

March 2024

CLINTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

News & Events....



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From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

News about the fire in Clinton this past Sunday evening spread quickly across our community and the hearts and minds of so many of us from Clinton Presbyterian immediately turned to the Open Cupboard Food Pantry. From late Sunday night through Monday morning I received multiple calls, texts and emails all asking the same question - "How can we help?"

You knew in those moments that we, as a church, had a responsibility to help in any way we could, supporting those most closely affected by this loss. Your response of love reminded me of these words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer "The Church is the Church only when it exists for others...not dominating, but helping and serving."

Helping and serving, listening and acting. Time and again you have lived your faith out steadily in this way, and it makes a difference. Having listened for what the Open Cupboard needs in these first days after the fire, we know that Shop Rite gift cards and monetary donations will be most helpful to them as they continue to serve the needs of clients while making a longer term plan.

As I communicated earlier in the week, you can donate directly to the Open Cupboard [here](#) and we will also receive gift cards and monetary donations during our worship service on Sunday March 3. In addition to gifts offered by individuals, at the request of our mission team we will be sending a \$500 donation from the CPC mission budget.

As other needs make themselves known, I know that you will respond with your characteristic generosity. You know how to be the church which exists for others and I am grateful.

See you in church,

Tracey

Wandering Heart: Lent 2024 at CPC



This Lent we have been “Figuring out Faith with Peter” and finding echoes of our story in his walk with Jesus. Whether it is doubting that Jesus could call someone like him or feeling overwhelmed by choppy waters, we can all find a way to relate.

The journey continues over the next few weeks...



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

Looking Ahead to Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 24th

9:30am Worship

*featuring our Chancel Choir,
Praise Team
& Children's Chorus

As we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, join us as our Children's Chorus leads us in chorus of hosanna while our Chancel Choir brings a new offering.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28th

6:00pm

Soup & Service
with communion

Family friendly soup supper and worship in Fellowship Hall, recalling Jesus' last supper with his disciples. To help us prepare for dinner please RSVP to office@clintonpresbyterian.net

Good Friday

Friday, March 29th

10:00am Children's Gathering

7:00pm Tenebrae Service

Children's Gathering - Join us for crafts, stories and snacks. This time is geared towards kids 5th grade and younger.

Tenebrae Service - As we remember Jesus' final hours, we'll read scripture, pray and extinguish candles.

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31st

9:30am Worship

*featuring our Chancel Choir,
Praise Team & Brass

Come and celebrate the Resurrection as we remember that God's love for us knows no bounds. Invite a friend to share the pew with you as we recall the Good News of our Faith.



Flowering the Cross on Easter Sunday - Have you ever heard of the tradition of "Flowering on the Cross" on Easter Sunday morning? Elder Larry Boyd shared that this was a yearly practice in his former congregation and the Worship Team would like to try it this Easter at CPC.

It is an especially striking and beautiful way to symbolize the new life that emerges from Jesus's death on Good Friday. Our large outdoor cross, which is draped in purple cloth throughout Lent, will be transformed on Easter Sunday morning with beautiful flowers as we celebrate the Resurrection.

This year, as you come to Easter Sunday Service, pause by the cross and add some flowers to it. You can bring flowers from your garden, or you can place flowers from the bucket provided by the worship team. All ages are encouraged to participate.

Musical Happenings

Mr. Ted Brancato



The month of March, musically speaking, is all about Easter and the weeks preceding it. We have some great music planned for the Lenten services beginning with March 3rd when both the Praise Team and Chancel Choir will be featured as well as a soloist, **Julia Morrissette**. On the 4th Sunday of Lent, March 10th, **Jared Miner** will lead our bell choir, and we will feature **Julia Morrissette**, once again, on a beautiful song by Audrey Assad.

The 5th Sunday of Lent happens to fall on St. Patrick's Day so you know what that means! Irish music will be featured including a guitar solo by **Bill Anthony, Jr.** and an anthem sung by the Chancel Choir. Palm Sunday is on March 24th and will feature our youngest congregants. The kids will lead a spirited processional to start off the service and a youthful percussion ensemble will accompany the Chancel Choir on "Let The People Sing Hosanna".

There will be 3 services the last week of March, beginning with two evening services, Maundy Thursday (3/28) at 6pm in Fellowship Hall, Good Friday(3/29) at 7pm, and finally Easter (3/31). A new choral composition by **Amey Barnes** will be unveiled for the Good Friday service. The Chancel Choir will also be singing for the Easter service, along with the Praise Team, and a guest trumpeter, **Dave De Rienzo**.

