

# COMMUNITY PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROCHESTER, MN



## *Maundy Thursday Online Worship*

*April 1, 7:00 pm*

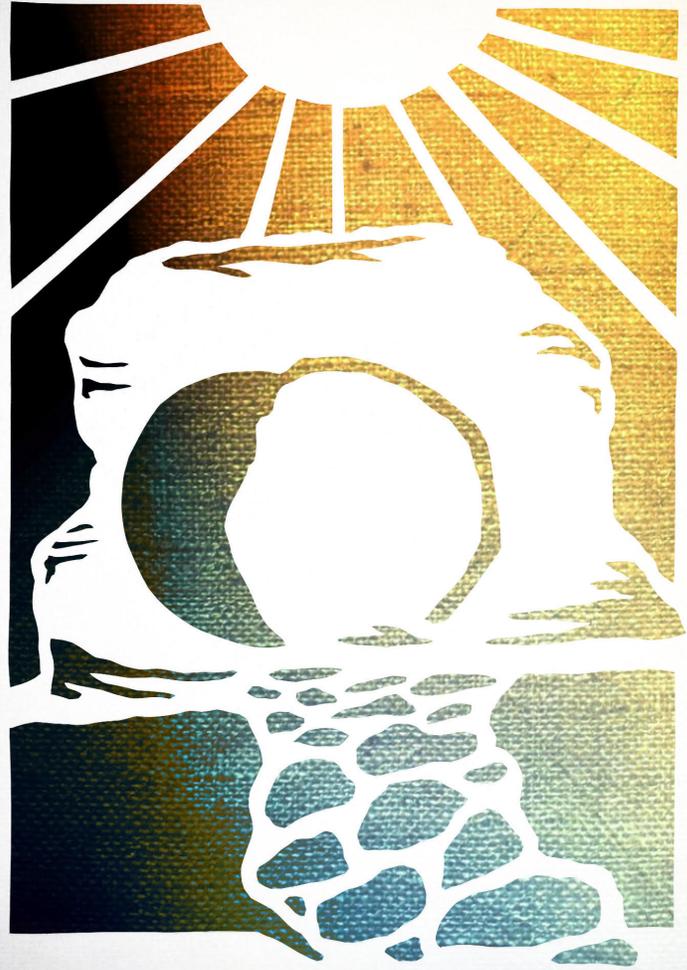
## *Outdoor Easter Sunday Worship*

*April 4, 9:30 am*

Come, let us worship together on Easter Sunday! Handbells and Holy Communion will enrich our on-site celebration on April 4 at 9:30. To worship virtually, tune in to the usual Google Meet link.

Please come prepared for in-person worship

- Bring your own chair (in case of rain, we'll move indoors, decision will be made Saturday night)
- Bring your mask! We'll maintain all precautions, including adequate distance between household groups, hum along with hymns, and respond meekly in murmurs to the usual bold-face words for participation.
- Dress for the weather.
- No hugs or refreshments will happen, but plenty of feasting of eyes on one another!
- If you have a fever, sore throat, or any other covid-like symptoms, please tune in from home rather than joining in person.



Holy Week and Easter graphics by Heather Gerber



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Matthew 25 teaches us that, in every time and season the Church finds itself and its Savior through relationships with those in need.

*Offering to be collected  
the week of April 4.*



MATTHEW 25

APRIL 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, Mary Alice Richardson, Bruce Felger

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 Jennifer Hall	Kari Streff Ron Murray	Margie Petersen Sherrie Wilson

## Staff

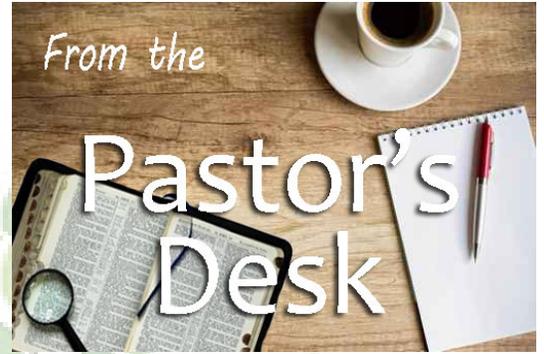
Pastor/ Head of Staff	Rev. Jan Wiersma
Choir Director	Meg Cain
Pianist	Glenna Muir
Bell Choir Director	Judy Kereakos
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

