

Clinton Presbyterian Church

Join us
for
Holy Week
Services

April 2018

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,

Earlier this week as I was reading the Easter story from each of the gospels in preparation for our Easter celebrations these words from Mary Oliver came to mind:

“Instructions for living a life: Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it.”

I commend these instructions to you for the journey from Palm Sunday through Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

Pay attention. I know the stories are familiar ones, but when we are really paying attention we see and hear details we may have otherwise have overlooked. God is still speaking. Listen with the eyes of your heart as this love story unfolds anew in your life.

Be astonished. Yes, it's really true that Jesus knelt in humility and washed his disciples' feet. Yes, it's really true that he directs us to do the same. Yes, it's really true that the tomb could not contain Jesus. Yes, it's still true that despite all the evidence to the contrary death does not have the final say in our lives or in this world.

Tell about it. When Mary met the risen Jesus in the garden she wanted to stay there, to make sure he never escaped her sight again. Jesus instruction was this. “Do not hold on to me. But go, tell...” That instruction echoes down from all the way to this beautiful corner of the garden.

You and I already know how the story ends with joy on Easter morning. You don't have to wait until then to invite others to hear the Good News. Reach out to a friend. Offer a neighbor a ride to church on Easter morning. Our world is longing for some good news and we have the privilege of being witnesses.

“Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it.”

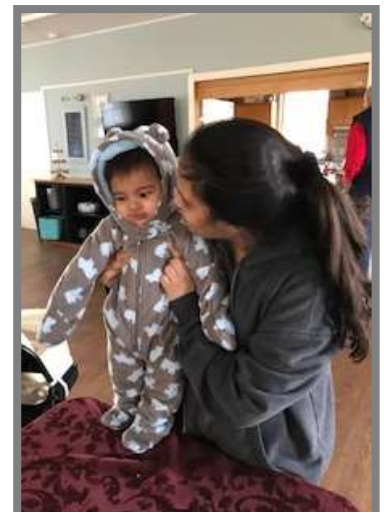
May you know great hope and joy this Easter season.

See you in church,

Tracey



Family Promise Review



During the last week in February, eight guests from Family Promise were welcomed with open arms into our church home. As always, CPC stepped up to the plate, providing a stocked refrigerator and food, bedding, towels, hot meals, monetary donations, and above all, their time and companionship. It was truly a team effort! Our team was even put to the test when the power went out at CPC after a big snow storm! Not only did people figure out creative solutions to cooking meals, but even offered their own homes as a back-up plan. The generosity was overwhelming!

The feedback we received from both the guests and Donna (Director of Family Promise) was heartwarming. One of our guests told us he felt like CPC was home for his family and that he could feel God's presence when speaking with each of us. Donna expressed her gratitude and appreciation as she said

"I just wanted to take a moment to say a great big THANK YOU to all of you for taking such good care of our guests this weekend. Your church really went above and beyond to make sure everyone was comfortable."

We strive to be God's hands and feet. Without each person doing their part this undertaking would not have been possible. We look forward to maintaining the same level of enthusiasm and participation when we host Family Promise again September 2 - September 9 (includes Labor Day). If you didn't get a chance to get involved, please consider joining us in the fall. Thank you all, we look forward to serving with you again.

Your Family Promise Coordinators,
Stephanie Ramos-Dominko, Robin Meyh and Rick Hyman

Our Sunday School kids made sure the families had a warm welcome with goodie bags, fresh baked cookies and personalized door hangers.



Inspiring Worship



Palm Sunday, March 25

9:30 am in the Sanctuary

Join us for worship as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. There will be palms for everyone to take home.

Maundy Thursday, March 29

6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

Bring the whole family for a simple dinner & worship service and celebration of communion as we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples.

Good Friday, March 30

7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Gather in the darkened sanctuary for a service of worship and prayer.

Easter Worship Service, April 1

9:30 am in the Sanctuary

Join us to celebrate with joy Christ's Resurrection!

Lent Small Group Review

The book of James had words of challenge and words of encouragement for us this Lent. As we met together in small groups we reflected on how to live a life that demonstrated our faith and we were challenged to be careful with our words and persistent in our prayers. We are grateful for this opportunity to grow as disciples.



Upcoming in Worship

April 1

Easter Sunday

April 8

Rev. Jeremy Clark,
Stated Clerk of Elizabeth
Presbytery preaching

April 15

"On Doubt and Hospitality"
Luke 24:36-48

April 22

"The Work of the Shepherd"
John 10:11-18

April 29

Seminary Intern
Mary Morrow preaching



Pajama Sunday

Daylight Savings began on Sunday, March 11 and Pastor Tracey invited the children to wear their pajamas to church that day.

