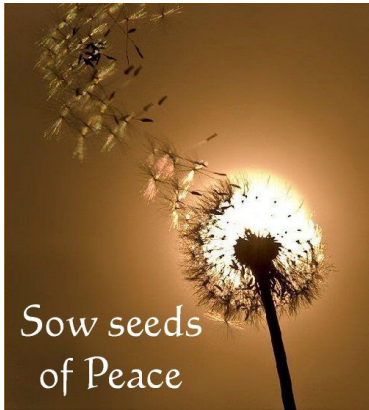


# COMMUNITY PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROCHESTER, MN



Sow seeds  
of Peace

## Lent: Seeds of peace

***“The seeds of tomorrow’s wars grow in the soil of today’s unhealed traumas. The seeds of tomorrow’s peace grow in the soil of today’s healing and reconciliation.”*** --From the mission statement of Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services, Burundi, 2000

Are we all persuaded by now that the world and our nation have seen enough of upsets, quarrels, illness, and antagonism? Are we just about ready for peace? There is no time like the present to make a beginning, for peace is not an overnight phenomenon but can only be the long-awaited fruit of what is prepared for, planted, nurtured, and loved. Plans for peace take time to germinate and blossom into beauty and life-sustaining harvest.

In this Lenten season of thoughtful introspection, as a congregation we’ll practice planting seeds of spiritual peace, taking our cue from some of the earliest biblical writers as well as from the familiar messages of Jesus’ journey toward the cross. For your own inner peace, set aside five minutes a day to read the devotional provided, as well, prepared by the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

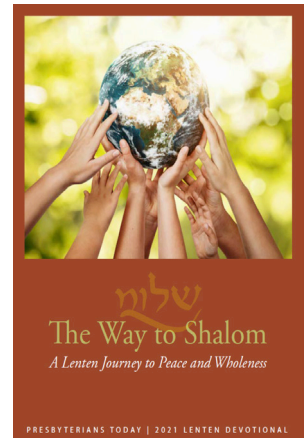
## The Way to Shalom:

### A Lenten Journey to Peace and Wholeness

Lent is a time of spiritual renewal, a time when we reflect upon the love of God and the gift of God’s grace. It is not a time of anxiety about our sinfulness or worth. Lent is a time of reflection on what God has done to redeem us and how we can live a whole and full life as a child of God.

This year for the season of Lent, we invite you to reflect upon the gift of *shalom*, the Hebrew word for peace. In the Bible, *shalom* can be translated not only as peace, but also as tranquility, security, well-being, health, welfare, completeness and safety.... The season of Lent moves us to reflect deeply upon *shalom*. We live in a world in desperate need of peace. We must pray — and work — for peace here in the U.S. as well as in other parts of the world.

This Lent, let us make our way to *shalom* — a gift that will bless one another and the world. — *Jimmie Hawkins, Author, director of the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C. He is joined by colleagues Catherine Gordon, associate for international issues; Christian Brooks, representative for domestic poverty issues; Sue Rheem, representative for the United Nations; and Ivy Lopedito, a mission specialist for the United Nations, in writing this year’s devotional. The Office of Public Witness is the denomination’s advocate and social witness in Washington, D.C.*



FEBRUARY 2021

# 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 2021</u>	Ronda Marshall Dave Copeland	Mission Personnel
<u>Class of 2022</u>	Gene Kopecky Sue Chipman	Building and Grounds Christian Education
<u>Class of 2023</u>	Ivy Pillers Kim Nickander	Worship and Music Finance and Stewardship
<u>Officers:</u>	Mary Meyer Mark Pillers Joanne Powell	Clerk (Non-voting) Financial Secretary Treasurer

### 2021 Nominating Committee

Dave Copeland, Mark Neville, Sue Chipman

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 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Jeanette Hallbeck	Kari Streff	Margie Petersen
Jennifer Hall	Ron Murray	Sherrie Wilson

## 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

Our family Christmas celebration this year was modest. So many people are suffering. My family is not. And so, one gift from a friend seemed particularly appropriate: a small wooden box with 52 cards, one for each week of the year, each with a quote on gratitude. They remind me that I have many reasons to be grateful; each one of you reading this counts as one more reason.

The gratitude quote that turned up this week seemed almost laughable, though, given the events of recent days: “Be intent on the perfection of the present day.”

