



Clinton Presbyterian Church

December 2018



From the Pastor

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

"The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment." Frederick Beuchner

Dear Friends,

The liturgical season of Advent can often be overshadowed by its much larger sibling, Christmas. Come December 25 we can discover that we have spent the better part of two months "getting ready for Christmas" while wearing ourselves out.

Advent is extremely radical and different. These four weeks call us to focus on waiting and watching for the Lord. Instead of instant results and rapid fulfillment, we are called to yearn and have a pregnant expectation for the Lord.

A careful, prayerful and intentional Advent season tends to have a significant impact on our celebration of Christmas. When we observe Advent, some pre-Christmas activities are often seen in a different light becoming less important and even non-essential. Advent can help us slow down and pace ourselves.

A slower pace makes us more aware of the promptings of the Holy Spirit, opening our eyes to that which is Holy around us. Don't rush this season.

Join us for **worship on Sundays** as we take an Adventure through the gospel of Luke. Come with open hearts.

Pause in your week for **Advent Vespers**. Stillness and reflection help prepare the way.

Dwell daily in Scripture, using the Advent devotionals provided as a guide. Light one candle after another.

Invite others to join you as we make our way to the manger. They will find a welcome here.

The Light is coming.

See you in church,

Tracey



Advent Vespers Wednesdays at 7 PM

“Let There Be Light”

December is a month where it often feels like life is speeding up, but our hope is that as a community we will slow down for a few minutes each week to hold space with a weary world that waits for peace. Please join us on at 7 pm on December 5, 12 and 19 in Fellowship Hall as we sit in the darkness together and watch for the light. The intention for these evenings is to co-create a contemplative space to hold our longings, and remind one another that what we wait and hope for is coming, and has already come. This Advent we will be exploring themes of light and darkness through art, journaling, liturgy, songs, prayer, and stories. You are welcome to join for just one night, or all of them, and bring your friends, kids, neighbors and anyone who needs hope this season and the reminder that as we wait for all things to be made well, we do not wait alone.

Advent Devotionals



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.



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.



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.



Children and Youth

Every good
and perfect



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

The Bible is God's gift to us. It may not be wrapped in holiday paper nor adorned with a bow, hidden under the Christmas tree. But when we open this gift, what surprises lie inside – God's superheroes, God's promises, God's lessons, God's love!

In November we continued to meet Old Testament superheroes like Elijah and Jeremiah. We shared God's love during Sunday School as our kids filled Thanksgiving boxes to be gifted to local families. If you happened to be in Fellowship Hall that morning, you witnessed kids on a mission. The room was full of energy as they eagerly gathered the food items on each checklist.



Our children will present the **Christmas story during worship** on Sunday, December 23. Be on the lookout for rehearsal times and details. They also will participate in the **Christmas Eve Children's Chorus**. We will hold singing practice for Christmas Eve during Sunday School in December.



December 2	Regular classes
December 9	Regular classes
December 16	Regular classes
December 23	Christmas pageant during worship followed by breakfast after service in Fellowship Hall. No Sunday School
December 24	Christmas Eve Family Service – Children's Chorus 5 pm
December 30	No Sunday School Happy New Year!
January 6	Sunday School resumes

REMINDER: Christmas parade in Clinton – Friday, December 7

If your kid(s) would like to ride on the CPC float, please let Tracey know.
Dinner will be served at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Don't forget to pick up your copy of "An Illustrated Advent". It includes five simple devotionals for each week of Advent and Christmas as well as coloring pages, an Advent calendar and a "build-a-nativity" activity.

Your children are gifts to us!

Wishing you all an **INCREDIBLE** holiday.

Merry Christmas!



Children and Youth

Youth Group

This month as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we are also celebrating the year we had in Sunday Funday and CHAOS! Our youth have been hard at work cracking each other up, making new friends, and serving our local community over the last year. New faces to our crew have sparked new friendships and more laughs and that means we are growing - not only in size but in impact! It's been so fun to watch the bonds that have formed on Sundays and the days that follow. Our kids are the example of love thy neighbor that we should all follow!

In November we gathered in our usual way, with laughs and games and food and friendships. December will bring with it festivities and service. We're excited to close out this awesome year and make way for 2019!

Keep an eye out for special events and themed nights - here are some that already made the calendar:

December 2 & 9 - Regular Scheduling

December 16 - Youth Group Christmas Party

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

Sunday Funday

Grades 3-5 5:30 – 6:30 pm

CHAOS

Grades 6-12 7:00– 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](https://www.instagram.com/chaosyouthministry)

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*

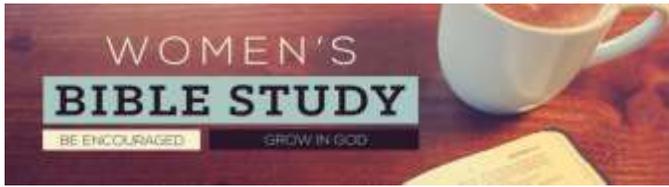
Explore more about our journey of faith and consider what it means to be a member of the church. Students will be dismissed at 11:30 am each week.

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 are 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

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.

Meeting date: December 10



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.



2nd and 4th 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

Meeting dates: December 8 & 22



Relationships

Cookies and Cocoa after Parade **Friday, December 7**

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.



A **Children's Pageant** will be presented during the worship service on **December 23** 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.

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 Kvartha family. To sign up please follow the links below.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Doris Cramer:

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

Andrew and Megan Kvartha:

<https://takethemameal.com/meals.php?t=LXMJ7617>

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 front door, special care was taken in discussing this issue. A plan was made to make holiday visits; if you know of anyone that may need a holiday visit, please contact your deacon. The Deacons did make a holiday visit to the Perez family. 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.

