

# Clinton Presbyterian Church



## Our Mission

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

## Core Values

We are grateful for God's grace which allows us to be:

### **Welcoming to All**

Our doors and our arms are open to all who would join us on this journey of faith.

### **Growing in Faith**

At every age and stage of life we recognize the importance of nurturing faith development.

### **Serving with Love**

We embrace opportunities for mission.



### **Clinton Presbyterian Church**

91 Center Street  
Clinton, NJ 08809  
908.735.5029

[www.clintonpresbyterian.net](http://www.clintonpresbyterian.net)

## From the Pastor

*"...morally speaking, there is no limit to the concern one must feel for the suffering of human beings, that indifference to evil is worse than evil itself, that in a free society, some are guilty, but all are responsible." - Rabbi Abraham Heschel*

Dear Friends,

David and I have a particular love for Pittsburgh. David was born and raised there and it is the place where our love for another began and took root. Watching the news on Saturday morning as reports of the tragedy at The Tree of Life Synagogue were starting to trickle in, we shared in the heartbreak of Pittsburgh, indeed the heartbreak of a nation. 11 Jews, worshipping on Shabbat, murdered.

Such a senseless act of hatred against innocent, faithful people leaves us reeling with grief and outrage. This violent anti-Semitism has no place in our nation. It is a fitting time for all of us, especially Christians, to confront the grave danger of anti-Semitism in our country and the conditions that permit it to fester among us. Hate crimes grow from hate speech and hearts that are filled with hate. Nothing could be further from the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But it is not enough simply to say that the church should stand against hatred.

We are also called to advance an ethic of love in the world. Jesus taught that the two greatest commandments are to love God with heart and soul and mind and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. In the Old Testament, Cain asked the question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" In the New Testament, Jesus answered the question with an unequivocal yes – "love your neighbor as yourself." We belong to one another. And love is a verb. We must love in word and in action.

We act now as we reach out to Jewish neighbors, to express outrage and to pledge our support to work towards a different day. We act by exercising the right to vote at the start November, going to the ballot box with the hope that God would meet us in the midst of the messiness of our political lives. We act as we work for justice, as we give voice to the small and forgotten ones, and as we choose courage over fear.

As we journey on, we pray that God's peace would overcome division, love overcome fear, and that the "better angels of our nature" will prevail – in Pittsburgh, in New Jersey, across America, and around the world.

See you in church,

Tracey

## Be The Church Day Thank You!

Thank you to everyone that came out to serve during our fall Be The Church Day. Our volunteers met at fellowship hall to pray as a group. We then divided into 3 teams to serve at the Flemington Food Pantry, Grow-A-Row's Milford farm, and staying at CPC to organize the Hurricane Florence relief buckets donations.

At the Flemington Food Pantry, our team filled and organized the pantry shelves from the 6 pallets of items they had emptied.

At Grow-A-Row, our team helped harvest winter squash. We worked alongside volunteers from other organizations, making sure to harvest all of the remaining squash before the frost could damage the produce. Overall the volunteers were able to harvest approximately 40,000 pounds of squash which will provide about 160,000 servings of farm fresh food for thousands of our neighbors who are struggling with food insecurity.

At CPC, our team was able to organize 9 buckets worth of donations. By partnering with Church World Service, those buckets will provide emergency clean up supplies to help with relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence.

We look forward to our next Be The Church Day!





# Pumpkin Decorating at CPC



## Children's Sunday

Thank you to all of our children who lead us in worship on October 28<sup>th</sup>. What a special gift. Our children's chorus sang, our Pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup> graders were greeters and ushers, our Third graders Castor Penyak and Abby Jenkin received their new Bibles and we were all charged to go on a "Mission of Love" to share about Jesus. Thanks to our Sunday school teachers and others who helped to make this morning so wonderful.





### Upcoming in Worship

**November 4**

Communion/ All Saints' Sunday

**November 11**

Seminary Intern, Melissa Temple preaching

**November 18**

A Service of Thanksgiving

**November 25**

Christ the King Sunday

### Noisy Offering

Our children have already collected over \$68 this fall!

They are leading the way for us!

The next noisy offering dates are November 4 and December 2.

### Glory to God Hymnals

Our all new hymnals have arrived!

We will dedicate them during our

Thanksgiving worship service on November 18.

Many thanks to all who sponsored a hymnal.

