

Clinton Presbyterian Church



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
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Clinton, NJ 08809
908.735.5029
www.clintonpresbyterian.net

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

It is my prayer that our mission statement might become a true banner over the life of our congregation this year.

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

And if the month of January is any indication we are off to a great start. We have:

- Sent 13 “CPCers” to Houston to share Christ's love with those who are still recovering from Hurricane Harvey
- Put the wheels in motion to open a preschool at CPC in the fall of 2018, a ministry which we hope will spread God's love to our wider community
- Trained over 40 volunteers to serve as hosts for Family Promise as we commit to providing shelter and welcome for friends who need to know that they are loved and valued

If all of this can occur in just one month, imagine how God might work through us to share this gift of love over the next 11 months.

I love this congregation and it's mission and ministry. I know that you do too. Why not invite others to join you in this place? The invitation can be as simple as those three little words we talked about last Sunday, “Come and see.” Let's spread the good news about this place of welcome and hope. Let's spread the good news about this place where we have encountered Jesus. Let's live into our call to share Christ's love with others. Come and see.

See you in church,

Tracey

Looking Back...December 2017



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 4
Youth Sunday
Souper Bowl of Caring

February 11
Scout Sunday

February 18
First Sunday of Lent

February 25
Second Sunday of Lent



Our middle and high school youth will lead us in worship on Sunday February 4! We are excited to celebrate together that "God is on our Team". Please come ready to worship and be in fellowship together with us!

Sunday, February 11 **Scout Sunday**

Our Boy Scout Troop will be participating in the worship service on February 11. All scouts are encouraged to wear their uniform.



Worship Service
February 14 at 7 PM

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



Lent Small Groups **are back!**

Last year we had a wonderful response to small groups for the season of Lent and we want to offer this opportunity for discipleship and friendship once again.

Groups will meet for 5 consecutive weeks, so pick the day/time that works best for you and join with your group for an hour or so each week. Once groups are established we will figure out locations for the gatherings. Small groups are for everyone and Lent is the perfect time to commit some extra time to growing in our faith.

Groups are available on Sunday, Monday and Saturday mornings and Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Email Tracey (tracey4cpc@gmail.com) and let her know when you would like to jump in.

Sanctuary Piano

Each week I have the privilege of playing the beautifully sounding Yamaha C6 grand piano in the sanctuary. We are always making sure to keep up with the correct maintenance and tunings so we can keep the instrument in top shape.

In December, our piano technician, Rob Attinello did a more involved maintenance and took out the keyboard mechanism and reconditioned it making this great instrument sound and feel in top condition for a relatively small sum of money.

The continued care of the piano will have it last here at CPC for many generations to come. I am fortunate to work for a congregation that takes music seriously enough to put both the time and money into making music thrive in our worship services.

Gary Ross, Music Director



The Worship Ministry Team would like to thank everyone who helped in many and various ways to decorate our Church for the Christmas season.

Engaged Discipleship

Sunday School Schedule

Pre-K thru Grade 5

Jesus loves us **and we want our kids to know that love without a doubt!** Jesus came as a tiny baby to share this love with us. Our **K-5th graders** celebrated His special birth in many ways ~ creating miniature advent wreaths, setting up a nativity set in our classroom and throwing a birthday party for Jesus. Our **Pre-K** class spent December learning that the Prince of Peace was coming and hearing the story of his birth. Our children performed a Christmas Pageant with a modern twist (Did you ever see Wise Men in sunglasses or an innkeeper with an iPad?). They warmed our hearts by singing at the Christmas Eve Family Service. In the new year, **K-5th grade** imagined what Jesus was like as a child and discovered he was “lost” in the temple for three days. And through Martin Luther King, Jr. and “talking crayons,” we learned that God has great plans for us and talked about what we can do for others. Our **Pre-K** focused on the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, starting with his baptism.

Join us in February as we continue to learn about our loving Jesus! We will have Sunday School each Sunday beginning at 10:40 am:

Feb. 4, Feb. 11, Feb. 18, Feb. 25

Children made mazes to learn about Jesus' childhood.



Jesus Loves
the little children
of the world

Looking ahead:

The Easter Bunny needs your help!

Children's Ministry is planning our annual Easter egg hunt for our CPC children. If you have empty plastic Easter eggs that you'd like to donate, please leave them either in the back of the Sanctuary or in the Christian Ed office. Thanks!

Children in Church!

