

2025 SUMMER EDITION

Clinton Presbyterian Church



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Camp Johnsonburg, where the air smells like sunscreen and bug spray! It's been blazing hot all week, but that hasn't slowed these kids down one bit. There are 138 campers here and there is joy (and lots of noise!) everywhere - at the lake, in the pool, at the dinner table, around the campfire, in worship. It's a real privilege to serve as chaplain this week (and I love having some of our CPC kids and teens here with me!) We're at the midpoint of summer - hard to believe, right?

Back in June, I preached about letting go of the pressure to "do summer right" - to pack it full of plans and projects and memories. I offered instead an invitation: to slow down, to notice, and to trust that this summer day - even if it's hot, messy, or ordinary - might still be holy.

Out here in the woods, that invitation is alive and well. The kids are soaking it all in - making new friends, conquering fears, asking big questions, and living fully in each moment. They're not performing summer, they're experiencing it - bug bites, belly laughs, deep thoughts and all.

So here's your mid-summer reminder:

You don't have to conquer the season.

You just have to show up.

Notice something beautiful.

Take a breath.

Let today be enough.

God is here, God is with us— in the noise, in the stillness, and in the small sacred moments that often show up when we least expect them.

I'll see you Sunday - probably a little tired, definitely with a few stories, and after I've had a shower.

Sending you Christ's peace and joy,

Tracy

GENERATION TO GENERATION: CAMPAIGN COMPLETE!

On Pentecost Sunday, we celebrated not just the coming of the Holy Spirit—but also a promise fulfilled. After three years of prayer, planning, generosity, and hard work, our Generation to Generation Capital Campaign officially came to a close!

This campaign was never just about bricks and mortar. It was about honoring the saints who came before us—and preparing a place of hospitality, joy, and welcome for those still to come. From its beginning, this was a spiritual journey, shaped by the stories we shared, the prayers we lifted, and the commitments we made—together.

WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED

Thanks to your generosity and God's faithfulness, Generation to Generation made possible:

- Major repairs to our sanctuary, protecting the heart of our worship
- Fully renovated classrooms and restrooms, making safe and welcoming space for all
- A refreshed kitchen, ready to host meals and ministry for years to come
- An accessible ramp and updated signage, offering a true welcome to everyone
- Repairs to the exterior of the church, preserving beauty and integrity for future generations

WHAT WE RAISED

- Original goal: \$700,000
- Total pledged and raised: \$970,705
- Campaign costs: \$1,020,565

Just as Pentecost reminds us that the Holy Spirit shows up in unexpected ways—filling rooms, opening hearts, and sending people out—this campaign has brought us to a new beginning. We give thanks for all that's been accomplished, and we trust that the Spirit is just getting started.

The campaign is over, but the work of welcome, hospitality, and witness continues. Let's keep stepping forward in faith, from one generation to the next.

THANK YOU GWILI!



As our Capital Campaign came to a close, we took a moment in worship offer special recognition to Gwili Marsh. Gwili Marsh who not only chaired the Property Committee for most of the campaign but also served as our project manager, site coordinator, and holy problem-solver. Her fingerprints are truly on every beam, bolt, and blessing this project produced.

To honor her extraordinary efforts, we presented Gwili with a few small but meaningful gifts:

- A level – for keeping everything (and everyone) balanced.
- A tiny plunger – for the times when things were stuck and she made a way.
- A toy hard hat – for all the hats she wore throughout the project.
- A mini construction sign – reading “Slow Down”, along with a gift certificate to help her do just that.



We give thanks for Gwili's tireless leadership and faithful heart. Her work has made a lasting impact on our church community.



PENTECOST PICNIC

After worship on Pentecost Sunday, our celebration continued with an all-church picnic full of joy, laughter, and community.

Thanks to our amazing Fellowship and Member Care Team, we enjoyed delicious food (thank you Lebanon Pub!), great company, and plenty of opportunities to connect. A bounce house kept the kids jumping, and raffle prizes added to the fun. (Who knew that “Lunch with the Pastor” would be such a hot-ticket item? Congratulations to Cindy Boyer, the lucky winner!)

It was the perfect way to celebrate the end of the school year, the conclusion of our capital campaign, and the Spirit that continues to move among us.

P.S. You don't have to win a raffle to have lunch with Tracey—she'd love to share a meal and good conversation with you. Drop her a note and let's get a date on the calendar this fall! thenry@clintonpresbyterian.net



WORSHIP IN REVIEW!



This summer at CPC, the Spirit moved through the sanctuary not just in scripture and song, but in stories we thought we already knew—Broadway musicals that became modern-day parables. Our series, CPC Goes to Broadway, invited us to discover the Gospel in unexpected places.

Each Sunday, a different musical opened a door to the Gospel:

We began with *Mamma Mia!* and the music of ABBA, dancing our way into the heart of Psalm 139: “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” The song “I Have a Dream” became our anthem as we explored what it means to be truly known and loved by God. In a world that sometimes confuses or diminishes us, this week reminded us of our real spiritual DNA—we are God’s own, created with care, and invited to live out our dreams with courage and joy.

