

Crescent Connections

A newsletter of Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church
716 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060
908.756.2468 crescentonline.org



Winter 2021-2022

From the Pastor's Desk...



Dear Brothers in Sisters in Christ of CAPC -

Advent is upon us and many of us have already begun to prepare for the season of Christmas (what some refer to as Christmastide). For those keeping track of such things, we are entering the lectionary year C which focuses on the Gospel of Luke. Some of us just finished a whirlwind tour of Acts and read how the Holy Spirit guided the new church and called people to amazing acts of witness and ministry. Luke prepares us to hear the story of our Savior and His message of hope and salvation. We stand with the humble shepherds who witness the heavens opening wide and angels speaking (far more profound than a GPS star by some accounts). We stand with them because we can identify with them as they go about their lives and show up for work and life. We identify with them as they are in awe that the heavens open for them, and they hear the voices of angels when most of society would dismiss them without a word. We identify with them that the signs they see and acknowledge is the witnessing of God's work in a lowly world.

This season when perhaps we had thought that this year would be so very different from last year, we acknowledge that the world still lay in darkness and in fear and that we need a Savior, even if we don't realize just how much we need one. Advent is a time of waiting and preparing. Waiting for the changes to come that we long for and preparing to live those changes when they come. To see with greater clarity where God is calling and the message of hope and love He holds for us as individuals and as a community...and even as the world. We find ourselves holding our breath for the change yet to come, the hope yet to be born, the faith yet to be created in our hearts.

We know it is coming, we are merely getting ready for what is come that we might have eyes to see and run with abandon to the place that God is calling us. To fall on our knees once again before His wonder and His power and His love that we might rise again to meet another hour, another day, another season in which we are blessed to walk in His truth. Our Lord came that we might have life and joy. He came to give us the gift of hope and show us how deep and abiding God's love is for each us. My prayer is that this season will find you blessed in your preparations and joyful in the gifts that God holds for each of you. My prayer is that as we gather, Sundays and on Christmas eve to tell the story once more that His story will find new meaning in your life and you will see signs of His presence here for you.

Blessed Advent to you all. In Christ's love and mine-
Pastor Lynn

Sunday Worship - 10:20 am (prelude), 10:30 am worship begins - what better way to journey through Advent than by making a commitment to attend worship each week during this Holy Season? Beautiful music, a breathtaking campus, timely sermons and an opportunity to grow in community and faith. Leave the chaos and frenzy behind and give yourself some time to breathe in the presence of the sacred and hear the cherished truths embraced for generations.



Devotionals - We have a wide selection of devotionals that are free of charge and here for your enjoyment and growth. They are perfect for bringing with you and reading while you take a sip of hot coffee (or chocolate or tea). Drink in the prayers and nourish your soul with the joy of the season. Booklets are available in the hallway at church.

Nativitas - Saturday, December 11 at 8 pm - What a wonderful time to gather as a community as Tim Keyes Consort offers an outstanding program of music. Free will offering will be collected.

Lessons and Carols - Sunday, December 19 - 10:15 prelude - The story told through the reading of Scripture and music, this is often cited as people's favorite service of worship of the entire year.

The Humble King – The Birth of our Savior through the Lens of Luke- Join us on Wednesday nights (December 1, 8, 15) at 7 pm via Zoom as we read and reflect on the story of the birth of our Savior as told by the gospel writer, Luke. Email Pastor Lynn at lsantulli67@gmail.com to sign up.

A Time to Remember - CAPC will offer a special online service of worship that will focus on remembering loved ones who are not able to be with us this Christmas season. Special music, a word of hope from Pastor Lynn and prayers for reflection are designed to bring comfort and tidings of faithful joy.

Christmas Eve Service - 10:00 pm - with Advent behind us and Christmastide beginning, come mark this Holy Night through Communion, sermon, beautiful and moving music. The sacred fills this space with the evening darkness scattered by the lights of candles. Come home for Christmas. We've left the light on for you!

