



Clinton Presbyterian Church

December 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.



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

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

This coming Sunday we will mark the first Sunday of Advent. As we enter into this Holy Season together CPC is providing you with some resources to help make this a meaningful journey.

We are offering two options for adult devotionals this year – one published by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and the other by The Presbyterian Outlook. The devotional from the Outlook will be provided each week in worship and matches themes which we will explore in advent. The devotional from PTS is available at the back of the sanctuary or you can sign up to receive it daily in your email inbox or via an app (for more details see page 3). You can decide which option works best with you as you stay close to God this December.

For our families with kids, this year we are providing a copy of *An Illustrated Advent*, published by Illustrated Children's Ministry. If you have been considering trying devotions as a family, this is an excellent resource to get you started. In the words of the founder Adam Walker Cleaveland (a classmate of mine at Princeton Seminary), *An Illustrated Advent* allows you "to slow down, ask questions, have fun, be intentional about how you spend your time, and try new things." There are simple but meaningful devotions, an advent calendar, an advent wreath activity and coloring pages. Parents, I know that this might feel like one more thing to add to your already full plates. Trust me, I hear you. And I also know that our kids' priorities will reflect ours as they grow. Please consider prioritizing this time as a family to focus on the story of God moving into our neighborhood. It changes everything.

Lean into the story this year, friends. Be here often. Pray more. Notice those who need a helping hand. Give in all the ways you can. The hopes and fears of all the years still press in. Shine Christ's light.

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, those of you who went to ShopRite, those of you who donated turkeys, and all of you who helped deliver the baskets. Also, thank you to the employees of Caldwell Banker for their generous donation of food.

Thanks also to Joe Collalillo at ShopRite, who gives us a discount on the purchase of food for our baskets. We delivered to about 43 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.



Trunk or Treat

What a fun night we had at this year's Trunk or Treat! There was music, dancing, food and fun galore. Not only did we invite our community into our parking lot, but we gave out 500 free hot dogs. There were people from all over who said they heard about our trunk or treat and came to Clinton just for that. Each year we have more and more fun and can't wait for 2018!



Pumpkin Fest

Congrats to our Pre-K through 5th grade students who took first place in the town of Clinton Pumpkinfest! Their pumpkins were so fun and creative!

Inspiring Worship

Preaching 'TIS THE Season

'Tis the season to be jolly, or so the song goes! According to Scripture, Advent is also the season for us to Wake Up, Prepare and Welcome. Join us on the Sunday of Advent as we explore these themes together and prepare once more to celebrate Jesus' birth.

**Please Join Us
on Wednesday,
December 6, 13 & 20
at 7 PM in the
Sanctuary**



Amidst the busyness of this beautiful season we hope you can join us for these interactive and reflective worship services. As we prepare for the coming of Christ, may we find time for prayer and time for peace.

This year we will be providing a weekly devotional in worship each week which helps us to explore the advent themes of Waking Up, Preparing and Welcoming.



Additionally, Advent Devotionals published by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary are available at the back of the Sanctuary. You can also sign up to have these emails delivered to you. Or install the app on your phone for daily reminders.

Read and listen online. Visit www.pts.edu/devotional.

Receive daily e-mails. Go to www.pts.edu/email, click "Signup for Seminary News," and "Devotionals (Advent and Lent)."

Follow along on Facebook and Twitter.

Download the free Android or Apple app.

Visit the store & search for "Devotions - Advent & Lent."

Also, you can download additional Advent resources. Visit www.pts.edu/devotional.

Blue Christmas Service December 17 7:30 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.

Christmas Eve Service

9:30am - Advent Worship Service

Join us for a cozy service as we prepare to celebrate the baby's arrival.

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.

Engaged Discipleship

Children's Ministry / Pre-K thru 5th Grade Sunday School

What a joy to teach your children and to share Sundays with them! Our **K-5th graders** have learned that we are like jack-o-lanterns – coming in all shapes and sizes, cleaned up inside and out by our loving God and blessed with His light within us. They heard the story of Noah through an awesome puppet show. They were reminded of the importance of community service as they assisted with Thanksgiving baskets. They also had a lesson on the Reformation. Our **Pre-K class** just finished a unit exploring the transformation of David from a little shepherd boy into the king of all of Israel. They focused on how God was with David every step of the way.

