

# Community Press

*Join us this Advent season as we prepare for the arrival of Jesus.*

*November 29, 7:00 p.m.—Church Decorating Party*

What a great way to put us in the Christmas spirit! We are trying to make it look more festive this year, so we will be putting up our Christmas tree with some new decorations. We will also be decorating the Narthex and Great Room. Once the decorating is finished...please join us for fellowship time with hot apple cider and treats. Please sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex, or call the office if you plan to attend.

*December 2, 9:30 a.m.—1st Sunday of Advent with Communion*

*December 9, 9:30 a.m.—Ordination and Installation of Deacons and Elders*

*December 16, 9:30 a.m.—Children and Youth Lead Worship*

*“All on a Bethlehem Night”*


*December 20, 6:30 p.m.—The Longest Night*

*Service of Comfort and Hope*

The Longest Night will be a service of gentle music, heart-felt prayers, inspired readings and lit candles that brightly shine in the darkness. This quiet evening worship service is for people who struggle with the holidays because of grief, illness, job loss—any calamity will do. It's a humane idea to set aside a special time for mourners during the heart of bustling Christmas preparations. If you know someone who is struggling this Christmas, invite them to join you. Or perhaps you need a quiet space to pray and be with God. All are welcome.

*December 23, 9:30 a.m.—Joy Offering Sunday*

*December 24, 5:30 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service*

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## *From the Pastor...*

### The One Gift...



Do you remember the one gift that still thrills your memories of Christmas as a child? Our family tradition was that we 5 children were allowed to select one gift from under the tree to be opened before breakfast. So we would wake up early and systematically comb through and intensely study all the gifts under the tree. Our task was to select the one wrapped gift that would be our first joyful surprise of the day. We weren't allowed to pick up, weigh and shake gifts, but there was the chance of "accidentally" bumping into a gift as we examined the pile under our Christmas tree. And we were a great help to each other identify the tags as we explored the beautiful treasures.

Anything not boxed and wrapped was usually stored in the garage and definitely off limits to us kids. Often I ended up picking the unusual box containing socks. But occasionally I'd pick the true delight...an etch-a-sketch or new doll. Truth be told, my favorite gift was often in the garage—how do you box and wrap a pogo stick, rollerskates, or a skate board?

But it isn't fair to say that the joy of Christmas was ever focused on one gift in my or likely your childhood. For me Christmas was the singing of carols on the Navy ships in port, baking Snickerdoodles and (Yes!) fruitcake, and piling all 7 of us into the car on magical nights where we toured with awe and wonder at the city lights and displays.

I grew up to understand that the One True Gift of Christmas was Jesus' love, and it was the One gift that exploded into Billions of expressions of love and caring, for one another, the lonely, the lost, and the hungry.

The birth of Christ in that inconsequential manger is the One gift that keeps on giving to us and through us at Community Presbyterian Church Rochester. I hope you will celebrate with us this holy season of giving and receiving Peace, Joy, Hope and Love.

May the gentle blessings of Christ be with you and all those you love, Pastor Teresa

### *Christmas Joy Offering, December 23*

The Christmas Joy Offering is distributed equally to support the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian-related racial/ethnic schools and colleges. The portion given to the Assistance Program helps to assist pastors and other church workers, both active and retired, who find themselves in a position of financial need.

### *Good News on the Go*

Did you miss Sunday's service, or do you have a favorite sermon that you'd like to listen to again? Our sermons are available online at <http://www.cpcroch.org/community/worship/sermons/>.

