

Clinton Presbyterian Church



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FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Hi Friends,

One day last week an email dropped into my inbox with the subject line "Buy some new underwear." No it wasn't from a clothing company, but rather from a Pastor whose work I follow. The tag line read, "Buying underwear as a spiritual discipline."

Turns out this wasn't an invitation to go shopping for myself, but rather to buy some underwear to bless others. Rev. Russ tapped into that feeling we are likely all experiencing that the world is out of control and there's very little that we can do to help. Go buy some underwear she suggested and then donate it locally. Think about it, no-one wants your "gently used" underwear and organizations that help to clothe people frequently run low on this staple.

How will this help you? It's a reminder that no matter how chaotic or out of control the world gets, there is always something we can do to help. Underwear is readily available, it's almost always on sale somewhere. And it takes very little brain power for us to take this step, so even if our brains are foggy and our bodies are tired, it's still possible.

So join us in the **month of August** as we collect "**Undies on Sundays.**" We'll be collecting adult and kids undies in all sizes and these will be distributed by Safe in Hunterdon, the Flemington Area Food Pantry and Family Promise. Drop the new undies into the baskets at entrances to the sanctuary.

And maybe once we have taken this step, the "Give a Mouse a Cookie" effect will kick in. We might realise there are things we can do. Having done one good deed, we'll be energized to do the next good thing. There's no doubt that God is calling us to do good these days. We just have to be clear headed and open hearted enough to recognise them.

It's amazing what a few pairs of underwear will do!

See you in church.

Tracy

WORSHIP



Our July sermon series has found us mining scripture and Broadway shows for glimpses of God's guidance. From *Fiddler on the Roof* to *Wicked*, *Beauty and the Beast* and more we have reveled in the music and found bread for the journey. Pastor Tracey offers her thanks especially to Ted and all of the talented musicians who have been willing to learn new tunes to help us engage more during worship. Rick and Judy's rendition of "Tradition!", Julie's heartfelt version of "Tale as Old as Time" and Julia's soaring voice in "For Good" have each been a gift, not to mention how the Summer Choir carried us to the Austrian Alps with the "Sound of Music", coupled with Amey's musical offering of Edelweiss. We have been blessed.

Meanwhile the kids have been enjoying their own summer series with Pastor Tracey's basket of glasses! Who knew there were so many different types of glasses! We've been reminded to celebrate, to use our voices to praise God and to be good friends to one another in this CPC band.

COMPOSING FAITH

We'll round out Summer Sundays with a short sermon series exploring some of the great hymn writers of our tradition. Together we'll consider how hymns can help shape a meaningful spiritual experience and each week we will see how a key theme of scripture is developed and brought to life through the great songs of our faith.

August 4: Brian Wren
August 11: Fanny Crosby
August 25: Issac Watts



COMPOSING FAITH

August Sermon Series
Sundays @ 9:30am at
Clinton Presbyterian

91 Center Street, Clinton, NJ

WORSHIP

July 7th was one of the very busiest worship services of our year so far. You might remember that Pastor Tracey wore her celebration glasses with the kids and this was certainly a worship service overflowing with things to celebrate.

We had the privilege of confirming Mollie Little in the Christian faith and blessing her as she continues on her journey with Jesus. Baptized at CPC in 2010, Mollie has been blessed by the faith and love so many of you have shared with her along the way. As part of her Confirmation journey, Mollie created a video to share with our church family. You can watch that video [here](#).

We also ordained and installed our incoming class of Deacons and Elders, those who have committed to serving and leading our church family for the next three years. It is no small commitment, but as we laid hands on them in this sacred act they were reminded that that are not alone. To learn more about these new leaders, please see pages 4 & 5.

As our worship service drew to a close, together as a family we gathered at the communion table, receiving this month not only the bread and cup. but also the gift of an origami heart, folded by Mollie during her confirmation service. A symbol to carry with us into the world, remembering our pledge of allegiance to Love God and Love Neighbor.



GET TO KNOW OUR NEWEST ELDERST....



**Emmaline
Morano**

I was born in Hunterdon County and have been attending Clinton Presbyterian Church for as long as I can remember. CPC has shaped many key memories in my life - I was baptized here, grew up attending Sunday School, and recently had the joy of marrying my high school sweetheart here in 2023. I currently live in Washington Boro with my husband, Zachary, and our dog, Winston, and enjoy spending my free time exploring local parks or catching up on the latest TV show. I am honored to have the opportunity to give back to this community, and am excited to learn more about CPC as well as where I can help make a difference.



