

November 2023

# Clinton Presbyterian Church

News & Events....



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## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Friends,

Our classrooms, hallways and parking lot have been overflowing with energy, joy and creative costumes in the last couple of days at CPC. From tiny preschoolers trick or treating with wide eyes, to finding ourselves the hub of community activity in Clinton on Halloween night, it has been so very fun! And certainly, it's a far cry from the Halloweens of my childhood in Northern Ireland with black plastic bin liners fashioned into a witch's cape at the last minute, plastic masks (which smelled horrific!) and carved turnips rather than pumpkin Jack-O-Lanterns!

Today, the day following "All Hallow's Eve", is sometimes called "All Hallows Day" in the U.K. On this side of the Atlantic we call it All Saints Day. We'll mark this occasion more carefully on Sunday as we remember those we have loved and lost in this last calendar year. For today, with all the candy given out and the costumes packed away, I'd like to encourage us to do something that Fred Rogers—Mr. Rogers—used to encourage people to do. I would like to encourage us all to pause for just ten seconds to remember the special ones in our lives who have loved us into being and who have helped us to become who we are—the people who have cared about us and wanted what was best for us. Just a ten second pause....

"Whomever you've been thinking about," Mr. Rogers would say, "how pleased they must be to know the difference you feel they've made." And I would add, think how pleasing it would be for you one day to know that you were the person who made a profound difference in another person's life. Nothing matters more, it seems to me—to make a positive difference in another person's life—that is, to be a saint.

See you in church,

Tracey



# Clinton Presbyterian Church

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## WORSHIP

Each Sunday in October was such a blessing in worship. Hearing from Dan Sadlier, being led by our Youth ([see page 7 for more](#)), having Emmett share an Oak Ridge Boys number with us, seeing new faces in the Praise Team and listening to our fabulous choir. The words of the Psalmist are true: "How good and pleasant it is when sisters and brothers live together in unity!" How blessed we are!

"Being joyful isn't what makes you grateful. Being grateful is what makes you joyful."  
— Ann Voskamp



## UPCOMING IN WORSHIP

### November 5th All Saints' Day

It has been our custom in the last few years to pause on the first Sunday in November to remember with gratitude those who have passed away in the last year. If you would like to have your loved one remembered on this date, please email the church office ([office4cpc@gmail.com](mailto:office4cpc@gmail.com)) and share their name.

### November 19th A Service of Thanksgiving

Join us for a joyful service of Thanksgiving. There will be plenty of music and an opportunity to lift up your own words of thanksgiving.

### November 26th Hanging of the Greens

On Sunday, November 26 we'll share in a special worship service as we decorate the sanctuary together for the Advent and Christmas Season. Come and hear about the meaning behind the ornaments, greens, paraments and more which adorn our sanctuary. Bonus: We'll have cookies and cocoa to share!





# Clinton Presbyterian Church

Clinton NJ • Est. 1831



## WORSHIP

We were thrilled to have Pastor Dan Sadlier from City Relief join us in worship on October 8th . Dan serves as the Church Partnership Officer at City Relief in addition to being the founding pastor of Mosaic Church NYC. He had an encouraging word to offer us about striving to be a church which is marked by radical generosity and hospitality. May we take this charge seriously.



## A Note of Gratitude

Thank you for your continued kindness, encouragement and love as we walk on in this journey of ministry together. I was so touched by the cards, gifts and beautiful flowers you shared with me in recognition of Pastor Appreciation at the end of last month. As I said a few weeks ago from the pulpit, my great joy in ministry is very little a reflection on me, but it is largely a testimony about the goodness of the people I am blessed to pastor. With love,

Tracey



Three keys to more abundant living: caring about others, daring for others, sharing with others.  
William Arthur Ward

## STEWARDSHIP


This year's focus for Stewardship has been the biblical theme of "Abundant Life." And how we have known life in all it's fullness here at CPC! Jake Treese shared in worship about how he and Leanne have been feeling the Spirit's nudge to engage yet more deeply here and Laurel and Dave Kelly reminded us that our stewardship dollars are not only used for practical operations around the church, but they also transform lives, as they are directed in support of ministries such as Refugee Resettlement. ([see page 18](#)).