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).

- **Bell Choir meets on Wednesday evenings at 6pm when working towards a performance.**
- **Chancel Choir meets on Wednesday nights at 7pm. Rehearsals run a little over an hour.**
- **Praise Team meets on Saturday mornings at around 10:30am.**
- **Kid's Choir, which is led by our team of member leaders, usually rehearses after church services on an "as needed" basis. Please contact Abby Dougherty (adougherty160@gmail.com) or Ted Brancato (tbrancato@clintonpresbyterian.net) if your child would like to participate.**



Grow in Faith - Children & Youth

Children's Sunday

Our talented and capable CPC kids did a terrific job leading worship on Children's Sunday. The fact that it was combined with the Souper Bowl of Caring made it even more meaningful and fun! The kids greeted, sang, read, ushered, prayed and kept us all paying extra special attention to the word of God. Our third graders received their own bibles, too. If you missed it, be sure to catch the replay on youtube. Coming up: Palm Sunday procession and special Easter activity (3/24) AND the kids will gather on Good Friday (3/29) for a special morning lesson and craft. Join us!



Sunday School

Pre-K through middle schoolers are invited to join us for Sunday School each Sunday from 10:45 to 11:30! Lent calendars have been distributed to families. If you still need one, please ask your Sunday School teacher.

Parents please remember our new child safety procedures for 2024 which include signing your child out of nursery with your initials in the "out" column (except for communion Sundays). Our growing nursery needs you! Please contact Kim Darcy (mkfdar@aol.com) ASAP to be added to our list of volunteers. Older children can serve alongside you and you will be paired with another adult. Plus, it's a FUN and easy way to serve our youngest disciples!



SUNDAY FUNDAY

There's nothing like a little glitter to make the world a better place and there was no shortage of glitter or laughter at our most recent Sunday Funday! After crafting some mini winter wonderlands (thanks Miss Adrienne!) we split our sides laughing at a Valentine's Mad libs and ate our weight in cheese balls. It's great to be a 4th grader at CPC!



Joy Scouts

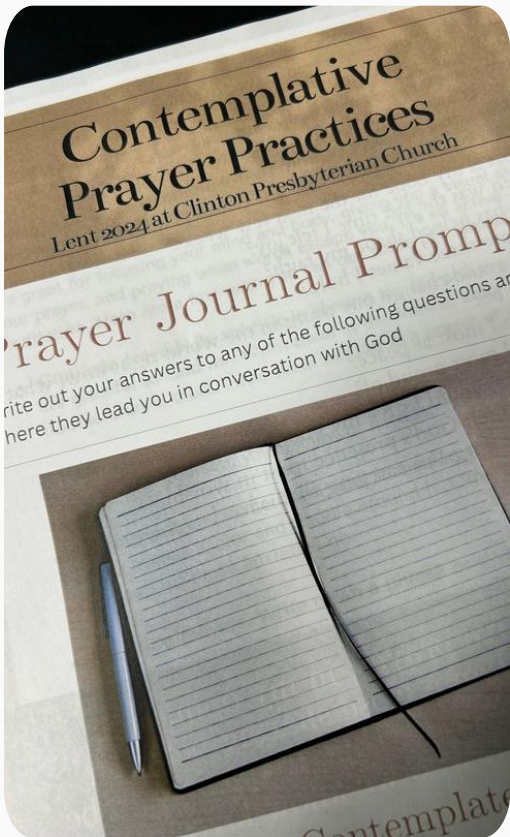
Hooray for brand new "Joy Scouts" t-shirts! Scouts wore them while serving at the Flemington Area Food Pantry and they sparked a lot of great conversation about CPC. We delivered 358 pounds of food and \$355 dollars from our Souper Bowl of Caring donations! Looking ahead: Do you love dogs? Join us Saturday March 16th to serve with Creature Comfort Pet Therapy in Morristown at 10:00am. Contact Abby Dougherty to register.



CHAOS YOUTH GROUP

Conflicting schedules meant that our CHAOS and CHOAS Jr Crews were not able to get together in the month of February, but March is here and we are ready for some madness! So come on out and hang with your friends, feast on snacks and grow in faith! March 3 and 17 - 5:30 for Chaos Jr and 7:00 for Chaos!

Grow in Faith - Adults



Our 4-week series on contemplative prayer practices began on February 25. This series is designed to help us find new ways to reconnect with God and we are spending some time learning about and practicing new ways to pray that can be incorporated into our daily lives. Participants can attend all classes or just come and go as schedules allow.