If you would still like to do so, please contact

Cathy Nace at [cnace57@yahoo.com](mailto:cnace57@yahoo.com).

### Advent Candle Lighters

During the Sundays in Advent we light a candle on our advent wreath as we prepare to celebrate Christmas together. If you are interested in lighting one the candles this year together with friends or family, please contact Tracey to let her know.

Readings and prayers will be provided.

[tracey4cpc@gmail.com](mailto:tracey4cpc@gmail.com)

### Looking for Ushers for Christmas Eve

If interested in ushering at the 11 pm service on Christmas Eve, please contact

Cathy Nace at [cnace57@yahoo.com](mailto:cnace57@yahoo.com) or Linda Schipmann-Pustai at [lindaschipmann@hotmail.com](mailto:lindaschipmann@hotmail.com)

### A note from the Personnel Ministry: Reverend Henry's Summer 2019 Renewal Leave

As announced to the congregation on October 14, Tracey Henry's terms of call include a 3 month renewal leave to be made available in the 7<sup>th</sup> year of service. The sabbatical was included in the original offer made to Reverend Henry by the Pastor Nominating Committee when she first joined CPC. Renewal leave is recommended by the Presbytery on a periodic basis for all pastors, as it provides an opportunity for church leaders to step back, recharge their batteries, and pursue spiritual growth.

After much deliberation and consultation with Session, Tracey has decided to take her leave during the summer of 2019. Session has unanimously supported her request.

As this is a paid leave, in most cases this sabbatical period comes at an additional cost to congregations in order to provide pulpit support for worship and other pastoral needs for the duration of the leave. Tracey sought feedback from other churches about how they manage this expense and learned about a foundation that recognizes that sabbaticals can be very healthy for both the congregation and the pastor. She submitted a thorough and persuasive grant application, and she recently learned that her request was approved.

Thanks to Tracey's efforts, CPC will receive a grant that will not only completely cover the expenses associated with our pulpit needs for next summer, but will also fund congregational gatherings which will allow for reflection during her leave. The grant also includes a subsidy which will allow Tracey to pursue additional spiritual study during her time away from us.

CPC is one of only 148 churches in the United States that were selected for funding. Furthermore, CPC is the only recipient located in New Jersey. You can read more about this grant [in the foundation's press release](#).

While the leave period is still several months away, we want to responsibly plan for next summer so there will be minimal disruption to our congregation. Pastor Henry has formed a sabbatical planning team that includes Christine Davies, Cathy Edelsberg, Dave Kelly, Paul Morrissette, and Jill Prakopcyk. This group will work with each ministry team to make sure their summer 2019 pastoral needs are met. Please contact Tracey or any of the team members if you have any concerns about the upcoming renewal leave. The sabbatical planning team will keep the congregation updated periodically in the months ahead.



# Children and Youth

## Sunday School Classes 10:45 – 11:30 am

### Preschool and Elementary

Kids and teachers will continue to use the PC(USA) curriculum, Growing in Grace and Gratitude.

Kids: Meet your teachers each week in Fellowship Hall at 10:45 am.

Parents: Pick up your kids at classrooms at 11:30 am.

**Pre-K (3 and 4's)** upstairs Blue Room  
Teachers: Joanne Berson, Megan Bauman

**Kindergarten – 2nd Grade** upstairs Blue Room  
Teachers: Kim Darcy, Judi Sifuentes, Cathy Edelsberg

**3rd – 5th Grade** upstairs Coral Spice Room  
Teachers: Adrienne Hodulik and Barbara Plundeke



They wore no capes. They wore no masks. Yet our **incredible** Sunday school kids saved the day several times last month. The Town of Clinton's Pumpkinfest on October 19 was in good hands.

Our kids created superhero pumpkins who kept watch on Main Street that night. Then came October 28 - Children's Sunday. Our kids used their powers – their talents – to serve as ushers and greeters, singers and readers. Each 3<sup>rd</sup> grader was presented with a Bible – the ultimate superhero manual!

## Sunday School Schedule Pre-K thru Grade 5

- November 4 Regular classes
- November 11 Pack Thanksgiving Baskets  
We'll gather in Fellowship Hall
- November 18 Regular Classes
- November 25 No Sunday School  
Thanksgiving weekend



### Thanksgiving Baskets

On November 11 during Sunday school, Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> graders will assist CPC's Mission Ministry, packing boxes with Thanksgiving food donations for local families in need.