Next, we turned to *Les Misérables*, where Fantine’s haunting song “I Dreamed a Dream” gave voice to suffering, injustice, and the heartbreak of a world that too often crushes the vulnerable. Yet through the lens of the Gospel, we heard another truth: God is not finished with the story. Like Valjean, whose life is transformed by mercy, we are invited to be people of grace—who see the outcast, uplift the weary, and live as instruments of God’s redemptive love.

Finally, we stepped into *The Lion King* and explored the deceptively simple motto Hakuna Matata—“no worries.” Paired with Philippians 4, we reflected on what true peace really means. Like Simba, we all wrestle with fear and failure, and we sometimes try to escape what’s hard. But peace, as Jesus offers it, is not the absence of trouble—it is the presence of God. It’s remembering who we are and returning with courage to the life we are called to live.

Each week, the music stirred us, the scriptures grounded us, and the Spirit led us. We listened anew—not only to show tunes, but to the still, small voice of God.

Thank you to all of our musicians who helped bring this series to life!

NEW SERMON SERIES NOW LOADING: MASTERS OF MUSIC - BEGINS AUGUST 10

This August, we’re turning up the volume on worship with a 3 week series, *Masters of Music*. Each week, we’ll explore the faith, questions, and spiritual longing behind the music of legendary artists—U2, The Beatles, and Johnny Cash.

These artists didn’t write for the church—but they wrote about the stuff the church cares about: longing and love, justice and mercy, failure, grace, and the search for something more.

We won’t just be hearing their music. We’ll be listening for what God might be saying through it. Come with open ears and open hearts. There’s more Gospel in the music than you might expect.



August Sermon Series

The Gospel According to
the Masters of Music



MUSIC



What a lively and blessed couple of months in the CPC Music Ministry!

May 4 kicked off with the Praise Team delivering a spirited offertory of "Old Time Religion", featuring guitar from **Jeff Moskovciak and Bill Anthony, Jr.** The following week, **Julia Morrisette** sang a moving prelude of "Craggs and Clay" by Gungor, while the **Chancel Choir** offered "I Shall Not Live in Vain", with beautiful violin from **Maddie Morman**.



On May 18, **Ted Brancato** shared his original composition "Prayer" for the prelude, with lyrics by Sarah Partridge, and **Jeff Moskovciak** made his vocal debut singing "Jesus Paid It All" for the offertory. The next week, we were delighted to welcome back former music director **Gary Ross**, who teamed with **Larry Kursar** for a wonderful set of Gary's arrangements, including "People Need the Lord", a medley of "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen" and "All Day", and closed with "I Will Call Upon the Lord."

June brought us back inside for a service on the 1st with **Kevin Thompson** singing "God Is My Shepherd" and the **Chancel Choir** bravely tackling the rhythmically challenging "Sing On, Dance On." Then on June 8, our first outdoor service was a jazz-infused celebration with **Julie Baldassare** singing "Brighten the Corner Where You Are" backed by a jazz band featuring the trombone of **Ben Williams**. Communion featured a special rendition of "Stand By Me" by **Rick Hyman and Tom Fuller** with alternate lyrics by **Steve Battaglia**, and the postlude featured **Amey Barnes** on tenor sax with the band playing "Pentecostal Feeling."



MUSIC

June 15 brought a bittersweet farewell as **Jared Miner** led the **Bell Choir** one last time on "All Things Bright and Beautiful" before moving to Virginia, while the **Chancel Choir** sang their last pre-summer break offertory, "Sunshine in My Soul." On June 22, **Tom Fuller** arranged a charming two-ukulele prelude of "Lasst Uns Erfreuen" performed with **Davis Henry**, and **Brielle Madriz** returned to sing "When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder."



July 6 - Rev. Byron Leasure filled in for Tracey, and **Amey Barnes** played flute on "Country Cycle Ride" for the prelude. **Ted Brancato** played a stirring "Battle Hymn of the Republic" for the offertory, and Amey returned for the postlude on flute with "White Water Rafting."



The final Sunday of June featured **Steve Battaglia's** clever rewriting of "Kansas City" into "Seeking Absolution," performed by **Rick Hyman and Tom Fuller**. **Fred Sifuentes** made his vocal debut with "A Million Dreams" from The Greatest Showman, supported by **Tom Fuller** on backup vocals.



MUSIC

Our second outdoor service on July 13 kicked off the “CPC Goes To Broadway” series, featuring music from Mamma Mia! **Julia Morrisette** sang “I Have A Dream” introducing the sermon, with **Julia and the Praise Team** performing “Thank You for the Music” for the offertory. The postlude was a surprise treat—“Dancing Queen” performed by **Amey Barnes** on baritone sax and **Tom Fuller** on alto sax.