On Sunday October 29 we offered our commitments for the year ahead as a response of gratitude. To date, a total of 54 pledges have been received, totaling over \$212,000. Thanks be to God!

As you know our goal for pledging giving in 2024 is \$303,160 so we are 70% of the way there. If you have not had the chance to take a look at our Narrative Budget and consider what financial offering you can make for the year ahead, there is still time. You can access the Narrative Budget [here](#) and when you are ready, you can pledge in 3 ways:

1. Submit your pledge [online](#)
2. Return a pledge card to the church office at 91 Center Street, Clinton, NJ 08809
3. Drop your pledge card in the offering plate during worship



On October 17th our Deacons and Elders gathered together in the sanctuary to pray with and for one another and for our church family. This gifted group of disciples continue to live into their commitment to serve the congregation with energy, intelligence, imagination and love. If you have any questions about their ministries, please do not hesitate to reach out to any one of them.



# MUSIC



The Bell Choir offering, "Festival Fanfare" was the perfect way to begin worship on October 15 – what a joyful noise! Thank you to our volunteer Director Jared M. and to each of the ringers for sharing their gifts. We are looking forward to hearing the Bell Choir's advent offering in early December

## MUSICAL HAPPENINGS

### MR. TED BRANCATO

Musically speaking, October has presented a veritable smorgasbord of delights from the bell choir, the chancel choir, the Praise Team and solos by some of our youthful members. Tracey and I have planned the music clear through to Christmas and beyond, but coming up in November we have special music including an original composition by Amey Barnes and a surprise guest on November 5th, a spirited duet by Sienna Madriz and Tom Fuller, and a reprise of one of my "lockdown" video arrangements of "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning" featuring Julie Baldassare, the Chancel Choir, and our crack rhythm section on November 12th. Thanksgiving will be celebrated during our November 19th service with soloists and a piece that will involve some of our younger singers, the Chancel Choir, the Praise Team, and the entire congregation on "Bringing In The Sheaves". For our last service before Advent, the entire congregation will be singing while at the same time participating in the "Hanging of the Greens". Individual elements such as the Advent Wreath, the Christmas Tree, the Poinsettias, etc. will be presented along with a corresponding hymn or song. After the service hot cocoa and cookies will be served in Fellowship Hall.

None of this music just magically happens without a fair amount of rehearsal. Chancel Choir continues to rehearse on Wednesday nights, as does the Bell Choir which is preparing a piece to be presented on the first Sunday of Advent, December 3rd. Praise Team and soloists rehearse, usually on Saturday mornings. I welcome anyone who would like to participate in our varied musical program to reach out to me at [ted4cpc@gmail.com](mailto:ted4cpc@gmail.com) or text me at 973-568-4395!

We'd love to have you join our spirited and fun-loving family!



# CHILDREN & YOUTH

While the Grown Ups were paying attention in the Congregational Meeting, our kids were in Fellowship Hall serving others! Our budding artists completed over 40 drawings to be included with our Thanksgiving Basket deliveries later this month. We can just imagine the smiles on the faces of the recipients – maybe the artwork will even make it on to some fridges around Hunterdon County!





# Children & Youth

## YOUTH SUNDAY

The youth of CPC never cease to amaze us! They read, played, sang, led the children's conversation ushered and shared touching reflections about their lives and their faith on Youth Sunday. We are so grateful for each one of them. And our sanctuary was packed with adults who have encouraged them and cheered them on. Keep going – we've got your back!