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Come home this Christmas



Worship, Music & Arts

Worship is a passion for us here at CAPC. Every week we seek to bring our very best before God and to celebrate the various ways in which He moves in our lives. Our weekly worship always seeks to glorify God and we also take time to have some fun, to celebrate the sacraments, to recognize faithful discipleship in our midst. Following are just some of the highlights for our fall worship and a glimpse into the upcoming services we have to look forward to.

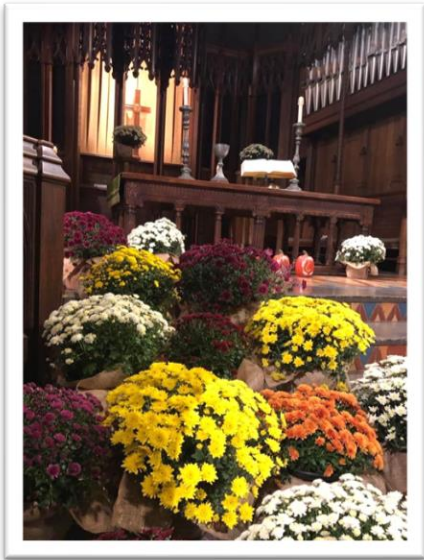
Recent worship highlights included a special tribute to our tireless and dedicated Pastor Lynn Santulli for Pastor Appreciation Day as well as recognizing Darcella Sessomes and her contributions to CAPC.



Elder BJ Snyder presents Pastor Lynn with her gifts of appreciation. Also, Darcella Sessomes was recognize for her work as well.

Blessing of the Animals Sunday brought out many of our furry friends for a special blessing, a pat on the head and even a special treat.





Festive mums in all colors, dedicated to loved ones, decorated the sanctuary for All Saints' Day and were taken as a note of cheer to our homebound members.

The highlight of our worship season has certainly been the multiple baptisms we had in November. What a time to celebrate as people are welcomed into God's Kingdom—and we did so in Crescent style with receptions that followed that allowed us to gather and meet our 'new family' into our church.

Five members of the Fyffe family, Andrew and his children Lincoln, Colton, Austin and Gracelyn, were baptized in early October in a lovely and moving Sacrament. On a very special Sunday in November, Pastor Lynn joyfully baptized her beautiful precious granddaughter Zoey Lynn Santulli. Grandson Mason even got "watered" again! Inneabell Vega fulfilled her longtime wish and was baptized at the end of November. The Holy Spirit is at work at Crescent! God Bless all of these New Members and children.



So what are some worship services we have to look forward to in the coming season? We have lots!

Lessons and Carols – December 19 – 10:15 am – a series of readings and carols is a highlight of our worship season here at CAPC. It is a wonderful retelling of the Christmas story and much-loved tradition for old and young.

Christmas Eve Service – December 24 at 10 pm with a prelude of Christmas music guaranteed to lift your spirits and celebrate the birth of our savior! Candlelit service and the sacrament of Communion all lend to the sacred worship of this glorious gift of God's love. What better way to honor the true message of Christmas?

A video will be posted on Christmas Eve day with a short worship service geared for children as our evening service at 10:00PM is probably too late for the young ones among us. This will allow families to worship at a convenient time and feel the sense of joy from hearing the familiar words of scripture that proclaim the birth of Jesus and experience the surroundings of our church sanctuary.

Ordination and Installation of Officers – January 9 at 10:15 am – celebrate the baptism of our Lord and witness the ordination of new elders and the installation of the incoming officers that have each been called to serve Christ in this community. It is a celebratory event!

Martin Luther King Sunday – January 16 – 10 am – Darcella Sessomes preaches as we celebrate this day and recall our own call to speak up and speak out for Christ and each other.

Annual Meeting – immediately after worship on Sunday, January 23 – witness Presbyterian polity in action and hear reports on the life of the congregation. It is not a long meeting, but members are encouraged to attend (your vote counts) and friends of the congregation get an insight in our community life as well.

If you miss a Sunday in worship, you really miss something! Come and worship with us and celebrate all that God is doing in our lives and in the life of our community of faith.