The Broadway theme continued on July 20 with **Kathryn Treese**, home from college, joining **Julie Baldassare** for Lauren Daigle’s “Look Up Child.” Julie foreshadowed the sermon with “I Dreamed A Dream” from Les Misérables, and the Summer Choir sang Ted’s arrangement of “Bring Him Home” featuring **Kevin Thompson and Kathryn Treese**, with **Maddie Morman** on synthesizer.



We closed out the Broadway series with music from The Lion King. The **VBS Kids Choir** opened the service with their joyful voices—a highlight that brought smiles all around! As always, if you would like to participate in ANY way in our musical program, please email me. tbrancato@clintonpresbyterian.net



CHILDREN & YOUTH



VBS



This summer, our church was transformed into the Alaskan wilderness as kids set out on a journey with True North VBS! Through music, games, Bible stories, and hands-on activities, we learned that when life feels uncertain, we can always trust Jesus to lead the way. A huge thank you to all of the youth and adult volunteers who showed up each night to make the magic happen! Shoutout to Jes Bruno for being our fearless leader!



CHILDREN & YOUTH

MORE VBS



CHILDREN & YOUTH

MORE

VBS



CHILDREN & YOUTH



Over the course of the summer, 12 CPC kids and teens spent a week at camp Johnsonburg, returning home tired, happy, and absolutely full of stories — about ziplines, canoeing, campfires and s'mores and silly songs,

Yes, there were bugs (it's camp!), and yes, some sneakers may still be muddy — but more than anything, this was a week filled with joy, laughter, and the unmistakable presence of God. Through daily worship, small group devotionals, and time out in God's creation, our campers were invited to grow in faith and friendship. They learned to try new things, to care for one another, and to experience the love of Jesus in a place that feels holy and fun all at once. We're so proud of our campers and grateful to the staff at Camp Johnsonburg for creating a space where faith comes alive

Special shout out to Tyler Mejia who spent two weeks at Jburg participating in the Leadership Training Program. The LTP program is for rising seniors to help them develop as leaders as they serve younger campers. Tyler did a great job – our CPC kids can attest to it!



Johnsonburg

Camp & Retreat Center



CHILDREN & YOUTH

Fire Pit



CHAOS FIRE PIT NIGHT

Our Middle & High Schoolers came together for a laid-back evening around the firepit, complete with laughter, s'mores, and good conversation. It was the perfect chance to slow down and simply enjoy being together. The best part? We got to welcome our rising 5th graders into the fun for the very first time! WELCOME TO THE "CHAOS!" We're so glad you're here!

Glow Party

After a long and fun VBS night, middle & high schoolers went to our second annual Glow Pool Party! Cooling off in the pool, munching on nuggets and pizza, and laughing into the evening made for a perfect mid-week summer night!





CPC HIGH SCHOOL GRADS

Big congratulations to our high school graduates—Arie Pusztai, Cami Plaxe, and Marissa Annese! We're so proud of each of you.

As a small token of love from your church family, each graduate received a cozy fleece blanket—a reminder that they are wrapped in God's love wherever they go. We'll be cheering them on as you head off to their next adventures. Arie is headed to The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), Cami to the University of Pittsburgh and Marissa to the University of Delaware

Arie, Cami and Marissa - our prayers surround you and your families, and we can't wait to see how God continues to work in and through your lives. Go with courage, go with love, and know that you always have a home here.





CONCERT - A LIFE IN SONG

On May 18, Clinton Presbyterian Church was blessed to host a moving concert by the gifted Mari Greene, accompanied by the outstanding Ted Brancato on piano. With powerful emotion and grace, Mari shared parts of her personal journey, allowing her music to be not just entertainment but a testimony. Her stunning melodies and soulful delivery touched all who gathered including church members and friends from the wider community alike. Enormous thanks to our Worship Ministry Team for organizing and hosting this concert – it was an afternoon to remember!

JUST LOVE TASK FORCE: GROWING TOGETHER IN WELCOME



For over a year, the Just Love Task Force has been meeting regularly to help guide Clinton Presbyterian Church in becoming a more intentionally inclusive community as welcome is extended to the LGBTQ+ community. Along the way, our conversations with many in the congregation have allowed us to understand concerns and answer questions and they have deepened our understanding of what it means to live out the radical welcome of Jesus right here in Clinton.

This spring, the Task Force hosted two meaningful educational events. On May 18, Pastor Tracey shared reflections on both her personal journey and theological convictions—how they have shaped her call to a wider welcome, modeled after the inclusive love of Christ.

Then, on June 5 Zan Struebing and Colleen Duerr led us in a thoughtful and practical conversation about the power of language and how it shapes our ability to be truly welcoming to all.

In June, our Session took an important next step by unanimously adopting an inclusion statement. We look forward to sharing this with the wider congregation in the fall, as everyone returns from summer travels.

We give thanks for the faithful work of the Task Force and look forward to continuing this journey together—as we seek to be a Christ-centered community.

CPC Book Club Field Trip!



Instead of a regular June meeting, the CPC Book Club travelled to Doylestown, PA and attended an author conversation with Kristin Harmel and Jamie Brennan. Despite the heavy rain, we ate delicious pizza and enjoyed an interesting author conversation, received Kristin's latest book and had a great evening with friends.



