



Clinton Presbyterian Church

**January/February
2019**

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

"To be faithful in little things is a great thing" Mother Teresa

Dear Friends,

Today is January 30th (but it feels like at least January 74th). It's bitterly cold outside (although nothing compared to what the Midwest is experiencing). Spring seems like a long way off.

Yet today I woke up in warm home and had breakfast. I am working in a warm office and have plenty of food for lunch. Later tonight we'll go out for dinner as a family to celebrate Parker's 5th birthday. Then I'll climb into my own warm bed.

Today, I have all the resources I need and more.

For others in our community these winter days are truly a struggle. Food, shelter, warmth and the love of family are not a given. As a church family, we have the opportunity over the next couple of weeks to bless others through giving and in doing so to share the love of Christ.

This Sunday, consider a donation to the **Souperbowl of Caring**. We will be receiving both cans of food and monetary donations which will be directed to local food pantries to help stock their shelves.

And at the end of February, we'll serve as home base for **Family Promise** guests. Consider bringing a meal, spending a few hours with our guests in the evening, or committing to an overnight shift. Help us make this sacred space feel like home. There are more details and a link to sign up on page 9.

Our efforts will not solve the issues of hunger and homelessness; that will be ongoing work as we strive to be the Church. But perhaps they will lighten a friend's burden and make these days a little easier. Please join me in serving.

See you in church,

Tracey

Looking Back...December 2019

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.



Worship

Upcoming in Worship

February 3

Souper Bowl of Caring

Communion Sunday

Luke 4: 21-30

February 10

Boy Scout Sunday

Luke 5: 1-11

February 17

Luke 6: 17-26

February 24

Baptism – Marybeth Noelle Ahmed

Luke 6: 27-38

Thank You

The Worship Ministry Team would like to thank everyone who helped in many and various ways to decorate our Church for the Christmas season and also all those who served in worship throughout this special time.

Missing

Does anyone know the whereabouts of the white linen "In Remembrance of Me" communion tablecloth?

If so, please let Cathy Nace know.

cnace57@yahoo.com

Thank you.

Christmas Joy Offering

Thank you all for your deep generosity on Christmas Eve. A total of \$828 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.



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 3) 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.

Scout Sunday

Sunday, February 10

Our Boy Scout Troop will be participating in the worship service on February 10. All scouts are encouraged to wear their uniform.

Children and Youth



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

God's love is real. We see it in the eyes of our children. We hear it in their voices. Could you not feel the love as our Sunday School kids retold the Christmas story during worship in December? Could you not hear the love as they sang for us on Christmas Eve?

Children's Ministry wishes to thank Maggie Bell, Jenny Kunzman, Paul Morrissette, our awesome students and our dedicated adult volunteers for a memorable Christmas pageant. What a wonderful reminder of what the season is all about!

During Sunday School, we were reminded of God's love as we explored Epiphany, baptism, temptation and discipleship. Now, we will be sharing the love as Sunday School participates in a valentine mission project on February 10 during class.

Join us each Sunday in February as we continue to learn about God's love... and meet more of His superheroes!
(2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24)

Remember to meet your teachers
in Fellowship Hall at 10:40 am.



Children and Youth

Youth Group

February may be a short month, but we're packing it full of FUN and CHAOS! First, let's take a look back at January. We had a fun month to kick off 2019 - it was full of games, fellowship, planning, and service! It was so fun to hang out with our college crew while they were home on break. Do humans get more competitive as they grow? Maybe... because we had two crazy, fun, competitive game nights and what a blast they were! Looking forward to more get togethers over Spring and Summer breaks!

Imagination is the key for our middle and high school crew these days as we started putting together our Annual Youth Sunday Service, coming up on March 3rd. Get ready... it's going to be a Sunday you'll want to be here for (well, every Sunday is, really)!

We also had the opportunity in January to finish up the Hurricane Relief Buckets to send to our friends affected by natural disasters this past Fall. We look forward to delivering them to their collection location in the next couple of weeks in Hamilton! In February we look forward to more service projects in our area. If you have any ideas for us to serve within CPC or in the local community, please let us know! Using parts of our Sunday night gatherings for service and Bible study have become important pieces of our fellowship.

Youth!! Join us on February 3rd for a Super Bowl Party!! Details on timing will be out in email - but get it on the calendar! You won't want to miss it! We will also be taking a trip to a nearby ski spot to go snow tubing later in the month - keep an eye out for pricing and timing information from Maggie.

We're seriously having so much fun & we are so grateful to have y'all along for the ride with us!