**Ministers to the world**

**Congregation Members**

## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The sermon on March 21st borrowed a lesson from the amazing love affair that happens every year inside the maple tree: how buds awaken to the returning light before human awareness turns to spring; how those buds send a message to nutrients dormant in the roots, which send sugar sap up through layers lying just under the bark to feed the leaves. In return, buds become leaves absorbing the goodness of sunlight, which they send back down the same conduits to feed and strengthen the roots. Animals and humans alike can tap into this flow in spring, when freezing nights and thawing days make the sap run strongly. Mature maples give generously of their excess and sustain no harm in doing so. But the work for people is just beginning, as 40 gallons of sap must be boiled down to make just one gallon of syrup.



The sad news in this beautiful story of creation is that climate change is affecting the trees; by 2100, maple trees may be extinct unless we take action to preserve them, along with the rest of the environment.

But my real reason for invoking the wonder of creation in this way is that the same process works with us as individuals and as a community of faith. Our roots contain the nutrients of our beginnings: the spiritual mentors and practices that shaped us as children, and the stories of the origins of this congregation - stories I've heard from so many charter members, stories positively singing with the joy of your bold adventure in faith.

Now, our Blue Sky conversations are budding out in new initiatives that are fed by strong roots sending sweetness surging upward. I have no doubt that whatever projects we adopt will, as they unfurl, send strength back to the roots to nourish and inspire future generations. Our worship together is the primary "trunk" of the tree where the mutual flow from roots to buds and leaves back to roots happens. Even those pieces of our life together that have passed away enrich the ground where they have fallen, as autumn leaves fertilize the earth.

As you read this, we will be celebrating an essential piece of the root story of our faith: the truth that death never has the final word; it is one part of the cycle of restored life in Christ. The Easter narrative is the eternally nourishing root of the faith that continues to feed God's church and all its branches as we push further into the world. We can rejoice, knowing that our action feeds the church to come, as well. Thanks be to God!

# BLUE SKY CONVERSATIONS

## BLUE SKY CONVERSATIONS

During our March gatherings, we identified what might be called “our DNA,” which we defined as those things we MOST ENJOY about our connection to CPC. Parts of our DNA were identified as:

*The music program + Serving others + The Library and Book Club + Adult Christian education + The fellowship of caring for each other + The fellowship of welcoming and socializing + Our small size and close-knit nature + The Garden of Life + Working with youth*

How we might incorporate our DNA in future activities and outreach and use it to help God work through us? We looked at some ideas and started to identify 1) what additional information do we need, and 2) who might be interested in being involved in each project. More data is being gathered on these suggestions:

- Providing outdoor movies in the summer for youth and families to explore Christian themes
- Creating a community speaker series to address issues of justice
- Assisting Lifegate Services (the service arm of the minority church we have worked with) to support their food shelf and/or Saturday clinic
- Setting up Little Free Gardens on CPC property and/or elsewhere
- Volunteering to assist with some of the programs at Gage East where our talents or time could make a difference.
- Using CPC facilities to host/sponsor/conduct programs that advance Christian arts (for possibly pursuit in 2022)

Through the season of Easter, we'll continue to engage in our Blue Sky thinking. We encourage EVERYONE to ponder 1) these projects and where their interests may lie and 2) additional blue sky project ideas that fit our DNA. This is the time of renewal and rebirth. I can't help but see a connection between this season and what's happening in our time. Right now, we are seeing rapidly expanding COVID vaccinations and declining rates of new COVID infections and deaths. At the same time, our congregation is working to re-envision CPC's efforts to be and do more in the future as God works through us. Join us as we gather again on April 11 and 18<sup>th</sup>.