**Jake
Treese**

My family and I joined CPC shortly after moving to Clinton (from Bucks County, PA) in April 2019. Post-pandemic, we have steadily tried to increase our involvement in the Church, including serving on the Church Operations Committee for the past six months.

My family consists of my wife Leanne (married 30 years), our daughters Cassidy (24) and Katie (22), and our son Kevin (19). Leanne and I graduated 33 years ago from nearby Lafayette College, and I have worked for 30 fulfilling years in the biopharmaceuticals manufacturing field. Outside of work, I enjoy cooking (grilling), DIY gardening, and learning to fly-fish, but above all I enjoy spending time with my family (including 3 labrador retrievers). I am honored to receive this opportunity and look forward to serving you, and getting to know our congregation even better.



**Megan
Verderamo**

I've lived in Clinton Township all my life and have been happily married to my husband, Rich, for 18 wonderful years. We have two amazing children: Trey, who is 17, and Morgan, who is 10. Professionally, I serve as an administrator for a local school district. When I'm not working, you can find me cheering for my kids on the sports field, getting lost in a good book, dancing (not so gracefully) to music at home, or savoring a beautiful sunset.

After many years of searching for a church family, CPC became my home. The congregation's warm welcome, teaching Sunday school, working VBS and the enriching women's Bible study have all been blessings in my life.

GET TO KNOW OUR NEWEST DEACONS....



**Adrienne
Hodulik**

Hunterdon County has always been my home and Clinton Presbyterian Church has always been my church. Growing up in this church with people who have guided and supported me, has led me to doing the same by becoming involved and serving the church and the community. As a child and teenager, I was involved in the Sunday School program, summer Bible School and various choirs. After graduating from college, I became involved in the Christian Education leadership and taught Sunday School and Bible School at all levels.

It is with a joyful heart that I continue to serve in the education program, bell choir and with whatever needs to be done in and around the church. Retiring from public school teaching in 2015, I was offered the job of Director of Clinton Presbyterian Preschool. With much support from Tracey and our congregation, we opened our doors in 2018 and we have been going strong ever since. When I am not having fun with three and four year olds, I enjoy being outdoors, working in my gardens, reading and spending time with family and friends. I have served both as a deacon and an elder and I look forward to once again serving our church community on the board of deacons. There are many opportunities to serve CPC and our community and I look forward to being a part of those opportunities.



**Leslie
Hyman**

I moved to Hunterdon County 31 years ago and joined CPC that same year. During these years I have served on the Christian Education, Worship, and Membership ministry teams. I am currently a member of the Youth Ministry team and have taught Confirmation class for quite some time. I also taught middle school and high school Sunday school for many years. I was a CPC Deacon a while back, and very much look forward to being an active Deacon again!

My husband Rick and I met and were married at CPC! We have three adult children and two amazing granddaughters.

I am retired and spend my time volunteering with SAFE in Hunterdon, the Flemington Food Pantry, and City Relief. Rick and I enjoy traveling and, most of all, spending time with our grandchildren.

MUSIC

The Summer is zooming by but I want recount some of the musical highlights of the past couple of months before they are a distant memory! These past two months featured music from Broadway musicals from which Pastor Tracey creatively wove song lyrics into her sermons.



RICK HYMAN PLAYED THE PART OF TEVYE AND JUDY MAXFIELD THE PART OF TEVYE'S WIFE, GOLDE. THE SONG "SUNRISE, SUNSET" WAS ALSO SUNG BEAUTIFULLY BY JULIE BALDASSARE, AND SIENNA & BRIELLE MADRIZ.J



THE SUMMER CHOIR SINGING "THE SOUND OF MUSIC" ON JULY 21ST.



JULIA MORRISSETTE SANG A LOVELY RENDITION OF "CHANGED FOR GOOD"

MUSIC

MOLLIE LITTLE SINGING THE LAUREN DAIGLE SONG, "EVERYTHING" TO CELEBRATE HER GRADUATION FROM CONFIRMATION CLASS.