In our first session we reflected on Prayer Journaling and Praying in Color. If you were not able to make it, [click here](#) for a short review video and links to helpful materials.

Remaining classes, guided by Rev. Christine Davies, will take place on March 3, 10, 17 from 10:45-11:30am and short recap videos will be emailed out each Monday morning so that even those who could attend in person might benefit from this time. Rev. Davies is a trained spiritual director and Director of Pastoral Care at Robert Wood Johnson.

GREAT DECISIONS



Respectful, thoughtful conversation about issues that matter. What a gift this program is! Our next meeting will be held on Thursday March 21 at 6pm, discussing the issue of "Science across Borders." There's still room at the table for new faces - email Ali at office@clintonpresbyterian.net to let us know you will be there.



Welcome & Growth

GAME NIGHT

On Sunday February 4 at 5:00pm, we hosted our popular Family Game Night in Fellowship Hall. Kicking off with a potluck dinner, over 65 members, children and the young at heart, split into three teams and participated in a variety of games.



Emcees Rick and Leslie Hyman kept the crowd on task, while Ben Dougherty and Megan Verderamo lent their energy to support the team efforts. A special thank you to our kitchen angels: The Brankners, Martha Roth, Barbara Pearson and Sharon Rosenberg.

A lot of love and laughter lifted the hearts of many that evening and we are grateful for the generosity of those who made it so memorable.

Spread the Word About CPC!

From Advent to Christmas, and now well into the new year, we have been blessed with many new faces at Clinton Presbyterian. There's a whole lot to see once you walk through those red doors - a flourishing children's ministry, an uplifting music program and a whole host of new friends. Let's not keep the joy of this church family to ourselves!

Here's how you can help us spread the word about CPC! Share about CPC on Social Media! Did you know that we have a Facebook page (Clinton Presbyterian Church) and Instagram (follow: @clinton_presbyterian_nj) page? Be sure to follow these accounts. Like and share our content with your friends - use your social media platform for good!



Ambassador Program: Do you love what we do at CPC? If you are willing to support our growth by attending 1 or more community events a year, please contact Christina Honthy 3c.lady@gmail.com or via text at (973)229-2303. She is working to collect a list of rotating volunteers who will support our growth efforts by staffing tables or arranging a presence at community events during the year.

Welcome & Growth

Welcome New Members!



Rus Titus

My wife Karen and I just celebrated our 59th wedding anniversary this month. We have 2 daughters and 1 granddaughter who attending college in Virginia. I am retired but have a part time job that keeps me busy. My wife and I enjoy training and showing our dogs although only one is competitive as the other 2 are older. I was thrilled to discover Clinton Presbyterian Church and the wonderful people attending services.



Kevin & Judy Maxfield

Celebrating 25 years in Tewksbury/Califon, we find joy in family and community. Our daughter and son-in-law Amanda and Simon Chivi, and cherished grandson Zak make our home complete, with another grandson Leo on the way.

Passionate about a healthy lifestyle and the beauty industry, Judith finds fulfilment in both, while Kevin brings warmth to the hospitality sector. Grateful for the support of our church family, we look forward to years of shared blessings and fellowship."



The Rhoads Family

The Rhoads family moved to Clinton in 2021 from NYC and love life in our close-knit community. Evie (3rd grade), Willa (2nd grade) and Iris (pre-k) attend Clinton Public School. Jesse works in design & Ashley works in marketing. We are thrilled I be a part of Clinton Presbyterian!

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!

"He who wishes to secure the good of others has already secured his own."
-Confucius

FRIENDSHIP CENTER FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

162 Main Street, Flemington, NJ 08822 • PH (908) 806-4444 • Fax (908) 806-4277
www.friendship-center.org email: info@friendship-center.org Toll Free: 1 (877) 88 4 MOMS



Monday, September 18, 2023

Clinton Presbyterian Church
Pastor Tracy
91 Center Street
Clinton, NJ 08809-1032

Federal ID # 22-2492357
NJ State ID # CH030280

We praise God for people such as yourself who enable us to serve the young women and their children that come to us for help.

Date	Check No	Gift Amount
9/18/2023	43845	\$250.00

Year-to-date total for the Friendship Center for New Beginnings: \$250.00

No goods or services were received in exchange for this gift.
Thank you for your gift!

Use scissors to cut along this line

PLEASE return this lower portion with your next gift.