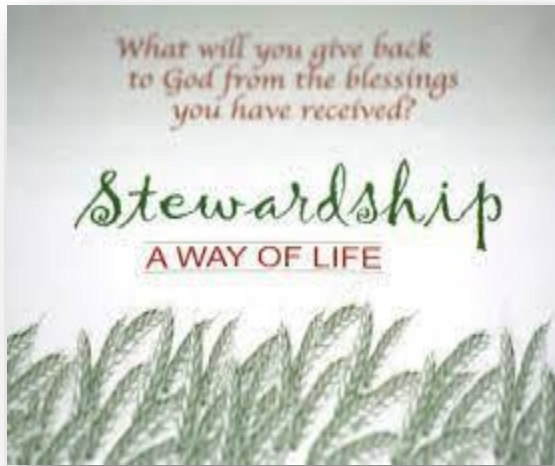
THE
WORSHIP
OF
Christmas



Christmas and beautiful music, vocal and instrumental, are practically synonymous. We are so blessed to have a sanctuary that seems to take every sounding note and echo it straight up to heaven. Every Sunday in Advent we have hymns that sing of the waiting and the hope of the coming Emmanuel - God with us. Whatever our circumstance, it is indeed a comfort that indeed God is with us and what better way to express this than through music. Our music director, Susan Caldwell Nelson, reflects on the beauty of these hymns we sing in worship by playing her organ music based on these melodies.

The last Sunday before Christmas (December 19th.) we always have a service of Lessons and Carols. This service originated in England (several churches lay claim to being the first to have this) on Christmas Eve 1918. If you are a student of history, you will know this is just 6 weeks after the end of World War I. Scripture and Carols rang out across an audience tired and weary of war, and its toll on their lives. The words of scripture and familiar Christmas music must have brought such comfort and hope to a life going forward, healing from all they had witnessed and experienced. We too still lead lives in need of hope from whatever has tired and wearied our souls.

Join us at 10:30 am for our service of Lessons and Carols, using scripture, hymns, and anthems to tell of God's coming into our world, on Sunday, December 19th. It is the beginning of the week that will eventually usher in Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Then come to another service on Christmas Eve at 10:00PM. Amid the glow of candlelight, the music of choir, congregation, organ, flutes, and cello will sound all the sweeter. We have much to rejoice about that night, as Emmanuel - God with us - is truly here, filling our hearts with His love. As we lift our voices together singing "O Come All Ye Faithful" that holy night, may we all be blessed with the message the angels proclaimed - that in the city of David, your Savior has been born! Come to the manger, come!



“What will you give back to God for all the blessings you have received?” is the question as we consider our gifts this Stewardship Season. Stewardship is a time for us to stop and reflect, to make a pledge to Christ that we will honor our call as disciples and give from what God has given to us. Please prayerfully reflect on this and fill out a Pledge Card (in the Narthex and Sanctuary). Let us offer God our best of our time, talents or treasures.

Building rentals are once again on the rise as people realize the majesty and beauty of our CAPC campus, which has recently seen weddings, kitchen rentals, showers, memorial services, luncheons and meetings. This activity not only helps our revenue stream, but also increases our visibility in the community.



Additionally, Crescent is a central site for many community and government programs, such as hosting the Hurricane Ida Pop up site on Friday, September 17, 2021. The event was originally scheduled as an outside event and was moved

ATTENTION UNION COUNTY:

indoors due to the threat of inclement weather. With two days’ notice, CAPC event staff galvanized, cleaned the streets surrounding the CAPC parking lots, set up the main floor according to instructions provided by Union County representatives, and were ready for the teams’ arrival at 8:30am on the event date. Over the course of four (4) hours, 100+ visitors stopped in for COVID-19 vaccination and testing, basic health screenings, cleaning supplies and emergency food distribution.