(See page 4 for some photos!)

Engaged Discipleship

Pre-K thru Grade 5

In Sunday School, March began with a slight change of pace. Our kids (PreK and up) joined our middle schoolers and high schoolers in the Wolverton Building for a fun movie morning. Popcorn in hand, they relaxed and enjoyed the Veggie Tales movie *The Night Before Easter*.

In the following weeks, our **K-5th graders** focused on Palm Sunday, Holy Week and the Easter story. We became actors, reliving Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem (and had the thrill of watching a video of our performance afterward). Our **Pre-K** class continued to learn about Jesus' amazing ministry.

Our children will be participating in the Palm Sunday worship service, parading down the center aisle, singing and waving palms.

Later, the kids will be treated to an Easter egg hunt after Sunday School.

Ho-ho-ho-hosanna! Ha-ha-hallelujah!

Sunday School Schedule

- April 1** Happy Easter!
No Sunday School
- April 8** Regular classes
- April 15** Regular classes
- April 22** Regular classes
- April 29** Regular classes

March Challenge

A big thanks to all of our kids who participated in the *March Challenge*. Seeing you in the pews each Sunday was so wonderful... and we can only imagine the size of God's smile as you worshipped Him each week! You did a fabulous job reading prayers and scripture, greeting our congregation, and collecting the offering. You are a special part of our church!



K-5th grade students read Matthew 21 and learned about Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. (P.S. it's pajama day)



God **LOVES** A CHEERFUL GIVER

© Castellblanca M.T.

VBS NEEDS...

empty gallon milk jugs

Would you save your gallon containers for us? Drop off in the back of the sanctuary or in the CE office.

An illustration of a white gallon milk jug with a red label that says "MILK".

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 Conversations (Grades 9-12) meet in Wolverton

Adults (begins at 10:50) meet in the computer room upstairs

Adult Bible Studies

Women's Morning Bible Study Tuesday mornings in Fellowship Hall 10:00 am
Contact Judy Moller at 908-735-8148 for more information.

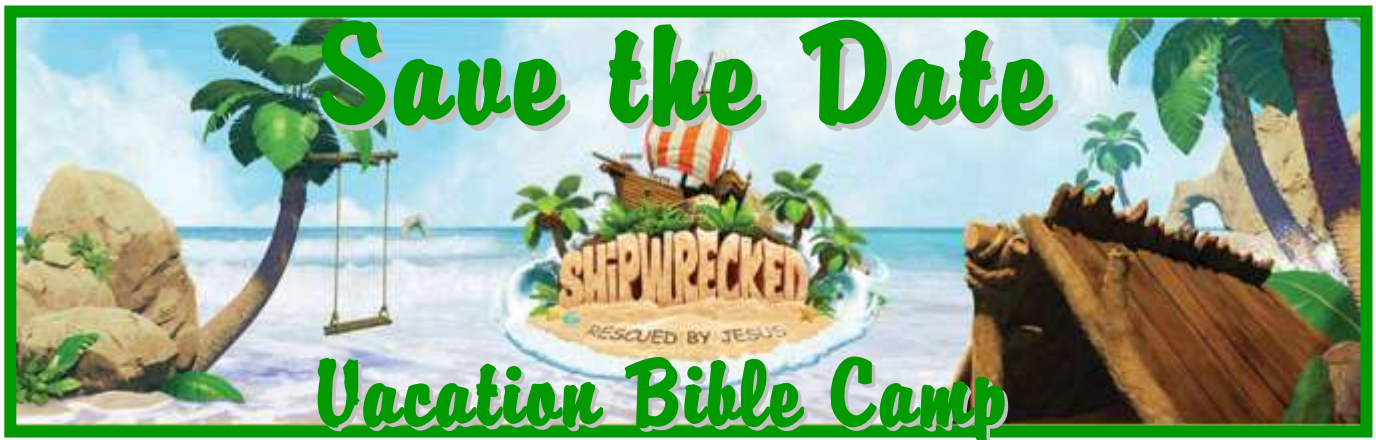
Women's Evening Bible Study

Spring dates – April 18, May 2 and May 16 7:00 pm

All ladies are incited to join us for this gentle bible study in the Wolverton building

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

Spring Dates – April 21, May 5 and May 19 Saturday mornings in Fellowship Hall 8:00 am
Join us to be fed body and soul!



July 9-13th 5:30 - 8:00 pm
light dinner served

Kids - Get ready to sail away with Jesus for the best week of the summer!

- New Friends
- Creative Games
- Amazing Experiments
- Incredible Music
- Fun Adventures and Bible Stories

Ages 4 (and potty-trained) through those entering grade 5.
Those entering grade 6 and higher may register as volunteers.

Volunteer and Participant Registration Information
will be available on the church website soon!

Engaged Discipleship

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WHAT a March we had! We laughed a lot this month and it's been so cool to see friendships form and leaders bloom in our young people here at CPC! April is bringing a lot of switch-it-up-ness due to the celebration of Easter, so event dates are listed below. Now for the details!

On Saturday, April 7, we meet at the church at 11am for Feed the Need. Our time slot at Zion Lutheran Church is 11:30 – 1:30 to help with the event. We will work to fill meals that provide the proper nutritional value for malnourished children around the world. We as a church have a total of 15 volunteer spots open, so please contact Maggie Bell if you would like to be involved. We will return to the church at around 2pm. This is a very fun and special event. We hope you can join us!

I hope your family calendars are marked for our Youth Group Spring Retreat! Our middle and high school students are headed to Aquatopia – Camelback Resort's Indoor Waterpark! Cost is \$130 per student and that includes allllll the things: room, ticket, food...! All details including timing have been sent by email, so if you missed that contact Maggie! It's going to be a fun and meaningful time!

Enjoy these first weeks of Spring and we'll see you 'round the church! ☺

Join us for what's coming up!:

4/7 – Feed the Need (details above)

4/14 & 15 – Youth Group Retreat (more details coming!)

4/29 – “5th Sunday” Event TBA

5/6 & 5/20 – Sunday Funday & CHAOS TBA

*CHAOS & Sunday Funday meet the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month unless otherwise noted (keep an eye out for “5th Sunday”, coming to you select months of the year)!

Sunday Funday {3rd – 5th grades} 5:30pm – 6:30pm

CHAOS {6th – 12th grades} 7:00pm – 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

CPC had a great time participating in the Run O' the Mill 5K in town today! We had a water station table to distribute water to the hard working runners. Congrats to Maggie, Chris, and Mike for a job well done in completing the race! A special shout out to Connor Berson for taking 1st place!



Nurturing Relationships



*In March, CPC celebrated
two anniversaries:
Pastor Tracey's 5th year with CPC
and
Diane O'Connor's 10th year.*



9:30 am – 2:00 pm

There's something for everyone to do!

We will be serving at many different locations including: Flemington Food Pantry, Market Street Mission, Friendship Center for New Beginnings and cooking for SHIP.

We will meet at CPC at 9:30 am and all projects will be concluded by 2:00 pm. If you have questions or want to reserve your service opportunity - please contact Sandie Lundeen @ 908-730-6958 or sllundeen@comcast.net or any member of the Mission Ministry Team (Cindy Boyer, Rick Hyman, Dave Kelly, Robin Meyh, Stephanie Ramos-Dominko or Christina Schlegel).

Thank you for serving! We are looking forward to doing God's work in the community.

CPC PreSchool

Believe it or not, spring is right around the corner and spring brings new life to CPC as well! We continue to move ahead to welcome little ones and their families to the Clinton Presbyterian Preschool in September.

Thank you to those who have helped us get the building and grounds ready. Thank you to the many who have generously donated supplies and equipment for our classrooms. Thank you to the marketing experts who have helped to spread the word to our community. There is still much to do. As we await licensing approval and state inspections we continue to need your support. Please keep this new ministry in your prayers.



We are now accepting applications for the 2018-2019 year. We are excited about this new opportunity to serve our community.

All the details are on the website:

<http://clintonpresbyterian.net/pre-school/>

If you or someone you know is looking for the right school for little ones to grow and learn, this is the place to be!

Transforming Mission

2018 June Student Mission Trip to Philadelphia

The 2018 CPC Student Mission Trip to Philadelphia will be from Sunday, June 17 through Friday, June 22. This week is always a great time of service, fellowship and fun! The total cost this year will be \$375/student (a reduction of \$100 can be achieved by fundraising). Financial aid is available if needed.

A deposit of \$100 is due by April 2.

To register for the trip, please contact:

Dave Kelly

(908) 391-6372 DLSH27@comcast.net

or Jill Prakopcyk

(908) 310-4765 jrcelibr8@embarqmail.com

Mission Volunteer Opportunities Relief Bus on Friday, April 6

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, April 6 at Penn Station/Newark.

Please contact Dave Kelly if you have any questions or you'd like to volunteer.

(908) 391-6372 or DLSH27@comcast.net

SAVE THE DATE!

Take Out BBQ Dinner at CPC

Friday, May 4 • 4:30 – 7:00 pm

\$10 donation per dinner includes:

Homemade Pulled Pork • Rolls

Macaroni Salad • Baked Beans • Dessert

Order your barbeque dinners beginning May 2!

Please call the church office at 908-735-5029

to place your orders. Include your name, number of dinners you wish to order,

intended pick up time and

a contact phone number.

Walk-ins are also welcome.

Dinners may be picked up at the church.

Cash, checks and credit cards accepted.

All proceeds benefit the CPC Student Mission Trip to Philadelphia in June.

Thank you for supporting our youth as they serve others!

Mission Opportunity at Anderson House

Anderson House is a halfway house for women with alcohol and drug addictions in Whitehouse. We at CPC have been supporting them in numerous ways. For about 15 years, a group of women visited there once a month (usually the third Monday evening of each month). We usually offer two activities for the women. Some of the activities have been painting frames or boxes, jewelry making, making greeting cards, knitting and crocheting. In February, to celebrate Valentine's Day, we dipped strawberries in chocolate.

The ladies have a very structured schedule to support them in their sobriety. This is one of the few fun things they get to participate in. They really appreciate our efforts.

We are looking for a few women to join our group so that we can continue this mission. You don't have to be a gifted artist. If there is a craft you enjoy or would like to learn and teach at the same time, please call Carol Kotopoulis at 908-963-2221 (evenings are best).

Faithful Stewardship



Our kids have been making a lot of noise and filling up our bucket with coins since October. We'll collect the noisy offering through the month of May and then see what our grand total is. At that time the kids will help decide how to direct this offering to support our mission and ministry work. IT has been such a joy to watch them give so generously. Noisy Offering dates are: March 25, April 29 and May 20 (adjusted to coincide with our picnic) If you have spare change you would like to share just drop it in the bucket!

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=wWsk24ZWJSTZKsGd1RMKlgoBDvsSG3VIWQCPJNNxD8upkiY7JIDavDsozUE7KGonFx2NSo8LdUKGuGuF396vbQhHDHPVzbwm10ozNJ5fEkSXHubq5Z7ap5JVmPErc4ZeYHCKCZhesjGNQmZ5B-6dx2Ehobo7njPTqYH5Vxv9PnQ=&ver=3

Thanks for helping us reach our goal in 2018!

CPC's Nominating Committee

is considering names of members to represent the congregation as Elder or Deacon for the Class of 2021.

Deacons represent the heart of Christian service to those in need. They offer their services to others by establishing contact and building relationships with the members of the church. They are resourceful people who cohesively hold a bank of talents as they meet the changing needs of the congregation.

Elders include a variety of people that reflect the diversity of the congregation who govern the church through active participation in spiritual, educational and other activities of CPC. Elders chair or co-chair one of CPC's ministries, and by thoughtful payer, open discussions and focused study, discern the plans that God has for our church.

Nominate Elders & Deacons

If you are interested or know someone that might be interested please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve. If you would like more information or have any questions regarding these positions please contact any member of the nominating team.

Kerry Maslanka kerrymaslanka@yahoo.com
Chairperson
908-310-0757

Bill Berson wberson@live.com
484-264-2857

Sharon Holmsborg holmsborg@earthlink.net
908-713-1316

Rick Hyman rhyman@embarqmail.com
908-451-1478

Dave Kelly DLSh27@comcast.net
908-391-6372

April Birthdays

- 2 Debra Jackle
- 3 Julia Morrisette, Erica Wirth
- 4 Beth Spencer
- 6 Davis Henry, Melanie Kreutel
- 7 Brenda Krushinski
- 8 Foster Barnes
- 9 Jeff Hazelette
- 10 Tom Brankner, Steven Kotopoulos,
Sara Twigg
- 12 Connor Berson, Steven Dhein
- 13 Tammy Warner
- 19 Matthew Kursar
- 22 Dan Nuzzo
- 24 Steve Hovey
- 25 Liza Battaglia
- 26 Jennifer Thompson
- 28 Rebecca DiPace
- 30 Makenzie Holmsborg, Andrew Westlin

April Anniversaries

- 3 Ken and Kimberly Westlin
- 21 Chris and Deirdre Blaus
- 24 Andrew and Cathy Edelsberg



Our Boy Scout Troop 121 March Theme: Flight

The weekly Troop meetings are planned around the monthly theme.

This month's meetings included building a model airplane, a talk with an aerospace engineer, an egg drop and a visit to the Sky Manor Airport. The troop spent a Shooting Sports weekend at camp Citta. The troop band performed in the Clinton St. Patrick's Day parade.

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 - \$40

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.



The deadline for the next issue (May)
is Monday, April 23.