

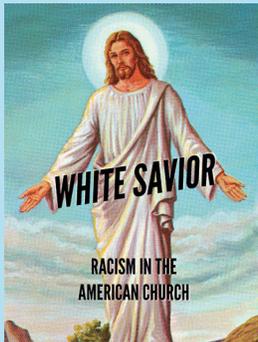
COMMUNITY PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROCHESTER, MN



*Sunday, May 23rd,
CPC will celebrate
Pentecost and collect
the Pentecost offering.
40% of the offering will
stay in the Rochester
area towards support of
Empowerment Center/
Gage East Apartments!*

*Presbyterian Women will
be viewing "White Savior"
on Friday, May 7, 1 pm, at
church. This hour-long docu-
mentary explores the historic
relationship between racism
and American Christianity,
the ongoing segregation of
the church in the US, and the
complexities of racial recon-
ciliation. All are invited to
attend. The DVD will also
be available to borrow in the
future.*



**PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

MAY 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

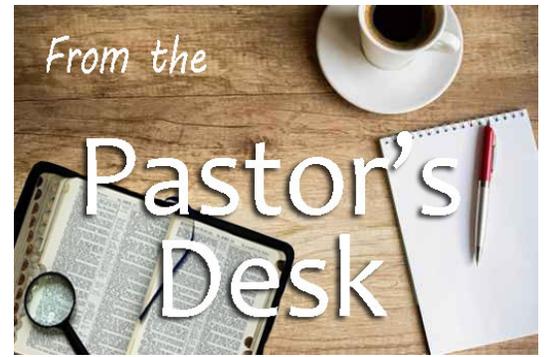
Pastor/ Head of Staff	Rev. Jan Wiersma
Choir Director	Meg Cain
Pianist	Glenna Muir
Bell Choir Director	Judy Kereakos
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

Ministers to the world

Congregation Members

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Happy one-year anniversary, beloved CPC-ers! It's been instructive to ponder where we've been this year and wonder where we're going. Looking back, I realize that I have gained more than I've given. Being with you has rekindled my interest in delving deep into the Bible and coming up with a word from God that feels alive and relevant to our context now. And you all have inspired me with your commitment to being Christ's church in the world, whether by keeping our facility in shining shape, or working through thorny tech issues, or making music safely, or pursuing justice.



What I want to know is, how has it been for you? We've been through so much as individuals, as a church, as a country: pandemic restrictions and the death of George Floyd. A fraught presidential election, an attack on our capitol. Gun violence, mass shootings. Record-setting fires and other indicators of climate change. How does all of this affect us as followers of Jesus? Have our virtual worship and other activities been helpful? I encourage you to offer feedback on my own performance through the Personnel Committee.

But I want more than your opinion on what I'm doing well, or poorly, or neglecting. I want to know what you think about our performance as a congregation, because we are one body, and, as we often hear, that body is the body of Christ. I think we live that connection through sharing our joys and concerns in worship. I believe our Blue Sky conversations have focused and organized us to meet the world with loving concern and engage more deeply with others -- people we would not meet without being intentional about it, people who can teach us what it is to live without a stable home, or with a different faith, or inside a different skin color.

I invite you also to think through these questions with me:

- **What do you need from church that you cannot get through your other affiliations?**
- **But also, what can you accomplish as part of a church that you cannot accomplish with any other group?** (I keep thinking of JFK's famous saying, "Ask not..." but as your pastor, I care about both sides, not just what you can give and do, but what your church can do for you.)

We have so much to learn from one another. I have so much to learn from you. Let's look forward to another interesting year, strengthened by God to meet whatever challenges await us.

Pastor Jan

CONGREGATIONAL DISCERNMENT

Worship Guidelines for Community Presbyterian Church-In Person Meeting 2021

In order to minimize risk of getting/spreading COVID-19 participants, CPC has adopted the following guidelines:

1. Anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 including but not limited to: fever, cough, loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, fatigue, headache, sore throat, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath should not attend in person.
2. Individuals (members, guests, staff or workers) who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 (within 10 days) or have tested positive with COVID-19 are asked to stay at home even if they are asymptomatic.
3. Individuals who feel their personal health puts them at high risk are encouraged to participate in the virtual format.
4. People attending worship at CPC will be asked to comply with the following guidelines as outlined by the CDC:
 - Correctly and consistently wear a mask that completely covers your nose and mouth (children 3 and under do not need to wear a mask)
 - Stay at least 6 feet away from others who do not live with you or are within your 'pod/bubble'
 - Avoid crowds
 - Avoid poorly ventilated indoor spaces
 - Stay home when you are sick
 - Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (or use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol)
 - Get vaccinated when the vaccine is available to you
 - Get tested if you have signs or symptoms of COVID-19, or if you think you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19
 - People will be asked to refrain from physical contact with others outside of your own family group/pod.
5. Seating will ensure that people outside of family groups must sit at least 6 feet away from each other (for reference: tiles on floor are 1 foot in size).
6. Capacity of the sanctuary will be limited to 150(occupancy is 300)

CONGREGATIONAL DISCERNMENT CONTINUED

7. No food/beverages will be consumed before, during or after the worship services except for communion in which case individual servings will be provided.
8. No items will be passed: bulletins will be laid out and picked up by individuals, offering plates will be placed out for people to drop their offerings. No hymnals or other communal items will be used.
9. Hand sanitizer will be available for individuals to use. Masks will be provided for those who need one.
10. Door to the sanctuary will remain open to minimize contact.
11. Congregational singing will be allowed as long as the mask is worn by all participants.
12. Inside instrumental music will exclude woodwind and brass instruments.
13. Outside instrumental music will allow all instruments with appropriate distancing (> 12 feet from other individuals).

