

COMMUNITY PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROCHESTER, MN



**Community Presbyterian Church is planning for an
in-person, outdoor worship on
Sunday, September 13.**

Brass, Etc will be joining us again!

Plan on bringing your lawn chairs!

More information will be available soon!

**Session has called a special congregational meeting
for September 13, immediately following the
outdoor worship service. We will vote on amending
the by-laws to include a “pandemic provision” for
conducting church business when we are unable
to meet in person.**



Please note: Children's Place Nursery School will be opening for the fall on September 1 with teacher training. The first day of school for the kids will be September 8.

Because of the ongoing pandemic, there are many changes this year! Children's Place classrooms will each have 10 people (including the teacher!). Children's Place will be screening the kids at the door and parents will not be allowed in the building. The drinking fountain will also be turned off.



Because of Covid, if you are stopping by the church, please come when Stephanie or Pastor Jan are there to let you in or use your own key for the church front door. As easy as it is, we cannot enter through the Children's Place door and we need to stay on our side of the building.

SEPTEMBER 2020

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Session

The Session is the governing board of the church. It consists of six ruling elders, elected for three years. Much of the business of the church is conducted through committees. Each ruling elder chairs one of the committees. The Pastor, who is a teaching elder and moderator of Session, is an ex-officio member of every committee.

<u>Class of 2020</u>	Ivy Pillers Kim Nickander	Worship and Music Finance and Stewardship
<u>Class of 2021</u>	Ronda Marshall Dave Copeland	Mission Personnel
Class of 2022	Gene Kopecky Sue Chipman	Building and Grounds Christian Education
<u>Officers:</u>	Mary Meyer Mark Pillers Joanne Powell	Clerk (Non-voting) Financial Secretary Treasurer

2020 Nominating Committee

Jeanette Hallbeck, Peggy McCarty, Mary Alice Richardson, Bruce Felger, Dave Copeland

Membership (a sub committee of Christian Education) Chairperson: Amanda Ross

Deacons

The Board of Deacons is responsible for ministering to all those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to all those who may be in distress. Deacons provide meals and transportation, among other requested needs. They maintain the Prayer Chain. Deacons are elected in classes of two and serve a three year term.

<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>
Marcia Britain Ann Hesley	Jeanette Hallbeck Jennifer Hall	Kari Streff Ron Murray

Staff

Pastor/ Head of Staff	Rev. Jan Wiersma
Choir Director	Meg Cain
Pianist	Glenna Muir
Bell Choir Director	Judy Kereakos
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

Ministers to the world

Congregation Members

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Biking through England, my companion and I stopped in the grassy center of a busy roundabout to check our position and plan our route. We had an assortment of maps: the overview of the whole country, the middle view, and the local view, so detailed even farm buildings showed up as tiny squares. We poured over the maps at length until, at last, my co-rider folded them all up, stuffed them away, and hopped back on the bike, crying, "OHH-KAY! Which way do we go?"



These days, I sometimes feel like I'm in the middle of a traffic roundabout, or maybe even the center of the whirling cosmos. So much is happening all around me and yet I feel curiously immobile, uncertain about which path to take next. Energy is limited; where is it best spent?

If we, as a congregation, accept the challenge and invitation of seriously engaging with entrenched racism in our culture, we can choose from a number of options:

- Locally: the Diversity Council, during our training, suggested a "Commitment to Action to End Racism." If we choose to sign on, we would join a multitude of local organizations, from the Rochester Public Library to Channel One to the Mayo Clinic - though, curiously, few churches. We would commit to "Listen, Learn, and Act" with other leaders of the community. Dee Sabol, director of Diversity Council, emphasizes the "action" piece. <http://www.cpcrochester.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/For-Signature-Consortium-Racial-Justice-Commitment-to-Action.pdf>
- The Presbytery is coordinating a year-long spiritual pilgrimage with other Presbyterians, to examine the history of racism in Minnesota and Western Wisconsin. This journey, which combines individual study with on-line learning and sharing, looks at the middle view - not just southeastern Minnesota, but the entire region. I have registered for this, so you are likely to get the trickle-down from me in any case. (Registration deadline was 8/28.) <https://anti-racism-ptca.weebly.com/2020-2021-spiritual-pilgrimage.html>
- Nationally, we can join as a congregation the PC(USA) Matthew 25 project, which actually has three areas of emphasis: 1) building congregational vitality; 2) dismantling structural racism, and 3), eradicating systemic poverty. Congregations can choose to be part of any or all of the areas. I've attended one hour-long virtual event on ending racism with congregational leaders from across the country and it was *powerful!* Another one-hour virtual event is scheduled for September 16. You can check out Matthew 25 here: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>