TOM FULLER AND DAVIS HENRY SINGING AND PLAYING UKULELE ON TOM'S ARRANGEMENT OF "TO GOD BE THE GLORY"



JULIE BALDASSARE AND JUDY MAXFIELD TEAMING UP ON "TRUST IN YOU" AND "COME TO THE WATER"



BRIELLE MADRIZ AND JULIA MORRISSETTE SINGING A DUET ON "THE SERVANT SONG"



CHILDREN'S CHOIR LED BY JES BRUNO SINGING "EVERY STEP I TAKE I TAKE IN YOU"



ADAM DOUGHERTY PLAYING "HE LEAETH ME"



PRAISE TEAM LEADING THE "GATHERING SONGS" DURING THE SUMMER.

KEVIN CONDUCTING THE CHANCEL CHOIR



The music ministry strives to provide you with inspiring music each and every week. If you have any song suggestions, or better yet, want to sing or play in one of our choirs or as a soloist, please don't hesitate to contact Ted Brancato.
(tbrancato@clintonprebyterian.net)



RICK AND JULIE LEADING GLORY TO GOD

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Have you ever walked into a church and noticed a giant octopus hanging from the ceiling???. This is exactly what greeted the 100 kids who joined us for VBS at CPC this year. We dove into a week of adventures, exploring together the depths of God's love for every single one of us. We sang, we danced, we made new friends (including Waylon and Octavia). We laughed at funny skits (thank you Vania and Fred). We ran, hopped and cooled off in the water with Rich, Joe and Glenn. Barb and Megan made Bible stories come alive in new ways. Jess helped us unleash our creative side in the arts and crafts station and Julia created an underwater oasis for our school of preschoolers!

Thanks to our kitchen crew, our bellies were full each night and our team leaders and their middle and high school assistants helped us navigate all the waterways of CPC as we made our way from once place to another. Throughout the week, we found ways to give back to our community and bless them, collecting small toiletries to be distributed to several mission partners in the area, including Safe in Hunterdon, Family Promise and City Relief. We collected over 1000 items!

On Friday night we invited families to join us as we shared our stories and songs and then enjoyed an outdoor picnic with hot dogs and a visit from Kona ice.

Enormous thanks to Co-Directors Jill and Jes. Jill's creativity transformed our sanctuary space while Jes' boundless energy and endless attention to detail made for a fun and safe week for everyone!

Thank you to everyone who helped with decorating, supplies, volunteer leadership and prayers!

VBS



CHILDREN & YOUTH

"GOD IS A FRIEND WE CAN TRUST"

VBS



CHILDREN & YOUTH

"GOD IS A FRIEND WHO LOVES"

VBS



"GOD IS A FRIEND WHO IS REAL"



Glow Pool Party!



Middle and High School VBS volunteers cooled off with a Glow Pool Party! Powered by pizza and some sugar, they enjoyed a competitive game of volleyball while trying not to keep our Center Street neighbors awake. Thanks to Deirdre and Chris Blaus for hosting us!

Popsicle Party



After worship on July 28, our youngest disciples had a chance to get to know Miss Vania better as they enjoyed a popsicle party in the playground after worship. Sticky fingers were the perfect prelude to creative hearts as they crafted some new decorations for our Sunday School spaces! Lots more fun to come in months ahead at CPC!



CHILDREN & YOUTH

In the newly constructed Highlands Pavilion at Johnsonburg Camp, an inscription over the fireplace reads "Sacred Space, Open Space...Where all are welcome." This was certainly the experience of the 12 CPC Campers who attended Summer camp this week (#13, Casey Hipsher, is there right now for the closing week of camp!) This was a time for our kids and youth to grow in so many ways, facing new challenges, trying new things and doing it all in an atmosphere of love and support. The smiles on their faces tell the tale - Johnsonburg is truly a special place!

Johnsonburg Camp & Retreat Center

HERE'S WHAT SOME OF OUR CAMPERS HAD TO SAY:

"I CAN'T WAIT TO GO BACK NEXT YEAR!" - MOLLIE

"THE COUNSELORS ARE A LOT MORE FUN THAN PARENTS!" - DAVIS

"I LOVED EVERYTHING. MY HEART WAS BEATING SO FAST ON THE ZIP LINE!" - MARGARET



Pastor Tracey thanks the congregation for the opportunity to serve as a Volunteer Chaplain at JBurg this summer. The kids were not the only ones who were growing and learning new things! We are looking forward to ongoing engagement with Johnsburg throughout the year, with retreat opportunities for all ages. To learn more about Johnsburg, you can visit their website - <https://www.campjburg.org/>



CPC HIGH SCHOOL GRADS

Congrats to our CPC grads, Tristan Dornbusch (Voorhees), John Perez (Voorhees) and Julia Morrissette (North). Your church family is so very proud of you and will be praying for you as you begin a new chapter of college life this month. Tristan is bound for CU Boulder, John is off to Rider and Julia is heading north to Syracuse.





