

February 2024

# Clinton Presbyterian Church

News & Events....



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## From the Pastor's Pen

Friends,

The confluence of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day this year has led to some interesting conversations in clergy circles. Some colleagues are moving their services from the evening to noontime to accommodate Valentine's Day dinner reservations, others are crafting hallmark-esque poems merging the days (I'll spare you the examples!) while yet others are leaning into the opportunity, inviting their parishioners to keep the LENT in VaLENTine's Day. A creative bunch, huh?

Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the Lenten season, is an unusual and counter cultural day. Bearing the mark of a cross on our foreheads, if even for a few hours, as a sign of our morality, our need and our repentance is humbling. Gratefully, in our tradition, we don't cower in fear of judgment, but we reach for and trust in God's unending love towards us. This is just as true on Ash Wednesday as on any other day.

Remember playing the game "Heads Up?" You have a sticky note on your head, and you have to guess who you are as you listen to clues from other players. This year, may the ashes be that note, and may our life together be the reminder of who you are. You are God's – in mercy, in love, in hope.

This Valentine's Day, I invite you to join us for worship at 7pm. As we receive the mark of ashes, we hold it as mark of our very identity.

See you in church -  
Tracey



# Clinton Presbyterian Church

Clinton NJ • Est. 1831



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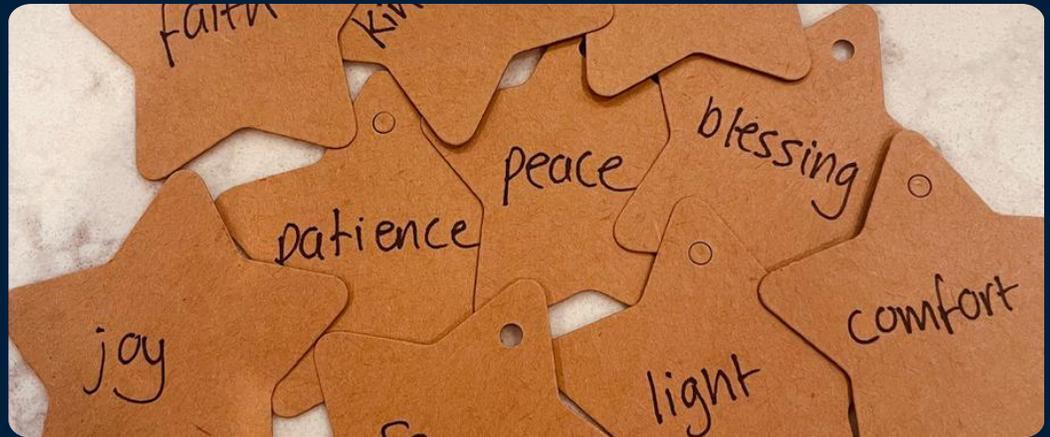
"Baptism is faith in  
action."

Watchman Nee

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## WORSHIP

Despite snow, ice and pouring rain, we have gathered faithfully to worship each Sunday in January. On January 7, we each received Star Words, intended to keep us mindful throughout the year of God at work in the world around us and within. If you didn't get one, pick one up from the back of the sanctuary before Lent begins.



We welcomed back our Chancel choir in mid-January as they blessed us with a moving rendition of "Down to the River" on the same week that we remembered our baptismal promises.

We ended the month by welcoming Scouts from BSA Troop 121 to join us in worship, with Scouts posting the colors, reading scripture and leading prayers. The service ended with an offering from the Boy Scout Band. Did you know that CPC has been chartering Troop 121 for almost 90 years? What a long history together.



# WORSHIP

## Welcome New Members!

There was no better way to begin 2024 than watching our church family grow! Welcome to the family Judith, Kevin, Ashley, Jesse and Rus – be sure to say hello when you see them around!