## WE'RE HIRING!

Clinton Presbyterian is on the lookout for a new member of our staff team. As our church family continues to expand, our fastest growing demographic is families with children! We celebrate this and are looking for an enthusiastic and creative leader who can guide as we seek to grow in faith and service together. The Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries is a part time position (20 hours a week) and we would love your help with finding just the right candidate. Details about the position and how to apply can be found on our [website](#).



# Children & Youth

RSVPS are a MUST for outings - don't miss out (and don't forget your snack money!)

## CHAOS YOUTH GROUP - FALL/WINTER

### NOVEMBER

**5** 530pm - Middle School Group  
7pm - High School Group  
Meet at CPC

**19** VILLA ROLLER RINK OUTING  
6th-12th graders - grab your skates and let's roll.  
2pm-4pm - Meet at the Rink  
Cost \$8

### DECEMBER

**3** It's a PARTY!  
Wear your fav ugly sweater and bring a \$5 gift for a gift exchange

Meet at CPC  
Middle School - 530pm  
High School - 7pm

### JANUARY

**7** 530pm - Middle School Group  
7pm - High School Group  
Meet at CPC

**21** LASER TAG  
6th-12th graders  
2pm-4pm - Meet at BSC  
Cost \$20

CLINTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
91 CENTER STREET, CLINTON, NJ

### FEBRUARY

**4** 530pm - Middle School Group  
7pm - High School Group  
Meet at CPC

**18** STRIKE - BOWLING NIGHT!  
6th-12th graders  
6-8PM - Meet at Oakwood Lanes  
Cost \$15



# SUNDAY FUNDAY

**NOVEMBER 5TH!**

We're heading to JUST CHILL!! Let's get the month of November off to a great start with a walking trip after Sunday School. What flavor combination will be the best? Who will have most interesting toppings? And will anyone be able to finish their frozen treat? Meet Tracey in Fellowship Hall at 1130am. Parent pick up at 12:30pm at CPC.



## Sunday School

Sunday School classes have been filled with faith and fun over these last few weeks. From Abraham to Abigail, we have been learning all about the people God used in the Bible - and the good news is that God can use us too, no matter how young we are!

Classes for all ages will continue to meet through the month of November.  
(No classes on Sunday, November 26.)

**Pre-K (3 and 4 year olds) - Room 1 (Nursery)**

**Kindergarten/1st Grade - Room 7 (upstairs)**

**2nd & 3rd Grade - Room 5 (upstairs)**

**4th and 5th Grade - Room 6 (upstairs)**

**Middle School 6th & 7th Grade - Room 4 (downstairs)**



# Adults

## WEEKDAY EVENING WOMEN'S STUDY

From faithful forerunners like Anna and Elizabeth to female disciples like the sisters Mary, Martha, and Mary Magdalene to first-generation followers like Lydia and Dorcas, we'll get reacquainted with a wealth of foremothers in the faith in all their messy, yet redeemable, humanity.

**November 13 - The Grateful, November 27 - The Sisters**

*grow in grace*

**\*\* NO adult classes on November 12**

## SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Our Gospel of John Class is still going strong and enjoying meeting in one of the newly renovated classrooms. There's plenty of room for others to join us, so grab a bible and a hot coffee and come on up. We meet in Room 8 each week from 1040-1130am. No prep needed!



## FELLOWSHIP

The coffee is always hot and the table piled high with goodies! If you are not in adult bible study or teaching Sunday school you are invited to relax in fellowship hall following the worship service each Sunday. It's a great time to meet new people and catch up with old friends – we even have a couple of comfy sofas!



# COMMUNITY

## NEWS FROM THE CLINTON PUMPKINFEST!

Did you make it out to PumpkinFest in downtown Clinton this year? If so you might have seen the entry from our CPC 4th graders, aptly entitled “Animal Farm.” We had so much fun creating our animal pumpkins at Sunday Funday and we received an honorable mention from the judges. (See [page 8](#) for more details about the plans for [November](#)).



Some other CPC friends represented well with their entries that night too!