Sunday School Schedule Pre-K thru Grade 5



- Dec 3** Sunday School (*children's chorus practice*)
- Dec 10** Sunday School (*children's chorus practice*)
- Dec 17** Nativity Event & Breakfast after service in Fellowship Hall.
No Sunday School
- Dec 24** **No Sunday School**
Christmas Eve Family Service – Children's Chorus 5 pm
Merry Christmas!
- Dec 31** **No Sunday School**
Happy New Year!

Your children are wonderful gifts to our church and to our teachers. We wish our children and their families a Christmas season full of the same joy that they bring to us each Sunday.

KIDS – JOYFULLY GIVING

In this season of giving, our Sunday school children are doing just that – giving of themselves in so many ways. They helped make Thanksgiving just a little brighter for those in need in our community. They spent a Sunday School class filling Thanksgiving boxes with food donated by our congregation. These boxes were then distributed by our church members to nearby families. Thanks to the children who contributed to our Sunday School **Robot Challenge** by bringing in cans of food to support the Thanksgiving Basket mission.



Engaged Discipleship

CHAOS

Merry Christmas, friends! The last month of 2017 is upon us! Can you even believe it? Before we jump in to an exciting December, let's recap our busy November!

Many thanks to all who came out for our (perhaps 1st annual!?) "Movie Night at the Museum"! We had nearly 50 people join in from both our congregation and the community. We had an awesome outdoor screen thanks to Mark Holmsborg and David Henry. We showed "Night at the Museum" starring Ben Stiller and Robin Williams, which provided entertainment from our littlest to our most mature movie watcher. Shout out to the Hunterdon Art Museum for allowing us to use their terrace for this fun night!

A group of our high school girls came together to serve our friends around the Newark Penn Station area with the Relief Bus on a Friday night this past month. What a privilege to connect with friends on the street. We blessed them with socks, hygiene kits, and food –but more importantly with the love of Jesus. Taking time to sit and listen to the folks we met not only enhanced their lives, it shifted our minds to a new level of thinking and elevated our hearts to a new level of love. It is always an amazing experience to partner and serve with the Relief Bus.

We tested our baking skills (which are actually pretty good 😊) at our youth group night before Thanksgiving. Together with the help of Christina Schlegel we baked twelve pies to be delivered to members of our congregation, community members in need, and the Flemington Food Pantry. We played a small role in our mission to make the holiday a little sweeter. We also played "Pie Face"... you're welcome for the pictures.

December!! The magical Christmas season is upon us. We're going to celebrate the birth of Jesus one of the ways we think He would want us to – with games. Lots of games. **Join us on the 3rd and the 17th this month for Sunday Funday and CHAOS! Please take note of the timing for our combined Christmas Party on the 17th!**

Bring your friends! Bring your enemies and make them friends! Come prepared to have a blast – we can't wait to see your face!

Join us for what's coming up!:

12/3 – Games on Games on Games!!!

12/17 – Christmas Party; combined event 4:30 – 7 pm
1/7 and 1/21 – TBA

*CHAOS & Sunday Funday meet the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month (keep an eye out for "5th Sunday", coming to you select months of the year)!
Sunday Funday {3rd – 5th grades} 5:30 – 6:30pm
CHAOS {6th – 12th grades} 7 – 8:30pm

We're seriously having so much fun & we are so grateful to have y'all along for the ride with us! Questions? Want to get involved? Email Maggie Bell at maggie4cpc@gmail.com

Follow us on INSTAGRAM!! @chaosyouthministry



Engaged Discipleship

Women's Morning Bible Study

Tuesday mornings in Fellowship Hall @ 10:00 am
Meet on December 5 & 12

Women's Bible Study will begin a new study on January 9, 2018 - an 11 session study from Beth Moore "The Patriarchs".