What I love about all three of these options is that each holds us accountable to our professed values and our cherished ideals. The truth that we are part of a larger fabric of committed and faithful people becomes tangible reality.

Of course, it may be that we need a little more time in the roundabout to get our bearings. The whirl of events can be overwhelming. We may choose a completely different path. As always, I welcome your feedback! It's your church! Which way do we go?

A NOTE OF THANKS

A Note of Thanks to CPC

At their July Meeting, Session unanimously approved sending some of the funds remaining from the Presbytery grant for pandemic-related need to a Black congregation that has seen increased demands on its food shelf. Chosen Generation's members are largely immigrants from Nigeria; they have maintained vital outreach ministries to marginalized communities in Rochester, operating an annual free health fair (sadly, cancelled for this summer) and a food shelf. You can read more about them at their website, www.rccgchosengenerationmn.org. Here are some of the expressions of thanks they sent in response to the donation:

July 29, 2020 Blessings! On behalf of Lifegate Services Food Shelf, I will like to thank you and the Community Presbyterian Church Rochester for the generous donation of \$1000 to our food shelf toward the Open Your Heart (OYH) Summer Matching Challenge. This donation will enable us to get an additional \$1000 in a matching grant from OYH. This partnership will allow us to provide food and hygiene products to people in our community who are going through hard times as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. My prayer is that God will continue to bless your ministry and members of your congregation.

Pastor Tope Dosumu

I too add my thanks and prayers for God's continued blessings on you and your congregation for your wonderful support. We pray the Good Lord open the floodgates of Heaven and rain upon you and your congregation his boundless blessings. God uphold, keep safe you, your family and prosper your ministry. It is well with you.

Regards,

Brother Dan Dogo Esekie



UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

Liberating Love: Finding Comfort Outside the Comfort Zone

Through September and October, our worship will explore how faith, hope, and freedom ring in the earliest biblical histories of God's people, and resonate in our time. We will look for places where God's liberating love is bringing a new understanding of race, rights, and privilege to birth - and where we can join in the divine labor. Stay tuned!

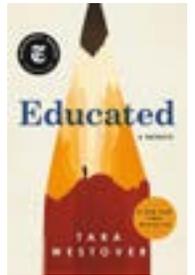
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Our group is beginning again, but not around the table in the Library. This is how Margaret predicts our first book group of the year will go. After Church on your own computer or telephone, you can imagine

yourself sitting in your usual seat at church with the banners and Cross on the wall, Pastor Jan in the pulpit and Glenna at the piano. But the service is over and suddenly you find yourself in someone's living room. Brief introductions are being made, because this is the first day of this year's group. Someone, often Gwen Riggin, will have a question or comment to get us started in our discussion of Educated, by Tara Westover.



Educated is a true story of a remarkable young woman, told through memoirs of her life from her childhood in a Survivalist family in Wyoming that is anti-education, anti-religion, anti-medicine and believes they must survive on their own when the rest of civilization is eliminated. Through home-school and self-education, Tara eventually earns graduate degrees at colleges in the U.S. and England and has published this fine book.



