the field."

God is on the move in all of creation. As we spend more time outdoors this summer, we position ourselves for moments of sacred encounter. As we are hiking, biking, walking or relaxing by the ocean's edge, may our eyes be open to see Jesus. He has much to teach us still.

Blessings on your rest and travel,

Tracey

July/August 2023

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Note:

There will be no newsletter for the month of August.

Please follow us on <u>Facebook</u> or visit the <u>website</u> for current updates.

A full program guide will be available in mid-August, detailing opportunities for worship, service, study and more.

Worship and More





We'll be worshipping outdoors once a month this summer. Bring a lawn chair and join us for these casual worship services.

Dates:

July 16 and August 13



Lemonade on the Lawn

Come join us after worship for some drinks, snacks and fellowship outdoors this summer!

We are looking for families or groups of 2 people to sign up to host in front of the church for the summer months. Want to sign up?

Contact Jessica Bruno

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:

Usher - contact Linda Schipmann-Pustai:

Live streaming support - contact Ted Brancato:

ted4cpc@gmail.com



Summer Sermon Series

Join us each Sunday in July as we explore the Book of Jonah, remembering God's call and God's compassion and God's relentless pursuit of each one of us. It's so much more than a "whale of a tale!"



Acolyte Ministry

Our children and youth in grades 3 and up will have the opportunity to serve as an Acolyte in our weekly worship service.

Click on this <u>link</u> to sign up.

Dates available for the months of July through September.

Worship and More

Music Ministry

June has been an exciting and gratifying month for the CPC music ministry. The Chancel Choir had it's last chance to impress the congregation before taking the summer off, and from what I hear, they succeeded! On June 18 the Men's Chorus consisting of most of the male members of the Chancel Choir sang "This Is My Father's World" in commemoration of Father's Day and were met with applause for their stirring performance. Also in that service, we were blessed with a performance by the staff from Camp Johnsonburg who sang an audience participation number titled "My Lighthouse". (See picture to the right.) Earlier in June, we heard a fresh new voice in our midst belonging to Tom Fuller. He sang with the Praise Team, sang a solo prelude, and sang with the Chancel Choir! Talk about jumping in with both feet!

As stated in the last newsletter, a Summer Choir, which is open to everyone, will sing on **Sunday**, **July 30th** and **Sunday**, **August 20th**. Singers will rehearse at 8:30am on those mornings. If you are interested in participating in the Summer Choir, please let Ted know and he will email you sheet music and MP3s to practice with. Our Praise Team and other musicians will continue to lead us in worship from week to week. The music for the outdoor service on **July 16th** will focus on folk music and old-time hymns. On **August 13th**, the focus will be on rock music and will feature the guitar stylings of our own Matt Hodulik and Bill Anthony, Jr. on guitars, and our trusty percussion specialist, Glenn Gray.

If you are interested in sharing your musical talents during worship throughout the summer months, please reach out to Ted at ted4cpc@gmail.com.

He's back - Flat Jesus!

Take Flat Jesus with you on your adventures this summer and then send us your photos to share on social media. There will be copies of Flat Jesus at the back of the Sanctuary. Send your pics to office4cpc@gmail.com. Here's a few from 2022:







We had the privilege of commissioning the Summer Staff for <u>Johnsonburg Camp & Retreat</u> <u>Center</u> during worship on June 18th. Our prayers go with you all for a wonderful summer!



Diane O'Connor to Retire

After over 15 years of faithful service to Clinton Presbyterian Church, Diane O'Connor plans to retire on September 14th.



Diane has provided so much more than simply administrative support to CPC. She is the friendly voice on the phone when someone first reaches out to CPC, the organizer of a calendar which is constantly in flux and a negotiator without parallel when it comes to keeping costs low and being a good steward of your generous gifts. We are so grateful for her ministry here.

On Sunday, September 10, we will have an opportunity to honor and thank Diane during our Sunday morning worship service and to bless her as she begins a new chapter. Plan to join us then.