Joy Scouts



The mission of the Joy Scouts is to connect our children and families with face to face opportunities to serve the community. The Joy Scouts visited the Flemington Area Food Pantry to prepare hundreds of summer snack bags for the community. We filled six grocery carts! We also had our largest turnout at Tabby's Place to play with the special kittens and cats there. Stay tuned for more activities coming late summer!



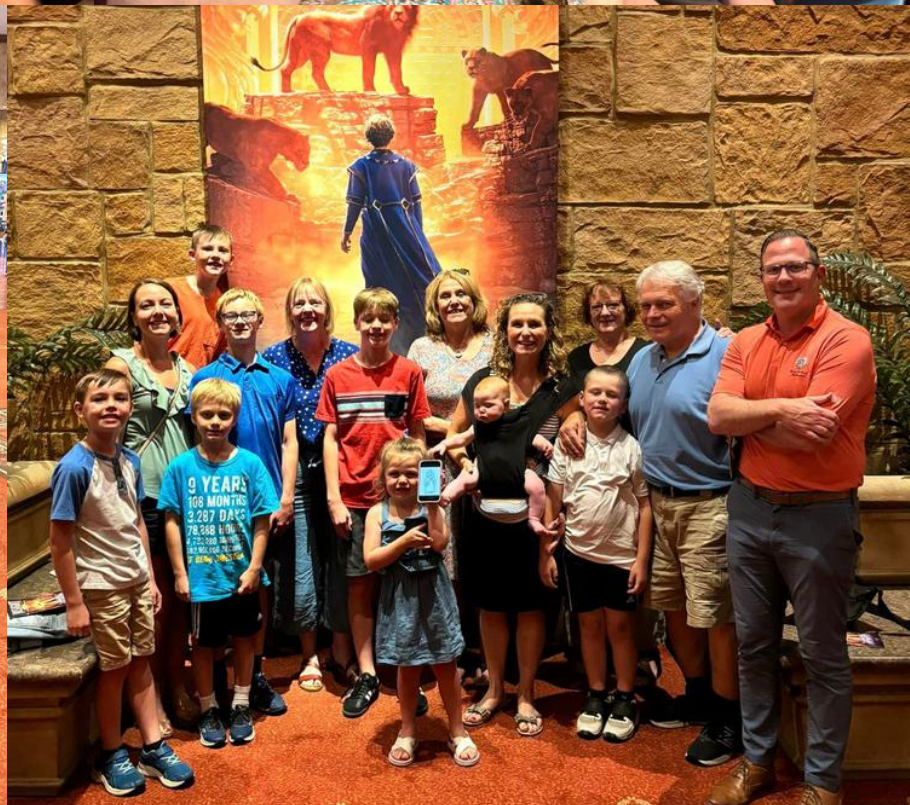
ADULTS

Beneduce's

After a week of unrelenting heat, we enjoyed a perfectly overcast night at Beneduce's vineyard on July 20. The music of Blue Soul filled the air, with our very own Ted Brancato on keyboard and our CPC tables were filled to overflowing with good food to share. What a perfect way to spend a summer evening. Thanks to Jes Bruno for getting us organized!



DANIEL



On June 20th, 17 church members, adults and children alike, were delighted to attend Daniel at the Sight and Sound Theater in Ronks, Pennsylvania. This was a truly immersive experience, bringing the ancient text of the Bible alive in new ways. The stage crew, the actors and musicians were all top class!

For those who missed out, stay tuned for another trip planned for fall on November 23rd. Tickets are \$75.05 per ticket for adults and \$42 for children. We will need final confirmation by October 10th. If interested, please reach out to Jessica Bruno to sign up. jessicaqbruno@gmail.com or 908-328-6943

MISSION

Pedals for Progress

Our collection event was a great success, as neighbors showed up to donate 14 bikes 8 sewing machines and \$390.00 to offset shipping costs. What a blessing.

