

April 2024

Clinton Presbyterian Church

News & Events....



What's inside our latest issue:

- [Holy Week Recap](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Children & Youth](#)
- [Adults](#)
- [Welcome & Growth](#)
- [Mission](#)
- [Preschool](#)
- [Birthdays & More](#)

[Spring/Summer
Program Guide 2024](#)



From the Pastor's Pen

"Our task in the present... is to live as resurrection people in between Easter and the final day, with our Christian life, corporate and individual, in both worship and mission, as a sign of the first and foretaste of the second." N. T. Wright Surprised by Hope

Friends,

What a delight to join in a celebration of Easter Joy after long Lenten days. Daffodils dancing on the front lawn, the herald of the trumpet, glad Alleluias and the confession we have yearned to hear and to say – "Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!"

Of course, our Easter journey leads us beyond Sunday morning. These are the days in which we must "Practice Resurrection." Steadily and prayerfully, we now take on the work of being the church in the world, day in and day out. There will be joyful days and sad days, faith-filled days and questioning days. May we do this well together. I'm so glad for your company on this road.

See you in church,

Tracy

Holy Week Recap

Palm Sunday

Lots of palm branches, a parade and tons of enthusiastic young singers - what a perfect way to begin our worship service on Palm Sunday! Thank you to Zan Struebing, Julie Baldassare and all our Sunday School teachers for all the practice behind this parade! And thank you also to our Choir and talented young percussionists for carrying us with Hosanna all through the service.



Following the service, we turned our worship into work as we cleaned up around the church and got ready to welcome visitors and friends to worship with us on Easter. From tidying the pews to creating visitor gifts, straightening up the kitchen and sprucing up the front lawn, it was all hands on deck and a ton of fun!



Eggs Galore!

No sooner had we finished sprucing up around the church than 36 kids descended on the front lawn and the hunt was ON!!! Can you believe that in just 15 minutes, they found over 900 eggs filled with tiny treasures! We are surprised we got them to sit still long enough to take this group photo! Thanks to our Middle schoolers for hiding the eggs - you sure thought of some good hiding spots!



Holy Week Recap

Maundy Thursday

Jesus often gathered around a table with his friends, and on Munday Thursday as we remembered his last upper with the disciples, we gathered with our church friends, shared in a simple meal and ended the evening with communion. Working in pairs, we traced our hands onto a tablecloth which we will use as we come to the communion table throughout the year. May our hands always be used in the service of Christ.



Good Friday - Kids

We talked about sad days, hard days and God's great big love for us on all days as our youngest disciples gathered on Good Friday morning. A song, a prayer, a craft, a snack - it was enough for this sad day. What a gift these children are.



Evening Tenebrae

In the darkened sanctuary we listened again to the painful story of Good Friday. In the last words Jesus heard, in the last words Jesus said, the story is told. Attentive to the weight of the day, our musicians provided music which drew us into the shadows

Easter @ CPC!



From the first note of "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" to the final Amen, our Easter Sunday service was a celebration we will long remember. What a joy to see our church filled (did you know the final kid count was 36?) and to remember in the midst of all the challenges of life that Good News we proclaim from week to week is real and true - "Christ is risen, earth and heaven never more shall be the same." And as the kids might remind you - don't keep the good news of our faith to yourself - tell your peeps!

Thank you to all our musicians who poured in extra hours in preparation for both Holy Week and Easter. The notes of your songs resounded in our hearts and minds and that joy will carry us. And thank you to our AV team for all their efforts to make sure that those who couldn't make it in person could worship gladly still.



A New Tradition is Born!

From an empty cross to one brimming with color and vibrancy, what a delight it was to try our hand at "Flowering the Cross" this Easter! While some worshippers brought fresh cut flowers from their gardens, others used the flowers provided by our worship team. May this act be a sign and symbol of the gift of New Life offered to us in Christ.



Musical Happenings

Mr. Ted Brancato



It seems that the April showers that bring May flowers came much earlier this year...have you seen all the beautiful daffodils blooming on the CPC grounds. One of our talented choir members and instrumentalists can take partial credit for the beauty of the church landscape - **Amey Barnes** spent a good portion of holy week spreading mulch in the flower beds!