Jesus loves the little children, and at CPC, we do too! We would love to see our kids (2nd grade and up) remain in worship with us for the entire service on Sunday mornings. We also wish to increase participation in worship by encouraging our children to read scripture, usher, serve as greeters, sing, straighten the pews....

To kick off these efforts, Pastor Tracey will be introducing a *March Challenge* next month. It will be a fun way to serve God. More info to come! To include your child in this worship challenge, please email Jenny Kunzman at jennykunzman@gmail.com.



Engaged Discipleship

Sunday School 10:40 – 11:40 am

Preschoolers (3 and 4's) meet in the green room

K-2 meet in the blue room

Grades 3 - 5 meet in the coral spice room

Middle School Class (grades 6-8) meet in the downstairs classroom/Spice Rack curriculum

High School Class We are excited to announce the return of **“High School Conversations!”**

Recognizing that teens today have overloaded schedules and overwhelming academic pressures, we understand that going to “school” on Sunday morning can feel like a burden. However, we also recognize that having a place to go where you can participate in fellowship with other Christian teens can help keep your compass pointed in the right direction. To provide that place, we are replacing our formal High School “Sunday School” with a more informal “High School Conversations” on Sunday mornings.

Every week, following Service, all 9th – 12th graders are invited to join us for some good food and conversation. Our priority will be to talk about the topics you would like to discuss. We will also have a stack of fun and relevant conversation pieces, videos to watch, and an occasional game on hand just in case it's been a quiet week in school. Regardless of how the conversations get started, we will be there to help guide the dialog towards how to live out our Christian core values as teens in our time and culture.

We are excited about this newest addition to our youth programs. If you are in 9th-12th grade, please join us in the Wolverton Building on Sunday mornings... we promise that you will find to be a nice, low pressure addition to your week!

Adults (begins at 10:50) meet in the downstairs middle classroom

CPC Text Alerts – Have you signed up?

The CPC text alert system is used to occasionally send out important reminders about major events as well as for urgent communications such as weather related closings. Signing up is done in three easy steps...

1. Go to <https://mobile-text-alerts.com/CPC>
2. Fill in your information
3. Pick your group(s)



Sign
Up for
Text
Alerts

There are currently three groups you can subscribe to:

- a. SundaySchool - Alerts and Updates for Sunday Morning Christian Education Programs.
- b. YouthGroup - Updates and Reminders for Sunday FunDay, CHAOS, High School Conversations and other youth related activities.
- c. TeachersLeaders - This will be used to send alerts that only pertain to our teachers and leaders.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Bill Berson at wbereson@live.com.

Adult Bible Studies

Women's Morning Bible Study Tuesday mornings in Fellowship Hall 10:00 – 11:30 am
Study from Beth Moore "The Patriarchs". Contact Judy Moller at 908-735-8148 for more information.

Women's Evening Bible Study and Men's Breakfast & Bible Study participants are encouraged to join small groups for the season of Lent. See page 3 for more details.

Engaged Discipleship

CHAOS

January was the month of Sardines. No, we didn't eat any (praise Jesus). But we played the game. A lot. Like, you could pay us a lot of money to tell you the key hiding places throughout Clinton Presbyterian Church if you were desperate for a hiding place. I think it's the new fave!

In the midst of planning for Youth Sunday (coming up February 4th!) we got to have fun together and celebrate the start of 2018! We rang the new year in a second time at our "Déjà Nu Year Party" complete with sparkling grape juice toast and the Times Square Ball Drop. And we played a lot of Sardines. ☺ These kids are seriously so fun and we love Sunday nights!

We're getting serious about service on Super Bowl Sunday – post Youth Sunday service and Sunday School, we'll be helping out with the Souperbowl of Caring. Take note of the special (combined) event time below. We love to be able to serve and give back to our community! We'll also celebrate Mardi Gras a few days late with Mardi Gras 2.0 – stay tuned for details!

Join us for what's coming up!:

- 2/4 Youth Sunday Service
- 2/4 SouperBowl Sunday: Sunday Funday & CHAOS combined service event 11:30 – 1:30
- 2/18 Mardi Gras 2.0
- 3/4 & 3/18 Sunday Funday & CHAOS 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 pm - 6:30 pm

CHAOS {6th - 12th grades} 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

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

Nurturing Relationships

From the Deacons

January - Barbara Allen

As we begin a New Year, great things are happening at CPC, with many blessings.