Blessings! Mark Neville



*Once again, Meg (our talented music director) chose fabulous music to enrich our worship services in February.*



**February 7th**

"Give Me Jesus" an 1867 United States Slave Song

Performed by Robert Robinson

and the Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXg7XymWeCk>



**February 14th**

"Elijah Rock" by Moses Hogan

Performed by the Alabama State University Choir

from Montgomery, Alabama

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEyaIDO7sjI>



**February 21st**

"Ah, Holy Jesus" arranged by John Ferguson

Performed by First-Plymouth Church

with Jonah Sirota as featured Viola Soloist.

From Lincoln, Nebraska

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9we-11OUw0>



**February 28th**

"Be Still My Soul" arranged by Christine Anderson

Performed by Ron Bellamy a Solo Handbell Artist

accompanied by Linda Lorgus

from Lancaster, PA.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6S9-FHM-mX8>

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC CONTINUED

### Presbytery's anti-racism coordinator to be guest preacher on Sunday, April 18

Anna Kendig Flores is a teaching elder working for the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area as their coordinator for anti-racism efforts. She also serves as co-moderator for the General Assembly Committee on Representation (GACOR) and is a board-certified interfaith chaplain who served for close to 10 years in mental health chaplaincy at the University of Minnesota Medical Center. She is planning a permaculture medicinal garden for summer with a hope that gardening will teach her as much about faith and life as mountain biking has.

She served as moderator of the PTCA from 2019 to 2020 and, prior to that, chaired the Committee on Ethics. She has a long time interest in ethics as lived in small communities and systems, and justice-based ministries.



## CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY WISHES

*Birthdays and Anniversaries are listed in the print edition of the newsletter, pick one up at church!*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

## IN THE NEWS

The Poetry-Art Collaboration 20 Exhibit will be on display at the Red Wing Arts Depot Gallery, April 30 – June 21. Once again, Carole Kinion Copeland is participating!

The Reception/Reading is on Friday April 30th. Having the poet and artist together, presenting about their artwork, is the prize jewel of this event. This year we will also have a people's choice award for both artist and poem!



2020 Submission

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS



This year, CPC is not officially doing spring fling as a one day group project. Instead we will be doing multiple small “adopt a project” pieces over the summer. Small groups of people can “adopt” a work project and complete it in a timely manner. Once we get all the “pieces” done, the building and grounds will be in great shape! These adopt-a-projects will be managed by the building and grounds committee. We will send out project lists via the newsletter. If you have questions, please contact Gene Kopecky.



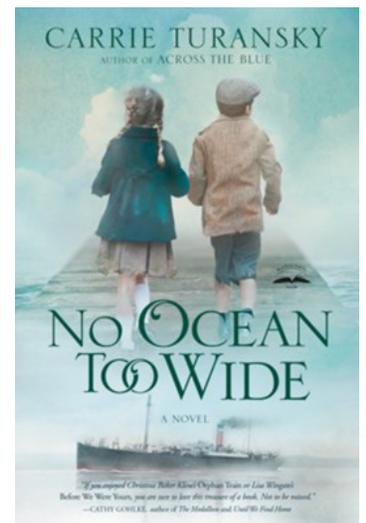
The foundation planting renovation starts with shrub removal. A great example of many hands make light work. Even so after cutting down shrubs, pulling out roots, loading and sweeping we were BUSHED-literally!

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

***No Ocean Too Wide***  
by Carrie Turansky  
Sunday, April 25 at 10:30  
(just stay online after worship!)  
All are welcome!