But enough about flowers and whatnot...my job is to tell you about the exciting music that you'll hear at CPC in the weeks to come. The first week of April will be a time of deep, calming yoga breathing after a hectic holy week of music, which is appropriate because the aforementioned **Amey Barnes** will be bestowing beautiful flute music for us during the April 7th service.

The following Sunday will feature the **Praise Team** leading us in familiar songs and a beautiful rendition of "O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" by **Julie Baldassare** for the offertory. Maybe Ted will remember to play the Doxology - you'll have to attend or tune in to find out! Moving forward to April 21st we will be treated to a majestic anthem by the **Chancel Choir**, and **Davis Henry** will make his CPC musical debut playing "This Little Light of Mine" on the ukulele for the prelude. Don't be late to church - you won't want to miss his performance!

Finally, on April 28th, we will be regaled by some of our youthful singers on a piece that has yet to be chosen, and by singers who are not aware that they'll be singing that Sunday! I'll get right on that! But it's a sure bet that it will be an inspiring performance that will lift our spirits!

Here's a peek at music in May: A new **Praise Team** piece will be unveiled - "Roses" by Andrew Ripp. One of our resident composers, **Amey Barnes**, will debut a choral arrangement for the Mother's Day service, and there's a distinct possibility of another debut by resident composer, **Tom Fuller**, who has been composing up a storm! On Pentecost Sunday we will have **guest jazz musicians** in our midst. I'll tell you more about all this later in April.

As always, I would invite any and all congregants who love to sing to come to a **Chancel Choir** rehearsal (Wednesdays at 7pm) or a **Praise Team** rehearsal (Saturday mornings at 10:30am) and try it out. See for yourself how much fun we have! Speaking of fun, I hear rumors that **Bell Choir** will be reconvening for a non-holiday performance. We will announce when rehearsals will start up (Wednesday evenings at 6pm) for that. **Jared Miner** has been rehearsing with some of our bell ringers in preparation for their road trip the weekend of April 7th when they will play with the bell choir of his "home" church up in Lockport, NY (<http://1stpreslockport.org/>), and on April 8th will be viewing a total eclipse up in that neck of the woods.



With Jared Miner at the helm our Bell Choir is stretching to tackle more complex offerings recently and their hard work and dedication is really paying off. Their most recent piece "Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart" was flawless and helped to text the tone for our time of worship together.

CPC Kids

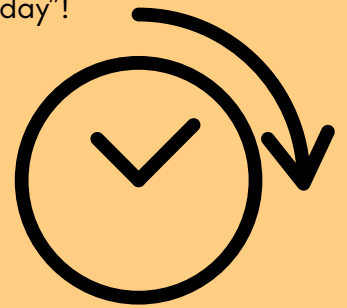
Sunday School

Classes will resume on April 14th and continue through May 5th! Don't forget to check our our [Spring/Summer Program Guide](#) to see all the wonderful things happening for our kids this Spring and Summer!



Rise & Shine!

What's better than wearing your PJs to school - wearing our PJs to church! The loss of sleep didn't slow this crew down one bit on "Spring Forward Sunday"!



Joy Scouts

Our Joy Scouts did an amazing job of helping to certify three wonderful therapy dogs with Creature Comforts Pet Therapy! It takes a lot to become a therapy dog and we were proud to help such a wonderful organization. Check out therapy dog, Chance's, business card!



CHANCE, THERAPY DOG



Breed: Golden Retriever
Weight: 75 lbs.
Owner: Melanie Savulich

Hello friend! I am so glad to meet you!

Favorite food: Bananas, peanut butter
Favorite pastime: Swimming, fetch ball
Favorite trick: Catching a treat

www.ccpettherapy.org
973.285.9083
@ccpettherapy

Scan to Donate



Help us do more 🐾 Volunteer or donate today

Grow in Faith - Children & Youth

Sunday Funday

8th Grader Mollie Little, who will be confirmed later this year at CPC, took on the task of running Sunday Funday last month and we think the 4th Graders would love her to come back every month! Thanks Mollie for creating such a fun event for our crew - turns out that they are all pretty intrepid Jr. Detectives!

