



claremont presbyterian church COMMUNICATOR

May 2024



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Another Legendary Summer Ahead

On May 25, Claremont Presbyterian Church will kick off its third annual Local Legends summer concert series. These monthly events on our front lawn and outdoor stage are an opportunity to open our campus to our neighbors from Claremont and beyond. We gather to enjoy local musicians, refreshments, and conversation under the summer sunset and rising stars. This year our Local Legends series will include:

May 25 - SAGE: Women of “a certain age” making music with an eclectic repertoire and intriguing melodies.

June 15 - Squeakin’ Wheels: “a Claremont fixture with a dedicated following who enjoy their close harmony vocals, fine musicianship, and great songwriting.”

July 13 - John York: Singer, composer, guitarist who has played with legendary bands such as the Byrds and the Mamas and the Papas.

August 17 - David Tull: one of the world’s finest jazz drummers who has also built a reputation as a premiere jazz singer and songwriter.

September 14 - CRAiC Haus: Traditional Irish Hillbilly Swing (you do the math...).

We’ll launch the series with a flourish on May 25. The music starts at 6:00 PM. Come between 5:00 and 5:45 and enjoy legendary local tacos while supplies last.

Upcoming Worship

Sunday worship services are in-person and accessible through Facebook Live (facebook.com/claremontpres) or Youtube (youtube.com/@claremontpres)

Sunday, May 5, 10:00 AM

John 15:9-17

Pastor Ruth Schmidt preaching

-

Sunday, May 12, 10:00 AM

Mother's Day

John 17:6-19

Pastor Karen Sapio & Kristi Van Nostran preaching

-

Wednesday, May 15, 5:30 PM

Village Dinner Church

-

Sunday, May 19, 10:00 AM

Pentecost Sunday

New Officer Orientation and Installation

Acts 2:1-21

Pastor Karen Sapio preaching

-

Sunday, May 26, 10:00 AM

Trinity Sunday

Romans 8:12-17

Pastor Karen Sapio preaching



Family Camp at Big Bear, May 25-27

This year Family Camp will return to the Big Bear Lake Camp. This event is for all ages--kids, parents, grandparents, and friends. We again want to offer an opportunity to get away, close to home, and enjoy some modern amenities while being able to step out the doorstep and into nature. Join us on May 25, 3:00 PM - May 27, 11:00 AM at Big Bear Lake Christian Conference Center. Cost is \$120 per participant and children 2 years and younger are free. Register today with your \$50 deposit to hold your spot.

Pentecost Offering

Our upcoming special offering will be the Pentecost offering, which is collected during the weeks around Pentecost (Sunday, May 19). This offering goes to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

While much of our special offering collections are split between the denomination and the presbytery, the Pentecost offering allows for 40% of the collection to stay with the congregation; that means us here at CPC.

This year the Education & Leadership Commission is still discerning where to designate our 40%. The money will most likely go towards helping the Jr. High kids transform the room they meet in every Sunday and help prepare them for the next step in their spiritual journey as young adults.

Grad Sunday, June 9

Help us celebrate our young people as they mark completions and transitions in their educational journeys. If your student is graduating from college, preschool, grad school, high school, jr. high, or other educational programs, please send the following information to Pastor Ruth: name, degree/diploma/program, name of institution, family members connected to CPC.

We will also be celebrating those completing their 3rd grade year with a Bible gifted by the church.

Pastor Ruth can be contacted at ruth@claremontpres.org.

First Tuesday Coffee and Conversation

At 9:30 AM on May 7, grab a cup of coffee to go from your favorite Claremont Village coffee shop and join friends in Laemmle Square for a time of conversation and building friendships. This is a great chance to get better acquainted with members of our community. Questions? Call the church office at 909-624-9693.

March Session Highlights

- After meeting and talking with Ruth Schmidt, Session voted to approve the recommendation of the Interim Leadership Task Force and the Personnel Committee to hire Ruth as Commissioned Interim Associate Pastor, beginning April 1, 2024.
- Grieved the loss of member Mike Layne and former member Woody Douglas.
- Heard the exciting plans for a one day retreat on May 4, being organized by The Haven.
- Approved some Mission funding for an Uncommon Good summer learning program.
- Welcomed the news that Jeanine Robertson will be leading a youth class on Sunday mornings.