BENEDUCE VINEYARDS!

The temperatures were high, but the music—and the company—were cool! Over 40 CPCers showed at Beneduce Vineyards for a summer night out, cheering on our own Ted Brancato as he performed with his group Blue Soul. Thanks to everyone who came out to represent CPC—and an extra thanks to Ted for sharing his incredible talent with us all. What a great summer night!



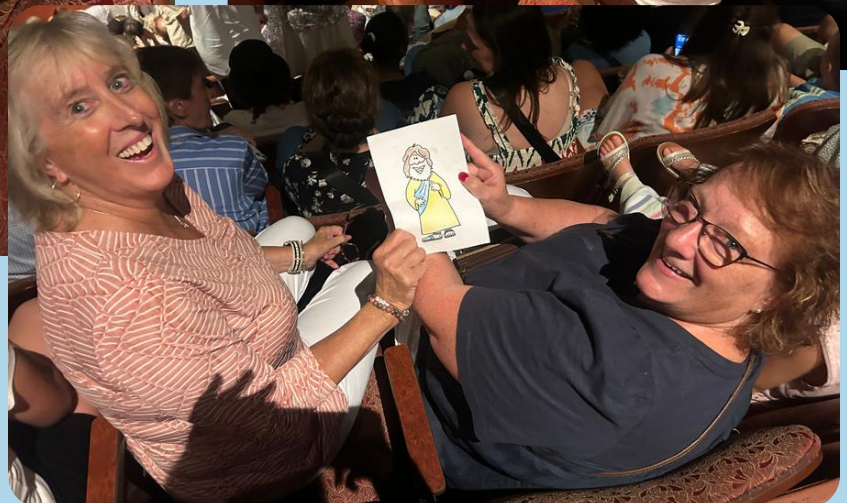
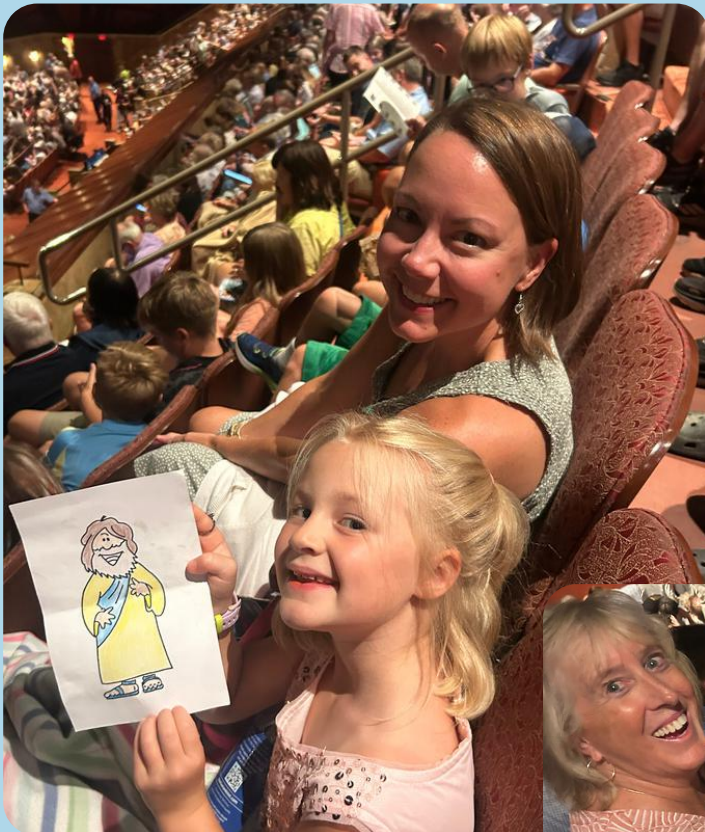
SIGHT & SOUND
THEATRES

DANIEL

LIVE

A group from CPC recently traveled to Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster in July to experience the incredible production of Noah. From real animals to stunning animatronics (sometimes it was hard to tell the difference!), the performance brought the story to life in unforgettable ways. The powerful music, amazing set design, and moving storytelling carried us straight into the heart of Noah's journey of faith and obedience.

We've already planning a return trip next summer to see their production of Joshua!



MISSION

Pedals for Progress



On a beautiful Saturday morning in June, the Clinton Presbyterian Church parking lot became a hub of generosity and global impact. Through our partnership with Pedals for Progress and the North Hunterdon Rotary Club, CPC collected an impressive 47 bicycles, 8 sewing machines, and \$753 in donations—all in just three hours!

These donations will be refurbished and shipped to communities around the world, where they will provide life-changing resources. In many places, a bicycle means reliable transportation to work or school. A sewing machine can become the foundation for a small business. Every item collected helps build self-sufficiency and hope.

This year's event would not have been possible without the dedication of Jens Duerr, who coordinated the entire effort. From spreading the word to organizing volunteers and working alongside Rotary partners, Jens ensured that the day ran smoothly and successfully.