Really? I’ve observed a lot more imperfection than perfection in the world recently. Maybe that’s why I needed this card in particular: I needed a reminder to notice the white perfection of the new snow falling as I write, the warm perfection of the tea I’m sipping.

The quote was attributed to a man named William Law, who was a perfect stranger to me. Wikipedia (have I mentioned how grateful I am for the internet?) has entries on no fewer than 10 persons by the name of William Law. One was a 19th century cricketer, another the President of Tallahassee Community College in Florida, another an English playwright. But I tracked the right William Law down. Here’s what Wikipedia says about him:

“**William Law** (1686 – 9 April 1761) was a Church of England priest who lost his position at Emmanuel College, Cambridge when his conscience would not allow him to take the required oath of allegiance to the first Hanoverian monarch, King George I.” However, his loss was in some ways his and others’ gain: he went on to become a spiritual guide to many, including William Wilberforce, the influential British abolitionist.

Now, I’m a little hazy on all the nuances of the political currents prevailing at the time, but I do know that there were competing claims to the throne, sometimes resulting in violent clashes. I really don’t know which side I would have been rooting for. But I’m grateful for this story of a good man who lived then, a Christian man who followed his conscience. A lot of people may have labeled William Law stupid, or traitor, or both. Would I?

What labels do I apply to people whose conscience leads them down a different road than mine? I confess, I can be guilty of pre-judging others who are only doing what they sincerely believe to be right. I grieve over acts of violence, no matter who commits them, but it seems to me that they generally grow from unacknowledged frustrations too great to be held inside. I would like to learn to listen better and understand more deeply the discontents of people who think differently than I do, for their own good reasons. I would like to learn to be grateful to them for opening my mind to new ways of thinking.

Peace is only possible through understanding--self-understanding, and understanding of others, and understanding that there are indissoluble ties that unite us: we belong to one another. We belong to God. May we be truly grateful that we have each other to learn from, and to teach--imperfect though we may all be. And may peace prevail.



## CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY WISHES

*Birthdays and Anniversaries are listed in our print edition of the newsletter. Pick one up at church or call the office to have one mailed to you!*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC



~ Encore! ~

During December, Meg and Judy did a great job of putting together some fantastic special music!

### December 6th



“Comfort Ye” from Part I of Handels Messiah  
Performed by the New Saint Andrews College Choir  
featuring Ross Hauck as the Soloist

From Moscow, Idaho

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0WqWJs9wwk>

### December 13th



“Sing We Now of Christmas” a 15th Century French  
Carol arranged by Linda R. Lamb

Performed by Abby Hall and Judy Kereakos

From Community Presbyterian Church in  
Rochester, MN

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LAJt9QHRs&feature=youtu.be>

# WORSHIP AND MUSIC, CONTINUED

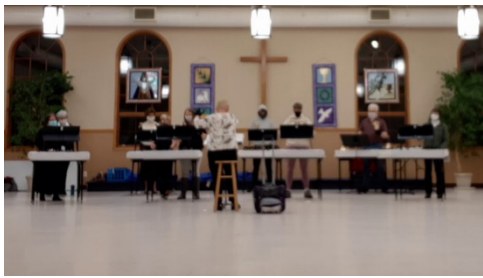
## December 13th, as well



“Tree-O” by Barbara Brocker and Rob Person  
Performed by Abby Hall and Judy Kereakos  
From Community Presbyterian Church in  
Rochester, MN

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWOnyDaPRYI&feature=youtu.be>

## December 20th



“Carol of the Bells” by Mykolo Leontovich  
arranged by Douglas E. Wagner  
Performed by Jubellation Handbell Choir  
From Community Presbyterian Church in  
Rochester, MN

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgmAprt\\_fKs&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgmAprt_fKs&feature=youtu.be)

## December 27th



“Angels We Have Heard On High”  
Arranged by Anna Laura Page  
Performed by Handbell Ensemble II  
From Central Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, MN  
Performance at 1:33

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCIJOmRlz2E>

And

“Huron Carol”, From Calvin Presbyterian Church, Long Lake, MN, Performance at 8:25