IMPACTED BY HURRICANE IDA? WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

HELP WITH NEW/MISSING DOCUMENTS
 HELP WITH LOSS CLAIMS FIND TEMP HOUSING
 STRESS COUNSELING FOOD ASSISTANCE

PLAINFIELD
 Fri 9/17, 10am-1pm
 Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church
 716 Watchung Ave

CASE WORKERS ON SITE
ALL COUNTY RESIDENTS WELCOME

IN COUNTY AND NEED A RIDE OR CAN'T MAKE IT?
 CALL OUR ACTION LINE (888) 845-3434

A Service of the Union County Board of County Commissioners



We're On a Mission to Show Christ's Love!



Our most visible and largest contribution to the Plainfield community continues to be our food ministries, which include not only Valarie's Soup Kitchen but our weekday bag lunches as well. The VSK has expanded to serve as a clearing house for food donations that support not only our own missions, but also those of the community partners as well. Chef Kevin Cook organizes all of this as well as running the kitchen—he is amazing! All of this could not happen without our amazing group of

volunteers who give tirelessly (but joyfully) of their time and efforts. Between 100 and 125 guests are served each week and the recent “7/11 Table” distributes useful donated and purchased items to guests. Additionally, daily lunch bags (assembled by Emily Upton, thank you!) are handed out all other weekdays.

This year the Stevens' family organized a special Thanksgiving Day bag giveaway. Truly CAPC campus is the lifeline of food donations to a community in need. What a tremendous blessing this is and a sign that God is truly at work in our midst!

The Chancel was a cornucopia of food donations the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Starfish Food Pantry of Plainfield is extremely appreciative of our ongoing food donations, but especially this effort to replenish their stores after Thanksgiving. (Thank you, Leslie Fagan, for being the “food mobile” transport!)



ANGEL TREE TOY DRIVE - Please help us make this a great Christmas for Plainfield kids in need. Unwrapped gifts need to be dropped off by Sunday December 12th at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church or The Plainfield Salvation Army (615 Watchung Avenue) For questions, please contact Andre McIntyre at andremac1000@gmail.com or 732-429-4424



Buildings and Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds Committee continues to keep our campus maintained and repaired and recently organized yet another Fall Clean Up Day. Thank you to all who came out, cleaned out and carried out!

In addition, work is continuing on identifying contractors to continue to work on the stonework outside the church and a schedule for internal repairs is being developed as well (Tom Rowe returns after his vacation!). Also, Henry Ward is organizing the cleaning of all the pew cushions (a big job!) so we will be ready for Christmas. It takes a lot of work and coordination to keep this campus going and we are very blessed to have Nick Stevens and Henry Ward leading the way.

Education & Discipleship

Christian Education at Crescent uses the curriculum “Growing in God’s Love” and consists of Sunday School lessons for a pre-K through grade school class emailed weekly and Middle and High School classes

via Zoom at 12:30 pm Sundays. Each month a children’s message is available on our church website. The December message will be a retelling of the well-known Christmas poem, “’Twas the Night Before Christmas” except with the true story of Christmas - the birth of our Lord. Be sure to check it out, even if you don’t have children, for at Christmas, aren’t we all filled with the magical wonder and awe of a child? Sometimes when we hear a familiar story in a fresh new way, we see something in the story we had never realized before.



Have you seen the CAPC publicity on Facebook, Twitter and TAP into Plainfield? So many good things happen here and we are proud to let the community know. Crescent is a caring congregation, reaching out to our homebound and those in need by delivering food, running errands, sending cards and sharing gifts. We are blessed with members who have been with us for many years as well as those who are new. If you feel that

God is calling you to membership, please speak with Pastor Lynn or Elder BJ Snyder and look for details of a New Member Sunday in January.