Thanks to all who donated or volunteered. Your generosity is now at work in places far beyond our local community—proving once again that small acts of kindness can create ripples of transformation around the world.

Want to get involved next year? Pedals for Progress is a mission we hope to continue supporting annually—so stay tuned, and keep those gently used bikes and sewing machines in mind!

MISSION

Our Community Impact

The Mission team would like to share the wonderful thank you messages we have received from our 2024 disbursements to organizations. The disbursements served both local organizations (81%) and national / international organizations (19%). We will continue to share these messages throughout the year within the newsletter so that everyone can see the impact we are making in both local and greater communities.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

December 4, 2024



CNN HEROES
EVERYDAY PEOPLE CHANGING THE WORLD
AGAR is thrilled to be recognized by CNN Heroes, an initiative that honors everyday people for their selfless, creative efforts to help others.

Clinton Presbyterian Church
91 Center Street
Clinton, NJ 08809

Dear Friends,

We would like to thank you for your donation of \$300.00 to America's Grow-a-Row. Contributions from generous donors allow us to expand our programs to feed more people in need and educate people of all generations about healthy eating.

America's Grow-a-Row's mission is to positively impact as many lives as possible through a volunteer effort of planting, picking, rescuing, and delivering free fresh produce. At America's Grow-a-Row we:

- Provide fresh, healthy produce to those in need
- Educate people of all generations about hunger and ways to help
- Introduce our youth to farming and healthy eating
- Cultivate in tomorrow's leaders the habit of giving back
- Contribute to the sustainability of agriculture

America's Grow-a-Row is an important source of fresh produce for some of the largest hunger relief agencies in the region. Your support helps provide wholesome fruits and vegetables to those who need it most, especially as continued inflation is making it even harder for folks to put healthy food on the table. This year, our goal is to donate 3.6 million pounds – or 14.4 million servings – of farm fresh fruits and vegetables to those in need. Contributions from generous donors allow us to meet this commitment.

We appreciate your support and thank you for your commitment to improving healthy food access for those we serve.

Sincerely,

Chip Paillex
President and Founder
chip@americagrowa-row.org

Jackie H. Etter
Sr. Director of Development and Marketing
jackie@americagrowa-row.org

America's Grow-a-Row

No goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation. Please keep this written acknowledgment of your donation for your personal records. Our tax-exempt number is 26-2569598. Information filed with the Attorney General concerning this charitable solicitation may be obtained from the Attorney General of The State of New Jersey by calling (973) 504-6215. Registration with the Attorney General does not imply endorsement.

150 Pittstown Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867
www.americagrowa-row.org



MEALS ON WHEELS IN HUNTERDON, INC.

5 Walter Foran Blvd. - Suite 2006 • Flemington, NJ 08822
908.284.0735 tel - 908.284.0708 fax • www.mowih.org

October 31, 2024

Clinton Presbyterian Church
Attn: Larry Boyd, Chairperson
CPC Mission Ministry
91 Center Street
Clinton, NJ 08809

Dear Members,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff and ALL of our recipients, I would like to extend a heartfelt **THANK YOU** for your generous contribution of \$300.00.

Please know that this kind gift will ensure that many frail elderly residents of Hunterdon County will have the nutritional advantage they need to retain the independent lifestyle they depend on. With much gratitude, we recognize our community for sustaining the worthwhile effort that has helped so many senior citizens.

Many thanks for your dedication and kindness in sustaining our mission.

Sincerely,

Regina Hlasney
Executive Director

MISSION



SAFE in Hunterdon

P.O. Box 63
Flemington, NJ 08822
(908) 806-0019

www.safeinhunterdon.org

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SAFE in Hunterdon is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, publicly supported organization. Your contribution is deductible for federal income tax to the extent the contribution exceeds the fair market value of goods or services received in exchange for your gift. We suggest you consult your tax advisor for complete information about the tax deductibility of your gift.

Our Federal Tax ID number is 22-2267191.



GIVE

Clinton Presbyterian Church
91 Center Street
Clinton, NJ 08809

Dear Friends at Clinton Presbyterian Church,

As the warmth of the holiday season touches us all, SAFE in Hunterdon wants to thank you for your continued support of our clients and programs. You have helped survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence grow, thrive in newfound safety, and take full advantage of all the wrap-around services you have helped us provide. As we move into 2025, we look to continue to expand and meet the ever-growing needs of our Hunterdon County neighbors who find themselves turning to us in times of crisis.

SAFE has used your help to begin the process of expanding our safehouse to accommodate eighteen clients at a time. Our facility often runs at full capacity, and with your help we will be able to turn away fewer clients and their children who are seeking refuge. We have also relied on you as we added staff members to our team to tackle expanded demands for legal advocacy and counseling.

We have all been so blessed to have been able to witness the gifts your generosity have brought to our safehouse, our crisis response programs, legal services, counseling sessions, and outreach. Everyone at SAFE genuinely wants to thank you for allowing us to be a part of your community in service, in support, in growth, and in hope.