JUST FOR FUN



CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY WISHES



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Birthdays and Anniversaries can be found in the print copy of the newsletter. Pick one up at church!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

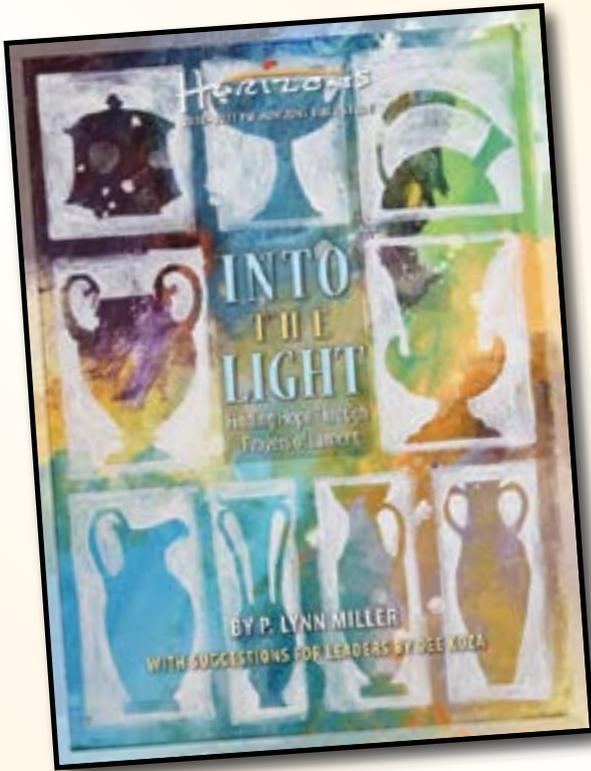
Pastor Jan is leading the PW Bible Study this fall!

When I was hospitalized in Greece, I was startled to hear loud wailing from down the hall: relatives of someone who had just died were lamenting, and loudly. Public, vocal lament is the norm in many cultures; do we, who tend to hide or ignore our grief, need to learn its healing properties? Our PW Bible Study on Lament could not be more appropriate for our times, as we look at the world around us. Please consider joining! We'll meet Monday mornings at 10, for five weeks starting September 14. Virtually, of course! meet.google.com/vao-wjef-cbe or (US) +1 575-305-4527 PIN: 652 821 468 # Invite your friends and family! Distance is no obstacle if internet is available.

A Thank You from Madonna Towers for the donation of books in honor of Margaret Nelson's 100th Birthday.

Dear Mary Alice,
On behalf of the library board, at Madonna Towers, I would like to thank you for the generous gift you gave in honor of Margaret Nelson's one hundred birthday. She has selected some very good reads, one of which I just finished reading and am looking forward to the next one. Because of your gift we have two new books on our library shelves with several more to come. This gift was so appropriate as the library is her passion and the great love she has for books.
Thankfully yours,
Nancy Smith

Introducing the 2020–2021 PW/*Horizons* Bible Study!



In this nine-lesson study, Lynn Miller revives lament as a proper theological response to the difficult situations of our world. One of the foundational points of the study is that, in scripture, lament usually leads to hope. After crying out to God, the one who laments remembers God. And while that doesn't fix things in the moment—the injustice, the loss, still exists—the lamenter is strengthened to face the world and to hope. And for us as Christians, hope is not just an emotional response or an attitude of pie in the sky. Hope implies movement: both God's inherent movement toward justice and our movement toward God. Recovering lament may be one of the church's most timely gifts to the world.

About the authors



Lynn Miller, author and artist, is a minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She received her MDiv from Union Presbyterian Seminary (Richmond, Virginia) and the DMin from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary,

in conjunction with the University of Aberdeen (Scotland). She has served as a workshop leader, graphic designer, and keynote speaker for conferences and gatherings on theology, worship, spirituality, education, and the arts. She provided the suggestions for leaders for the 2016–2017 PW/*Horizons* Bible study, *Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes* by Judy Yates Siker. Lynn has been a practicing artist for 25 years. She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in fine arts and art history. Her work is in private and church collections throughout the U.S.



Dee Koza is a certified Christian educator, commissioned lay pastor, and a commissioned ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). A graduate of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (Union Theological Seminary), Dee has served in presbytery and