Discover God's pursuit of relationship and the unfolding of His earthly plan: How through one nation—and ultimately one man—all people on earth will be blessed. The Patriarchs is a journey through Genesis 12-50. Explore concepts such as blessing, covenant, and promise, and the bearing each has on a New Testament believer's life today.

NO HOMEWORK! Contact Judy Moller at 908-735-8148 if you need more information.

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 6 we will meet at 7:30 pm after the Vespers Service. No study on December 20th.

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 2 & 16



Sunday School students learn about Noah and the ark through a puppet show.



Miss Jessica tries to climb her way to heaven while Mr. Rich teaches students about the reformation.

Nurturing Relationships

Cookies and Cocoa after Parade Friday, December 1

It is almost time for the Clinton Christmas Parade and we need you for our annual cookies and cocoa event! There are two ways you and your family can help to welcome our community.

- 1) Set up and/or clean up. We will begin to set up at 5:00 pm so that all is ready before the parade begins at 7:00 pm.
- 2) Bake (or buy) cookies. Please drop off cookies at the church by 4:30 pm on that day.

If you'd like to help in either way, please contact Jessica Bruno.

jessicaqbruno@gmail.com or 908-328-6943.

Christmas Float

JESUS...the sweetest name I know!

Candy Cane Theme - Calling all kids to ride our float!

Please wear red or white. Be at the church by 6:00pm. We will have hotdogs, chips for the kids.

Please let Jill Prakopcyk know you will be riding the float. The more the merrier!

Jill 907-310-4765 soldbyjillp@aol.com



A **Children's Pageant** will be presented after the worship service on **December 17** in Fellowship Hall and will be followed by an **Advent Breakfast**. If you would like to make a casserole, please contact Jessica Bruno at jessicaqbruno@gmail.com or 908-328-6943. There is also a signup sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Advent Breakfast

We are looking forward to another great Advent Breakfast this year. All we need is you to help us with the food. If you would like to make a casserole, please contact Jessica Bruno at jessicaqbruno@gmail.com or 908-328-6943.

Deacon Update *Deacon of the month/Rick Hyman*

The Deacons spend the first part of every meeting reviewing congregation needs. With the Holiday season at our door special care was taken in discussing this issue. A plan was made to do Holiday visits to some and if you know of others that may need a Holiday visit, please contact your deacon. The last part of every meeting the Deacons are in prayer for praise or for needs for members of our congregation and others. Then they spend time of going through the directory so eventually prayers are offered for all members of the congregation.

The Fair Trade Bazaar was held after worship on November 19 in Fellowship Hall. Many food items were sold as well as holiday decorations for the home and for the tree. Many people came to the Bazaar and a lot of items were sold to make this a great success.

The Deacons reviewed upcoming activities and services. Vespers will be every Wednesday in December at 7:00. The Longest Night service is December 17 at 7:30 and finally Christmas Eve services will be 5:00, 9:30 and 11:00.

At the end of the November meeting the Deacons spent some time on plans for 2018. Tracey asked the Deacons to think about what is working, what needs to be changed or what more could we do in caring for the congregation. Also, how do we care for those members that have not been attending and how do we reach out to them.

Nurturing Relationships

Meal Donations

Please consider volunteering to provide a meal for those in our church community who are in need of an extra helping hand. Specifically at this time, we are looking for people to bring meals to Doris Cramer and Valerie Boyer.

To sign up please follow the links below.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Doris

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

Valerie

<http://www.takethemeal.com/meals.php?t=WFWZ4662>



Transforming Mission

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.

Visit by Relief Bus Missionary

December 10

We will have special guests in worship on Sunday, December 10! Yazdi Bellihomji, Director of Spiritual Director/Project Manager, with the Relief Bus will be joining us. Accompanying Yaz will be his wife, Edna, and their son Malachi.

Our congregation will also have the opportunity to support Yaz's ministry through a special offering during the worship service.

As an urban missionary, financial support from churches is very important in sustaining Yaz and his family as he brings Jesus to the streets of NJ and NYC.