We truly hope that you will consider supporting SAFE in Hunterdon and your friends and neighbors in Hunterdon County experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault. Your financial donation to our 2024 holiday campaign is appreciated beyond words, and we remain forever grateful for your help in providing a safety net for our clients as they launch forward into the fresh start the new year brings.

With best wishes for a SAFE and happy holiday season,

Jeannie Colalillo

Jeannie Colalillo
President of the Board of Trustees
SAFE in Hunterdon

Lauren Bivona

Lauren Bivona
Executive Director
SAFE in Hunterdon

*Thank you for
your support!
Rae*

Our next

Day of Service is
September 28th!



November 15, 2024

Clinton Presbyterian Church
Larry Boyd
91 Center St
Clinton, NJ 08809-1413

*Thanks so much for
this special donation!*

Dear Larry,

On behalf of the Flemington Area Food Pantry's 430 volunteers and the nearly 6,000 neighbors we serve, we would like to thank you and Clinton Presbyterian Church for your generous donation of \$500.00 on 10/25/2024.

At our pantry, our mission is to promote the health and well-being of our Hunterdon County community. We strive to offer choices of nutritious foods and essentials, foster resource connections, provide tailored programming, and above all, uphold the dignity of our neighbors in need.

The families who rely on our services are facing the harsh reality of rising living costs impacting every facet of their lives. However, thanks to the support of caring individuals and organizations like yourself, we are able to fulfill our mission daily. Your donation enables us to provide pantry staples, personal care items, fresh produce, eggs, yogurt, meat, and cheese; and, more importantly, compassion.

Once again, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your generosity. Your donation not only provides vital sustenance but also instills hope and resilience in those facing adversity. We are truly grateful for your ongoing support and look forward to continuing our partnership in the future.

Kind Regards,

Jeannine Gorman
Jeannine Gorman
Executive Director

Kristin Stockwell
Kristin Stockwell
Office Manager

Your donation may be tax-deductible and no goods or services were provided in return for the donation. For your records, our tax ID is 22-3061060.

PO Box 783 Flemington, NJ 08822
info@flemingtonfoodpantry.org
908-788-5568

Your paragraph text

CPC PRESCHOOL



We had an incredible year! Our days were filled with joy, learning, and discovery. It's hard to believe how much our little learners have grown—not just in height, but in confidence, curiosity, and kindness.

Each child brought something unique and special to our classroom. Whether it was a helping hand, a bright smile, or a curious question, the children helped create a classroom filled with laughter, learning, and love.

Our school year ended with a beautiful end of the year celebration organized by our outstanding teachers; Amanda Caruso, Laura Creteau, Cathy Edelsberg, Nicki Kavanaugh and Megan Traphagan. The moms, dads, aunts, uncles, grandparents and siblings filled the Fellowship Hall and celebrated each child with smiles and applause.

But we did not say goodbye just yet! The first week of June was filled with so much summer camp fun. We started with a visit from Eyes of the Wild. Ms Linda brought six beautiful creatures that we learned about and some of them, like the snake and chinchilla, we were able to gently pet. The rest of the week we got really ready for summer! We had a beach day, a water day, a sun and sand day and a day of summer celebrations. Themed projects and even themed snacks made for lots of fun for the 32 three and four year olds and of course the grownups involved as well.

As we close this our seventh year, we do so with full hearts and hopeful smiles. Looking forward to another year of joyful learning,



CELEBRATING ADRIENNE...

We recently had the joy of celebrating Adrienne Hodulik as she retired from her role at CPC Preschool. Adrienne served as the founding director and she truly built Clinton Presbyterian Preschool from the ground up. With her rich educational experience, deep love for children, and humble spirit, Adrienne shaped the preschool into a nurturing place of learning and growth for many families. To honor her remarkable leadership, our current preschool families hosted a surprise brunch—complete with a “build your own bouquet” stand—that brought smiles all around. Our staff also gathered for a shared meal and to celebrate Adrienne as she enters into this new chapter. And our congregation responded with overwhelming generosity, donating over 50 books in Adrienne’s honor to enrich the preschool library. Along with these gifts, contributions to the Preschool Tuition Assistance Fund were made, helping ensure that financial barriers don’t keep any child from joining our preschool community. We are grateful for Adrienne’s vision and the strong foundation she built for CPC Preschool. And while she is retiring from this role, we’re glad she will still be with us at CPC from week to week as a cherished member of our church family!



MEET OUR NEW PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR LAURA CRETEAU

Laura is thrilled to step into the role of Director at Clinton Presbyterian Church Preschool. Her journey with the preschool began in 2021 as a parent, when she brought her older daughter to meet the teachers and immediately fell in love with the warm and welcoming community. Both of her daughters went on to attend CPC Preschool and absolutely loved their time there. Since then, Laura served as a substitute teacher and then led the 3-year-old class—experiences that deepened her connection to the school and its mission. She feels truly honored to now take on the role of Director, and follow in the footsteps of Adrienne, whose leadership shaped the school’s nurturing, play-based environment. Laura is eager to carry on those values. Before becoming a parent, Laura spent 13 years teaching in public schools. She loves working with young children and brings enthusiasm, teamwork, and a genuine care for the families she serves.