The donated bikes are already off to their next adventure. On July 6, there were shipped to The bikes will be ship on July 6th to Sierra Leone and will be going to a Kola Nut farm where they will be used by workers to transport the nuts to local towns and villages as most of the crop is consumed locally. To learn more about Kola nuts and their benefits, especially in developing counties, visit here. [Kola Nuts](#)

Many thanks to Jens Duerr for spearheading this effort and to Paul Morissette for his help and hard-work on donation day. To learn more about the mission and vision of Pedals for Progress, visit <https://www.p4p.org/>



Safe in Hunterdon

CPC was well represented at Safe in Hunterdon's recent fundraiser at the Stangl Factory in Flemington. This was a fun night for an important cause. The mission of Safe in Hunterdon is to offer safety, hope, supportive services, and advocacy to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Hunterdon County. SAFE also provides educational programming to the community with focus on prevention. Leslie Hyman currently volunteers with SAFE while Rev. Christine Davies serves on the Board. IF you would like to be become more involved, please feel free to reach out to either one of them.

MISSION



Since early May, CPC has been sending volunteers to help open cupboard in their time of need. A call was received for volunteers to help receive nonperishable food donations at their temporary location, A POD container! Twice a week and for two hour shifts, CPC members signed up and showed up to help keep The Open Cupboard on its' feet. From our youngest volunteers in Joy Scouts, to countless adults who made time to be there for this important organization. Just another example of how CPC shows up!

A NOTE FROM OUR DEACONS



- ★ Cathie Sayre recently provided the deacons with an overview of her ministry at Country Arch Nursing Home. The deacons are working with Cathie to establish a structured CPC ministry at Country Arch. Cathie and her therapy dog currently visit Country Arch every Wednesday at 10 A.M., and our goal is to expand this ministry.
- ★ Are you, or someone you know, approaching age 65? If so, you are probably being barraged with phone calls and mailings about Medicare Advantage and Supplemental plans. The choices are vast and the information can be mind boggling. The deacons have asked Joe Bieksha to provide a Medicare educational session, which will be open to the public. Stay tuned for more information.
- ★ September will be here before you know it, which means that many of our college age members will be off to school. But that does not mean they will be out of the thoughts and prayers of CPC. We will be continuing our College Reach Out program again this year, sending cards, notes, and gift cards to students. Please reach out to one of the deacons if you would like your child to be part of this program.
- ★ We welcome Adrienne Hodulik and Leslie Hyman to our team of deacons, and look forward to working with them. We thank Robin Meyh and Tracey Bardecker for their loyal ministry as they depart our deacon team.

NEW STAFF!

Vania Stevenson **Director of Children,** **Youth and Family Ministries**

Vania is deeply passionate about young people. She has previously served as the Director of Youth Ministry at Trinity UMC and Long Valley Presbyterian Church. She is also currently employed at Johnsonburg Camp & Retreat Center.

In her spare time she loves to cook, knit, spend time with her family, and exchange postcards with people from all over the world through her favorite hobby- Postcrossing!

Vania presently lives in Hackettstown with her teenage sons (Tyler & Eli) and her husband (Paul).



Zach Morano **Facilities Coordinator**



Zach officially joined Clinton Presbyterian Church as a member in February of last year, though he has been a regular attendee since 2021, and has lived in the Clinton area for most of his life. Zach's wife, Emmaline, first introduced him to CPC and he has since come to love the friendly and welcoming culture here. Zach spent the majority of his career working in the HVAC and construction industries.

His free time is often spent cooking or working on a home project, though he also enjoys taking long walks outdoors, exploring nature, and savoring a glass of good wine.

Zach is excited to serve as Facilities Coordinator and hopes to use his skills to keep the church in tip-top shape so that members of the church and surrounding community can continue enjoying the facilities for many years to come.

BUILDING UPDATES

FACILITY USE POLICY

ACCESSIBILITY RAMP

As a follow-up to the Town hall meeting in April, and subsequent newsletter, the Operations committee has now finalized a proposal for replacing the Accessibility ramp on the east side Church entrance. As you can see from these pictures, a level of disrepair has been reached that is beyond basic cosmetic fixes.

As promised earlier this year, estimates were obtained for masonry options, as well as for non-masonry options (e.g., wooden- and polysynthetic-based structures). As expected, the masonry options were slightly more expensive, but in assessing lifespan, maintenance needs and aesthetics, masonry was ultimately determined to be the best use of our resources. Multiple estimates were taken for the masonry option, and based on their similarity, we feel confident about the expected investment.

Including the likely need to do some repair/repaving of the driveway local to the ramp, we will exceed our capital campaign budget by approximately \$60,000. We are working to improve on that gap slightly with some potential sweat equity options.