- We sent out thirty Starbucks Gift Cards to our CPC College students, to support them with our love, as they studies hard for their final exams...Yum!
- The Fair Trade Bazaar was a huge success again. Our congregation purchased \$488 of the various types of the special merchandise offered at the FTB. It is very exciting to know that all of the proceeds are returned to the artisans in their underdeveloped countries. Thank you all for supporting this program.

John 15:12 This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

February - Sharon Rosenberg

Some of you may remember the 60's song, "Love Is All Around," by the Troggs. It begins--

I feel it in my fingers, I feel it in my toes,
Love is all around us and so the feeling grows -

This tune has recently replayed in my mind many times as I enter the doors at CPC. I am so grateful for our wonderful church family. The warmth, caring, support, encouragement, and love we share with one another and those around us is so much a part of who we are as a congregation.

We can share this love with one another because of the unconditional love God has for each one of us. Jesus reminds us of the importance of loving Him with our mind, heart, and strength and also loving our neighbors.

So during this month of February when, "Love is all around," let's remember to reach out to others in our church family or those in need by providing a meal, ride, visit, or phone call. There are so many ways we can share our love for one another.

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

Please remember to visit the Table of Well Wishes, located in Fellowship Hall each Sunday after our service. Our CPC members really appreciate receiving cards of encouragement, support, congratulations or sympathy. You are touching the lives of those in our congregation with your caring thoughts and prayers. Great Job!

Your deacons care about you and want to support you. If you have any needs or prayer requests, please make them known to any Deacon, or call the church office for assistance. All your communications are held as confidential. It is our pleasure to serve you. We are always praying for you!

Please consider volunteering to provide a meal for those in our church community who are in need of an extra helping hand. At this time, we are looking for people to bring meals to Doris Cramer and the Blaus Family. To sign up please follow the links below. Your support is greatly appreciated!

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

Blaus Family - <https://takethemameal.com/meals.php?t=VFDI6048>

Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner



Tuesday, February 13
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



Preschool UPDATE

We continue to move forward with plans for preschool for 3 and 4 year olds at CPC. Our goal is to offer a quality preschool education in a Christian environment. Prior to applying for a license from the State of NJ, new preschools are required to hire staff for their school. And we are thrilled to share that we have done just that!

Our very own Adrienne Hodulik will serve as the Founding Director for the school. In addition to her vast experience in the classroom, Adrienne also brings a deep love for children, Jesus and our church to this role. We are so excited to have her on board. We have also hired a Founding Head Teacher who has over 20 years of experience in the preschool classroom and is committed to helping us create a warm and nurturing environment for little ones here at CPC. What a team!

Next Steps:

1. The license application has been filed and once all the paperwork is in place the State will come in for a building inspection. To prepare for this inspection we are currently undergoing a number of required environmental tests and also completing a number of small fixes in the classrooms. Don't be surprised if you are asked to help with a little painting someday soon!
2. After the building inspection, we will undergo a curriculum review from the State. Inspectors will be looking for classrooms which are well stocked and have appropriate "learning centers" to inspire little minds. You can help the preschool team get ready for this by donating items for use in the classroom. The deacons have decided that in lieu of gift cards this Valentine's Day, we will instead have a "Valentine's Giving Tree", which will appear in the sanctuary on February 11th. All congregation members are invited to take a heart from the tree and provide the listed item(s) for our CPC preschool. More details to come!
3. Once the building and curriculum have been approved we will be ready to let families know about this all new ministry at CPC. We'll let you know when it's time to share the word with your neighbors and friends!

Please keep this new ministry in our prayers as we move through each stage. We will keep you posted about our progress!

Transforming Mission

Mission Volunteer Opportunities – The Relief Bus on Friday, February 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, February 2 at Penn Station/Newark. Our next day to serve will be Friday, March 2. 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!

CPC Serving as Family Promise "Host Site"

This year, 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 homelessness. We are honored to be able to serve in this way and we need all hands on board to offer hospitality and love. Our first week hosting be February 25- March 1. Our second hosting week is September 2-9. Most of the hosting schedule for February is already covered but we will keep you posted of needs as they arise. We have a team of coordinators in place to help steer these efforts. Please reach out to them if you have any questions.

Robin Meyh rmeyh@aol.com
Stephanie Ramos-Dominko sramosdominko@gmail.com
Rick Hyman ryman@embarqmail.com

To learn more about Family Promise, please visit their website at <http://familypromisehc.org/>

Houston Mission Trip

Our team of 13 served with flexibility and joy at the end of January. We look forward to sharing some photos and stories with you soon!