# December 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10am Aikido 1pm 39 Forever luncheon
2 9:30am Communion 1st Sunday of Advent 5pm Book Group 5-10pm Great Room Occupied	3 6-8:30pm Deacon & Elder training 7pm Library Committee	4 6:30pm Deacons	5 6:30am Prayer Group 7pm Choir	6 7:30pm Aikido	7	8 10am Aikido 6-10pm Great Room Occupied
9 9:30am Worship Ordaining and Installing Deacons & Elders Channel One Sunday 2nd Sunday of Advent	10	11 7pm PW	12 6:30am Prayer Group 7pm Choir	13 7pm Worship & Music 7:30pm Aikido	14	15 10am Aikido
16 9:30am Worship Children and Youth Lead Worship 3rd Sunday of Advent Noisy Can	17 7pm Finance	18 5pm Christian Education 7pm Session	19 6:30am Prayer Group 7pm Choir	20 6:30pm Longest Night Service	21	22 10am Aikido
23 9:30am Worship Joy Offering 4th Sunday of Advent	24 5:30pm Xmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas Office Closed	26 6:30am Prayer Group 7pm Choir Office Closed	27 7:30pm Aikido	28 9am-2pm Office Open	29 6-10pm Great Room Occupied
30 9:30am Worship	31 Office Closed	1 Office Closed	2	3	4 9am-2pm Office Open	

## December 2012 Worship Schedule

Date	Worship Assistants	Greeter	Liturgist	Nursery Attendant	Library
2	Peggy McCarty, Amy & Dave Anderson	Colleen Webbles	Gwen Riggin	Elizabeth Deeds, Tabitha Harland	Margaret Nelson
9	Simms Family	Linda Overton	Jane Burgstaler	Elizabeth Deeds, Tabitha Harland	Judi Berg
16	Mary Alice Richardson, Connie Holst, Randy Huston	Marita Heller	Doug Marker	Elizabeth Deeds, Tabitha Harland	Judy Kereakos
20	Amy Ward, Ron & Penny Murray	Ivy Pillers	Amy Anderson	Elizabeth Deeds, Tabitha Harland	
23	Jake DeGuise, Dave & Darlene Lucas	Louis Bouchard	Paul Remtema	Elizabeth Deeds, Tabitha Harland	Judy Pucci
24	Margaret Nelson, Jean Abels, Guy Vig	Amanda Ross	Denise Swinbank	Elizabeth Deeds, Tabitha Harland	
30	Gwen Riggin, Amy Ward, Bruce Felger	Nancy Massaro	Dick Massaro	Elizabeth Deeds, Tabitha Harland	Kara Vig

*Communion Servers* for December: Ron & Penny Murray, Bill & Colleen Webbles

### Coming up at CPC!

Lots to look forward in the days to come at our church!

December 2

1st Sunday of Advent

December 16

Children and Youth Christmas Program

December 20

The Longest Night Service

December 24

Christmas Eve Service

### 2012 Per Capita Update and Requests

CPC supports the work of the larger church through "Per Capita Giving." The 2012 mission and staff costs of our Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly are funded through an annual apportionment of **\$31.63 per member** of our congregation. We want to thank each CPC member to who has contributed their share this year. If you still want to contribute, you can pick up a special envelope on the table in the Narthex. Thank you.

#### GIVING REPORT

<i>October '12 Weekly Average</i>	\$2,435.38	<u><i>Special Offerings</i></u>	
<i>Year to Date Avg. '12</i>	\$3,520.59	<i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i>	\$1,186.00
<i>Budgeted Weekly for '12</i>	\$3,136.19	<i>Christmas Joy Offering</i>	\$1,254.00
<i>Per Capita Received '12</i>	\$2,215.49	<i>Thank Offering</i>	\$635.00
<i>Total Per Capita Paid '12</i>	\$4,586.35	<i>Peace Offering</i>	\$751.00

*(Per capita contribution per member is \$31.63 for 2012)*

## December Birthdays



- 5 Paul Harkess
- 5 Penny Murray
- 5 Jeanne Samways
- 7 George Berg
- 7 Carol Calehuff
- 9 Lori Beckman
- 11 Savannah Simms
- 15 Mark Pillers
- 17 Dean Meyer
- 21 Denise Swinbank
- 24 Noah Vig
- 28 George Young
- 29 Jane Burgstaler

## Anniversaries

- 7 Randy Huston & Bonnie Farris-Huston
- 18 Paul & Rebeca Harkess
- 27 Richard & Julie Smitherman
- 28 George & Malinda Young

## *Elders and Deacons, Class of 2015*

Our Elders and Deacons for the class of 2015 will be ordained and installed during worship on December 9.