Billy and Elizabeth received the reward for “Most Creative” with their Kinder Joy Pumpkin while Fred S. Jr took home first place with his entry “Killer Popcorn.”

Congrats to All!





# Community

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## TRUNK OR TREAT!

Ghosts and Minions and Princesses - oh my! A few Barbies, Paw Patrol pups and more were also spotted enjoying the best Halloween Party in town at Clinton Presbyterian! We believe this was our biggest year yet. 19 trunks were stuffed with candy, bringing smiles to the hundreds of little trick or treaters who came our way. Dr. D. had quite a dance party going and the hot dogs rivaled any you have ever tasted from a NYC hot dog cart! Read on for lots of amazing photos from the night!



**What a night for our community and CPC was right at the heart of it all!**

**Time to start making plans for next year.....**

# BOO!





# Community



## TRUNK OR TREAT!

Can you spy which CPC members are behind these clever costumes?





# Community



## TRUNK OR TREAT!

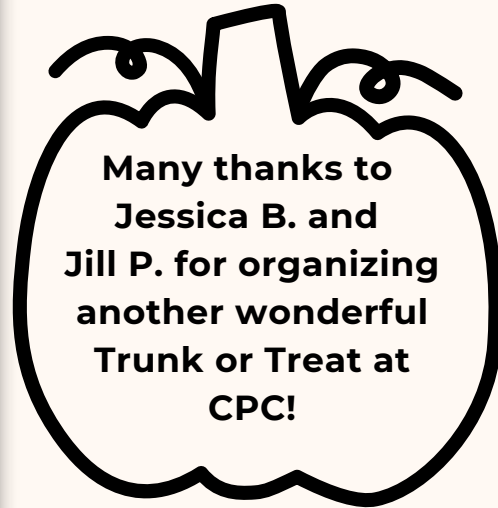




# Community

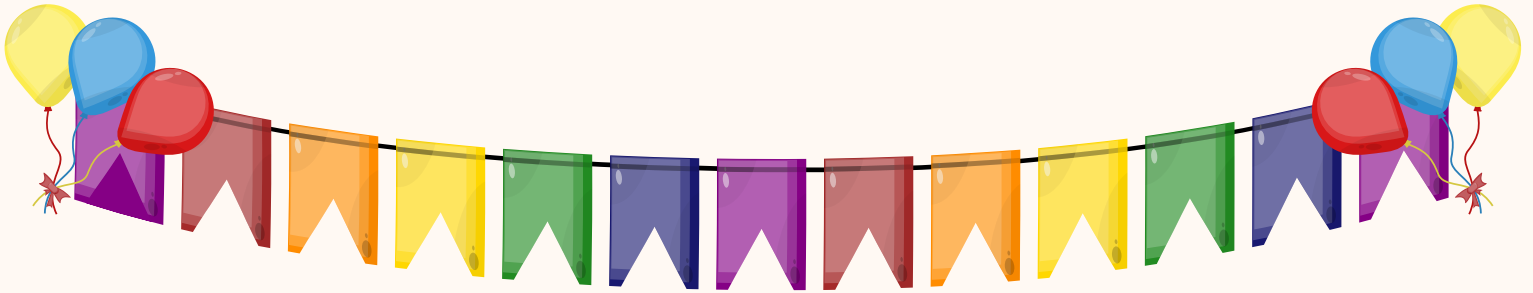


## TRUNK OR TREAT!





# Community



Amey B	11/2	Bob T.	11/16
Andrew C	11/2	Dana K.	11/17
Reed H.	11/2	Julie b.	11/18
Sienna M.	11/2	Scott L.	11/20
Rosemary S.	11/2	Joseph. L.	11/21
Sharon H.	11/5	Megan V.	11/25
Aaron D.	11/6	Scarlett P.	11/25
Ashely K.	11/6	Carol K.	11/27
Jan K.	11/7	Barbara L.	11/28
Rebecca R.	11/9	Olivia K.	11/29
Dara E.	11/10	Laura B.	11/29
Kinsco P.	11/12	Cynthia C.	11/29
		Matthew H.	11/30

*Happy  
Birthday!*

Construction at the Promise Center is almost complete! They are so excited to announce the rescheduled Grand Opening.