From pumpkins now to turkeys, November reminds us to be grateful. Thank you, God, for allowing us to be recipients of your grace, for enabling us to be your superheroes. We are powerful because God loves us and acts on our behalf. He is the most supreme superhero and He is on our side. So far this year, we have learned about Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, Ishmael and Isaac, Joseph, Moses and the Israelites, Deborah, and Elijah – all Old Testament superheroes because they have been blessed by God's grace too. God looked out for them as He looks out for us.

### K-2nd learning about Genesis Creating their own garden while listening to the story of Creation and of Adam and Eve.



K-2 Sunday school students learn about superheroes of the bible.



# Children and Youth

## Youth Group

Happy November! This is a wonderful month to celebrate family and be extra thankful for all that God has blessed us with. It's going to be a month of service and gratitude! Our youth have been hard at work cracking each other up, making new friends, and serving our community by helping with Hurricane Relief buckets, thanks to guidance from Sandie Lundeen! New faces to our crew have sparked new friendships and more laughs - never a dull moment on a Sunday night! Sunday Funday and CHAOS have taken on lives of their own and we are on the grow! It's been so fun to find new favorite games and have our kids texting their friends at the end of the night to come the next week!

Kids Night Out was a huge success with nearly 20 kids present! We enjoyed pizza, legos, The Incredibles, and some crafts. Kids are already asking when the next one will be! Thanks to Sharon Holmsborg, Megan Baumann, and Ross Traphagen for being key adults that evening!

Sunday Funday & CHAOS meet EVERY Sunday unless otherwise noted (due to holidays or special events).

**Sunday Funday** Grades 3-5 5:30pm – 6:30pm

**CHAOS** Grades 6-12 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](mailto:maggie4cpc@gmail.com)  
Follow us on INSTAGRAM!! @chaosyouthministry

### November 11

Assemble Thanksgiving baskets (morning activity)

### November 11

Youth Group Movie Night

### November 17

Deliver Thanksgiving baskets

### November 25

No Sunday Funday or Chaos  
(Thanksgiving weekend)

### December 16

Youth Group Christmas Party

## Sunday School Grades 6 – 12

**Middle School** downstairs Den

Teachers – Bob Tombs and Paul Morrisette

Learn more about the bible, ask big questions of faith, spend time with friends. Students will be dismissed at 11:30 am.

**Confirmation Class** Wolverton Building Students in grades 9 and 10

Teachers: Maggie Bell and Leslie Hyman

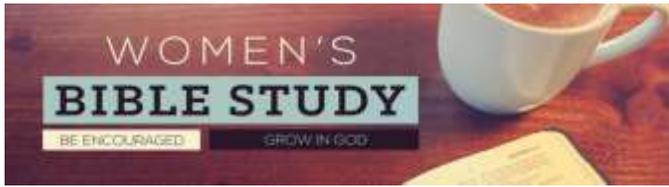
Explore more about our journey of faith and consider what it means to be a member of the church. Students will be dismissed at 11:30 am each week.

**High school students** who are not a part of the confirmation class this year, please contact Maggie Bell to learn of Sunday morning service opportunities.





# Adult Bible Studies & Sunday School



## Tuesday Mornings @ 10:00 am in FH

We'll begin a new study on November 6 at 10:00 am.

We will be reading and discussing Exodus.

Please feel free to join us even if you are unable to attend every Tuesday. Contact Judy Moller at [richard\\_moller\\_471@comcast.net](mailto:richard_moller_471@comcast.net)

## Women's Evening Bible Study

Join us on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm as we read through Tish Warren's *Liturgy of the Ordinary* together and explore the habits of our everyday, ordinary lives, noticing how God is at work in the midst of them.

Chapters are short and accessible so this is a perfect study to slot into busy schedules. We'll pair Warren's reflections with scripture as we meet together.

We'll gather on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday nights.

Meeting dates: November 12 & 26, December 10

## Pastor Appreciation Thank You

Friends,  
Thank you for your kind words and gifts on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. It is always nice to know that you are appreciated and this congregation does a wonderful job of making that clear to me. I am deeply grateful for our meaningful ministry together. You are each a blessing to me.

In gratitude,  
Tracey



## 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the Month @ 7:30 am in Fellowship Hall

Get a jump start on your weekend and on Sunday's scriptures by joining us to feed your body and soul. No preparation necessary.