Jean Abels, Elder (chair personnel committee)

Ellen Warner, Elder (chair worship and music)

Wendy DeGuise, Deacon

Carol Bigelow, Deacon

## *Stewardship Campaign Update and End of Year Giving*

Thanks from the Finance & Stewardship committee for all the pledges that have already been turned in. As of November 18th, 38 pledges have been received totaling \$117,420. If you haven't turned in a pledge yet, it's not too late. Your pledges help us create an accurate operating budget for 2013.

If you have not fulfilled your 2012 pledge and plan to do so by the end of the year, please try to make those gifts by Sunday, December 23rd.

This will ensure that your donation is deposited by the end of the year, which makes it easier on the Financial Secretary and Treasurer. Thanks you!

Your Finance & Stewardship Committee

## *Pastor Nominating Committee*

Thank you to those serving on our Pastor Nominating Committee.

Amy Anderson      Marita Heller

Randy Huston      MariLynn Johnson

David Lucas      Katie Marker

Evan Powell

## *Christian Education Corner: Who Really Wrote the Bible?*

Over the last few weeks, the Adult Education group has been discussing whether ancient scholars recorded the gospels decades after Jesus' death and resurrection, and if so, their possible motivations for writing the gospels "according to" some of the disciples. Do the specific words matter, or is it the overall theme of Jesus' words and deeds that we should instead focus on? The Adult Education group generated significant, respectful discussion on these and other related questions. The Adult Education group meets every Sunday during the school year from 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Come join us as we explore our faith, grow in understanding, and progress along our personal spiritual paths.

## *Salvation Army Bell Ringing*

CPC will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 15, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Please sign up for an hour or 2. The location is indoors at Hy-Vee South.

## *A New Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony this December in Worship*

This Advent our Music Department will bring us a beautiful new ceremony for our Advent and Christmas Eve Lighting of the Candles. It was selected by Judy and Denise and is called "God with Us, Emmanuel," by Joel Raney. As you will see beginning at the Dec 2nd Sunday morning service, our Choir will sing a special introit, along with accompaniment on the bells, and once the candles are lit by our readers, the whole congregation will join in the final refrain. I am certain this will add a wonderful musical and spiritual depth to this Holy time of year.

Pastor Teresa

## *Request From The Archives Task Force*

Recently the Archive committee received a request for some material that has potential to be in the Archives, but it was not there because it was never received for that purpose.

**Please**, if you have **any** Church papers from some committee or event with which you were involved, offer them to Judy Kereakos or Margaret Nelson for consideration to be included in the Archives.

If you want a copy for yourself, feel free to make one. The purpose of the archives is to house church documents or other important materials from our past so that when someone needs to borrow them they are available.

Each current Committee Chair and past Chairs who have committee minutes and documents in their possession should feel free to turn the storage of these items over to the CPC Archives. Having church papers in the Archives makes them available to future church leaders who would find it helpful to know how something was handled in the past.

## *Christmas Mitten Tree*

Help us decorate a mitten tree with new or gently used waterproof winter gloves and mittens. We will collect them until December 16, when they will be donated to Longfellow School.

## *Adopt-A-Family*

In late November, the Mission committee will have Adopt-A-Family Christmas wish lists available for gift purchasing. The lists may be available just before Thanksgiving, with purchases to be returned to church by December 9th. During this season consider the joy of given and receiving gifts especially for those less fortunate than others.



## *39 Forever Annual Christmas Luncheon*

The 39 Forever annual Christmas luncheon will be held at Michaels Restaurant on Saturday, December 1, at 1:00 p.m. Please sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex by November 25 if you plan to attend. If you have questions, please contact Duane Olson at 507-289-0659.

## *New Piano Bench*

A new adjustable, duet-size piano bench has been purchased in memory of Steve Kereakos. Therefore we have an older wooden bench that needs a good home. If you could use it, please let the office know.