Children's Ministry



Happy Summer

You may not be thinking about fall quite yet... but we are. It's an exciting time for Children's Ministry and we'd love for you to be a part of it! **We need to add another Sunday School class in September to accommodate our growing number of children.**

Here's the scoop. We are looking for Sunday School volunteers to rotate weeks in the kindergarten/1st grade or 2nd/3rd grade classrooms. No teaching experience is required. If another age group better fits you, let us know. We are not looking for people just to "fill a spot" on our team. We are looking for people committed to following Jesus.

Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20 NIV)

Come on! Are you committed to loving our next generation as much as He does? You can make disciples. You can bridge the gap between God and our kids. You can help them build trust in Him and grow closer to Him. You can make a difference! You can bring your unique "flavor" to the classroom. At CPC, kids connect to God through worship, through Fellowship Hour, through service opportunities. But through Sunday School... you could be that "extra" connection in their faith formation. You could be the cherry on top! We could draw names from a hat or beg you to join us. We could offer you a huge reward or tempt you with ice cream. But we won't do any of that. We will simply ask and hope that you find a tug at your heart to answer. Will you be a Sunday School volunteer this fall? Contact Judi Sifuentes or anyone on the Children's Ministry team.



Gen On Ministries

We are excited to announce that Clinton Presbyterian Church has been selected by GenOn Ministries to participate in their new pilot program called the Christian Parenting Project. Our church will get to try out proposed resources that support parents, grandparents,

caregivers, kids, and the connection between homes and churches. We will then give feedback about the experiences the families and the churches have. We are thrilled to be embarking on this journey to find where God is leading us in our current contexts with the real felt needs of today's families. More information about this program will be shared as it unfolds.

Middle School Day of Mission

On **Wednesday**, **July 12** our CPC middle schoolers are getting together for a day of service. We'll be cleaning out around the church, in preparation for the upcoming renovations, cooking some meals for friends in need, lending a hand at the Flemington Area Food Pantry and more – it's going to be a full day! If your tween/teen would like to participate, please contact Tracey at tracey4cpc@gmail.com



Nursery Team Volunteers

All aboard the nursery train...

If you enjoy playing with children and sharing God's love with them, serving in the nursery might be just the ticket for you. Volunteers serve in the nursery 1-2 Sundays per season. Parents with older children can bring them along to help and they can earn service hours if needed. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Kim Darcy or anyone on Children's Ministry team.



Summer Fun for Kids & Adults



VBS Food Truck Party is coming to you this July 17-21!

We will be holding it in the evenings again this year from 5:30-8:00 pm and will end the week with a fun Family Night on Friday evening! Dinner will be served each night, so no need to worry about making dinner all week. Registration is open and we would love to see you there!

Register here for VBS!





VBS Wish List

Can't volunteer for VBS but looking for a way to get involved?

We have just the thing for you!

We have created an Amazon Wish List of items
we would love to have for VBS to make it a fun week for all!

Check out our list here: **CPC Amazon Wish List**

Any questions? Contact Jes Bruno

Joy Scouts

Joy Scouts is an outreach group connecting CPC families and children to a wide variety of volunteer opportunities in the community.

Check out our group Facebook page for all the latest!

On **July 11th at 4:00** Let's meet at the Flemington Food Pantry to help with some child-friendly projects.

Feel free to bring a friend! Please let Abby know if you plan to attend. (20 person limit)

We love serving others with joyful hearts! Contact Abby Dougherty for more information on participating.

Wednesday, August 16 @6:30PM Summer Supper at the Manse

All ages welcome.

Join us for a casual dinner and time of fellowship at 105 Center Street.

No need to bring anything.

RSVP to Diane at office4cpc@gmail.com



Blessing of the Backpacks
August 27 during Worship
Bring your backpacks to church
on Sunday, August 27th
for a special Blessing of the Backpacks.



Beneduce's Outing - July 22 5-9PM

Come out for a night of fellowship and fun music by our very own music director, TED! On **Saturday**, **July 22nd** we will be heading to Beneduce's to enjoy an evening together while listening to some great music. This is an adults only event, so call up that babysitter and get your name on the list!