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

February 3 - Youth Group Super Bowl Party @ Berson's Home, 32 Messig Road, Clinton

February 17 - Service Night, regularly scheduled youth groups

February 24 - Snow Tubing, location TBA (Grades 6 - 12)

March 3 - Youth Sunday (during service); Youth Group Movie Night

Questions? Want to get involved?

Email Maggie Bell at maggie4cpc@gmail.com

Sunday School Grades 6 - 12

Middle School downstairs Den

Teachers - Bob Tombs and Paul Morrissette

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.

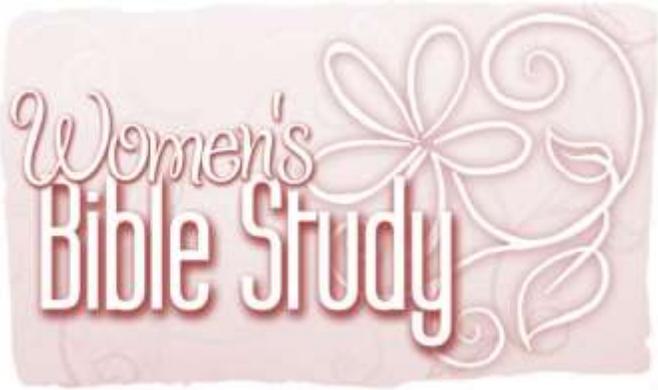


Sunday Funday & CHAOS meet EVERY Sunday
unless otherwise noted

Sunday Funday	Grades 3-5	5:30 - 6:30 pm
CHAOS	Grades 6-12	7:00- 8:30 pm

Follow us on INSTAGRAM!! @chaosyouthministry

Adult Bible Studies & Sunday School



Tuesday Mornings @ 10:00 am in Coral Spice Room

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 Monday evenings at 7:00 pm in the downstairs "den" 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 dates: Feb 11 & 25



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: Feb 9 & 23



Meets upstairs Sunday mornings at 10:45

On Sunday, February 3, our Seminary Intern Melissa Temple will share about her recent trip to South Africa.

Relationships

Deacon Update *Deacon of the month/Barbara Allen*

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

We are into the New Year, and exciting and wonderful things are happening at CPC. We are richly blessed!

Please know that your Deacons care about you. During our monthly meetings, we are praying “name by name” for all of our CPC members, throughout the year. If you have any needs, or prayer requests, please connect with your Deacon, (or any of the Deacons).

The congregation is divided by the first letter of the last name as follows:

David Henry – Letters A, N, O

Jason Krushinski – Letters Ba - Bi

Nancy Paul Letter S

Wendy Morrissette – Letter L

Rick Hyman – Letter M

Robin Meyh – Letters I, J & K

Laurel Kelly – Letters D & E

Judy Beck – Letter P

Sharon Rosenberg – Letter C & H

Barbara Allen – Letters Q, R & T

Martha Roth – Letters F, G, V, & W

Cathy Edelsberg – Letters Bl - Bu

We continue to deliver non-perishable food items and toiletries to the Open Cupboard Food Pantry in Clinton. The CPC collection baskets are in the front of the Sanctuary; there are envelopes for cash donations as well. This is an important ministry for all of us to be a part of. As you shop for your family please consider adding a few items to donate.

In the spirit of love and caring for others, the deacons have planned **Gift Card Sundays for February 17, 24 and March 3**. Members of the Congregation are invited to donate \$5-\$25 gift cards from ShopRite or Walmart. If you prefer to write a check, please make it payable to Clinton Presbyterian Church with "gift card" in the memo. These cards will be kept in the church office and will be distributed by the pastor throughout the year. There will be a special gift card box at the front of the Sanctuary on these dates – simply place your donation in the box. Thank you for your support of this ministry which is very helpful to those in need!

December 29, 2018

To my CPC friends,

I want to thank you all for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers before, during and after my recent back surgery. I have gone through 2 back surgeries and a hip replacement in the past 24 months. Each time, CPC has been there to strengthen my spirit with prayers and messages of encouragement through phone calls, text messages and emails, and cards. You have no idea how comforting it is to go into something like this knowing you have a team of friends praying and caring for your well-being! CPC remains an extraordinary place. Thank you for making Nancy and me feel so connected to you and the church we love. Blessings to all!

We just found out you are sending some meals our way. Between my situation and Nancy helping Courtney with Beckett (born on 12-13, almost 3 months pre-mature), please know how helpful and appreciated this thoughtful gift is to us. Thank you!

In Christ's Love,
Steve Hovey (Nancy, too!)