## *Women of the Church*

The December meeting will be held Tuesday, December 11 at 6:30 at the home of Mary Alice Richardson. We will begin with our annual sharing of appetizers and desserts. The program will center on "Christmas Traditions", led by Nancy Massaro. All women of the church are welcome. Bring a friend! Please contact Mary Alice at 282-5483 or Email at wdmacr@gmail .com, if you plan to attend. The Nov. 18th Thank Offering Sunday went very well. Alike Galloway presented a captivating message about the sometimes forgotten women in the Minneapolis area. The offering brought gifts to projects around the world. The January outing will be held at Twigs on January 5th at 11 Am.  
Nancy Massaro

## *Book Discussion Group December Meeting*

We will meet on Sunday, December 2, at 5 p.m. in the church library to discuss "Caleb's Crossing" by Geraldine Brooks. All are invited to join us as Tammy Rider leads us in the discussion of the story of a young woman who yearns for an education denied her because of her gender. Set in the mid-1600s, Bethia Mayfield befriends the young son of a Wampanoag chieftain, and the two forge a friendship. Caleb becomes the first Native American to graduate from Harvard College, while Bethia is indentured as a housekeeper and can closely observe Caleb's crossing of cultures. This will be our last discussion until January.

## *Synod School*

The 2013 Synod School will be held July 21-26 at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. They provide a welcoming and safe community for people of all ages and interests to learn, to grow spiritually, and to share in fellowship. Special programs for children and youth (infant through 12th grade) allow parents (and grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.) to attend classes with other adults, knowing that their children are well cared for and having a great time.

## *Youth Choose Mission Project*

For the past 10 months CPC youth have been stashing the quarters from Noisy Collection into an "account" to be used for a special mission project. After looking at various options, our youth wish to purchase a **computer lab for kids in San Benito, Nicaragua**. This project is sponsored by Compassion International, the same agency that we sponsor Cristhian Gaspar through. Details for the lab are as follows:

Computer skills are vital for children's education and their future, but computers can be hard to come by, especially in San Benito, Nicaragua. Our gift will help equip three child development centers with 10 computers each, air conditioners, furniture and teacher's salary. Compassion-assisted adolescents will meet for classes once a week, three hours each session, for a period of eight months.

The cost of this mission project is \$275. As of October's noisy collection we have saved \$247.75 in quarters alone! That gives us 1 month to reach our goal. Please save your quarters and bring them the 3rd Sunday in December to add to our Noisy Collection. We continue to use the other loose change to fund additional hands-on missions such as Running Start for School, Operation Christmas Child and Ronald McDonald House. Thank you for your continued support of these important mission projects.

## *Presbyterian Youth Triennium*

Triennium Pre-event Lock-in—March/April

Triennium Mission event—May

Triennium Pre-event Lock-in 2—June

Commissioning at Presbytery meeting—July

Triennium 2013—July 15 through July 20

Post Triennium Presbytery meeting/celebration—September

Our registrar for 2013 is Derek Martin, the coordinator of Christian education and youth ministries at First Presbyterian Church of Rochester. He is assisted by K. C. Kye, youth director at Church of All Nations. If you have questions, you can reach Derek at 507-282-1618 or [Martin.Derek@fpcrochester.org](mailto:Martin.Derek@fpcrochester.org). More information about Triennium can be found at [presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org).



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Place  
stamp  
here

*“Open Hearted—Open Minded”*

Come Be Our Guest!  
 Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School: 10:45 a.m. (September - May)  
 Nursery is provided during Worship  
 and Sunday School.



**COMMUNITY PRESS STAFF:**

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Editor reserves the right to  
edit for content and space.

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Rev. Dr. Teresa Roberts

**Director of Children**

**& Youth Ministries:**

Denise Swinbank

**Choir Director:**

Denise Swinbank

**Handbell Choir Director:**

Judy Kereakos

**Pianists:**

Judy Kereakos

Laurie Priniski

Audrey Crawshaw

**Office Administrator:**

Lincoln Shirk/Heath



CPC kids and adults filled 100 boxes for Operation Christmas Child this year. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the holidays brighter! Our children’s responses to Pastor Teresa’s \$1 stewardship challenge:

- \* I donated the money to Channel One’s foodshelf.
- \* Two brothers combined the money towards mailing a shoebox!
- \* I put the money in the church basket to help others.
- \* I bought yarn to make friendship bracelets for the people at Channel One.