Outside of school, she enjoys reading, running, hiking, and biking with her family. She’s also a volunteer with her daughters’ Girl Scout Troops and Girls on the Run. Each summer, she looks forward to spending time with her family at the beach in Cape May.

You may contact Laura @ lcreteau@clintonpresbyterian.net



BABIES, BABIES, BABIES!



Aubrey Margaret

Born to Jackie and Mike

May 7th



Isabella James

Born to Matthew and Sarah

June 11th



Kaitlyn Beth

Born to Kevin and Stephanie

on June 25th

NEW OFFICERS AT CPC

In late June we joyfully ordained and installed new elders and deacons to lead our church with faith and heart. These individuals responded to God's call and the congregation's voice with a resounding yes—stepping into leadership with energy, imagination, and grace.

In keeping with our PCUSA tradition, each was asked a series of constitutional questions, including: "Will you, in your own life, seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?"

"Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?"

And they answered with enthusiasm and conviction.

The moment of laying on of hands—with past and present leaders gathered in prayerful support—was especially powerful, reminding us that no one leads alone. We're excited for all that lies ahead in this new season of ministry.

(And stay tuned: we'll ordain and install Elder Zan Struebing and Deacon Robin Meyh later in August.)

Thanks be to God for these faithful servants and the Spirit's guiding hand among us.



GET TO KNOW OUR NEWEST ELDER....

Bob Ballantine

Over fifty years ago, I moved to Clinton Township with my wife, Helen—who now lovingly watches over us all—and together we joined CPC. We raised three wonderful children: Carolyn, David, and Beth. Today, I'm a proud grandfather to seven grandchildren and a great-grandfather to three great-grandchildren.

Professionally, I worked as a purchasing agent for a capital goods corporation. Over the years, I've been fortunate to serve my community in various ways: as a member of the township Board of Education, a cofounder of the local rescue squad, a member of the hospital scholarship committee, and as a deacon at CPC.

My desire has always been to give back and, in some small way, make a difference. I am truly honored and excited to be asked to serve as an elder.

Tony Celentano

I grew up in Washington, NJ and for many years, came to Clinton for fun local events and the occasional night out. Often passing CPC, I admired the church's position in a beautiful small town but never found myself moving inside the church doors. After graduating college, moving around for work, and eventually moving back to NJ with my high school sweetheart and wife, Julie – we became Presbyterian converts at another NJ church which was a blessing in our faith journey. From there the blessings continued and we became parents to our daughter, Ellie in 2023. While I had served as a deacon at another church around this time, ultimately we wanted to be closer to home and found ourselves truly at home when we moved to Clinton and first started attending CPC as a family in 2024. I'm now so honored to be able to grow in faith and fellowship with the CPC family and look forward to being a good steward of the blessings God bestows to and through CPC.

Laura McGarry

I grew up in Hunterdon County and moved back to Lebanon Township three years ago with my husband, Mike, and our kids Margot (8) and Will (6). We joined CPC in the fall of 2024, drawn by the warm welcome, beautiful music, and vibrant children's ministry. Our first visit was on Youth Sunday—not a typical service, but the perfect reminder that this is a place where kids are embraced and encouraged to grow and lead in faith. I'm honored to be nominated as an Elder and look forward to contributing in a deeper way. In daily life, I serve as Managing Principal at Graham-Pelton, a nonprofit consulting firm. When we're not juggling work, school, and kids' activities, our family enjoys camping, hiking, and spending time on Lake George. We love hosting friends, exploring new places to eat, and spending time together in this idyllic community we're lucky to call home.

Zan Struebing

In 1990 I arrived in Hunterdon County with my spouse Jim, and oh, how our family has grown here! We are grateful for our 3 bio kids, one bonus son from Nepal, and one married-in daughter who is the mama of our magical grandbaby, Sophia. Our family was drawn to CPC when seeking a vibrant youth experience for our youngest child, Tristan, and if you ever want to know how long we've been members, just consider the age of Davis Henry. We came on the scene only shortly before Davis did. By profession, I am a psychologist who has worked in a variety of clinical and educational settings with folks whose resilience in the face of trauma is an honor to witness. For fun, I like to take a literal hike, savor the outdoors, listen to audiobooks and soak up all varieties of live music. My interests are many and varied, but this granny thing—that's what I was born for!

GET TO KNOW OUR NEWEST DEACONS....



Scott Jackle

I have been attending Clinton Presbyterian Church my whole life. I was baptized here and attended the Sunday School program with wonderful teachers who I still see in the pews. During high school and college, I taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. I also enjoyed participating in service events such as the Relief Bus, Feed the Need, and the downtown clean up. Now back in the area after college, I was excited to become more active in the church community. When I received the call to become a deacon, I was honored to be considered and look forward to growing in my faith and giving back to the church.