PS: At the time I am writing this letter it is 8 days post-operation. Every day I feel a little bit better. Everyone has told me that the 1st week is terrible, and it gets progressively better from there. They seem to be right! I am confident that this surgery has corrected the root cause of my back pain.



Relationships

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. To sign up please follow the links below. Your support is greatly appreciated!
Doris Cramer - <http://www.takethemameal.com/meals.php?t=OUPH0645>

An Invitation from the Fellowship & Member Care Ministry Team:



**& Game Night (games TBD)
Sunday, February 10 • 5 PM in Fellowship Hall**

Come join the fun!!
Get together for fellowship, games and food.

Bring your competitive spirit!!

If you would like to enter your chili in the contest,
please contact Jessica Bruno at
908.328.6943 or jessicaqbruno@gmail.com

Faith in Action

Don't Walk By

Don't Walk By (DWB) is an annual outreach in New York City where volunteers walk through the streets of Manhattan each winter on a search and rescue mission for the homeless. Volunteers seek to offer every single homeless or hungry person warm clothing, a blanket and the opportunity to get off the streets and enter a shelter and/or a residential program.

This is accomplished by walking a designated zone in Manhattan and engaging the homeless with the goal of having them accept an invitation to come back to an anchor church. At the anchor church, a meal will be available along with prayer, clothing, medical assessment and counseling regarding the availability of resources and social services programs. The guest is also given the opportunity to enter a private shelter for the night. The following day each shelter guest is provided with breakfast by a follow up team and given the opportunity to enter a life transforming program. DWB is organized and run by a coalition of organizations that assist the homeless, including the Relief Bus.

CPC will be serving as outreach volunteers on Saturday, February 2, but you can sign up for any Saturday in February. No previous experience is required. Training will be provided on the day of each outreach session. For more details, please visit www.dontwalkby.org

If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please contact Dave Kelly (908-391-6372 or DLSH27@comcast.net). Thank you!

Faith & Action Monthly Collection: Diapers!

We are going to start doing a monthly collection of specific items that can help our local community. or the month of February, we will be collecting diapers! We are looking for both children's diapers / pull-ups and adult diapers; all sizes are welcomed. There will be a collection bin in Fellowship Hall. Please keep a look out for the next monthly collection! Thank you!

CPC Serving as Family Promise "Host Site"

Family Promise will come to the church again in February. Our guests will be here from Sunday February 24-Sunday March 3. As always, our guests will be spending the nights in the classrooms upstairs and taking their meals and free time in Fellowship Hall.

An email was sent out on Monday asking for volunteers to fill various time slots during the week. Volunteers are needed each night to cook for and feed our guests. Another group of volunteers are needed in the 7-10 PM time slots to visit with our guests and to make sure they have what they need. Finally, volunteers are needed to sleep overnight at the church for the safety of our guests. Of course, on the weekends, those same time slots are needed with slots during the afternoon on Saturday and the initial Sunday. Follow this link to sign up for a time that works for you.

Our congregation has been very supportive of this program. If you wish to know more about it, please use the following website, <http://familypromisehc.org/>.

If you have any questions feel free to contact any or our coordinators:

Robin Meyh rmeyh@aol.com

Stephanie Ramos-Dominko sramosdominko@gmail.com

Rick Hyman ryhman@embarqmail.com

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, June 9 from 4 – 5:30 pm

African Children's Choir Concert

Join the African Children's Choir as they perform at CPC during their North American Tour. Come and experience a uniquely immersive performance that shows the beauty, dignity and potential of each African child! Admission will be free for all ages; a free-will offering will follow the Choir's concert. Don't miss out on this uniquely immersive worship experience through song, dance, and video story-telling!

Stewardship



2019 Stewardship Campaign

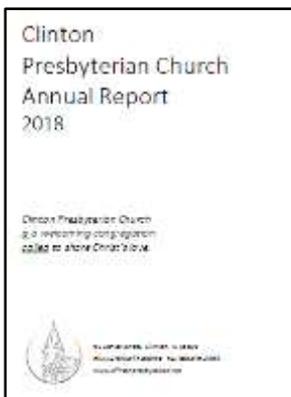
Thank you to all who have pledged to support mission and ministry through regular giving in the year ahead.

Our goal for pledges was 268,000 and we are delighted to share that to date we have received pledges totaling \$272,147. This represents a 7% increase in promised pledges as compared with 2018. Altogether 78 pledges were received, compared with 77 in 2018.