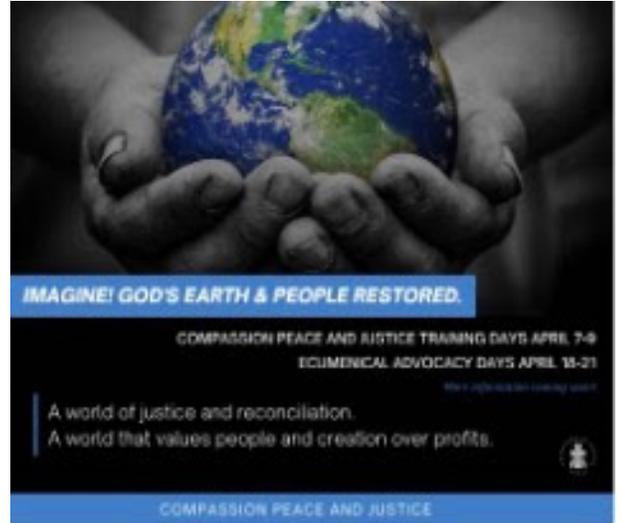
*No Ocean Too Wide* by Carrie Turansky, is the selection for April 25 discussion. Between 1869 and 1939 more than 100,000 British children were taken to Canada as British Home Children with the promise of a better life. Young Laura McCallister learned that her three younger siblings were among that group. Laura works with Andrew Frasier to find her siblings and reunite her family. This book is eerily reminiscent of *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate which our group discussed in 2020. Join us.



## Compassion, Peace & Justice Training Days April 7-9, Virtual Event

Theme: Environmental Justice

CPJ Days, sponsored by the PCUSA's Office of Public Witness, will feature Claudio Carvalhaes and Harry Pickens, along with our partners from the most impacted communities in the United States and around the globe. We will have several sessions to delve deep into the issues of the day and address our current brokenness and how we lay the groundwork for justice and reconciliation. The complete schedule is being developed and will be posted as soon as it is complete.



<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/washington/advocacy-training-weekend/>

---

## Statement and Resources in the Aftermath of Atlanta Shootings

As colleagues and friends from across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have stood with and alongside those of us in this Presbytery over this past year, we stand alongside our colleagues in the Presbyteries of Greater Atlanta and Cherokee—and the Asian-American community here in the



Twin Cities Area and across our country—in the wake of yet more racially-targeted violence. Lord, hear our prayers; guide our continuing work toward justice. From their statement:

March 17, 2021

It is with grieving hearts that we offer prayers of protection for our Asian American siblings here in the Atlanta area, Cherokee County, and everywhere. Anytime we hear of racially targeted violence, we are moved to pray and stand in solidarity with those who have been harmed. We pray for healing for these families and for the deep grief work that is ahead. We pray for the communal grief that impacts each of us in different ways.

Click the link below to read the entire statement from Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and Cherokee Presbytery, as well as resources for further reflection and action from PTCA ant-racism Coordinator Anna Kendig.

<https://files.constantcontact.com/17207f49001/e02b13bd-edbf-4015-aa7d-bb2d860fc8f1.pdf>

# Community Presbyterian's Calendar

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>9:30am Online Worship</b> 10:30am Book Discussion Group	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:00am Online Bible Study 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due	<b>31</b> 6:30am Prayer Group	<b>1</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>7:00pm Online Worship</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Good Friday</b> 12:00pm Online Conference Call	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>9:30am Outdoor Worship with Communion</b>	<b>5</b> <b>office closed - Easter Monday</b>	<b>6</b> 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	<b>7</b> 6:30am Prayer Group	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 12:00pm Online Conference Call	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>9:30am Online Worship</b> 10:30am Blue Sky Conversations	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting	<b>14</b> 6:30am Prayer Group	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 12:00pm Online Conference Call	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>Guest Preacher: Anna Kendig Flores</b> <b>9:30am Online Worship</b> 10:30am Blue Sky Conversations	<b>19</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>20</b> 12:00pm Newsletter articles due 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 5:30pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting	<b>21</b> 6:30am Prayer Group	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 12:00pm Online Conference Call	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>9:30am Online Worship</b> 10:30am Book Discussion Group	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Session Meeting	<b>28</b> 6:30am Prayer Group	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 12:00pm Online Conference Call	<b>1</b>

Community Presbyterian Church  
3705 Fairway Place NW  
Rochester, MN 55901

If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, you can either pick one up in the church narthex or you can have Stephanie mail you one each month. Just let Stephanie know if you want one mailed!

*Newsletter*



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#