And

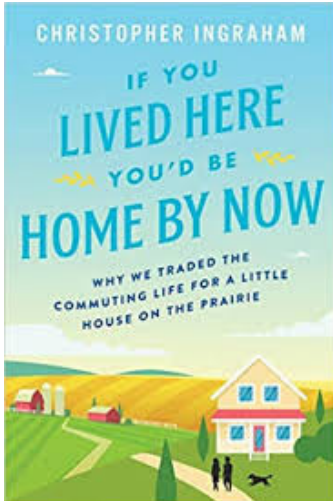
“Canticle of the Turning (My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout)” An Irish Melody Arranged by Rory Cooney, Performed by Linda Kachelmeier (Soloist) Lucy Heistand (djembe) and Jennifer Anderson (Piano). From Central Presbyterian Church of St Paul, MN and First Presbyterian Church of South Saint Paul, Performance at 40:59

And

“Simple Gifts” A Shaker Hymn, Arranged by Judy Kereakos, Performed by the Jubellation Handbell Choir , From Community Presbyterian Church, Rochester, MN, Performance at 52:44

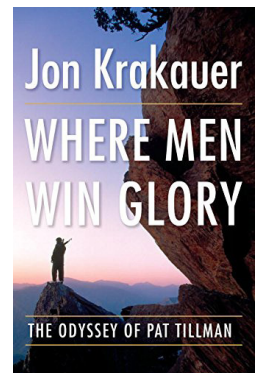
## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

### BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Christopher Ingraham is the author of our next book, *If You Lived Here, You'd be Home by Now*, a nonfiction book. Our author worked in Washington D.C. on surveys. One said the worst place to live in the U.S. was a town in Minnesota. He and his wife wondered how any place could be so bad and decided to look it over. It must have look okay to them, as they decided to move from Washington to “A little town on the prairie.”

A word from Marg: Planning ahead might be good advice as the March book, *Where Men Win Glory* is longer and deeper than February's book.



## PRESBYTERIAN (WISE) WOMEN

### World Day of Prayer

Because of the pandemic, our annual ecumenical gathering of Christian women for the 2021 World Day of Prayer will not be held this March.

First Presbyterian Church in Rochester will host the World Day of Prayer on March 4, 2022. The group looks forward to getting together again for fellowship and worship in the future.



## AROUND THE OFFICE



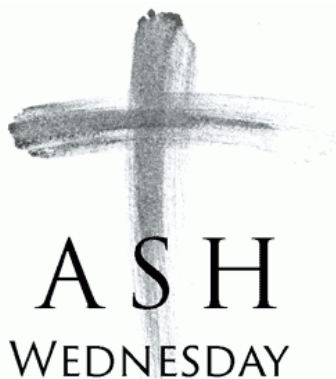
- Starting in February, Stephanie will be in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, 9-noon (at least).
- Pastor Jan will be taking time off from February 3-12. She will not be traveling out of Rochester, so will be available for pastoral emergencies.

# Community Presbyterian's Calendar

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>31</b></p> <p>9:30am Online Worship 10:30am Annual Meeting</p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>10:00am Online Bible Study 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Pastor Jan's vacation begins 6:30am Prayer Group</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>12:00pm Online Conference Call</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Outdoor Activity, depending on weather, details tba 9:30am Online Worship with Communion</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>10:00am NO Online Bible Study- Pastor Jan on vacation 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>6:30am Prayer Group</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Pastor Jan's vacation ends 12:00pm Online Conference Call</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>
<p><b>14</b></p> <p>9:30am Online Worship</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>10:00am Online Bible Study 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 5:30pm Finance &amp; Stewardship Meeting</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Online Worship</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>12:00pm Online Conference Call</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>12:00pm Newsletter articles due</p>
<p><b>21</b></p> <p>9:30am Online Worship</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>10:00am Online Bible Study 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:00pm Session Meeting</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>6:30am Prayer Group</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>12:00pm Online Conference Call</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>
<p><b>28</b></p> <p>9:30am Online Worship 10:30am Book Discussion Group</p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>10:00am Online Bible Study 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:00pm Brain Injury Support Group 7:00pm Christian Education Committee meeting</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>6:30am Prayer Group</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>12:00pm Online Conference Call</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>

Community Presbyterian Church  
3705 Fairway Place NW  
Rochester, MN 55901



*Ash Wednesday will be different this year. You are invited to pick up ashes at church or have them sent to you (let Stephanie know by 2/14). Then on the evening of Ash Wednesday, during the Online Worship service (7:00 pm), you will be invited to put ashes on your own forehead or your family members' foreheads.*

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](http://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#