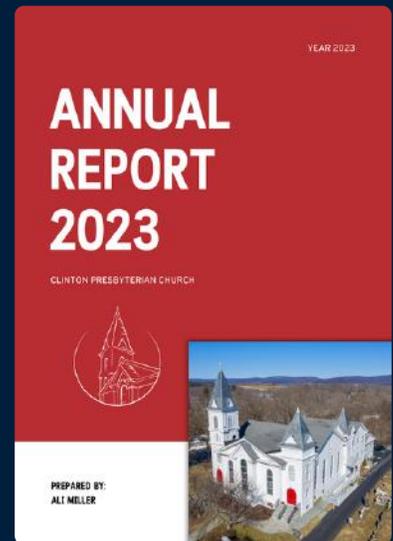


## Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday January 28. If you missed it, please don't forget to check out our [Annual Report](#) which is a testimony to your faithfulness and God's goodness.

## Children's Sunday – February 11

Game On! We can't wait to get the whole team together to lead the grown ups in worship! This is a high energy, don't miss Sunday and our kids have spent a lot of time getting ready for this day. Show up to support and encourage them - you will be blessed by them!



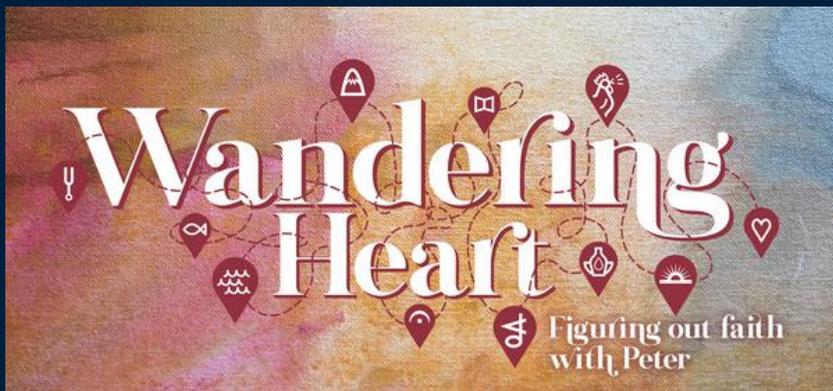
On Super Bowl Sunday (February 11) we will be collecting money and cans of soup. Our kids will be donating all cans and money to the Flemington Area Food Pantry. They'll be collecting your donations in giant soup pots as you leave the sanctuary -help them fill their pots of the brim.

To make things even more interesting, we are dividing the congregation into two teams. Last names A thru L are the RED Team (Go Chiefs!) Last names M thru Z are the GOLD Team (Go 49ers!) Let's see who can bring in the most donations – and may the best team win!

To read more about the Souper Bowl of Caring, visit [www.tacklehunger.org](http://www.tacklehunger.org).



## Wandering Heart: Lent 2024 at CPC



This Lent, we will be “Figuring out Faith with Peter.” Using devotional materials developed by Sanctified Art, we’ll dwell in the stories from Peter’s life of faith and find in them reflections of our own story. Key lyrics from the well loved hymn “Come Thy Fount of Every Blessing” will help frame the journey we take together from week to week.

### Ash Wednesday Service

February 14 7pm

Gather in the sanctuary for a simple communion service where we will receive the mark of ashes and be reminded of God’s great love.

## Sunday Sermons

Each Sunday we’ll engage with another episode from Peter’s journey.

#### THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT Wandering Heart: *‘Jesus sought me’* Summary | LUKE 5:1-11

After a long night of fishing without a single catch, Jesus told Simon Peter, “Take the boat to deep water and let out your nets.” When Peter did, he caught so many fish that the nets began to break! Simon Peter bowed down and told Jesus, “I am not worthy to be in your presence.” But Jesus told him, “From now on you will catch people instead of fish.” Then Simon Peter left his boat and followed Jesus.

#### THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT Wandering Heart: *‘Rescue me from danger’* Summary MATTHEW 14:22-33

While the disciples’ boat was being tossed around in a storm, they saw Jesus walking toward them on the water. They were scared, but Simon Peter told Jesus, “If it’s really you and not a ghost, tell me to walk to you on the water.” Jesus called him out of the boat, and Simon Peter started to walk on the water. But when Simon Peter got scared, he began to sink and cried out to Jesus, “Rescue me!” Jesus caught him and brought him safely to the boat, saying, “Why did you doubt?”

#### THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT Wandering Heart: *‘Praise the mount’* Summary MATTHEW 16:13-20

Jesus asked his disciples, “What are people saying about me?” They told him, “They think you’re a prophet.” Then Jesus asked them, “What about you? What do you think?” Simon Peter answered right away: “You are the Messiah, the Son of God!” Jesus blessed him and gave him the name Peter, which means rock. Jesus told him, “You’re the rock I’ll build my church on, a church so strong that nothing will overcome it.”

#### THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT Wandering Heart: *‘I’m fixed upon it’* Summary MATTHEW 16:21-23

Jesus told his disciples that being the Messiah meant that he would be killed in Jerusalem, but would be raised from the dead. Peter did not like the sound of that. He told Jesus, “Absolutely not! It can’t happen that way, and I won’t let it.” But Jesus told Peter, “Get out of my way! You’re trying to tempt me away from the path I must take. I’m seeing God’s big picture, but you’re only worried about what’s here on earth.”

#### THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT Wandering Heart: *‘Teach me’* Summary MATTHEW 18:15-22

Jesus was teaching people about how to live the way God wants us to live. He told them, “If someone does something to hurt you, tell them and try to work it out.” Then Peter asked, “What if the person hurts me again? How many times do I need to forgive? Seven?” But Jesus told him, “You should forgive over and over again. Not seven times, but seventy-seven times!”

## Lent Devotionals

Printed devotionals will be available to pick up from the sanctuary on Sunday February 11. Different to the standard daily devotional, this year’s offering has a mix of music, poetry, art and reflective reading for you to engage at your own pace throughout the week. Thought provoking and engaging, it will encourage us to linger with Sunday’s scripture a while and note the intersections with our own lives.



## Contemplative Prayer Practices for Lent and beyond...

Life can be chaotic, loud, ever moving, and generally stressful. It can be difficult to distance ourselves from the noise and movement of our day-to-day lives enough to even hear ourselves think, let alone to develop healthy, consistent spiritual lives and prayer practices. Finding inner calm and connection to God is a challenge.

If any of this resonates with you, then join us this Lent for a 4-week series on contemplative prayer practices, designed to help us reconnect with God. In this group we'll spend some time learning about and practicing some new ways to pray that can be incorporated into our daily lives.

No-one will be put on the spot to pray aloud. Rather we will be gently guided by Rev. Christine Davies, who is a trained spiritual director and wise counsellor. Rev. Davies is the Director of Pastoral Care at Robert Wood Johnson.

You are welcome to participate for all 4 weeks or to drop into classes as your schedule allows. RSVPS would be helpful in order to prepare materials. Contact Ali at [office@clintonpresbyterian](mailto:office@clintonpresbyterian)

Feb 25, March 3, 10, 17 from 1045-1130am

## Looking Ahead to Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter

On Palm Sunday, March 24, our children will lead us in a chorus of Hosanna, as we recall Jesus triumphant entry into the holy city. As we sing "songs of loudest praise" we'll consider what it means to have those words impact our lives.

We'll gather for a simple soup supper on Maundy Thursday, March 28, in Fellowship Hall at 6pm, remembering around tables Jesus' humility and humanity as he washed his disciples feet.

More details to follow in few weeks.

On Good Friday, a Children's Gathering will take place at 10am and in the evening a Service of Tenebrae will be offered at 7pm. On somber days, the company of good friends is a gift. Find your way here.