The fee is \$10 per person and we will meet at 5:00pm.

Once RSVPs are in, we will send around a sign up to bring some appetizers and desserts. Reservations will need to be made ahead of time, so please RSVP to Jes Bruno by July 8th.

Serving in the Summer

Pedals for Progress Event Update

On Saturday, June 10th, CPC held it second used Bicycle and Sewing Machine collection event benefiting Pedals for Progress. While the numbers were not as stellar as our 2022 drive, we were able to collect a total of 11 bikes, 8 sewing machines and \$310 in cash donations.

Pedals for Progress' mission is to "empower sustainable economic development by recycling bicycles and sewing machines from the US and shipping them to motivated people in the developing world". Since 1991 they collected over 166,000 bicycles and 6,153 sewing machines. To learn more, please visit www.p4p.org.









Grow-A-Row Service Opportunity: It's almost harvest time!

On Monday, August 14th from 5pm-7pm, come to an area farm to help harvest a crop to feed those in need. This opportunity is for all ages, children and adults.

RSVP by August 11th so we can provide a headcount to AGAR.

Please let Abby Dougherty or Stephanie Ramos-Dominko know if you would like to sign up.

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.

Food Pantry Donations

We continue to collect toiletries and non-perishable food for the Open Cupboard Food Pantry in Clinton and the Flemington Food Pantry. You can bring your donations to church and put them in the baskets by the door in front of the sanctuary. If you would like to provide cash, instead of actual items, there is an envelope in the baskets for that as well.

We thank you for your support. The food pantry is always very appreciative of our donations. If you have any questions, please contact Rick Hyman.



Our Community Impact

The Mission team would like to share the wonderful thank you messages we have received from our 2022 disbursements to organizations. The disbursements served both local organizations (74%) and national / international organizations (26%). 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.

Pedals for Progress

Dear friends at Clinton Presbyterian Church,

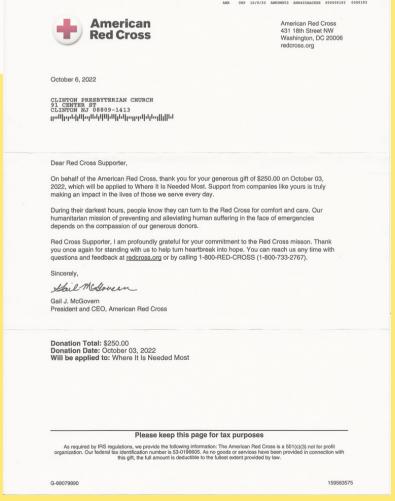
Thank you for your contribution to the Pedals for Progress Spring 2022 events!

Please know that your efforts make a difference in our world. We are truly grateful for your work resulting in the collection of 35 bikes and 7 sewing machines which will provide life changing opportunities for disadvantaged communities in developing nations. Your support is greatly appreciated!!

Sincerely, Lori Smith at Pedals for Progress

Thank you for your ongoing support!

American Red Cross



Our Community Impact

Grow A Row

October 19, 2022



MHEROES AGAR is thrilled to be recognized by

Clinton Presbyterian Church Clinton, NJ 08809

We would like to thank Clinton Presbyterian Church for the donation of \$250.00 donation to America's Grow-a-Row. Contributions from generous donors 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 2.5 million pounds, or 10 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 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 Director of Development

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 28-2595988. 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) 504-5215. Registration with the
Attorney General does not imply endorsement.

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

Meals on Wheels



September 30, 2022

Clinton Presbyterian Church Attn: Colleen Duerr, Chairperson CPC Mission Ministry 91 Center Street Clinton, NJ 08809

Dear Friends of Meals on Wheels,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff and ALL of our recipients, I would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU for the generous donation of \$250.

This kind gift ensures that many frail elderly residents of Hunterdon County will have the nutritional advantage they need to retain the independent lifestyle they depend on. It is with much gratitude that we recognize the Meals on Wheels' community for sustaining the worthwhile effort that has helped so many senior citizens of Hunterdon County.