Clinton Presbyterian Church
Pastor Tracy
91 Center Street
Clinton, NJ 088091032

Amount of this gift:



Please return this portion to:

The Friendship Center for New Beginnings
162 Main Street
Flemington, New Jersey 08822



A Christian ministry to those who may be facing an unplanned pregnancy, and a resource center for single parents.



Franklin Graham, President

International Headquarters • P.O. Box 3000 • Boone, NC 28607 U.S.A. • (828) 262-1950

September 12, 2023

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse.

In Syria, we recently helped a farmer whose wheat harvests had failed two years in a row. Even after he switched to growing vegetables, his yields were still thin. Our staff was able to provide him with fertilizer and taught him new ways to irrigate his fields. Praise God, this year the farmer had a bumper crop of cucumbers, which he was able to sell to provide for his family.

Most importantly, this man said the thing he remembered most about the training he received was the story of the Good Samaritan. Your gifts and prayers equip us to care for him and other neighbors in the U.S. and around the world who have fallen into the ditches of life. Thank you for helping us teach them to "Go and do likewise" (Luke 10:37). God bless you.

Sincerely,

Franklin Graham
President

"All we have comes from God and we give it out of His hand."
1 Chronicles 29:14b, Dutch Paraphrase

Any books or materials you have ordered will be sent separately.



P.O. Box 3000
Boone, NC 28607 U.S.A.
(828) 262-1989

Thank you for your gift of \$500.00,
received on 09/12/2023

\$500.00 012000 Ministry of Samaritan's Purse

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

279



THANK YOU

We gratefully acknowledge your contributions to this ministry.

YOUR DONATION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE FULL EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW. NO GOODS OR SERVICES WERE PROVIDED TO YOU UNLESS IDENTIFIED BY AN AMOUNT INDICATED AS "NONDEDUCTIBLE."

Franklin Graham
President

Mission

This Super Bowl Sunday, both the Red and the Gold Team really showed up to support the Souper Bowl of Caring. The Gold Team led the way with donations of canned goods, bringing in a staggering 186 items. The Red Team was not far behind with 144 items. Additionally, the Gold Team donated \$20 while the Red Team came through with \$335. We are blown away by your generosity and declare that both teams are winners in our eyes! The Joy Scouts happily delivered the 330 food items together with a donation of \$355 to the Flemington Area Food Pantry on Monday afternoon. Our canned goods weighed in at over 358lbs, while our kids tipped the scales at 454lbs!



In Sum...



In 2023, our congregation donated 662 pounds of groceries to the Flemington Food Pantry. Feeding America estimates that the average wholesale value of a pound of groceries is worth \$1.74, so we donated approximately \$1,151.88 worth of groceries. Thank you so much for your generosity. With our continued support the Flemington Food Pantry can continue to serve over 5,000 clients.

Preschool

Our hearts were filled with love throughout the month of February. The days flew by as we read many Valentine stories, made cards for our friends, and decorated our playground tree with hearts and garland. This month we welcomed Ms Nicki to our preschool family. She brings to us so many ideas and fun activities. Thanks to Ms Nicki's planning, our classes took part in a "Bird Count". Taking a nature walk the children learned about many different birds and bird calls. Our fours took a field trip to the Clinton Post Office where Ms Heather answered all of our questions about mail delivery and even let us sit in the mail truck! We kicked off Read Across America week with, "Wear a Hat Day" in honor of The Cat in the Hat and by having our friend Ms Judy read to us and teach us a favorite finger play. We are looking forward to warmer weather and spending more time outside!



Stay in the Know



No matter the season Clinton Presbyterian Church always looks so pretty! Thank you for Bill Anthony Jr for capturing this great shot on a recent snowy day. Speaking of snowy days, did you know that it costs approximately \$1500 for snow plowing around our building. Thank you for your generosity in supporting CPC with your dollars - it helps with this and so much more!

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!



CPC in the News: A Church on the Rise

A church on the rise indeed - God is renewing us inside and out! [This article](#), published by Preservation New Jersey gives a glimpse into the preservation efforts which are part of our capital campaign renovations. Thank you to Elder Tina Honthy-Little for her work in researching and writing this amazing piece.

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY! 

DOROTY B. 15

TINA L. 27

FRED S. 2

TRISTAN D. 2

KYLE L. 23

JANET T. 29

LAUREN E. 16

MICHAEL P. 2

JERI T. 10

KAREN H. 21

SHARON R. 11

KARA W. 10

CASEY H. 24

CHRISTINA S. 6

ALEX W. 26

LESLIE H. 28



Welcome baby
Jane Marie Traphagen,
daughter of
Megan & Ross.
Born 2/6/24

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