# MUSICAL HAPPENINGS

Mr. Ted Brancato



February will see the reconstitution of our bell choir, led by the energetic and inspiring Jared Miner. Starting on February 7th at 6pm, the bell choir will begin working on a piece that will be performed for the March 10th church service. **Bell Choir will rehearse every Wednesday (except for February 14, Ash Wednesday).** Immediately after Easter (March 31) the bell choir will start rehearsals again in preparation for a performance sometime in May.

Jared, who's home congregation is in Lockport, NY (near Buffalo), will take a group of CPC bell ringers on a road trip to his hometown, sometime in early June, to explore the Lockport area (Niagara Falls!) and play with the extraordinary bell choir from First Presbyterian of Lockport (<http://1stpreslockport.org/>).

To participate in our bell choir, please contact Jared Miner ([jaredminer11@gmail.com](mailto:jaredminer11@gmail.com)) or Ted Brancato ([tbrancato@clintonpresbyterian.net](mailto:tbrancato@clintonpresbyterian.net)).

The Chancel Choir, Praise Team, and Kid's Choir will all be performing exciting new music during the month. Chancel choir will sing for our Ash Wednesday service and also for the February 18th service. Kid's Choir is learning a new, energetic piece for the Feb. 11th "Kid's Service", and Praise Team is working on a couple of cool new songs as well.

If you or your children would like to participate vocally or instrumentally in any of our musical groups, please contact Ted Brancato ([tbrancato@clintonpresbyterian.net](mailto:tbrancato@clintonpresbyterian.net)). **Chancel Choir meets on Wednesday nights at 7pm. Rehearsals run about an hour long. Praise Team meets on Saturday mornings at around 10:30am. Kid's Choir, which is led by our fabulous volunteer leaders, usually rehearses after church services on an "as needed" basis.** Please contact Abby Dougherty ([adougherty160@gmail.com](mailto:adougherty160@gmail.com)) or Ted Brancato ([tbrancato@clintonpresbyterian.net](mailto:tbrancato@clintonpresbyterian.net)) if your child would like to participate.

While I am away on vacation the first week of February, musical leadership will be in the very capable hands of Dr. Zan Struebing! She has some special music she's preparing, along with her son Tristan that I'm sure you will enjoy. Chancel Choir will also be singing a beautiful piece entitled "Creation Will Be At Peace"



# CHILDREN & YOUTH

## Sunday School

While the adults were meeting, the kids were serving! During the Congregational Meeting our kids got to work making valentines to be included with local deliveries for Meals on Wheels. We know that our kids put a smile on our face every week and now those smiles will be spread all over Hunterdon County – thanks kids!



Pre-K through middle schoolers are invited to join us for Sunday School each Sunday from 10:45 to 11:30!

## Joy Scouts

Join the Joy Scouts as they deliver our Souper Bowl of Caring donations!

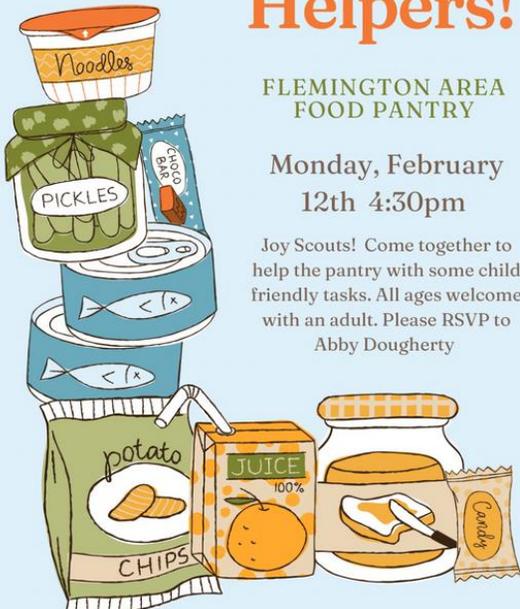


### Food Pantry Helpers!

FLEMINGTON AREA FOOD PANTRY

Monday, February 12th 4:30pm

Joy Scouts! Come together to help the pantry with some child friendly tasks. All ages welcome with an adult. Please RSVP to Abby Dougherty



# CHILDREN & YOUTH

**SUNDAY  
FUNDAY**  
February 4th!

Calling all 4th and 5th graders – join Tracey and Adrienne after Sunday School for some Valentines Day fun and games...oh and also snacks!