Thank you for responding so faithfully and so generously. If you would still like to pledge, you can do so online at:

<http://clintonpresbyterian.net/stewardship/online-stewardship-pledge/>

Annual Report



Our annual congregational meeting was held on January 27. At this time reports from all staff and ministry teams were received by the congregation. If you would like a copy of the report, please contact Diane in the church office at office4cpc@gmail.com

2019 Per Capita

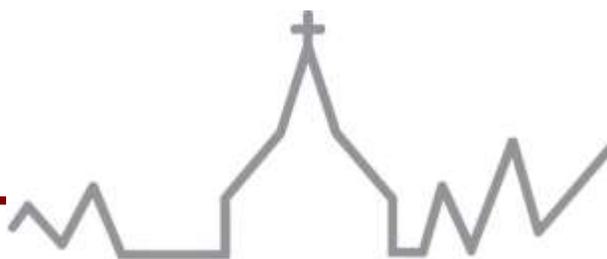
The 2019 Per Capita apportionment for each member of CPC is \$40.45. This is the amount that we remit to the Presbytery of Elizabeth each year.

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=wWsk24ZWJSTZKsGd1RMKlgoBDvsSG3VIWQCPJNNxD8upkiY7JlDavDsozUE7KGonFx2NSo8LdUKGuGuF396vbQhHDHPVzbwm10ozNJ5fEkSXHubq5Z7ap5Jv mPErc4ZeYHCKCZhesjGNQmZ5B-6dx2Ehob07njPTqYH5Vxv9PnQ=&ver=3

Thanks for helping us reach our goal in 2019!

2019 Offering Envelopes are available at the back of the Sanctuary.



Treasurer's Report Summary Y/E 2018

	December	YTD Actual	Budget YTD
Income	\$41,278	\$361,103	\$311,196
Expense	\$39,766	\$394,737	\$376,836
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$1,512	(\$33,634)	(\$65,640)

Session Round-Up: December

Discipleship

Children's Ministry

Sunday School is practicing for the Advent Pageant on December 23 and singing on Christmas Eve.

Youth Ministry

The team is in the planning stage to attend the 2019 Youth Triennium, which is a gathering of rising 9th graders – 12 grade Presbyterian youth, to be held in July at Purdue University in Indiana.

Mission

The Giving Tree gifts were wrapped and sent to the various organizations.

Fellowship & Member Care

Signing up volunteers for fellowship hour in January, February and March. Discussing activities for the winter season.

Welcome & Growth

The team is working on the new website and expect it to be live in early 2019.

Operations

An annual checklist/calendar for maintenance and service has been prepared. The kitchen faucets have been repaired. The drop ceiling in the preschool classrooms will be worked on during the preschool's Christmas break. Arrangements are being made to take down the big tree by the parking lot door. Outside lighting is being updated. Plans are being made for the renovation work on the manse that will happen while Tracey and her family are on sabbatical. The first meeting of the sabbatical committee was held. They are preparing a "to do" list. Ministry teams are asked to prepare a list of concerns to ensure that all bases are covered.

Worship and Music

The assistance of the congregation is requested to undecorate the church inside and outside on January 6. The team is exploring having an acolyte for worship services.

Nominating

Will be starting up in February.



Our Boy Scout Troop 121

December Theme: Rock Climbing

December was a busy month for the Troop.

They did a fall leaf clean up at the church on December 1.

They took a day trip to the Gravity Vault Rock Climbing Gym.

Other activities the Troop participated in were a roller skating party and the Town of Clinton Christmas Parade.

The Troop also hosted a Breakfast with Santa fundraiser at the Clinton Fire House.

January Theme: Engineering

The Troop took a day trip to Skyzone Trampoline Park and did a three day ski trip to Windham Mountain.

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

Save these Dates

A S H
WEDNESDAY
SERVICE



MARCH 6
7:00 PM

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

Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner
Tuesday, March 5

6:00 – 7:30 pm
Fellowship Hall



Celebrations!

February Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| 2 | Nancy Hovey | 16 | Christopher LaSpada |
| 4 | Jill Prakopcyk | 18 | Ellery Spencer |
| 5 | Barbara Allen | 19 | Janet Vitanza |
| 6 | Owen Maslanka | 21 | Martha LaValette |
| 8 | Brady Krushinski | 22 | Bob Miller |
| 10 | Daniel Prakopcyk | 24 | Roger Twigg |
| 11 | Jordan Tombs | 25 | Audrey Dadouris |
| 12 | Freddie Sifuentes, Diane Wirth | 26 | Lisa Heilman, Ryan Seiffert |
| 14 | Mark Warner | 28 | John Perez |

February Anniversary

- 14 Reed and Karen Heine