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 4th) we will be collecting money and cans of soup. The youth will be using the funds donated to purchase food after the worship service which will be donated to the Flemington Food Pantry along with the cans of soup.

If you would like to participate, please place your donation into any of the soup pots that will be placed at the sanctuary exits. Don't forget to wear the jersey of your favorite team to the worship service. Thank you.

Faithful Stewardship



Thank you all for your deep generosity on Christmas Eve. A total of \$655 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.

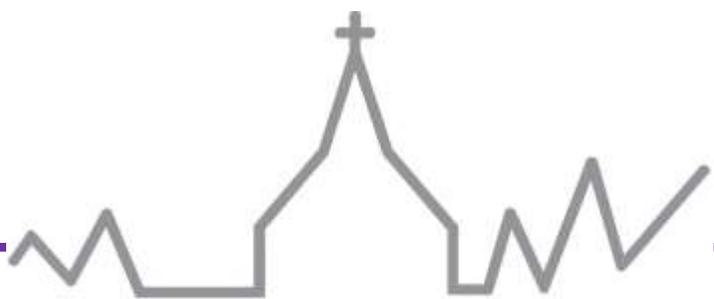
2018 Per Capita

The 2018 Per Capita apportionment for each member of CPC is \$38.50. 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.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=wWsk24ZWJSTZKsGd1RMklgoBDvsSG3VIWQCPJNNxD8upkiY7JlDavDsozUE7KGonFx2NSo8LdUKGuGuF396vbQhHDHPVzbwm10ozNJ5fEkSXHubq5Z7ap5JVmPErc4ZeYHCKCZhESjGNQmZ5B-6dx2Ehob07njPTqYH5Vxv9PnQ=&ver=3

Thanks for helping us reach our goal in 2018!



Treasurer's Report Summary for 2017

	<u>December</u>	<u>Jan. - Dec.</u> <u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>
Income	\$39,412	\$328,645	\$313,892
Expense	\$40,131	\$319,449	\$384,882
Operating Deficit	(\$719)	\$9,196	(\$70,990)

Faithful Stewardship

Session Round-Up

Children's

The Advent Breakfast/Nativity was well attended and a lot of fun. A great job to all and many thanks to everyone who helped to make it a CPC community event. Plans for Lent, Easter and for getting the children more involved in worship are being discussed.

Fellowship and Member Care

Having families sign up for Fellowship Hour has been quite successful as we have volunteers through April. There will be a sign up on the refrigerator for the next months' sign ups. Family Game Night and a Potluck Dinner will take place on Sunday, January 28 from 5:00-7:00. Volunteers are needed to help with games.

The Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner will be held on Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00 pm.

Mission

The Souper Bowl of Caring will coincide with Youth Sunday which will carry a Super Bowl theme. A training took place on Wednesday, January 17 as we prepare to host guests from Family Promise. Thirteen people are getting ready to go to Houston on a Mission Trip January 23 through January 27.

Operations

The Operations/Property team have revisited the new heating system, boiler and the conversion from oil to gas to ensure everything is working properly and efficiently.

The Operations/Finance team reported that we had a positive 2017. Weekly collections were above 105% YTD and Online Giving continues to grow.

The Operations/Personnel team reported their enthusiasm about the CPC Preschool moving forward. The Founding Director and Founding Head Teacher have been hired. With the passing of a couple of inspections we should be ready to prepare the classrooms and open our doors to families with three and four year olds.

Session

The Session approved the following:

The Houston Mission Trip - January 23-January 27

Game Night and Potluck Dinner - January 28 from 5:00-7:00

Youth Sunday - February 4

Boy Scout Sunday - February 11

Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner - February 13 at 6:00

Ash Wednesday Worship Service - February 14 at 7:00

Youth

Super Bowl Theme for Youth Sunday, February 4. Ideas for retreats are being looked into and discussed. Two of these are, *Aquatopia* in the Poconos with the possibility of an overnight, *Camp Johnsonburg* in April for "Ultimate Youth Day", and with service in mind, visiting *Valley Youth House* in Bethlehem.

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 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
- 28 John Perez

February Anniversary

- 14 Reed and Karen Heine



Our Boy Scout Troop 121 January Theme: Music

The weekly Troop meetings are planned around the monthly theme.

The Troop went to Hunter Mountain for a ski weekend January 5-7.

Order of the Arrow elections were held this month.

The Troop served at the Clinton Yuletide Bonfire at Hunts Mill Park on January 27 by helping with parking, refreshments and clean up.

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.



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.