Haven Fellowship Update

The Heaven leadership team—as well as many leaders in the LGBTQAI+ community—are gathering for a day-long strategy retreat on Saturday, May 4.

The goal of the retreat is to clarify the mission of Haven going forward, and how the ministry can best serve the local queer community. The leadership team will take the feedback and learnings from the retreat and work towards a mission strategy for the rest of 2024 and 2025. For more information, please contact Vikki Randall at sgvhaven@gmail.com or scan the QR code on the right.





Save the Date for Vacation Bible School

Get excited, CPC families, as we have a very special VBS planned for 2024! “Compassion Camp” will be coming your way for ages Pre-School through 5th Grade, June 24 through June 28. This year Vacation Bible School will take us to Compassion Camp. Compassion Camp explores What Every Living Thing Needs to live—shelter, food, water, air, and community—and how we can have compassion for the living earth, especially in our local ecosystems. We will gather each evening for a session based on a different portion of Psalm 104, a prayer of praise and gratitude for God’s care, creativity, and compassion. Registration opens May 1.

Red Wheelbarrow Sunday

The next Red Wheelbarrow Sunday will be May 12. A constant need is canned foods high in protein such as black beans, lentils, chickpeas, almonds, and peanut butter. Other non-perishable food items, cloth bags, and old pill containers to use for shampoo are greatly appreciated. Donations to the Red Wheelbarrow are accepted at any time and will be delivered as necessary. Remember monetary donations are also accepted and can be turned in with offering or to the church office

with “Beta Center” in the memo line of the check. Any questions about this, please talk to Lisa Frazier or Nora Quinn. Thanks for all the donations!

Stay Up to Date!

Subscribe to *the Latest* by going to claremontpres.org and scrolling to the bottom of the page. Here you can enter your e-mail and begin receiving our weekly email with all the most recent events and information.

Worship Flowers

We are grateful for the generosity of those who provide the beauty of worship flowers for all of us to enjoy. We are mindful of those in whose memory or in whose honor the flowers are given. We join in celebration of special events and take this opportunity to remember those close to us who have died. You are invited to enjoy getting to know our friends and lift them in prayer

Worship flowers in the chancel during the month of April have been graciously donated as follows:

April 7 - a member of CPC, on behalf of all of us in the CPC community, in honor and in recognition of the outstanding, dedicated CPC “stream team” and the incredibly talented CPC choir, under the direction of Geri DeMasi, with gratitude from all for the weekly Sunday worship enhancements and contributions!

April 14 - Nancy Rice, in memory of her son-in-law, Michael Aragon, who died January 25, husband of her daughter, Amanda. The memorial service was on this day.

April 21 - Sharron Bentley, in memory of her son, Andrew Bentley, on his birthday.

April 28 - Mark and Bernadine Greenwood Given with gratitude and appreciation of being able to remain affiliated with CPC. And “To the glory of God and in celebration of our 35th wedding anniversary and in memory of John Najarian who married us.” It was his first wedding at CPC.

Please contact delight@claremontpres.org if you would like to participate in the joy of our CPC worship flower ministry. She will collaborate with you and take care of all the details.

Welcome to Interim Associate Pastor Ruth Schmidt

We are delighted to announce the hiring of Ruth Schmidt as CPC’s Commissioned Interim Associate Pastor for Outreach, effective April 1.

Following an intensive three-month search, CPC’s seven-member Leadership Discernment Team chose Ruth as the best candidate to continue vibrant outreach efforts for our congregation. Not only is she extremely qualified for the position, but her warm, enthusiastic personality is a great fit for our worshiping community.

On March 27, CPC’s Session approved a 12-month, full-time contract with Ruth, which can be renewed for additional months if needed.

Ruth earned an M.Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena in 2022. Under care of a United Church of Christ congregation in Altadena, she has completed most requirements for ordination in the UCC denomination. Since the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is in full communion with UCC, once Ruth is ordained, she can be approved to serve a Presbyterian congregation as a fully ordained Pastor.

During her pastoral training, Ruth served as a chaplain at USC Arcadia hospital and pastoral staff at Hollywood Presbyterian Church, which included staffing a winter shelter for the unhoused.