Please come greet Yaz, Edna and Malachi during Fellowship Time and learn more about the Relief Bus.

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 10.

Transforming Mission



Way to go, Ian!

Former CPC Intern completed the Cape Cod Marathon in a time of 3 hours and 50 minutes.

Friends from CPC each sponsored a mile and through his run Ian raised \$1640 to support our upcoming mission trip (see below) to help with recovery work in Houston. An additional \$1000 was also donated by the Congregation members to support the trip.

Mission Trip to Houston

Members of CPC will be heading to Houston January 23-27 to jump in with Hurricane Harvey relief efforts. We will be working with All Hands. No previous experience is required – on the job training will be provided. We will be involved with debris removal, muck out, gutting and final cleaning and sanitizing of properties. We will be responsible for covering travel costs to and from Houston (funds are available to help with this) and All Hands will provide accommodations in a local church together with three meals a day.

We have 10 spots reserved for our team until December 14. Please let Tracey know as soon as possible if you would like to be a part of this trip.

Update on Harvey Recovery at Spring Branch Presbyterian

Back in September we sent an offering of \$2,126 to the Spring Branch Presbyterian Church in Houston, Texas. Here's an update from their Interim Pastor, Rev. Kristin Galle.

The congregation has actively been participating with putting together and distributing "Hygiene kits" (during the early days) and then "clean up buckets" (as people started to get back into their homes. They have members that helped neighbors mucking out flooded houses.

We were able to get our day care center, the Spring Branch Presbyterian Academy, up and running a week before the schools were open. Almost all parents were much relieved to have day care so they could either return to work or work on clean up tasks with their children well cared for.

The police department next door had 10 officers and staff affected by the flooding of personal homes and they sent a donation to them. We are also helping the two school districts nearby--Spring Branch Independent School District and Houston ISD. New Hope Presbyterian Church in Katy is receiving funds from us to help clean out their building and get their daycare center up and running.

Spring Branch is also giving assistance to a member who had much damage and a local retired Presbyterian clergy member who had much damage. There are also conversations with nearby Pines Presbyterian for supplying food when they house teams of volunteers that will come to assist in rebuilding.



On Sunday, November 19, we heard from Colleen Duerr, development director from Family Promise about the important role we can play with this organization. In 2018 CPC will become a host site, meaning that for 2 weeks each year we will serve as "home base" for women and children who are currently experiencing homeless. We are honored to be able to serve in this way and we need all hands on board to offer hospitality and love. We already have over 50 people who have expressed interest in volunteering. If you would like to join them, please reach out to Tracey. We will have a volunteer training evening in January and our first week hosting in 2018 will be February 25- March 1. Our second hosting week is September 2-9. To learn more about Family Promise, please visit their website at <http://familypromisehc.org/>

Faithful Stewardship

Session Round-Up

Children's

The Children's Service in October was filled with inspiration and love as children welcomed all to worship, read scripture and lead the congregation in singing. Sunday School provided many opportunities for learning about God's love for us and how to follow Jesus. We decorated pumpkins for the town Pumpkin Contest and filled Thanksgiving baskets for our friends in the community. As we ready our hearts for the Advent/Christmas season, the team plans for activities involving our church family. The DIY Nativity will take place at the breakfast on December 17th.

Fellowship and Member Care

Many trick or treaters enjoyed the music, food and fun at this year's Trunk or Treat. The team is making plans for after the Clinton Parade on December 1st, and look forward to fellowship, cookies and cocoa. Looking for volunteers to bake cookies and help with set up and clean up. Plans for the Advent Breakfast on December 17th are being made. Continued discussion of membership support will resume at the January meeting.

Mission

CPC will be hosting Family Promise in 2018. Preparations for welcoming the guests are being made. The Thanksgiving baskets were filled with donations from the CPC family and friends and a generous donation from Coldwell Banker. The coordination of a Houston Mission Trip in January is taking place. The Giving Tree is filled with many ornaments. Yaz will be at CPC on December 10th with the Relief Bus and will discuss some changes taking place in the organization.