**CHAOS  
&  
CHAOS JR**



Our tweens and teens plus other familiar faces from CPC attended the recent SKIT performance of “Something Rotten” in support of our very own Julia Morrisette who was starring as Portia. Great job, Julia!



**February 4th!**  
NEXT UP FOR BOTH OUR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLERS IS BRINGING OUR OWN BRAND OF CHAOS TO CPC GAME NIGHT ON SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4 AT 5PM.



Summer is months away, but making summer plans, especially for kids, is in full swing! As you plan, consider having your kid/tween/teen spend a week this summer at Camp Johnsonburg. Not 45 minutes way from Clinton, this is a special place, a world apart, for kids to flourish. You can check out the full schedule of available camps here: <https://www.campjburg.org/summer-camp/>

This year, Pastor Tracey will be serving as the volunteer chaplain at Johnsonburg the week of June 23. If it would put your mind at ease to know that a known adult who cares about them will be on site, she would love to have some CPC friends there – in fact 5 are already registered.

# ADULTS

## GREAT DECISIONS



Our Great Decisions group met for the first time in January and it was a roaring success. Colleen Duerr was our first moderator and meal maker! The topic was the Middle East and it was clear from the discussions that everyone was prepared and happy to be engaged. It isn't always easy to talk about topics that can be polarizing, but with the help of the guiding workbook, an excellent moderator and such kind and giving people, our time together passed quickly. Our group is 20+ strong and we would be happy to welcome any newcomers for our next meeting on February 22nd - the topic will be Climate Technology.

## Adult Ed

### Bible Basics for Adults - The Gospel of John

Sunday mornings at 10:40 am Room 8

This weekly bible study class is for beginners and longtime students of the Bible alike. We are working our way through the Gospel of John as we grow in faith and community with one another. No need to sign up - just jump in and join us.

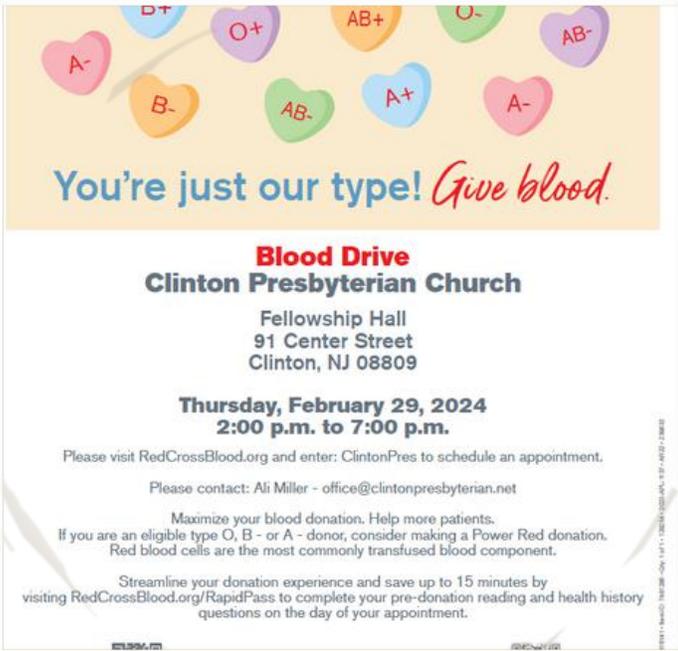


### Women's Bible Study

We hope to finish up our study on women in the New Testament health in 2024. Using Lynn Japinga's book, "From Daughters to Disciples" we're taking a fresh look at the women called to follow Jesus. Our next meeting is Monday February 12th at 7pm - all are welcome! Meet in Room 4 downstairs.

# COMMUNITY

**PLEASE  
GIVE!**



A flyer for a blood drive. At the top, there are several colorful hearts with blood types written on them: A-, B-, AB-, O-, and A+. Below the hearts, the text reads "You're just our type! Give blood." in a mix of blue and red fonts. The main title "Blood Drive" is in red, followed by "Clinton Presbyterian Church" in black. The address is "Fellowship Hall, 91 Center Street, Clinton, NJ 08809". The date and time are "Thursday, February 29, 2024, 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.". Below this, there are instructions on how to schedule an appointment via RedCrossBlood.org and contact information for Ali Miller. There are also some smaller text blocks about maximizing blood donation and streamlining the experience.

**Blood Drive**  
**Clinton Presbyterian Church**  
Fellowship Hall  
91 Center Street  
Clinton, NJ 08809

**Thursday, February 29, 2024**  
**2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: ClintonPres to schedule an appointment.

Please contact: Ali Miller - [office@clintonpresbyterian.net](mailto:office@clintonpresbyterian.net)

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.  
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.  
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by  
visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](https://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history  
questions on the day of your appointment.

Proud to boast that past blood drives at CPC have brought in impressive numbers! We already have 33 donors signed up! Please share this event with friends and neighbors and don't forget to make an appointment for yourself. Share your heart! Come give in Feb. for a \$20 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See [rcblood.org/heart](https://rcblood.org/heart)

February 4th @ 5pm - Last Call to Sign up!



Come join us for a family-friendly PotLuck and Game Night on Sunday, February 4th at 5pm. We are looking forward to trying each other's delicious dishes and playing some fun games. RSVP by signing the clipboard in church or signing up to bring something here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B48AF-AA2AA1F85-46827352-potluck>  
Questions? Contact Tina Little at [3c.lady@gmail.com](mailto:3c.lady@gmail.com)

# PRESCHOOL

Finally...SNOW! We were so excited to see the snow in January and made the most out of our snowy days. Igloos, snowfolks, and hot chocolate in our sensory bin kept us busy and learning throughout the month.

As excited as we were about the snow, we were sad to say good-bye to Ms. Powick. Ms. Powick has shared early childhood expertise and her love with Clinton Presbyterian Preschool for three years. She is leaving us to pursue a different job in the education field. Ms. Powick has been a huge asset to our program, loved by children, families and staff. We will miss her.



**GOODBYE  
MS. POWICK -  
WE WILL MISS  
YOU!**



**PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION IS**

**NOW OPEN!**

Go to [www.clintonpresbyterian.net/registration](http://www.clintonpresbyterian.net/registration)



# 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!

“THOSE WHO ARE HAPPIEST  
ARE THOSE WHO DO THE  
MOST FOR OTHERS.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON



8 Bartles Corner Rd.- Suite 11  
Flemington, NJ 08822  
Phone: 908-782-2490  
Fax: 908-782-4685  
[www.familypromishc.org](http://www.familypromishc.org)

September 15, 2023

Clinton Presbyterian Church  
91 Center Street  
Clinton, NJ 08809

Dear Clinton Presbyterian Congregants,

Some people make choices that change lives. Thank you for being one of them. Your contribution of \$500 will help change the lives of children, women, families, and other community members. Tremendous support from individuals like you allows Family Promise of Hunterdon County to continue fostering Homelessness Prevention Programs, Mental Health, Financial Empowerment, and Neighbors in Need programs.

Additionally, we now have a new program *Hope Restored* that provides outreach services to a growing number of households experiencing some type of housing crisis in our community. This is in line with our mission to guide *ALL* families to permanent housing by mobilizing the community.

Together, we are positively impacting the lives of both the people and the community. Family Promise of Hunterdon County's desire is for families to maintain long-term stability. Thank you, again, for choosing to give to our mission. We are grateful that you made our families a priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angela Fields".

