



Clinton Presbyterian Church

December 2016



Our Mission

Clinton Presbyterian Church is a welcoming congregation called to share Christ's love.

Vision

We will live out this mission through:

Inspiring Worship,
as we praise and glorify God,

Engaged Discipleship,
as we grow deeper in our faith,

Nurturing Relationships,
as we love and care for one another,

Transforming Mission,
as we embody God's love in service to the world,

Faithful Stewardship,
as we express our gratitude to God.



Clinton Presbyterian Church
91 Center Street
Clinton, NJ 08809
908.735.5029
www.clintonpresbyterian.net

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Advent is a time of expectant waiting. We have provided Advent Devotionals for adults (www.luthersem.edu/advent/GC1030-16_2016_Advent_Devotional.pdf) and for families with children (www.lifeway.com/kidsministry/2015/11/13/friday-freebie-family-advent-guide/) which we hope will give you a point of focus in these busy days.

For those of us who follow Christ, we are waiting to celebrate his birth and also longing for his coming again to put right what is wrong. I would like to encourage you each to consider creating a Reverse Advent Calendar this year as a sign of our partnership with God in this work of redemption. Unlike a traditional advent calendar where you open a window each day and receive a treat, with the Reverse Advent Calendar, each day you add to a box a food or home staple. Full boxes are then used to serve those in need. You can either bring your box to Fellowship Hall on Christmas Eve or the Sunday after or take it directly to a local food bank. Some ideas to get you started with filling up your box include – box of pasta, pasta sauce, cookies, tea, coffee, toothpaste, soup... the list goes on.

As we contribute these small gifts, we give thanks to God for the wonderful gift we have received in Jesus and we continue the work which Jesus began of feeding the hungry and helping those in need. We continue this work until all things are “on earth, as it is in heaven.”

Invite friends and neighbors to join you in creating these calendars and consider using this conversation to talk about the difference this little baby, Jesus the Christ, has made in your own life.

May you have a blessed Advent.

See you in church!

Tracey



Thanksgiving Basket Project

Thanks to everyone who helped with our Thanksgiving basket project this year – those of you who donated food and cash for groceries, those of you who helped pack boxes, our Sunday School kids who made wonderful cards for all the boxes, those of you who went to ShopRite, those of you who donated turkeys, and all of you who helped deliver the baskets.

Thanks also to Joe Collalillo at ShopRite, who gives us a discount on the purchase of food for our baskets. We delivered to about 50 families here in Hunterdon County and thanks to the generosity of this congregation; we have helped to make a happy Thanksgiving for many of our neighbors. This is a huge project that takes many hands and drivers to get it done! Many thanks to you all for stepping up to help in so many ways.

With heartfelt thanks from your Mission Ministry.



This was a Mission Day for the children in PreK-5th grade too. After helping to pack the Thanksgiving Baskets, they made a card for every basket. 50 in all!



Inspiring Worship

Upcoming in Worship

Advent with Isaiah

The messages from the book of the prophet Isaiah are our guide for Advent this year. Though they were first meant to be God's word to a people who "walked in darkness," they are for us today quite alive with meaning. We can hear them personally. We can hear their prophetic hope in a future redemption that was fulfilled in Jesus. We can let these words challenge us to open our hearts. Join us in the journey each Sunday morning.



Join us on Wednesday evenings (December 7, 14 and 21) during Advent for a service of prayer and reflection. Take some time apart to refresh your soul. 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary



This year a Children's Pageant will be presented during worship on December 18 and will be followed by an Advent breakfast after the service.

Blue Christmas

Service

December 18

5 pm in the Sanctuary



The holiday season can be difficult for many reasons. It can be hard to come and worship God joyfully because of the loss of a family member or a friend, the end of a marriage, illness, loss of work or other trying change. This year we will offer a quiet meditative worship service that makes time for remembering, time for sharing our hurting places with God, and time for preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. All are welcome.



5pm Family Service

As a congregation we will retell the story of Christ's birth with the angels, the shepherds and the sheep.

11pm Candlelight Communion Service

Come and be lifted in joy through Word and Song as we welcome the Christ child and usher in Christmas Day at this candlelight service.

There will not be a worship service on Sunday, December 25.

Engaged Discipleship

Sunday School Schedule

Pre-K thru Grade 5

December 4

Sunday School (costume fitting & children's chorus practice)

December 11

Sunday School (dress rehearsal & children's chorus practice)

December 18

Christmas Pageant during 9:30 am service followed by Advent breakfast.
No Sunday School.

December 25

No Sunday School. *Merry Christmas!*

January 1

No Sunday School. *Happy New Year!*

January 8

Sunday School resumes



The Wagon Challenge!

We challenged our PreK-5th grade students to fill our wagon with food for the thanksgiving baskets. They met that challenge and brought in 120 items of food! Our wagon was overflowing!

A very special thanks to Chenge Pusztai who asked her friends to donate food instead of giving her gifts at her birthday party. What a wonderful way to "Be the Church". We are so proud of her!

Sunday School 10:40 – 11:40 am

Elementary Students Growing in Grace and Gratitude curriculum

Drop-off & Pick Up: Preschoolers: God's lighthouse (upstairs – green room)
K-5th graders: God's backyard (upstairs – blue room)

Middle School 6th Graders/Old Testament Meet in the Computer Room
7th & 8th graders/New Testament Meet in room under kitchen

Confirmation Meet in the Wolverton Building

Edge (Every Day God Encounters)/High School Conversations All students grades 10 - 12 and any 9th graders who are not part of the Confirmation class. Meet in Fellowship Hall.

Adults (begins at 10:50) Gather in the downstairs middle classroom on December 4 & 11 at 10:50 am for a time of reflection and prayer using some ancient forms of prayer. Tracey and Ian will facilitate.

Engaged Discipleship

CHAOS CHAOS CHAOS

Happy Holidays!

It's going to be A Very Chaos Christmas – November was an awesome with lots of laughs, fellowship & caring for our neighbors. December brings with it exciting happenings and opportunities to celebrate the season!

Come on out for our Christmas Party on Sunday, December 11: Fun, games, food & fellowship! To our college folks – look out for events during winter break!

Mark your calendars for Lake Champion 2017!
High School January 20-22, 2017
Middle School March 17-19, 2017

*Deposits for our January High School Trip are due to either Paul Morrissette or Maggie Bell by December 1.

On the Confirmation front, special thanks to Sandie Lundeen & Sharon Holmsborg for teaching this month! What an awesome group - we're excited to see what God does through our confirmands & our Chaos Crew!
Make sure you follow our Instagram for the full scoop! @clinton_presbyterian_youth_nj

See you 'round the church!

Maggie
Maggie4cpc@gmail.com



Engaged Discipleship

Women's Morning Bible Study

Tuesday mornings in Fellowship Hall
9:30 – 11:30 am

Women's bible Study will begin a new study on January 10, 2017.

It will be based on Christianity's Family Tree. In this book, Adam Hamilton presents a welcoming, inspiring vision of eight Christian denominations and faith traditions. Comparing the Christian family to our own extended families, he contends that each denomination has a unique, valuable perspective to offer on the Christian faith.

The traditions he examines are Orthodoxy, Catholicism, Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism, Baptists, Pentecostalism, and Methodism. For each group, Hamilton gives a brief history, outlines major beliefs, and describes some things we can learn from that tradition to strengthen our own Christian faith.

The book will cost \$10; please let Adrienne Hodulik (hoduliks@comcast.net) know if you are interested.

Women's Evening Bible Study

Meets on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday evening
In the Wolverton Building at 7 pm.

All are welcome to join us.

Contact Tracey if you would like more information - tracey4cpc@gmail.com

On December 7 we will meet at 7:30 pm after the Vespers Service.

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study

Meets at 7:30 am in Fellowship Hall on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month.

Bring yourself and a bible.

Contact David Henry for more details - dhenry169@gmail.com

Meet on December 3 & 17



Nurturing Relationships

Wanted: Cookies, Cookies, Cookies... for the Clinton Parade on December 2!

We are known for our luscious cocoa, but it is our cookies that make the perfect complement. Last year we served close to 200 cups of cocoa and twice as many cookies after the Clinton Guild Christmas Parade. We all know that sometimes it is hard to “Just Eat One Cookie”. Of course, if you are running out of time, there is always the option to share your favorite store bought brand. We will also need many hands on deck for setting up/decorating Fellowship Hall, making & serving of the cocoa and clean up afterwards.

If you would like to contribute a batch of your favorite cookie recipe or help in the kitchen on December 2, please return completed form(s) below to the Hospitality mailbox (next to the restroom, by Fellowship Hall). Please plan to bring in your cookies to the kitchen anytime between 9 am and 3 pm on Wednesday, November 30 or Thursday, December 1 and any time after 4:30 pm on Friday, December 2.

Questions? Sharon Rosenberg, sr@tabbysplace.org, Ino Sowder, ino.sowder@gmail.com or Shelley Brankner, shelleym2@comcast.net

Yes! I would like to contribute _____ dozen cookies.

Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Yes! I would like to help set up/decorate FH/prepare the cocoa/ serve /clean up (circle all that apply) on Parade day.

Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Kids' Night Out and Movie Night featuring



Friday, December 9
5:00 – 8:00 pm
Ages 3 through 5th Grade

Where

Here in Fellowship Hall

A light dinner will be served, movie, craft and fun!

Kids – feel free to bring a stuffed dog, wear your PJs and bring a pillow and blanket.

To register

Email or call the church office
office4cpc@gmail.com or
908.735.5029

Space is limited so register early.
\$10 per child or \$25 max per family -
Payable at the door.

**Share with your
friends and neighbors!**

Nurturing Relationships

A Note from the Deacons –

May the peace and joy of the Christmas season be with all of you. We are keeping you in prayer as you celebrate this Advent season.

Romans 12:10 tells us - *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love, give preference to one another in honor.*

The reason we are able to love is because God loved us first. His love for us should move us to love and care for each other. As Christians we hope to be a reflection of God. As Deacons we look to find different ways to support you. It is with gratitude that we have served you this year. If you have any needs or concerns, we want to know how we can pray, encourage and walk beside you in love.

Thank you all for your generous contributions to the Fair Trade Bazaar. We appreciate your support for artisans in our country and around the world. We hope the recipients enjoy their gifts as well.

Wishing you blessings this Christmas season –

Steve Battaglia, Laurel Kelly, Judy Beck, Lonnie Little, Sandie Lundeen, Wendy Morrisette, Nancy Paul, Sharon Rosenberg, Martha Roth, Linda Schipmann-Pustai, Jeri Twigg

If you are able to help with a gift of a meal, please follow these links:

Eileen Mansfield

<http://www.takethemameal.com/meals.php?t=HAKX2970>

Doris Cramer

<http://www.takethemameal.com/meals.php?t=OUPH0645>



The Connections Team will host the Advent Breakfast immediately following the special Children's Pageant worship service.

Donations of casseroles, baked goods (muffins, cakes), fruit and juice will be greatly appreciated.

Look for signups in the weekly bulletin or simply leave your name and contact information in the Hospitality mailbox (by Fellowship Hall) including what you'll be bringing.

Transforming Mission



The Giving Tree is in the back of the Sanctuary – there are only a few days left to take the opportunity to help the mission partners that we support during the year.

Please return the items unwrapped and place it under the tree **no later than December 5**. If you wish to, you can also include wrapping paper to be used by the families.

On Tuesday, December 6 at 7 pm, the Mission Ministry will gather in Fellowship Hall to pack the gifts for mailing. We welcome you to join us. The Giving Tree is a simple and enjoyable way to help others during the Christmas season. *Thank you for your support of those in need this Christmas!*

Christmas in Philly

We will be escorting Santa to North Philly as he visits the kids from the June Mission Trip Bible Clubs. The jolly guy will be spreading Christmas cheer and handing out candy canes, mittens and gloves. There will be a box in the back of the Sanctuary for donations of candy canes, mittens and gloves. Please return all donations by Sunday, December 4.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Christmas Joy Offering

Help us make the season joyful for those who serve us in ministry.

We will be collecting donations for the Christmas Joy offering at the Christmas Eve services.

The funds raised go directly to the Presbytery which distributes them to retired people in ministry and to Presbyterian colleges. Students who plan to enter ministry or become missionaries will benefit. You will find special envelopes for the Christmas Joy donation in the pews, or you can simply write "Christmas Joy" in the memo on your check. Please put your envelope/check in the collection plate during the service.

Your Mission Ministry team thanks you for helping those who help spread the good news of Jesus Christ to our world.

Mission Volunteer Opportunities

The Relief Bus on Friday, December 2

Over the years, CPC has served with the Relief Bus. 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 the Relief Bus on Friday evening, December 2 in North Newark. Please contact Dave Kelly if you have any questions or you'd like to volunteer. (908) 391-6372 or DLSH27@comcast.net

Thank you for supporting the Relief Bus!

Faithful Stewardship



Soaring to New Heights

The branches of our tree are filling up and we are getting ready to soar into God's future in 2017! Thanks to your generosity, we hope to be able to dive deep into mission and ministry from here on Center Street. At the time of going to press, we had received well over 60 pledges and we hope to receive more in these first weeks of December to help us reach our pledge goal of \$255,000. So many of you have stretched in your commitments for this year; what deep faithfulness is demonstrated in this act. If you have not yet pledged and are ready to do so, simply follow this link (<http://clintonpresbyterian.net/stewardship/online-stewardship-pledge>).

We look forward to sharing the outcome of the campaign with you shortly as final pledges are received.



Annual Congregational Meeting **January 22 immediately following worship**

Please plan on joining us for this important gathering as we begin the New Year together as a church family. Team Chairs are asked to submit their Annual Reports to the church office no later than January 3.

Faithful Stewardship

Session Round-Up

Children's

Planning has begun for the Nativity Pageant which will take place during the worship hour on December 18 followed by a breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. December 9 will be the next Kid's Night Out for ages 3 through 5th grade, 5:00-8:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are looking to hire a Nursery caregiver. If you know of someone who may be interested in this position, please contact Jeri Twigg or Pastor Tracey.

Connections

Trunk or Treat was a huge success. Plans are already being made for next Halloween! The Clinton Christmas Parade is Friday, December 3. Plans for our float, cookies, cocoa and Santa and Mrs. Claus are in the works.

Finance

All members are encouraged to fulfill their 2016 pledges as they are able. Once the 2017 Stewardship Campaign concludes, finance will review with session and suggest how to move forward.

Mission

The collection of food and packing of the more than 50 Thanksgiving baskets has been going well. Delivery will be on November 19. The Giving Tree is in the back of the Sanctuary. All gifts need to be back by December 5 and will be packed up on December 6.

Property

CPC has a new garbage service which will include recycling. An Eagle Scout project will provide our church with a shed to be built in the back corner of the parking lot. It will be built on skids allowing for it to be moved if necessary.

Session

Approved the 2017 communion dates which include the first Sunday of each month and Easter Sunday, April 16. Approved the use of a monetary gift given to CPC to complete Fellowship Hall renovations with 10% of the total gift first being given to support the ongoing work of The Friendship Center for New Beginnings. Approve the use of the sanctuary for Kara LaSpada's wedding, October 14, 2017 at 1pm. Approvals for use of Fellowship Hall by outside groups – senior aerobics, breakfasts, luncheons, etc. are listed in the session minutes.

Stewardship

With a goal of \$250,000, pledge reminder postcards are being sent out. As pledges are received, more information will be reported.

Worship

Preparations are being made for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Advent season advertising detailing the events taking place at CPC will begin on November 27. The Hanging of the Greens will take place after worship on November 20 and the outdoor nativity will be set up on November 27. Advent Vespers will take place on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm on December 7, 14 and 21.

Youth

Fundraising ideas are being discussed. The Lake Champion retreat is scheduled for January 20-22, 2017.

December Birthdays

- 3 Ryan Twigg, Bill Warner
- 6 Sarah Klepper
- 7 Gregory Cocchiola, Lora Pelose
- 9 Dennis Kotopoulos
- 13 Gillian McCaffrey
- 14 Christopher Bittenmaster, Link Heffner
- 15 Gail Saltvedt
- 16 Mollie Little, George Milligan
- 17 Thea Henry, Jason Krushinski, Karen Kursar
- 18 Eric Madurki
- 19 Victoria Ahmed
- 20 Rich Jackle, Sandy Kotter
- 24 Evie Lebron, Gianna Madurki
- 25 Holly Giordano
- 26 Kim Perez, Bill Sowder
- 29 Tanner Heffner
- 31 Melissa Bieksha, Marisa LaValette

December Anniversaries

- 26 Steve and Nancy Hovey
- 27 Ralph and Gwili Marsh
- 28 Scott and Sandie Lundeen
- 31 Colin and Jessica Bruno



**Our Boy Scout
Troop 121**

**November Theme:
Iron Chef**

An Eagle Court of Honor was held.
The Troop's Annual camping trip to Washington DC took place.
The Troop helped with the church's Fall Clean Up

Questions - contact Lisa Miller, Charter Representative
RLMiller13@comcast.net
or 730-8004

Poinsettia Order Form

Deadline for ordering is December 15

If you would like to order a Poinsettia Plant in memory or in honor of someone, use the form below. Your plant will be used to decorate the sanctuary during the Christmas Season. Complete the order form below and return it to the church office. Orders will not be filled unless a check is included with the form. Check should be made out to Clinton Presbyterian Church, 91 Center Street, Clinton, NJ 08809 (\$15.00 for each plant). **Please do not place it in the offering plate on Sunday morning.**

I would like to order _____ plant(s) at \$15.00 per plant for a total of \$ _____.

_____ pink _____ red _____ white

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____