We are thankful for and blessed by the generosity of this congregation, and of those who came before us, and have liquidity from investments and endowments that can fund this step without any new requests to the congregation. However, we take this extra expense seriously, and wanted to ensure full transparency about it. This proposal was presented to Session on July 16th, and no objections were received after the requisite discussion.

That said, the Operations Committee welcomes input from any member of the congregation, and invites you to reach out to Jake Treese, Gwili Marsh, or any other member of the Operations Committee with any questions, comments, suggestions or other feedback.

Thank you for your support and faith.



Beautiful building renovations call for an updated Facility Use Policy for our CPC spaces. Visit our website [HERE](#) to see the new procedures and updated fee schedules for members and non members. Our newest customer can be seen in the photo above, the Hunterdon County Division of Senior Services, will be holding a weekly chair exercise class in Fellowship Hall. See the flyer at the very end of our newsletter!

Every person who enters our church remarks on the beauty of our spaces, from the breathtaking sanctuary to the modern meeting spaces upstairs. The cozy and private space of the Wolverton Building is also being used on a regular basis now. You can share the good news with friends and/or colleagues who might be looking for a gathering space and don't forget we are always here for our members...



FLAT JESUS 2024~

Flat Jesus has been dancing, eating, playing and more this summer! Thankfully he found a little respite from all the activity and was able to catch some sun on the beach with Rick!



LEHIGH LAXFEST WITH FLAT JESUS



BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS & MORE...OH MY!



HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAY!

ANDREW J.	4	SUSAN C.	12
LAUREL K.	6	LINDA P.	14
MIKE B.	2	JANET B.	10
JENS D.	4	MARYJEAN R.	10
EVAN P.	4	RUS T.	11
TARA N.	11	WILLIAM A.	26
NICK P.	12	JACKIE B.	27
OMAR A.	12	CANDICE P.	31



**Evie, Willa and Iris Rhoads
July 14, 2024**



[Click here for Mollie's confirmation video](#)



**Faith Elizabeth Bruno
June 9, 2024**



**Theodore Matthew Perry
June 30, 2024**

BIRTHDAYS & BAPTISMS & MORE...OH MY!

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY!

CAROLINE P.	3	MITCHELL P.	8	JASON B.	16	BRETT H.	22
EVELYN V.	3	ARCHER H.	10	DOUG M.	17	QUINN B.	24
STEPHEN B.	4	MARG P.	10	RALPH M.	18	NICOLE R.	24
EILEEN M.	5	LEE L.	11	MARY M.	18	CATHY N.	26
WILL S.	5	JUDI S.	11	NANCY P.	20	LEANNE T.	26
JACE C.	6	JESSICA B.	13	DOUG P.	20	KRISTEN M.	27
LIA C.	6	EVAN C.	15	MADELYN A.	22	MICHELLE A.	29

*Dear CPC Family,
Thank you so much for
your prayers, cards and
calls full of love and
support after my mom's
death. Your words of
comfort meant so much to
me. You are truly Christ's
hands and heart.
With a grateful heart,
Nancy Hovey*



Thank you

WE HELD ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BLOOD
DRIVE ON JUNE 26TH!

**"50 UNITS OF BLOOD ON
A GOAL OF 38 UNITS!!
THAT IS ABSOLUTELY
INCREDIBLE!!!**

**THIS WILL GO ON TO HELP
APPROXIMATELY 150
HOSPITAL PATIENTS!!!!"**

~ Michelle Kuremensky, American Red Cross

**OUR NEXT BLOOD DRIVE IS AUGUST
30TH FROM 11-4PM
SIGN UP HERE!**



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 8, 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.



Get Fit Where you Sit

A new yoga class with Ana Giametta at the
Clinton Presbyterian Church.

Brought to you by the Hunterdon County Senior Center .



This 60-minute class uses gentle yoga techniques to strengthen and lengthen our muscles to improve balance, lubricate joints and promote bone health. This class will include chair and standing poses with variations as needed for each individual limitation.

No prior experience necessary.

Suggested donation: \$5 per month.

Make checks payable to: County of Hunterdon

Start Date: Tuesday, July 16th

Time 11:00 AM

To register call 908-788-1359 or email Kelly: khughes@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Open to Hunterdon County residents aged 60 and over who are enrolled members of the Senior Center.

Classes are brought to you under funds from Title III, Older Americans Act.
donations of any amount are greatly appreciated

To enable us to continue the programs at the Senior Center,