**Next Sunday Funday -
April 14**



Chaos Youth group

Things we learned at CHAOS this month:

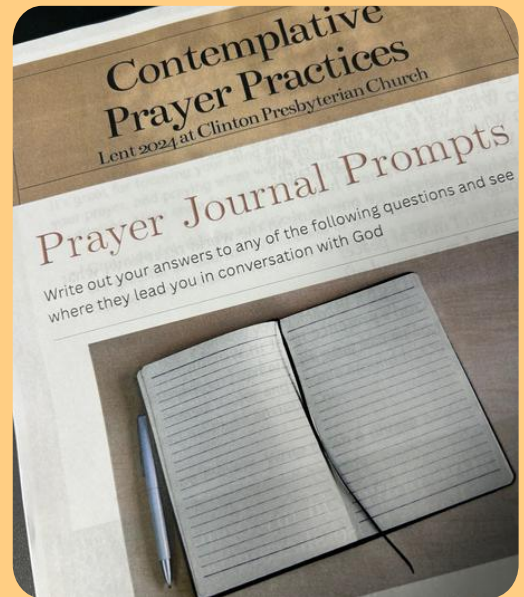
1. High Schoolers do not like to pose for photos
2. Middle Schoolers can eat their weight in frozen yoghurt and then some!
3. We are so proud of these young people and thrilled that they are a part of our church family.



Grow in Faith - Adults

Lenten Prayer

Over the course of 4 weeks we explored how to pray in new ways, both individually and as a group. Pausing to try our hand at praying in color, embodiment prayer, centering prayer and more, we learned that making space to encounter God doesn't have to be formal and rigid. In silence and contemplation we found ourselves renewed. Thanks to the Rev., Christine Davies for her wise guidance in these new paths and for sharing her resources with us. If you couldn't make the classes, you can find recap videos [here](#) and access more information on [Christine's website](#)



Great Decisions

Launched in January, our Great Decisions Dinner and Conversation group has really been a hit. We've covered a lot of ground in our short time together, from considering the conflict in the middle east, to exploring alternative energy sources and even tackling the challenges of Climate Change. Thoughtful, informed conversations help us find our way to places of deeper friendships as we move forward in faith. Our next meeting is April 25th!

Welcome & Growth

Blood Drive

In partnership with the American Red Cross we hosted a Blood Drive at Clinton Presbyterian on February 29. It was a wonderful success with 42 pints of blood being collected. Thank you to Ali Miller our Office and Communications Manager for coordinating this event. The next blood drive at CPC will be on June 26th from 2-7pm. If you wish to donate, you can register [HERE!](#)



Generation to Generation Capital Campaign Town Hall April 21 at 10:40am

Two years ago, on Palm Sunday, we made our very first financial commitments for our Capital Campaign. Just weeks later we announced that \$888,040 had been pledged by members and friends of our congregation and that dollar figure has increased since then. As we close out year two, we have come such a long way and we are hoping that many of you will join us as we give a thorough report on our progress and what lies ahead in the final 12 months of the campaign. Mark your calendars for this important meeting!



Art In Bloom - April 14th

An all new festival is coming to town and CPC is so excited to be a part of it! Take a stroll downtown and find our table on Main Street. We'll be sharing about all the good things that are happening at CPC and will be offering some crafty activities for little hands!



Pentecost Picnic - May 19th!

50 days after Easter, marks the day of Pentecost, the day the church was born. What better why to say "Happy Birthday, Church!" than to throw a party!

Mission

Our Community Impact

The Mission team would like to share the wonderful thank you messages we have received from our 2023 disbursements to organizations. The disbursements served both local organizations (63%) and national/international organizations (37%).

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!

To ease another's
heartache is to forget
one's own.
- Abraham Lincoln

TURNING POINT

September 19, 2023

Clinton Presbyterian Church
91 Center Street
Clinton, NJ 08809

Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of the board and staff of Turning Point, I would like to thank you for your donation of \$250. We have noted that this donation is designated to support Anderson House.

Throughout the year we work tirelessly to bring families back together by helping those suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders. We cannot continue this vital work without YOUR continued support. Your generous donation assists those struggling to break the cycle of addiction and funds the programs and services needed to help them develop the crucial life skills to become responsible, productive, and sober individuals.