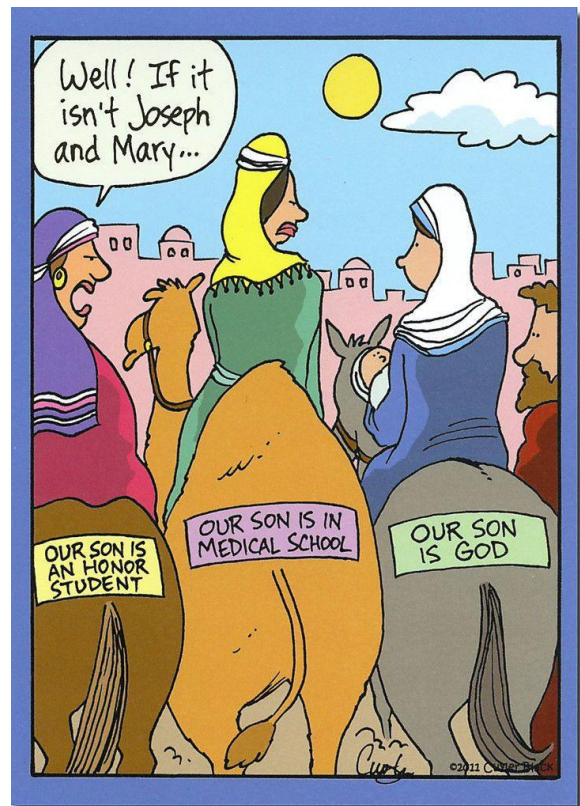
FLOWER DONATIONS



Chancel flowers are a lovely and special Sunday morning addition to our beautiful sanctuary. Please consider choosing a week to donate flowers to commemorate a special event, to honor someone, in memory of loved ones or to the Glory of God. Flowers ordered through the church are \$70 and include two seasonal arrangements and delivery. You may also purchase and bring your own arrangements. (Costco is a popular source!) You may take the flowers home with you or leave them for delivery to our homebound members or someone who needs cheer. We would all love to see flowers every week!

Please use the flower chart on the hallway bulletin board; or use an order form (also found on the bulletin board); or contact BJ Snyder at dillyanwen@aol.com or 908-229-6808.

On a lighter note...



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phone: 908-756-2468 fax: 908-756-3158

www.crescentonline.org



2021 Leadership

ELDERS

Class of 2021

Pat Baker
Glen Crane
vacant
Andre McIntyre
Jacque Archer-Kennedy

Class of 2022

Henry Ward
Thylene Torres
Janice Haer
Emily Upton
Laura Mann

Class of 2023

Patricia Fleming
Kathy Mann
BJ Snyder
Roz Ealum
Nicholas Stevens

Clerk of Session: Joan Pivnichny
Administration: Emily Upton
Buildings & Grounds: Henry Ward/
Nicholas Stevens

Community Partnerships Roz Ealum
Congregational Care Laura Mann
Education & Discipleship Pat Baker

Finance & Stewardship: Kathy Mann
Membership & Evangelism: BJ Snyder

Mission & Outreach: Andre McIntyre/
Patricia Fleming

Nominating: Laura Mann
Personnel & Admin: Emily Upton
Worship, Music & Arts: Janice Haer

Ministry Teams

Janice Haer, Jacque Archer-Kennedy, Stephanie DeGeneste, Chrystal McArthur, Deidra McIntyre, Sally Nkellefack.

Gary Mann, Joan Pivnichny

Jacque Archer-Kennedy, Andre McIntyre, Edwin Opoku, Laura Villanueva, Georgiana Manu, Sherrie Granger, Noelle Perrine, Thylene Torres, Deidra McIntyre
Sam Diony, Noelle Perrine, Thylene Torres

Drude Crane, Dominique Stevens, David Brown, Janice Haer
Janice Haer, Emily Upton, Nick Stevens

Glen & Drude Crane, Jeff Downing, BJ Snyder, Jacque Archer-Kennedy, Kathy West- Aaron, Emily Upton, Norma Fagan, Gerry Harvey, Wendy Reid, Stephanie DeGeneste

STAFF

Rev. Lynn Santulli
Susan Caldwell Nelson
Ronald Maltby
Darcella Sessomes
Dominique Stevens
Tracey Robinson

Pastor
Interim Director of Music
Sexton Emeritus
Pastoral Associate
Director of Facilities
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Joy to the World



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN

