

Clinton Presbyterian Church

February 2017



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.



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From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

It takes me longer to read a book these days than I would like to admit - how about you? With that in mind, I'd like to give you plenty of time to read one important book that I would like to use as a jumping off point for some deeper conversations this Spring.

It's been called "one of the most important books on race in recent memory." And now the Reverends Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston, Co-Moderators of the 222nd General Assembly (2016), are urging Presbyterians via their "One Church, One Book" project to read and discuss *Waking Up White*, by Debby Irving.

In the book—*Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*—Irving tells how she stumbled into troubling and even shocking revelations about racial inequities after what she describes as "a blissfully sheltered, upper-middle-class suburban childhood."

Irving believed herself to be a good person and even tried to use her career to help people of color. But the book describes her gradual discovery of her own "white privilege," which led to the realization that good intentions alone cannot overcome centuries of racial injustice.

"Her story resonates with a lot of Presbyterians," Edmiston said in a workshop at the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Polity Conference in October. "Our hope is that it would start conversations. But it's not just about reading the book. My hope is that we would be somewhat changed."

"The conversations we've been having about race have been in silos," Anderson said at the Polity Conference workshop, adding that she hoped those conversations would broaden to include groups of different backgrounds and races.

Please read this book at your own pace - that's why I'm giving you plenty of time! I'd like to then gather us for some conversations in the weeks following Easter, using a study guide from our co-moderators. This study guide will provide a faith context for *Waking up White*, incorporating passages from the Bible and the Belhar Confession, which grew out of the witness of the church in South Africa against apartheid.

It may not be a comfortable read at times, but do not let that deter you. Pick up this book some time in February or March. Read and pray, then we'll reflect together. In the meantime, may our witness to Christ's welcoming love be a faithful one.

See you in church.
Tracey

Looking Back...December 2016



As we celebrated the joy of Christmas together, we told the ancient story through pageants and music, we welcomed the community to share in the sweetness with cookies and cocoa and served our neighbors in need through the giving tree.



Inspiring Worship

Upcoming in Worship

February 5

Half Truths

“God said It, I Believe It, That Settles It”

February 12

Youth Sunday

6th – 12th graders will lead us

February 19

Half Truths

“Love the sinner. Hate the sin.”

February 26

Transfiguration Sunday

Help with



Communion

The Worship Ministry Team is looking for help on Communion Sundays. Commitment: one-time a year providing the bread and juice and also to help set up communion.

If interested, please contact Cathy Nace at cnace57@yahoo.com or 908-268-3488.

Sunday, February 5 is Scout Sunday

Our Boy Scout Troop will be participating in the worship service on February 5. All scouts are encouraged to wear their uniform.



Thanks so much!

The Worship Ministry thanks all who helped in many and various ways during the Advent season. So many people gave their time and talents and we are blessed by the fruit of their labors.



Mark the beginning of Lent with a service of repentance and restoration.
Ashes will be offered and Holy Communion will be served.



**It's time to RE:FRESH our faith
as we journey through Lent.**

**This year, every member will be challenged
to worship, grow and serve with
fresh commitment to Christ.**

**There will be opportunities
for daily devotions, small group studies
and service projects.**

Are you up for the challenge?

More details to come soon in worship.

Lent 2017

Engaged Discipleship

Sunday School Schedule

Pre-K thru Grade 5

Sunday School is back in full swing and children are learning all about God and Jesus through the book of Matthew. In the coming weeks, students will learn about sowing seeds of love, Jesus feeding the multitudes with just 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread, Jesus walking on water and God telling the disciples to listen to Jesus.

Feb 5th – Sunday School

Feb 12th – Sunday School and making Valentines

Feb 19th – Sunday School

Feb 26th – Sunday School

Kids on a Mission

On February 12, the Pre-K - 5th grade children will be making valentines that will be delivered to the residents of a local nursing home



Vacation Bible Camp

It may be winter but we will soon be thinking about Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible Camp where kids learn that they are “created by God, built for a purpose”. If you would like to join our planning committee, please contact Kim Darcy (mkfdar@aol.com) or Cathy Edelsberg (cathyedels@gmail.com).



Children studied Joshua 3; 4: 1-8, 19-24 and then made their own pile of memory stones to help them remember all God has done.



Students create hand prints to decorate the Children’s Ministry bulletin board – check it out in the downstairs hallway!

Engaged Discipleship

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.



Adult Bible Studies

Women's Morning Bible Study Tuesday mornings in Fellowship Hall 9:30 – 11:30 am
Study is based on Adam Hamilton's Christianity's Family Tree: What Other Christians Believe and Why

Women's Evening Bible Study Meets on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday evenings In the Wolverton Building at 7 pm. Contact Tracey for more details tracey4cpc@gmail.com

Meets February 1 and 15

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study Meets at 7:30 am in Fellowship Hall on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. Bring yourself and a bible. Contact David Henry for more details dhenry169@gmail.com

Meets February 4 & 18

Engaged Discipleship



What an exciting couple months we have to finish out the school year! WOW – I am blown away by the awesome talents, leadership, personalities and fun our young people bring to our church family and our CHAOS group.

Before we look at February events, let's reflect on the past couple of months. December was a fantastic month – of course very busy for all – and our CHAOS crew and confirmands were no exception! We had an awesome Christmas party in conjunction with the Sunday Funday with about 30 students & leaders present – what a fun night! Our students even wrote 120+ holiday cards to our friends at Country Arch Care Center nearby. A fantastic night of service and holiday cheer! We also gathered together to light the Advent Candle one Sunday during worship and for the first time we had our high school and college students together in a Winter Break Bible Study with Jes Bruno & Maggie Bell. What amazing discussion, fellowship and strengthening of relationships!

We kicked off 2017 with a strong start! We continued our college study through the rest of break and made plans for a Spring Break/Summer study – stay tuned for details on that! Our high school also began a study with Maggie after school on Wednesdays at 3:30. CHAOS again partnered with Sunday Funday for GLOW Night! Our high school folks also rocked a Lock In at the church – laser tag, pizza, middle-of-the-night Grog, movies and junk food... I mean healthy kale smoothies ;) Such a fun crew!

OK – so now that we've covered the past, let's look to the future! Here's the low-down on February! We're looking forward to our Confirmation Lock In Retreat on the 3rd! The following weekend will be a busy one – we're excited to lead worship for our church family on Sunday February 12. Later that day we'll celebrate with Family Bowling Night in conjunction with Children's Ministry! Keep an eye out for details on that exciting event!

Maggie Bell

Youth Fellowship Leader
maggie4cpc@gmail.com

Important Dates to remember:

Wednesdays @ 3:30 High School Study Group in Wolverton

2/3 – Confirmation Lock In Retreat

2/12 – Youth Sunday & Family Bowling

2/26 – CHAOS Night

3/12 & 3/26 – CHAOS Night

3/17-19 – Middle School Lake Champion Trip

4/9 & 4/23 – CHAOS Night

5/7 & 5/21 – CHAOS Night



Engaged Discipleship

Would the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in your family like to get away for a fun weekend? The Lake Champion Middle School Retreat is a great chance for them to have fun with peers in a safe, supervised environment. They'll have loads of fun with friends while zip lining, playing games, hanging out in the jacuzzi, and enjoying all the indoor and outside activities that Lake Champion has to offer. The fun starts after school on **Friday, March 17** when Clinton Presbyterian adult chaperones will drive the students 2 hours north to the Lake Champion Winter Camp. The kids and chaperones will enjoy plush cabins as their accommodations on Friday and Saturday night, and will return to Clinton mid-afternoon on **Sunday, March 19**.



Sign-up sheets and additional information are available from Maggie Bell (maggie4cpc@gmail.com) or Paul Morrissette (pmorrissette@gmail.com). The cost is \$135 per student, which covers meals at Lake Champion, accommodations, and activities. Sign up forms are due to the church office by February 1. Don't let your middle-schoolers miss out on the fun!

Nurturing Relationships

A Note from the Deacons –

As February begins, advertisements for Valentine's Day are everywhere--red hearts, pink roses, balloons, cards, and candy. Store shelves overflow with symbols of love and our hearts are warmed once again by these images. And although these gifts signify affection, emphasis is often lacking on the most important gift of love: Jesus Christ. The true beauty of love lies within the love of God and the gift of Jesus Christ. God tells us in His word how much He loves us. He promises never to leave or forsake us, to answer when we call, day or night. How fortunate we are to have this all-encompassing love--we are surely blessed!

In the spirit of love and caring for others, the deacons have planned **Gift Card Sundays for February 12, 19 and 26**. Congregation members are asked to donate gift cards (\$5-\$25) for ShopRite, Walmart, gas, etc. If you prefer to write a check, make it payable to Clinton Presbyterian Church with "gift card" in the memo section. These cards will be kept in the church office and distributed at the pastor's discretion throughout the year. If all of us help in a small way, we can have a great impact. There will be a special gift card box at the front of the Sanctuary on these dates – drop your cards off there. Thank you for your support for this wonderful ministry!

(continued on next page)

Nurturing Relationships

Deacons (continued)

Don't forget to visit the Table of Well Wishes located in Fellowship Hall each Sunday after the service. Our CPC members appreciate receiving cards of encouragement, support, congratulations, or sympathy. You are touching the lives of those around you with your caring thoughts and prayers.

This month, let's reach out to those in our church family--offer to make a meal, provide a ride, visit someone in need, make a phone call to someone you haven't seen in church for a while, remember items for the Food Pantry, or support the gift card ministry, There are so many ways to help--We are all a part of the CPC family. Let's show God's love to those around us!

1 John 4:19 We love because He first loved us.

A festive poster for a Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner. The background is a green and white diamond pattern. The text is centered in purple and green. The title 'Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner' is in large purple font. The date and time 'Tuesday, February 28 6:00 - 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall' are in green. The description 'Enjoy pancakes and plenty of festive music. There will be crafts for kids and fun for the whole family.' is in black. The cost '\$5 per person, \$3 for kids \$10 max per family' is in black. The poster is decorated with purple and yellow Mardi Gras masks, a purple and yellow hat, and purple and yellow beaded necklaces. A stack of pancakes with syrup is shown in the bottom right corner.

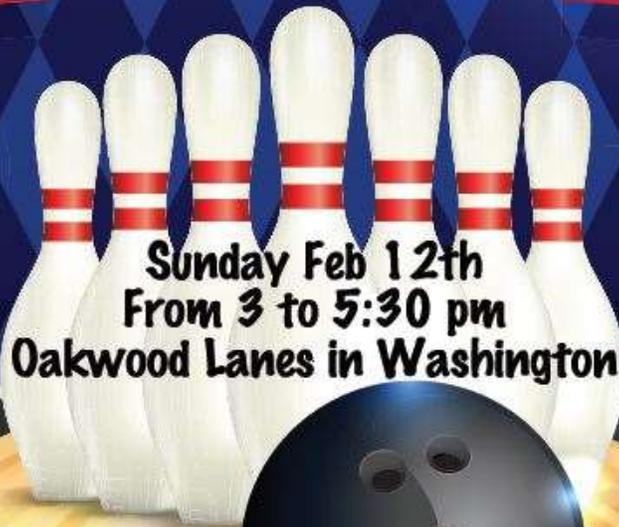
**Mardi Gras
Pancake Dinner**

**Tuesday, February 28
6:00 – 7:30 pm
in Fellowship Hall**

**Enjoy pancakes and
plenty of festive music.
There will be crafts for kids and
fun for the whole family.**

**Cost:
\$5 per person, \$3 for kids
\$10 max per family**

**Children & Youth Ministry Teams
Challenge YOU to our
1st Annual Bowling Tournament!**



**Sunday Feb 12th
From 3 to 5:30 pm
Oakwood Lanes in Washington**

Sign up sheet is in the office
and you can see
Maggie or Jenny for more
information.