We consider ourselves fortunate indeed to have you as one of our supporters. Again, many thanks for your dedication and kindness in sustaining

Sincerely,

Regina Hlanny Regina Hlasney Executive Director

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Capital Campaign Updates - Summer 2023



As we shared in worship recently, giving and momentum around supporting the work of our capital campaign has continued strong through the first year. We have 71 pledges and the pledged giving total stands at \$903,404. Gifts from members, friends, new members and even longtime members who now live elsewhere have all combined to make this total possible. As of the end of April, over 70% of the total, has already been received. This is a three-year campaign and to be at this stage already is really a gift.



EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS

Painting the exterior of the church was a high priority project on our capital campaign list and this work commenced in June 2022. That work was initially budgeted to cost \$100,000 however, serious and significant issues with the existing woodwork meant that this project became much larger than anticipated, and more expensive. The work on the upper level, which requires scaffolding, is scheduled to be completed by the end of summer. Work on the ground level should be completed by early fall.



INTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS

Renovating the bathrooms and classrooms

As soon as Vacation Bible School ends, the work of renovating all three bathrooms will begin, with the goal of having three much more functional spaces by early fall. This means that we will be without usable bathrooms in the building for a period of time, beginning July 24. Porta potties will be available close to the Wolverton Building. While we realize this is not ideal, renovating all the bathrooms at the same time and installing basic porta potties for use when nature calls is the most cost-effective way to complete this work and invest your capital campaign dollars.

Also at this time, storage and new carpeting will be added to classroom spaces and the tile floor in the upper hallway will be replaced. We are working hard to ensure that church members and community groups who use the building on a regular basis will be minimally impacted by this work and we know for sure that in the end everyone will be better served by the refreshed spaces. Thank you in advance for your patience and flexibility.

Effective July 24, staff will mostly be working remotely with scheduled time in the office each week. Should you need to connect with any staff member in person, please contact them to schedule a time.

Financial Updates



Summer Giving - Supporting Our Ministries all Summer Long!

Summer is a time to slow down, squeeze in extra family time, and relax a bit. It's also an exciting time of year at Clinton Presbyterian with Vacation Bible School (we have 80 kids registered so far for this year!) and planning ahead for the Fall months. You can help us keep our ministries going strong - and simplify your own summer - by setting up recurring giving to Clinton Presbyterian now.

Options include:

- Online bill pay through your bank. Add us to the list of bills you pay online monthly through your bank and avoid transaction fees.
- Through our online giving portal. Go to <u>www.clintonpresbyterian.net</u> and click "Give Now" to set up online giving. Once you create a profile you can select which fund to contribute to, the amount and the frequency you prefer. Transaction fees apply.

Thank you for giving generously so that our ministry can thrive this summer and beyond!



Thank You!

In May, we reached out to all members, asking for your help in fulfilling all per capita apportionment to the denomination. The per capita rate is \$42.50 per member, the total cost for 2023 for CPC is \$9,902.50.

We received a wonderful response to date, collecting \$4,845.00, or per capita contributions for 114 members. Thank you! If you have not yet contributed you can drop your gift in the offering plate or contribute online at www.clintonpresbyterian.net and writing "Per Capita" in the Notes box at the bottom of the page.

Deacon of the Month - August

Meet Jim Pustai

My wife, Linda, and I were married in CPC in 2004, and I have been attending services at CPC ever since. Linda and I taught the 3 & 4-year-old Sunday school class for several years. After working in the pharmaceutical industry for 20+ years, I am currently an Assistant Manager at a UPS Store. Linda and I live in Piscataway, and make the trip to Clinton because it feels like home. When we are not working or at CPC, we like to attend Rutgers football or basketball games, and vacation in the Outer banks of NC. We were fortunate that Scott (Linda's son, my step-son) was able to join us in NC again this year. Scott lives in Seattle and works for a nuclear fusion company. (We haven't changed at all after 19 years, right?) I began my second term as Deacon last September and look forward to serving you.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10