As a 501c3 tax-exempt charitable organization, your donation of \$AMOUNT is tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. No goods or services were given in exchange for this donation. For tax purposes, our Federal Identification Number is 22-2046926.

Because of donors like YOU, we can continue our mission of providing compassionate treatment for addiction and reducing the stigma of addiction and mental illness. Thank you again for your continued support. If you need any further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 973-239-9400 ext. 167 or dknill@turningpointnj.org.

Sincerely,



Dawn K. Knill, CFRE
Director of Development and Public Affairs

Mission

Salvation Army



Open Cupboard

Your outpouring of support for the Open Cupboard Food Pantry in the wake of their devastating fire in February was deep and generous. Monetary donations and gifts cards from the congregation totaled over \$1600 and to this our Mission team added an additional \$500. Should you still wish to make a contribution, there are a couple of ways to do so and they are detailed below.



DOING THE MOST GOOD

... with your contributions of money, time and resources

NEW JERSEY DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS

4 Gary Road, P.O. Box 3170
Union, NJ 07083
Office: (908) 851-9300

December 1, 2023

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

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Salvation Army in Flemington gratefully acknowledges receipt of your gift in the amount of \$500 received on September 21, 2023, from Clinton Presbyterian Church.

On behalf of The Salvation Army in Flemington, please accept our heartfelt appreciation for your willingness to help us help others in need. We appreciate your support to help ensure that the most vulnerable among us receive help and support and therefore, have a brighter future.

There is a saying you may have heard before, that *"To the world you may be just one person but to just one person, you may mean the world."* Thank you for bringing a world of hope and help to those struggling and in need through your ongoing support and your generous gift to The Salvation Army in Flemington.

Sincerely,

Adelixa Martinez

Adelixa Martinez
Development Department

The Salvation Army is a 501 (c) (3) organization, Federal ID13-5562351, and as such all contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. In accordance with IRS regulations, this letter serves as your receipt and provides verification that no goods or services were received in exchange for your gift.

"... there is no reward equal to that of doing the most good to the most people in the most need." – Evangeline Booth

1. Donate directly via their online portal:

DONATE 

2. Mail checks or gift cards to the Open Cupboard at P.O. Box 5071, Clinton, NJ 08809

Preschool

There was a flurry of activity in our preschool classrooms in March. Rainbows were everywhere and parades with marching and music filled the hallway. Leprechaun traps were created, but they could not hold that little trickster. Maybe next year?

In addition to Ms Judy, we had other special guests this month. Mr. Steve and Mr. Paul, both first responders, visited with our 4's. They showed us equipment a firefighter and an EMT use and Mr. Steve brought his Chief car. We loved all of the emergency lights! Pastor Tracey read a leprechaun story to our 3's. We were all dressed in green and celebrated St. Patrick's Day with our very special Irish guest.

We had a full house on March 20th when our 4's participated in our monthly Stay and Play Lunch Bunch. This month we had fun using our gross motor skills as we ran through an obstacle course challenge. We were all having so much fun, we had no time to take pictures!



Birthdays & More

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY!

DEBBIE J.	2	MELANIE K.	6	RUBY C.	21	CAMRYN K.	27
MIA W.	2	BRENDA K.	7	DANIEL N.	22	BECKY D.	28
AUGUST D.	3	JEFF H.	9	STEVE H.	24	MAKENZIE H.	30
JULIA M.	3	TOM B.	10	LIZA B.	25		
BETH B.	4	MORGAN V.	11	JENNIFER T.	26		
DAVIS H.	6						



Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Maloy! Stephanie was a beautiful bride and Kevin a handsome groom and our sanctuary was filled with joy for the happy couple. Join us in wishing them a lifetime of happiness.

The CPC newsletter will now be published on a bimonthly basis, with the goal of using the newsletter to reflect on events which have happened, telling stories, sharing photos and giving thanks.

The next CPC Newsletter will be the April/May Edition and will land in your box by June 1! Please have all submissions in by May 24th.

Don't forget to check out our Program Guide and mark your calendar to join us for fun and fellowship!