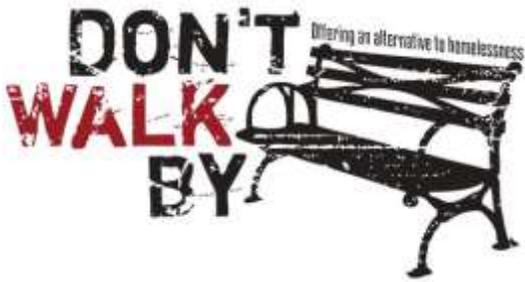


Come join us for a fun afternoon where
EVERYONE is invited
You can sign up as a team or individuals.
Prizes for best bowling attire, high scores,
most gutter balls and more!

WE WANT YOU!

**Prices: Unlimited bowling - \$15 for adults,
\$10 for kids 6 - 18, \$40 max for family,
Kids under 6 are free
(*little ones can bowl in socks – if you would like
bowling shoes, the cost is only \$6)**

Transforming Mission



Don't Walk By (DWB) is an annual outreach in New York City where volunteers walk through the streets of Manhattan each winter on a search and rescue mission for the homeless. Volunteers seek to offer every single homeless or hungry person warm clothing, a blanket and the opportunity to get off the streets and enter a shelter and/or a residential program.

This is accomplished by walking a designated zone in Manhattan and engaging the homeless with the goal of having them accept an invitation to come back to an anchor church. At the anchor church, a meal will be available along with prayer, clothing, medical assessment and counseling regarding the availability of resources and social services programs. The guest is also given the opportunity to enter a private shelter for the night. The following day each shelter guest is provided with breakfast by a follow up team and given the opportunity to enter a life transforming program. DWB is organized and run by a coalition of organizations that assist the homeless, including the Relief Bus.

CPC will be serving as outreach volunteers on Saturday, February 4th and Saturday, February 25th. No previous experience is required. Training will be provided on the day of each outreach session. For more details, please visit www.dontwalkby.org. If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please contact Dave Kelly (908 391-6372 or DLSH27@comcast.net). Thank you!



This program, which focuses on providing food to local food banks, was started in 1990 in Columbia, SC when a seminary intern urged a Presbyterian congregation to, “be mindful, while watching the Super Bowl, of those among us who don’t even have a bowl of soup to eat”. The program has grown to include over 10,000 churches throughout the US and been responsible for the donation of \$98 million in cash and food to local food banks since its inception.

On **Super Bowl Sunday (February 5)** we will be collecting money and cans of soup, which will be donated to the Open Cupboard Food Panty in Clinton.

If you would like to participate, please place your donation into any of the soup pots that will be placed at the sanctuary exits. Thank you.

Don't forget to wear the jersey of your favorite team to the worship service!



Thank you all for your deep generosity on Christmas Eve. A total of \$1,150 was collected and directed toward our denomination's Christmas Joy Offering. This offering is used to provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families as well as to enable deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related colleges and schools.

Transforming Mission

Mission Volunteer Opportunities - The Relief Bus on Saturday, February 18

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 Saturday evening, February 18 at Port Authority. 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

The Per Capita apportionment for each member of CPC is \$37.50

This is the amount that we remit to the Presbytery of Elizabeth each year. You may satisfy your family's per capita contribution by:

*Writing a check and placing it in the offering plate or mailing it to the Church office (Note "Per Capita" in the memo line), OR

*Giving through our online donation site and writing "Per Capita" in the notes box at the bottom of the page. The link to give online:

<https://www.presbyterianmissionexchange.org/dashboard/make-a-grant?orgId=5do88e09-34be-41de-a1c9-c5d8ef60a264>

Thanks for helping us reach our goal in 2017!