Birthdays

July Birthdays

- 2 Mike Bruno
- 4 Jens Duerr, Andrew Jackle, Evan Plaxe
- 6 Laurel Kelly
- 7 Joshua Berman
- 10 Janet Boyd, Maryjean Riou
- 11 Tara Nuzzo
- 12 Omar Ahmed, Nicholas Perez
- 13 Harrison Griggs, June Perry
- 14 Linda Schipmann-Pustai
- 16 Margaret Blaus, Jack Kvarta
- 17 Ellen Piccolo, Destiny Ross
- 21 River Darocha, Phoebe Roth
- 22 Darcy Schlegel
- 24 Lauren Salemo
- 26 Bill Anthony, Sr.
- 27 Jackie Bruno, Ruth Christie
- 31 Candice Pozarycki

August Birthdays

- 2 Heather Kelly
- 3 Caroline Paul, Evelyn Voget
- 5 Eileen Mansfield, Will Spencer
- 6 Jace Crespo, Lia Crespo
- 8 Mitchell Perry
- 10 Archer Houseal, Marg Peterson
- 11 Lee Longell, Judi Sifuentes
- 12 Eli Griggs
- 13 Jessica Bruno
- 15 Evan Christopher
- 16 Jason Berman
- 17 Doug Martin
- 18 Ralph Marsh, Mary Morgan
- 20 Nancy Paul, Doug Pearson
- 22 Madelyn Ahmed, Brett Houseal
- 24 Quinn Bruno
- 26 Cathy Nace, Leanne Treese
- 27 Kristen Madriz
- 29 Michelle Annese

September Birthdays

- 2 Connor Flynn, Ross Traphagen
- 4 Rev. Tracey Henry
- 6 Martha Roth
- 7 Lonnie Little
- 8 Adam Dougherty, Lisa Miller, Jim Pustai
- 9 Derek Eckert, Barbara Pearson, Sandra Salemo
- 10 Helen Davis
- 11 Barry Lake
- 12 Gabriella Pusztai
- 13 Paige Darocha, Carolyn Donchevich
- 14 Fred Darcy
- 17Ryan Kelly
- 19 Grant Bruno, Barbara Plundeke,
- David Thompson, Rebecca Thompson
- 20 Gwili Marsh, Jessica Plimpton
- 22 Zachary Morano, Ken Westlin
- 24 Erik Duerr
- 25 Kim Darcy
- 26 Shelley Brankner
- 27 Jim Dornbusch, Shayda Zabihialam
- 29 Robin Carver
- 30 Frank Bell



July Anniversaries

- 4 Ross and Megan Traphagen
- 8 Jason & Rosemary Sudol
- 11 Jason and Brenda Krushinski
- 12 Jason and Laura Berman
- 14 Mark and Sharon Holmsborg, Brian and Tina Martin
- 26 Joseph and Gail LaSpada
- 29 Ron and Leigh Perry

August Anniversaries

- 1 Larry and Karen Kursar
- 4 Dan and Tara Nuzzo
- 6 Pete and Marg Peterson
- 7 Sean and Robin Carver, Jim and Linda Pustai
- 8 Brian and Michelle Annese
- 14 Jake and Leanne Treese
- 17 Brian and Amey Barnes, Andrew and Megan Kvarta
- 23 Brett and Lori Houseal
- 24 Tom and Adrienne Hodulik
- 25 Omar and Victoria Ahmed, Roger and Jeri Twigg
- 27 Dave and Alice Korab
- 26 Dave and Cindy Boyer
- 29 Eric and Jessica Crespo



September Anniversaries

- 7 Al and Kristen Polaski
- 8 Derek and Dara Eckert, Bill and Chrystie Lalor
- 12 Jacob and Erica Tunney
- 13 Frank and Greta Bell
- 14Mike and Brielle Hansen
- 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

Women's Club of Clinton

On Monday, June 5th, the Women's Club of Clinton held their Annual Scholarship Luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

Evelyn Chau was the recipient of the 2023 Woman's Scholarship.

Congratulations Evelyn!