“We cannot wait to unveil the residence and celebrate with you all!”



**GRAND OPENING**

*November 8, 2023*

**12-3 PM**

Join us for a welcoming ceremony  
and a ribbon cutting!



# PRESCHOOL

Exploring nature and many hands-on activities have kept our preschoolers busy learning and having fun in October. Our 3's and 4's took walks and collected leaves and seeds. Ms. Sarah and Ms. Amanda carved jack-o-lanterns, the children deciding what shapes would make a scary or a happy face. Some of the 4s enjoyed examining the slimy seeds and insides of their pumpkin friend, while others took a pass. The children learned how to peel, cut and cook apples to make applesauce and of course it was sweet and delicious! Ms. Cathy's 3's experimented with colors and made beautiful fall paintings.

We love our playground and have lots and lots of fun running and playing with friends. The weather has been perfect for outdoor play! Ms. Cathy, Ms. Amanda, Ms. Sarah and Ms. Powick planned tons of Halloween fun with the top of the list being a parade for parents and trick-or-treating with CPC friends.





PRESCHOOL





# Mission



## WELCOME DISTERUK FAMILY!

The At Home In Hunterdon Welcome Circle, of which Clinton Presbyterian Church is a member, is excited to share that the Disteruk family will be arriving from Dnipro, Ukraine on November 16! .

We are collecting household items to furnish their apartment before they arrive. Please use the attached Sign Up Genius link if you would like to help. Dave and Laurel Kelly will coordinate the collection of donated items from CPC.

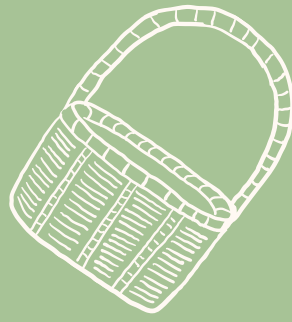
Please keep the Disteruks in your prayers as the travel from Dnipro to Warsaw to New Jersey. Thank you in advance for your generosity as this family begins their life in America.

“It is the obligation of every person born in a safer room to open the door when someone in danger knocks.”  
— Dina Nayeri





# Mission



"To speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant, to enact gratitude is generous and noble, but to live gratitude is to touch Heaven."  
Johannes A. Gaertner

## Thanksgiving Baskets

We will be collecting and delivering food to local families in need. We are hoping to help families with more of their everyday lives, not just their Thanksgiving meal.

The collection will be from 10/22 – 11/12. The boxes will be delivered on Saturday, 11/18.

Please return all items and place them either in the designated areas in the sanctuary or fellowship hall or in the big container on the side porch.

If you are interested in delivering boxes, please keep a look out for sign-ups or reach out to any team member below.

Questions?

Contact the church office at [office4cpc@gmail.com](mailto:office4cpc@gmail.com).



- 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
- Vegetable Oil / Olive Oil (small bottles)
- Jar of Applesauce (no unsweetened)
- All Purpose Flour / Granulated White Sugar
- Monetary Donations

**Note: Ham and/or Turkey donations are welcomed as well.**

# Mission



## Christmas Giving Tree 2023

Our annual Christmas tree is up in the sanctuary and loaded with ornaments!

We have from now until December 3rd to shop for 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!

Tags on the tree are 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, City Relief, children and teens in an impoverished rural area in Maine, Safe in Hunterdon, Family Success Center and the CPC Preschool Scholarship Fund.

Each tag describes an individual need for a gift, and you are welcome to take one or several.