Treasurer's Report Summary for 2016

| | <u>December</u> | <u>Jan - Dec.</u> <u>YTD Actual</u> | <u>Budget YTD</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| Income | \$40,734 | \$313,927 | \$305,767 |
| Expense | \$37,879 | \$351,136 | \$385,756 |
| Operating Deficit | \$2,855 | (\$37,209) | (\$79,989) |



2017 Offering Envelopes are now available at the back of the Sanctuary.

Faithful Stewardship

Session Round-Up

Children's

The Christmas season went very well. Children were singing on Christmas Eve and presented the Nativity in a narrative format during worship on December 18th. Children and Youth Ministries are in the process of planning an All-Church Bowling Challenge sometime soon. Look and listen for more information!

Connections

The Clinton Christmas Parade included the CPC float which was filled with children of all ages. The kitchen was piled high with cookies and the delicious aroma of cocoa filled the Fellowship Hall along with Santa and Mrs. Claus and many cold parade watchers. The team is making plans for our Mardi Gras event on February 28.

Finance

Diligent management of money, planning and commitment to pledging have put us in good financial standing at the end of 2016. We are all encouraged to keep commitments and to send pledges in.

Mission

Donations for the Thanksgiving Baskets were up this year. The Giving Tree gifts were packed up and sent to many families. We will again participate in a Souper Bowl of Caring on February 5th. After much success and many positive reports, another Day of Service is being planned for April 8.

Nominating

The Nominating slate is to be presented for approval on Sunday, January 22nd at the Congregational Meeting.

Property

Snow removal plans and contracts are in the works. The oil to gas conversion has been completed at the Manse and in process at the church.

Session

Approved the use of the Fellowship Hall by Judi Sifuentes on Saturday, February 11th from 1:00-5:00pm for a birthday party.

Approved baptism of Mackenzie Grace Ahmed, daughter of Omar and Vicki Ahmed on March 19th.

Approved various fund-raising events, sponsored by the Mission Ministry, dates to be determined.

Worship

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the planning, preparation and decorating and de-decorating during the Advent and Christmas season.

Youth

The Lake Champion Retreat for high schoolers has been cancelled with a Lock-In being planned in its place. The middle school trip to Lake Champion the weekend of February 17-19 is still on. Youth Sunday is February 12th. The team is planning a food truck fund raiser to take place in our parking lot on a Saturday in the middle of June.

February Birthdays

- 2 Nancy Hovey
- 4 Jill Prakopcyk
- 5 Barbara Allen
- 6 Owen Maslanka
- 8 Brady Krushinski
- 10 Daniel Prakopcyk
- 11 Jordan Tombs
- 12 Freddie Sifuentes, Diane Wirth
- 13 Bill Harclerode
- 14 Marsha Marasco, Mark Warner
- 16 Christopher LaSpada
- 18 Ellery Spencer
- 19 Janet Vitanza
- 21 Martha LaValette
- 22 Bob Miller
- 24 Roger Twigg
- 25 Audrey Dadouris
- 26 Lisa Lomauro
- 27 Madeleine Terblanche
- 28 John Perez

February Anniversary

- 14 Reed and Karen Heine



Our Boy Scout Troop 121

January Theme:

Exploring Culture, Religion and Language

The Troop took its Annual Weekend Camping and Ski Trip to Hunter Mountain. The Troop Band performed for two of the Cub Scout Packs in the area.

The Scouts assisted in the Clinton Town Annual Bonfire.

The Winter Court of Honor took place.

Questions - contact Lisa Miller,
Charter Representative

RLMiller13@comcast.net or 730-8004

Ushering Schedule

February 5 Boy Scouts

February 12 Youth

February 19 Morrissette Family

February 26 John & Martha Roth,
Mollie & Lonnie Little

Fellowship Time – Children’s Ministry

Deacon of the Month - Lonnie Little

Counting Schedule

February 5 Mike Penyak, Liz Scannell

February 12 Bill Kreutel, Cathy Nace

February 19 Jack Sherrerd, Lisa Miller

February 26 Dave Boyer, Karen Kursar

Sanctuary Flowers



Remember or honor someone, or mark a special occasion, by placing flowers in the Sanctuary on a Sunday morning. Orders forms are on the bulletin board across from the church office.