Bring yourself and a bible, we'll take turns providing the breakfast goods. Contact David Henry with questions – [dhenry169@gmail.com](mailto:dhenry169@gmail.com)  
Meeting Dates: November 10, December 8 & 22



Meets upstairs Sunday mornings at 10:45

We'll continue to work our way through Theoacademy's series **Being Presbyterian: Foundations of Presbyterian Discipleship.**

To be Presbyterian is to join a way of life informed by a particular rhythm: *God calls us in grace and love; we respond in gratitude.*

With a turn to scripture and theology we'll learn about this basic rhythm of our life together. Whether you have been a Presbyterian your whole life long or if you are new to the denomination, our time together will be enriching.



# 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 the Ahmed family. To sign up please follow the links below.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Doris :

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

Ahmed's:

<https://www.TakeThemAMeal.com/QQBL3948>

## Food Pantry Donations:

We continue to collect toiletries and non-perishable food for the Open Cupboard Food Pantry here in Clinton. You can bring your donations to church and put them in the baskets by the door in front of the Sanctuary. If you would like to provide cash, instead of actual items, there is an envelope in the baskets for that as well. We thank you for your support. The food pantry is always very appreciative of our donations.

## Well Wishes Cards:

Please remember to sign the well wishes cards that are on the table during Fellowship Time after church. It only takes a moment to write a note to someone to let them know that you will pray for them and are thinking about them during a happy or sad time. The Deacons have heard from recipients who are very appreciative, so please take the time. It could make someone's day!



# Serving Others

## We need volunteers to serve with the Relief Bus on Friday, November 2

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, November 2.

**Please contact Sandie Lundeen [slundeen@comcast.net](mailto:slundeen@comcast.net) or Dave Kelly [dsh27@comcast.net](mailto:dsh27@comcast.net) to volunteer or if you have any questions.**

Thank you to all those who contributed to our special offering for the Relief Bus on September 23. \$817 was received to support this life-changing ministry.



The deacons are hosting a

## Fall Coat Drive

that will run from now through the first week of November. We are collection new or gently used coats of all sizes. Please place donations on coat racks located in the downstairs "den". All donations will be taken to the Market Street Mission, Thrift Shop in Clinton



# Serving Others

## Annual Thanksgiving Basket Drive

We will be collecting and delivering food for local families in need. Collection started on October 7 and will continue until November 4. The boxes will be packed up on Sunday, November 11 and delivered on Saturday, November 17.

We will be collecting the following items:

- Can of Coffee
- Box of Tea Bags
- Ketchup
- Peanut Butter
- Jam / Jelly
- Crackers
- Box of Mac 'n' Cheese
- Box of Dry Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Canned Soup
- Box of Cereal
- Instant Jell-o / Pudding
- Canned Sweet Whole Kernel Corn
- Canned French Style Green Beans
- Canned Sweet Potatoes
- Canned Jellied Cranberry Sauce
- Jar of Applesauce (no unsweetened)
- Herb Seasoned Stuffing (bag)
- Can / Jar of Turkey Gravy
- Apple Juice (64 oz.)

Please bring all donations to Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in delivering boxes, please keep a look out for sign-ups.

Questions?

Contact Sandie Lundeen ([sllundeen@comcast.net](mailto:sllundeen@comcast.net)), Rick Hyman ([rhyman@embarqmail.com](mailto:rhyman@embarqmail.com)), or Christina Schlegel ([cecmschlegel@gmail.com](mailto:cecmschlegel@gmail.com)).



Our annual tree will be in the back of the Sanctuary from November 11 until December 2.

This is your opportunity to help our friends and neighbors in need, many of whom we support during the year through our mission outreach. Let's help make this a Merry Christmas for them all!

This year we have ornaments for children of local families, children whose families are homeless and part of Family Promise, single moms and their children at Friendship Center for New Beginnings in Flemington, Family Promise in Hunterdon county, Relief Bus, and children and teens in Maine. Each ornament describes an individual need for a gift. Please take one or take several and purchase the items needed.

**Please return all gifts UNWRAPPED and place them under the tree by Sunday, December 2.**

Tape the ornaments to your gifts. You can also include wrapping paper and tape to go along with your gifts.

On Tuesday, December 4, the Mission team will gather in Fellowship Hall to pack up all the gifts for mailing or local delivery. You are welcome to join us. Thank you all for your support of those in need this Christmas!