In addition to the Giving Tree in our sanctuary, we also have some tags online for those who are worshiping from home and wish to participate. Here is the link for online tags:



Please return all gifts UNWRAPPED and place them under the tree by Sunday, December 3rd. Tape the tags to your gifts and you can include wrapping paper and tape if you'd like to.

The Mission team will gather in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, December 5th to pack up and organize all the gifts for local delivery or mailing.

Thank you everyone for your generous support as always!

Questions? Contact the office at [office4cpc@gmail.com](mailto:office4cpc@gmail.com).



SCAN ME





# Building Updates

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As of Mid-October, all of our classroom spaces at CPC are open for business again! With such light and bright spaces, it's hard to remember what the rooms looked like before...so we've included some photos to remind you of how far we have come! Each room received new flooring and paint and storage space was added in three of the four rooms. It's amazing what a difference it has made to be able to store Sunday school supplies and more in an organized fashion. Teachers are able to put their hands on what is needed quickly and with everyone's cooperation we can keep these spaces uncluttered and inviting for church and community groups to use as needed.

In addition to the classroom spaces, new flooring was added throughout the hallway space and between now and the start of the new year all the stairwells will also get a facelift, with the banisters and railings being painted and the treads being refinished.

Sneak a peek at the staircase just outside of the sanctuary to see what is in store for the rest of the building. (note: the updates to the stairwells

were not included in the capital campaign and are being financed from our savings account.)

Another large item checked off the Capital Campaign project list was the replacement of the roof over fellowship hall. Thanks to the work of a large and talented crew, this all happened in a single day and we are ready for any snowfall that might come our way. No leaking roofs this year!

The repairs to the bell tower are in their final stages. The tower has been painted and after counter flashing is applied, the scaffolding will be removed!

What's next you ask? Signage! Plans have been submitted for signage both inside the building and out which will help both members and guest to navigate the campus more easily...not to mention delivery drivers who leave package deliveries in all sorts of interesting places right now! Stay tuned for more updates!

# Building Updates

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



A well-cared for facility is essential for Clinton Presbyterian Church's life and mission. We are seeking a part-time Facilities Coordinator (10 hours a week) to assist with the upkeep and maintenance of our buildings and grounds. This person will work in conjunction with existing cleaning personnel and property volunteers and paid contractors. Know someone who fits the bill? Put them in touch with us! Details about the position and how to apply can be found on our [website](#).







## Advent and Christmas Preview

December can be such a busy time of year. Mark these dates on your calendar now to help you stay connected to your church family as we celebrate the reason for the season – Jesus!

### Sunday Worship at CPC

**December 3** Our Bell Choir will bring a special offering and we'll share in communion with one another!

**December 10** Presentation Brass, led by our own Larry K., will lead us in worship – invite a friend!

**December 17** 2023 Christmas Pageant – come and hear the greatest story ever told and then come on over to Fellowship Hall for a delicious Breakfast!

### Christmas Parade - December 1 @7pm

The Clinton Christmas Parade is back and we are looking forward to participating! Kids are invited to ride on the float and we would love to wave to congregation members all along the route! Let Jill Prakopcyk know if you would like to ride the float or help with set up.

### Live Nativity December 16 from 5-7pm

All church members, friends and members of the community are invited to come by CPC on December 16th from 5-7 pm for this special event.

Live animals included! And be sure to tell all your friends and family in the area to join us too!

### Advent Midweek Reflections

Each Wednesday of Advent a Midweek Reflection video will be delivered right to your inbox. These short videos will include, music, prayers and a short reflection from members of the congregation. We invite you to take some time each week to pause and reflect.

### Christmas Pageant & Advent Breakfast - December 17

In worship we will hear once again, the story of the first Christmas told by eager shepherds and tiny angels. Come and share the wonder.

We'll enjoy breakfast together afterwards in Fellowship Hall.

### Christmas Eve at CPC

#### 5 pm Family Service

As a congregation we will retell the story of Christ's birth with the angels, the shepherds and the sheep.

#### 9pm 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.