Ruth also served as senior director of Fuller’s Brehm Center for the arts and worship from 2020 until earlier this year. However, Ruth, who identifies as queer, separated from Fuller in January after declining to sign Fuller’s mandatory agreement that prohibits “homosexual forms of explicit sexual conduct.”

In addition to her personal beliefs affirming the LGBTQ community, Ruth declined to sign the statement because she was working toward ordination in a denomination that sanctions marriages of LGBTQ couples.

Prior to seminary, Ruth spent a decade working in advertising agencies writing for some of the world’s largest corporations, all while church planting in her evenings and weekends. Her professional writing and marketing background will serve her well in leading CPC’s outreach efforts.





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Please Lift Up Your Prayers

In celebration: the marriage of Pastor Karen Sapio and Tony Becker's son, Clayton Becker to Andrea Arredondo Becker on April 7; new grandchildren born to children of our members in March and April.

In contemplation: "Peace be with you." - Luke 24:36 NRSV

In reflection: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have first loved you" - John 15:12

For those who have died, may God wrap each one left grieving in love and grace: Pastor John Najarian pastor of CPC from 1979-1989, and for children Beth, John, and Susan as well as their families; Evan Buckley, mother Danielle Buckley and grandmother Kris Cerrone; Woody Douglas; Mike Layne; Scott Blair, Tina Blair's brother; Pat LaMascus, Karen and Geri DeMasi's daughter-in-law's mother; Mike Wigton's mother; Sally and Damon Lopez's nephew, Anthony Ackland Fraijo; Corinne Tolles, Delight Slotemaker de Bruine's cousin.

For healing, recovery, and strength: Tracy Doebler; Jean Perry; Ann Hanson; Carolyn Whitham; Lisa Frazier's cousin, Daniel, and husband, David.

For those for whom we wish the gentle soothing peace, wisdom, and comfort of the Holy Spirit as they navigate life: Those of our friends, unnamed here for privacy, who are navigating the journey of cancer; Edda, Eric and Teresa Bernal's sister-in-law and for her children; Pam and Roger House; Herb & Carlynn Christian; Phoebe Deville; the Hughes family; Catherine Lin and her mother, Patricia; Joyce Alexander.

We also lift up all of those who remain unnamed here, but whose names and spirits are named within our hearts.

Please be assured that your CPC staff, along with your Congregational Care Coordinator and Deacons are praying and caring for each one of you.

CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AS OF 03/31/2024	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$138,391.24	\$120,000.00
Other Income	\$19,264.00	\$32,762.49
Expenses	-\$166,861.77	-\$187,873.00
Variance	-\$9,206.53	-\$35,110.51
CHILDREN'S CENTER AS OF 03/31/2024	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue	\$289,856.87	\$303,250.00
Expenses	-\$305,327.62	-\$305,150.75
Variance	-\$15,470.75	-\$1,900.75

Please contact delight@claremontpres.org for any prayer requests. Details will be shared only as you give permission. Otherwise, the CPC Staff and Deacons will lift up your confidential prayer requests.

See All That's Happening...

For the most up-to-date calendar of events, go to www.claremontpres.org/calendar.

May is the final gathering for The Village Dinner Church before the Summer break. Join us for a meal and spiritual refreshment on Wednesday, May 15 at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall. Because this is the final gathering of the season, the gathering will not have a designated speaker. Instead, we will be celebrating the start of Summer with a more casual, celebratory meal. For more information, email Pastor Ruth.

Wednesday, May 15
5:30 - 7:00 PM



Ways to Give

- Place offerings in offering box in narthex after worship.
- **Check:** We can receive contributions by checks mailed or dropped off at our church office.
- **Online:** You can make an online contribution to Claremont Presbyterian Church by navigating to our website at claremontpres.org/giving-2. or by scanning the QR code.
- **Autopay from your checking account:** Your bank should be able to help you set up an electronic payment directly to CPC.
- **Transfer money through your bank or the Zelle app:** Send your money to: giving@claremontpres.org.





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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Deadline for the June Communicator - May 15

Weekly Online Events

Monday - Friday

9:00 AM - Daily Prayer (Facebook)

Sunday

10:00 AM - Worship (Facebook & Youtube)

Wednesday

4:00 PM - Bible Study (Zoom)

Friday

8:00 AM - Morning Meditation (Online Meditation Chapel)



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