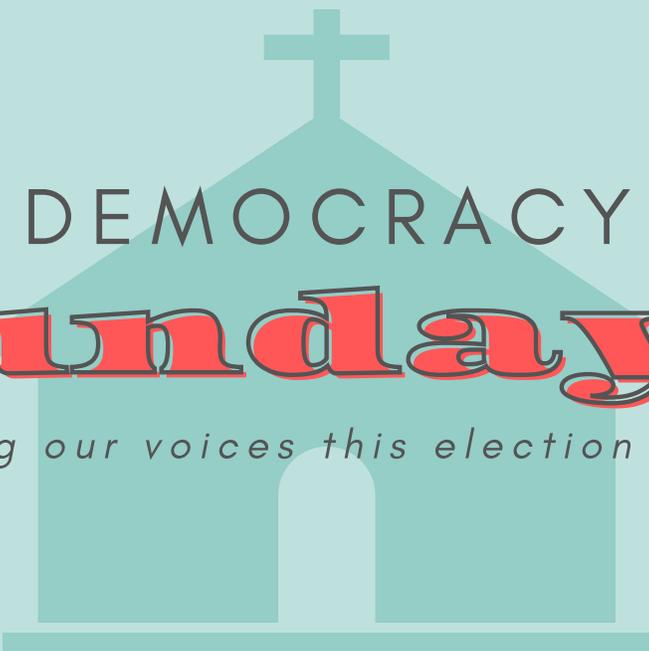
national staff positions and in seven churches as an educator. Presently, Dee serves as pastor of Geneva Presbyterian Church in Geneva, Alabama.

**Online on Mondays at 10:00 am
Beginning September 14**

**Talk to Mary Alice
if you need a book!**

<http://bit.ly/DemocracySundays>

SEPTEMBER 27  OCTOBER 25



DEMOCRACY
sundays
claiming our voices this election season

voter registration, ballot drop-off groups, apply to vote by mail, and more!

BUILDING A BELOVED COMMUNITY, TOGETHER



From the Isaiah Group

This fall's election will be like none other in our lifetimes. To ensure that all have the opportunity to vote in safety and with confidence that their vote will be counted, we will offer an informational session on Sunday, September 27 in the afternoon (time tbd). Topics covered will be: how to register, how to request a mail-in ballot, how to make sure your ballot is delivered safely. Please feel free to invite friends who may have concerns. Details will be forthcoming.



ISAIAH is a vehicle for congregations, clergy, and people of faith to act collectively and powerfully towards racial and economic equity in the state of Minnesota.

By uniting local congregations in a large regional organization, ISAIAH strengthens the ability of people of faith to address both local and regional community issues, including mass incarceration, immigration, healthcare, and racial inequity.

For more information go to: <https://isaiahmn.org/>.

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING: OCTOBER 4

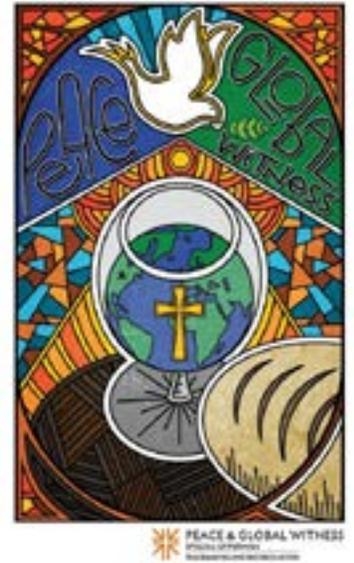
On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. We celebrate that we are all together at the table, in God's house. We celebrate that we are offered what we need to continue the work of building the household of God with active peacemakers here at home and around the world.

Through participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. We begin at the communion table, with our siblings in every time and place, and we celebrate the peace we find there and commit to building a more just and peaceful world. We celebrate the truth found in 2nd Thessalonians, "May the God of peace give you peace at all times in all ways.

Jesus Christ invites believers from all over the world, in every time and place, to join us. As we open the doors and prepare the meal, Christ invites all—despite our differences, experiences, and pasts—to come to the table as one body and to make peace through reconciliation and advocating for God's justice.

Christ invites us to join in the ministry of reconciliation and the pursuit to end violence through the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Through our participation in this Offering and the ministries it supports, we offer healing, peace, and reconciliation. In joining the Offering, we serve God's people in Cameroon, where violence and conflict threaten, in the U.S.A. with ministries of reconciliation inside prison walls, and in Malawi, where peacemakers seek to eradicate diseases like HIV/AIDS and their impacts on the most vulnerable. This offering will help neighbors in Rochester with the 25% we retain for our own ministries of peace and reconciliation.... stay tuned for Mission's decision as to the recipient!