Angela Fields  
Executive Director

*We wish to state, herein, that no goods or services were received by you in exchange for this contribution.*

# MISSION



All Hands and Hearts

September 25, 2023

Clinton Presbyterian Church  
91 Center Street  
Clinton, NJ 08809

Dear Friends at Clinton Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of our entire team and the communities we serve, I want to thank you for your generous gift. Your commitment to community-inspired, volunteer-powered disaster relief makes a difference!

Through the generosity of supporters like you, All Hands and Hearts has directly assisted over 1.2 million people whose lives have been disrupted by earthquakes, fires, and storms of every kind. In these and other humanitarian crises, we are devoted to focusing on the greatest needs, and collaborating with local, national, and international partners in solving for the long term.

Again, thank you for including All Hands and Hearts in your charitable giving.

With gratitude,

Jessica Thompson  
Chief Executive Officer

Gift Date	Donor Name	Designated Fund	Amount
9/20/2023	Clinton Presbyterian Church	Disaster Relief Fund	\$500.00

HQCB

Donations are tax-deductible; our 501(c)3 ID # is 20-3414952.  
We acknowledge that no goods or services were provided or exchanged for this donation.

6 COU

To Our Friends the Clinton Presbyterian Church, All Hands and Hearts is deeply grateful for your recent donation and for your faith in us to serve the needs of disaster-affected communities at home and around the world with our unique brand of community-centered, volunteer-powered relief.

With thanks and warm regards,  
Christine B. / All Hands and Hearts

# STAY IN THE KNOW



## CPC LEADERSHIP

Your deacons and elders kicked off the year with a time of reflection and planning. Led by Elder Colleen Duerr, we engaged in what is called an ‘environmental scan,” considering what in the world around us might be helpful or challenging, while also reflecting on our current strengths and weaknesses. We are seeking to be intentional about our future as church, a place where God’s love is known and shown, and we invite your prayers as we journey on.

## B U I L D I N G

As we turn into 2024, many of our Capital Campaign projects have been completed or are close to completion. Sanctuary repairs are completed, bathrooms and classrooms have been remodeled, the Fellowship Hall roof has been replaced and the work on the exterior of the church nears a conclusion.

Soon, new interior and exterior signage will be installed and plans are currently being developed to rebuild the accessible ramp. The final piece of the puzzle will be a kitchen refresh.

We plan to hold a “town hall” meeting for our whole church family in the near future to provide more specific updates, including financial updates, as we round the corner into the home stretch of this work. More information to follow soon.



During the final months of 2023, we spent time vetting and researching new church management software. Our choice was Realm and we are very excited to share it with you in the coming months! This new software is entirely web based and will allow our members to login and view and make changes to their profiles. Much more information to come - we are excited about this impactful change!

# BIRTHDAYS & MORE

## HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY!

ELEANOR BLAUS	4	NANCY HOVEY	2	DANIEL PRAKOPCYK	10
AVA CRESPO	6	BRADY KRUSHINSKI	8	JILL PRAKOPCYK	4
AUDREY DADOURIS	25	CHRISTIE LALOR	18	KAREN SAVERS	14
BEN DOUGHERTY	19	ELIZABETH LALOR	7	FREDDY SIFUENTES	12
HANNAH DUERR	16	BOB MILLER	22	JORDAN TOMBS	11
DICK FARRELL	1	HUDSON PEARSON	14	ROGER TWIGG	24
LISA HEILMAN	26	JOHN PEREZ	28	TREY VERDERAMO	23
		OWEN PLIMPTON	13	DIANE WIRTH	12



Do you have news you would like to share with our congregation? Send it in to the office before the 20th of the month and it will appear here!

Photos and artwork are also very welcome!

[office@clintonpresbyterian.net](mailto:office@clintonpresbyterian.net)



## ...a Thank You Note

Thanks for the many prayers for my sister, Lois Dege, during her lengthy illness. She passed on 11/20; the many prayers for me and my family, as well as the inspirational condolence cards, are greatly appreciated. I am blessed to have my wonderful CPC family!

Judy Beck