Operations

Pledging and income are close to budget and expenses look to be within budget. The oil to gas conversion is complete. Estimates for snow plowing are being considered. Shoveling will be contracted separately or done by volunteers. Routine, general repairs are needed at the church. The team is looking into having a referred handyman/woman on file. The team continues the process of making repairs and renovations to the Manse. The condition of the carpeting in the church office has precipitated a discussion on a more efficient way to use the space.

Session

The Session approved the following:
Organization and update of the membership rolls.

Worship

Plans continue for the busy Advent season. The team is hoping to involve all members in various volunteer opportunities. A banner which includes the children and adults in the congregation is being made. The worship team is looking into purchasing seasonal banners for the sanctuary.

Youth

Middle School Sunday School is enjoying the fellowship and the teaching team. Youth Ministry Team served 500 hot dogs to all who came to Trunk or Treat. Twenty-five movie goers enjoyed *A Night at the Museum* at the Art Museum in Clinton. Maggie had tons of fun and service scheduled for Chaos and Sunday Funday with a trip to The Relief Bus and a Pie Night.

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

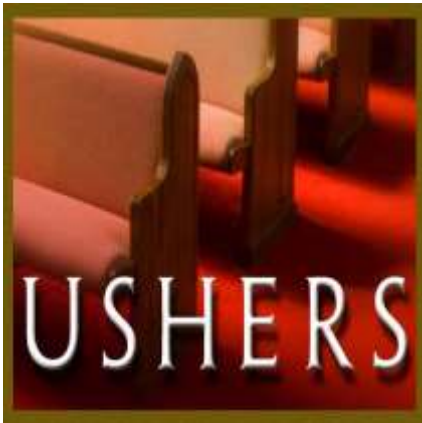
Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____



Looking for Volunteers to Usher on Christmas Eve

If interested in ushering at the 11 pm service on Christmas Eve, please contact Linda Schipmann-Pustai at 908.285.1190 or lindaschipmann@hotmail.com.



Our Boy Scout Troop 121

November Theme: Science

The weekly Troop meetings are planned around the monthly theme. One meeting's activity was to build a container that would allow an egg to be dropped from a height without breaking it.

The Troop went to Boston for a long weekend November 9-12.

The Troop participated in a work day at CPC on November 18.

An Eagle Court of Honor ceremony was held November 25 to celebrate the achievement of two Scouts who earned the Eagle rank.

Popcorn deliveries were made on Sunday, November 19.

The Troop will host a Breakfast with Santa fundraiser at the Clinton Fire House on Sunday, December 10 from 8am-noon.

If you have any questions about our Troop, please contact Linda Schipmann-Pustai @ lindaschipmann@hotmail.com or (908) 285-1190 or Rick Hyman @ RHyman@embarqmail.com or (908) 713-0031.

December Birthdays

- 3 Ryan Twigg, Bill Warner
- 7 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
- 19 Mackenzie Ahmed, Victoria Ahmed
- 20 Rich Jackle
- 24 Evie Lebron
- 26 Kim Perez, Bill Sowder
- 28 Henry Kvara
- 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

January Birthdays

- 2 Kelly Christopher, Rich Maslanka
- 3 Cassie Battaglia, Matthew Miller, Rich Prakopcyk, Alyssa Tombs
- 5 Glenn Allen
- 6 Rebecca Tombs
- 7 Ben Prakopcyk
- 8 Spencer Holmsborg, Christopher Honthy, Rick Hyman
- 10 Janice Malpas
- 12 Sara Kunzman
- 13 Kenneth Wirth
- 14 Rachel Battaglia, Domenic DiPace
- 15 Clifford Sayre
- 16 Bill Kreutel
- 18 Chad Longell
- 20 Donavyn Meyh
- 21 Marissa Annese
- 22 Angela Penyak
- 23 Emmaline DiPace
- 25 Carly Krushinski
- 26 Brian Barnes
- 27 John Roth
- 29 Robert Ballantine
- 30 Parker Henry
- 31 Dave Boyer

January Anniversaries

- 29 Michael and Linda Wilton-McCaffrey