Robin Meyh

I was born and raised in Ocean County. Upon graduating from The College of New Jersey, I relocated to Hunterdon County to be closer to my job. I was fortunate to have an amazing career as a Health and Physical Education teacher and coach at Mendham High School for 35 years. I have been a member of Clinton Presbyterian Church for many years. I have always enjoyed CPC fellowship and the variety of mission opportunities offered to our congregation. My partner Margie and I are blessed with two wonderful and healthy adult children. Both our daughter, Donavyn, and son Connor were active in the CPC youth ministry growing up. Since retiring from education, I have shifted my focus to volunteering with a variety of organizations. I also enjoy spending time outside, hiking, kayaking, and traveling as much as possible. I am honored to be considered for a Deacon position and look forward to serving.



Kevin Thompson

My wife Jennifer and I have been members of CPC since moving to High Bridge in 1990. We have 3 grown children. Rebecca who lives in Edison, NJ, David who lives at home and Abigail who lives in Washington, D.C. I have worked full time for NTT Data as a Computer Validation Engineer for the past 4 years and have spent 25 years in the industry. I grew up in a Presbyterian church on Long Island and was always involved in the musical aspect of the church. Since joining CPC I have been involved in the Music Program and Ministry. In my free time I enjoy being involved in sports of all types. I was an active soccer referee until last fall. On top of soccer, I love ice hockey, and baseball. I also like hiking when time allows. I was stunned when I received the call to become a Deacon. After considerable prayer and consideration, I decided this was the next logical step for my faith journey at CPC.



Leanne Treese

Leanne Treese has been a member of the Clinton Presbyterian Church since moving to Hunterdon County with her husband and three children in 2019. She works as an author and has written and published six novels. Leanne is an active member of the Women's Fiction Writers Association and chairs their annual scholarship auction. She is on the Leadership Council of Impact 100 Hunterdon, an organization which provides \$100,000 annual grants to Hunterdon County non-profits. As part of Impact 100, she writes for their newsletter and serves on the grant administration and sponsorship committees. Leanne, along with other members of CPC, host a monthly craft night at Anderson House, a 12-step drug and alcohol treatment program. She look forward to serving the church as a deacon.

THANKS FOR CPC!

Dear CPC Family,

I am deeply touched by the gifts you have given in my name to our preschoolers and their families. It has been one of the greatest joys of my life and an extraordinary blessing to serve the children and families of this community. The basket of books will fill our classrooms with wonderful stories and the generous donations to our scholarship fund will support families who will now, with your help, be able to send their child to us.

Thank you for your kind expressions of appreciation upon my retirement as Preschool Director. Your thoughtfulness and generosity truly warm my heart.

Thank you for your support, encouragement, and prayers given to the preschool program throughout the years.

With love and gratitude,

Adrienne



Dear Pastor Tracey

Thank you so much for the graduation blanket! I love it so much and I really appreciate the gift! It's so soft and I will definitely use it a lot at college!

Thank you so much!

♥ Marissa A.



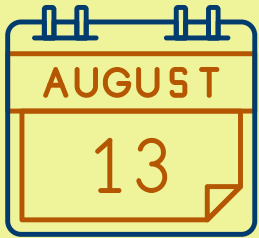
The Community at the Clinton Presbyterian church

Thank you to everyone for their prayers and well wishes for our Aubrey! We prayed for her for 3+ years and thank God for her and our community everyday - Before her and after. Thank you for the meals, prayers, clothes, diapers and especially love! Aubrey cannot wait to meet you all!!

Lots of love
Jackie + Mike
Bruno



August & SEPTEMBER Preview...



Summer Supper at the Manse - 6:00pm!

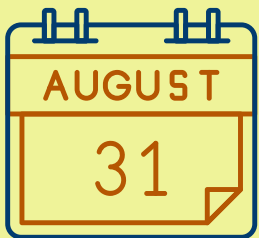


Beat the dog days of summer with an evening at the manse. David will be on the grill and you don't need to bring a thing! All ages are welcome!



Blessing of the Backpacks

Kids of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks to church for a special blessing as we get ready for a new school year. We'll even have backpack tags you can use all year long!



Fall Program Guide Publication

Ready to make plans for the fall? Our program guide will tell you all you need to know about worship, programs, service opportunities and more in and around CPC this fall!



Kick Off Breakfast

Join us on Sunday, September 7, as we come together in worship to begin the Fall season together. After worship we'll head outside (weather permitting!) for an all-church breakfast filled with delicious food.



All Church Day of Service

The mission team is putting together a day of service that will serve the town of Clinton and our neighbors. There will be projects available for all ages and all abilities. Projects range from cleaning up around Main Street, baking / cooking meals for local first responders, giving out messages to neighbors, stream clean up, and more. All are welcomed to come and serve, and many hands make light work.

FLAT JESUS 2025 ~



The McGarry's in Stockholm



Grady & Hudson in Cape Cod



The Meyh/Flynn Family in Switzerland



The Brunos in Baltimore

We've got another whole month
to send in photos with Flat
Jesus so pick one up on Sunday
and send us those pics!