You are invited to join in this ministry. Visit the Peace & Global Witness Offering website [www.pcusa.org/peace-global] to find more information on how our gifts promote peace in our world. As a community of God's people seeking to be instruments of peace bearing "peace, at all times and in all ways," we want to make our commitment and participation in ministries of peace visible to all. I pray that the God of Peace might inspire us to be peacemakers in every word and deed as we celebrate World Communion Sunday on Sunday, October 4 and give generously to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.



Together we are building God's household of peace.

**MAY THE GOD OF PEACE
GIVE YOU PEACE AT ALL TIMES
IN ALL WAYS.**

— 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

"Virtual" Stated Meeting Scheduled For the Presbytery Business as [un]Usual

A note from your stated clerk, Barbara Lutter, announcing important details about the next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery.

SAVE THE DATES!

The dates and times for a virtual Stated Meeting of the Presbytery have been set. Yes, you read that correctly: dateS and timeS and Virtual. This meeting will involve several opportunities for our presbytery:

- The Meeting will take place over 2 days, in short segments, to enhance accessibility so that more presbyters will be able to participate;
- The Meeting will be held virtually, via ZOOM, in recognition that gathering in-person for a meeting is not safe for our members due to COVID;
- The Meeting will place emphasis on consensus-building, not debate and division;
- There will be Intentional opportunities both before and during the meeting for the body to shape the discussion;
- There will be opportunities after the meeting to share your comments about how we did and share your suggestions for the next Stated Meetings.

SAVE THESE DATES:

Thursday, October 1, 2020, time to be determined: "ZOOM Rehearsal" for all presbyters who wish to check out the technology in advance of the meeting.

Friday, October 2, 2020, 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm: Stated Meeting, Chapter 1. The agenda for this first part of the Stated Meeting will include a time of centering, a time for checking in/speaking out, and action on the Consent Agenda.

Saturday, October 3, 2020, 10:00 am to 11:30 am: Stated Meeting, Chapter 2. The agenda for this portion of the Stated Meeting will include action on individual business items, election of committee members and chairs, and election and installation of officers.

Tuesday, October 6, 2020, time to be determined: "How Did We Do?" This is your chance to comment on, respond to, and debrief the Stated Meeting, and help shape our next Stated Meetings.

More Details will be shared over the coming weeks!

Community Presbyterian Church can have two ruling elders "attend" these meetings. Are you interested? Are you available? If so, please let Pastor Jan or Stephanie know so links and information can be shared with you!

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Confirmation 9:30am Online Worship	31	1 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:00pm Brain Injury Support Group 7:00pm Christian Education Committee meeting	2 6:30am Prayer Group	3	4 12:00pm Online Conference Call	5
6 9:30am Online Worship with Communion	7	8 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due	9 6:30am Prayer Group 6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting	10	11 12:00pm Online Conference Call	12
13 9:30am Outdoor Worship Service 9:30am Online Worship 10:30am Special Congregational Meeting	14 10:00am PW Bible Study	15 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 5:30pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting	16 6:30am Prayer Group	17	18 12:00pm Online Conference Call	19
20 9:30am Online Worship 12:00pm Newsletter articles due	21 10:00am PW Bible Study	22 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:00pm Session Meeting	23 6:30am Prayer Group	24	25 12:00pm Online Conference Call	26
27 Democracy Sunday (pm time tbd) 9:30am Online Worship 10:30am Book Discussion Group	28 10:00am PW Bible Study	29 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due	30 6:30am Prayer Group	1	2 12:00pm Online Conference Call	3

Community Presbyterian Church
3705 Fairway Place NW
Rochester, MN 55901

**Normally, CPC worships at 9:30 each Sunday
and has Sunday School at 10:45 each Sunday
(September-May).**

**Due to the COVID-19 virus,
we will stay connected in these ways:**

**Online Worship, Sundays 9:30 am
<https://meet.google.com/vao-wjef-cbe>
+1 575-305-4527 PIN: 652 821 468 #**

**Bulletins for worship can be found
on the homepage of our website.**

www.cpcrochester.org

Tuesday and Friday Conference Call - 12:00 noon

**<https://meet.google.com/kee-rcys-sdh>
+1 413-889-2244 PIN: 433 818 991#**