Questions? [cindyboyer@comcast.net](mailto:cindyboyer@comcast.net) or [sllundeen@comcast.net](mailto:sllundeen@comcast.net)



# Stewardship

## Session Re-cap: Month of October

### Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry had a table at the Superhero Sprint on October 6 and distributed handouts to acquaint the community with CPC. Sixteen children attended the Kids Night Out on October 6 and enjoyed pizza and a movie. Pumpkins and gourds were painted in Sunday School for the Clinton Pumpkin Fest on October 19. Sunday School is preparing for the Children's Service on October 28.

### Mission

Be the Church Day on October 13 was very successful. Groups served at the Flemington Food Pantry, Grow a Row and at CPC preparing the hurricane relief buckets. More supply donations are needed for the buckets. Preparations for the Thanksgiving baskets are underway. Sunday School will pack up the boxes on November 11. Work is also underway on the Giving Tree.

### Operations

The painting and carpet installation in the offices and hallway will be completed by October 24. Quotes are being obtained for snow plowing. Reviewing a contractor bid for the maintenance of the boiler.

### Worship and Music

November 4 will be All Saints Remembrance Day. This year, in addition to congregation members who passed away in the last year, family and friends will also be remembered. The new hymnals have arrived and will be used for the first time on November 18. The team is busy planning for the Advent season. Our music director, Gary Ross, will be taking a sabbatical in January and February 2019. In his absence, Larry Kursar and Ted Brancato will serve as interim music directors.

### Youth Ministry

CHAOS is well attended but the Sunday Funday group has had a low attendance. The confirmation class will attend Confirmation Day at Camp Johnsonburg on October 27. Preparing for Trunk or Treat on Halloween.



If you have not yet made your financial pledge to CPC for 2019, hop on over to <http://clintonpresbyterian.net/stewardship/online-stewardship-pledge/> now and join with others in your church family who are committed to supporting mission and ministry here. Let's give gratefully.

### Treasurer's Report Summary

	Sept.	YTD Actual	Budget YTD	YTD Actual vs. Budget Variance
Income	\$26,892	\$262,648	\$233,397	113%
Expense	\$33,381	\$297,824	\$282,699	105%
<b>Operating Deficit</b>	<b>(\$6,489)</b>	<b>(\$35,176)</b>	<b>(\$49,302)</b>	
Bequest & Memorial Income*	\$2,510	\$67,806		
<b>Total Deficit</b>	<b>(\$3,979)</b>	<b>\$32,630</b>		



# Advent/Christmas Preview



## ***Cookies & Cocoa***

Join us in Fellowship Hall after the Clinton Christmas Parade on Friday, December 7. We also plan to have all our Sunday School kids Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade on our float. Look out for more details!

Join us on Wednesday evenings,  
During Advent to worship and reflect.  
7 pm on December 5, 12 and 19



## **Worship Service – December 16 @ 5 PM**

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. We will offer a quiet meditative worship service that makes time for remembering, time for sharing our hurting places with God, and time for preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. All are welcome.



## **5pm Family Service**

As a congregation we will retell the story of Christ's birth with the angels, the shepherds and the sheep. Don't miss this special service.

## **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.



## November Birthdays

- 1 Ino Sowder
- 2 Amey Barnes, Liam Berson, Andrew Christopher, Reed Heine, Castor Penyak, Rosie Sudol
- 3 Kim Sayre
- 5 Kirsten Buck, Sharon Holmsborg
- 6 Ashley Krushinski
- 7 Jan Kreutel
- 9 Rebecca Roth
- 12 Kinsco Pusztai
- 15 Finn Berson
- 16 Bob Tombs
- 20 Scott Lundeen
- 21 Joe LaSpada
- 24 Doris Cramer
- 25 Scarlett Penyak
- 27 Carol Kotopoulos
- 28 Barbara Lewis
- 29 Cynthia Christopher
- 30 Matthew Hodulik

## November Anniversaries

- 7 Caleb and Christina Schlegel
- 20 Tom and Shelley Brankner



## Boy Scout Troop 121

The Troop held their Fall Court of Honor on Monday, October 1.

Scouts were honored for rank advancements and merit badges earned since the previous Court of Honor.

A group of Scouts worked on the Cycling merit badge this month, which included two rides – one of 10 miles and one of 50 miles.

Scouts also practiced their Geocaching skills during a Saturday activity at the Wattles Stewardship Center of the Audubon Society in Port Murray.

The Troop participated in the 2018 Scout Fest at Mercer County Park in West Windsor Township.

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