Delivering meals is always a top priority for the Deacons. Families and Individuals in need are supported through this program. Last month we delivered meals to the Ahmed's and Doris Cramer.

The coat drive was a great success. About 35 coats went to the Market Street Mission to help the men in that program and people who come off the streets for shelter and clothing, and 70 coats went to several other organizations including the Clinton Thrift Shop. This was above expectations and showed the willingness of our congregation to help those less fortunate.

Clinton Food Pantry deliveries continue. Toiletries and non-perishable items are always collected in the Sanctuary to the left of the door that leads to Fellowship Hall.

Please make sure to check after worship for Well Wishes Table in Fellowship Hall. Cards are placed there for a variety of reasons such as sympathy, congratulations and special occasions.

The Deacons reviewed upcoming activities and services. Vespers Services will be held on December 5, 12 and 19 at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. The Blue Christmas Service is December 16 at 5:00 pm and Christmas Eve services at 5:00 and 11:00 pm. At the end of the November meeting the Deacons spent some time on plans for 2018. We centered on plans on how to care for the congregation and for those members that have not been attending and how to reach out to them.

Mission Thank You!

THANK YOU to our wonderful, generous and caring congregation for this season of giving!

Thanks to all of you we delivered baskets of food to 30 families here in the Clinton area.

Thank you for all the donations of food and money as well as your time putting baskets together, shopping at ShopRite and then delivering to families. We also thank ShopRite for their annual generous discount on our food purchases at their store.

Thank you to everyone who took an ornament from our Christmas tree to buy gifts for children and their parents at Family Promise, to buy gifts for single moms and their children at Friendship Center for New Beginnings, to buy gift cards for ShopRite, gasoline, Walmart or Target. Some of you bought gifts for children in Maine or bought books for kids or hats and mittens. Some of you bought new and much needed underwear for little children at Head Start preschool in Flemington. And some of you bought gifts for a couple local families in need.

Thank you one and all for all your generous contributions to make this a happy holiday season for so many in our community and across the miles to old friends in Maine. When you have so much, it's hard to realize how difficult life can be for those with so little. You have all helped to make life a little easier for our friends in need.

Merry Christmas and many thanks to all~

Your Mission Team





Serving Others



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.

Mission Volunteer Opportunities – The Relief Bus on Friday, December 7

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, December 7 at Penn Station/Newark. In 2019, our days to serve will be the 3rd Friday of each month.

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!





Session Re-cap: Month of November

Discipleship

Children's Ministry

Sunday School is preparing for the Advent Pageant on December 23. The 3 year old preschool class has doubled in size. Preschool pictures were taken earlier in the month by Lisa Heilman.

Youth Ministry

The team is brainstorming how to keep kids involved. Investigating a logo for tee-shirts. December 22 is Santa Con in Clinton.

Mission

Thirty-two Thanksgiving Baskets were delivered among the community. The team is grateful for the generosity of the congregation and to Shop Rite for their generosity in providing free turkeys. The Giving Tree is at the back of the Sanctuary. Gifts are due by December 2.

Fellowship & Member Care

Fellowship hour is covered through December. The team will be spearheading the "Cookies & Cocoa" on December 7 for after the Clinton Christmas Parade. Discussing activities for the winter season.

Welcome & Growth

The team is trying to get the new website live before Christmas.

Operations

The Boy Scouts will do a property clean up on December 1. An annual checklist/calendar for church maintenance and service is being developed. Continue to solicit quotes from vendors for snow removal. The team would like to thank Glenn Allen for his assistance in resolving the boiler issues with minimal expense to CPC.

Worship and Music

The new hymnals were dedicated on November 18. The assistance of the congregation is requested to decorate the church inside and outside on November 25.



Session has called our Annual Congregational Meeting for January 27, immediately following worship. Please make every effort to join us.

	Oct.	YTD Actual	Budget YTD
Income	\$24,666	\$287,313	\$259,330
Expense	\$47,852	\$346,398	\$314,110
Operating Deficit	(\$23,186)	(\$59,085)	(\$54,780)
Bequest & Memorial Income*	\$6,081	\$73,887	
Total Deficit	(\$17,105)	\$14,802	

Poinsettia Order Form

Deadline for ordering is December 16

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 _____



Our Boy Scout Troop 121

November Theme: Science

The Troop went to Washington DC for a long weekend November 8-11.

The Troop band will be participating in the Clinton Christmas Parade on December 7.

The Troop will host a Breakfast with Santa fundraiser at the Clinton Fire House on Sunday, December 9 from 8 am until 12 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

- 1 Alice Korab
- 2 Matthew Guest
- 3 Ryan Twigg, Bill Warner
- 7 Lora Pelose
- 9 Dennis Kotopoulos
- 10 Skylar Berry
- 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 Kvarta
- 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
- 3 Cassie Battaglia, Matthew Miller, Rich Prakopcyk, Alyssa Tombs
- 4 Charlotte Blaus
- 5 Glenn Allen
- 6 Rebecca Tombs
- 7 Ben Prakopcyk
- 8 Spencer Holmsborg, Christopher Honthy, Rick Hyman
- 12 Sara Kunzman
- 13 Kenneth Wirth
- 14 Rachel Battaglia, Domenic DiPace
- 15 Cliff 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 Megan Bauman, Dave Boyer

January Anniversaries

- 29 Michael and Linda Wilton-McCaffrey