Reference: [Considerations for Communities of Faith | CDC](#)

Comments:

Lock room next to the kitchen...no strays entering.

Restroom use – only the one in the hall close to the great room. One person at a time.

Sign in (sanitized pen – 2 log in sheets – 1 on either side of entry way).

If anyone develops COVID- 19 they need to contact CPC/contact all the people who were present

Chairs to be preset in groups of 4. Chair stacking to be done with disposable gloves (wash hands after removal of gloves). Same for putting pulpit/table/baptismal font away.

Special masks for singers/performers should be utilized: J.w.pepper.com/ bandshoppe.com

Starting date TBD- after Preparedness Plan and Congregational Survey.

Please take time to fill out the CPC Worship Interest Survey!

Responses Due the First Week of May

[Click here for the survey!](#)

<https://forms.gle/iqFRfXVaSFFWYYiP9>

BLUE SKY CONVERSATIONS

Notes from April 18, 2021

Summarizing our conversation so far, we noted that what we do is a natural outflowing of who we are in Christ. So, as we consider the projects we have identified, strengthening our commitment to Christ's mission in the world is a spiritual task as well as a practical matter.

We invited comments on how being part of church has been helpful to us in the past. This history may help guide us into the future without limiting our creativity for new initiatives. Our current COVID situation may suggest innovative ways of learning and growing. We seek these opportunities acknowledging that the goal is to build one another up, not wear ourselves out.

In that vein, we invited the participants to respond to the questions below: (Anyone involved in CPC in any way is invited to ponder and respond to these questions, copying both Pastor Jan and Mark Neville.)

How has church been important in your life? (Not just CPC, but any church)

How has being part of a church helped you through difficult times?

What has strengthened your faith, inside or outside of church?

What makes church meaningful for you now?

What can church give you that you can't get elsewhere?

And particularly, **what do you need from your church connection right now?**

Responses from the group ranged from growing in personal faith, to mutual support, to learning more about the world around us. Opportunities for future means to grow included:

Getting to know people of other faith traditions, possibly including some of our community gardeners.

Intergenerational activities, optimally with youth involvement, for fun and learning, like outdoor movie nights this summer.

Pastor Jan has begun compiling a list of options for learning, support, and strengthening faith. She noted that we have a trust account established to cover costs of adult education, which is also a part of our spiritual DNA. The list is available on our website at this link <http://www.cpcrochester.org/blue-sky-conversations/>, and will be updated with future suggestions - including yours! We look forward to growing together into our mature identity.

Stay tuned for future Blue Sky Conversations!



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

~ Encore! ~

Music Director, Meg, lined up some great music to enhance CPC's worship in March. It was fun to see some familiar faces!



March 7th

“Maya’s Prayer for Peace” by Tom Trenney.
Performed by Olathe East Chorale a high school group
from Olathe, Kansas.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rz7xv6nBP-w>



March 14th

“It Is Well with My Soul”
by Haratio G. Spafford & Phillip Bliss,
Arr. Craig Courtney
Performed by Mark Neville & Judy Kereakos



March 21st

“Were You There” Arranged by Sandra Eithun
Performed by the Jubellation Handbell Choir
From Rochester, MN

<https://youtu.be/DAE5muOWz3o>



March 28th

“Ride on, Ride On in Majesty” by Joel Raney
Performed by the Jubellation Handbell Choir
from Community Presbyterian Church in Rochester, MN

<https://youtu.be/Za4x-dmtBt4>

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee will be reaching out for volunteers for an ad hoc committee to research new technology for hybrid worship. Committee members will focus on different aspects of worship and explore a variety of conference room technologies that will best meet our needs. A mix of generations and skills is sought; you need not have an IT background to help, just an interest in keeping our worship meaningful and personally rewarding.



CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Birthdays are listed in the print version of the newsletter. Pick one up at church!

THANK YOU

Last summer, inspired by our young musical guest Shea, we made a donation to the East Lake Library, which was damaged in the protests. From last August's newsletter: *"Special music was provided in person by Friedell 8th-grader Shea Morrey; her mother Ruth was also present. Shea is sharing her talents to raise money for rebuilding the East Lake Library in Minneapolis. As an avid reader, she was distressed to think that her aunt and cousins, who live near the library that was destroyed in the protests, wouldn't have ready access to books. Her honorarium from CPC will go toward her library fundraiser."* We received this thank you from the library this month: *"Your kindness, your generosity, your act of faith in a time of great turmoil meant everything to us."*

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Homelessness in Rochester - How Can Our Faith Communities Help?

When: Thursday, May 20, 7-8:30 p.m.

One myth surrounding those experiencing homelessness is that they must have made a bad decision. The truth is an unforeseen event could put every one of us in their shoes.

A panel of experts will discuss all aspects of homelessness, but most importantly, they will share information on simple and practical ways every one of us can help. Viewers will be able to submit questions through chat and there will be time for Q & A at the end. All Q & A will be sent at all who registered.

Panelists

Ryan Cardarella - Dorothy Day House

Tim Geisler - SVDP Saint Vincent DePaul

Bri Bednar - Family Promise

Dan Fifield - The Landing

Lisa Mueller - Salvation Army

Trent Fluegel - HRA Housing and Redevelopment Authority

Rudy Naul - Catholic Charities Warming Center

Individuals may register using the following link and then Click on the Homeless Forum button. <https://stlukeseiscopal.org/serve/> The Zoom link will be sent the day before the event.

If you have any questions, please contact, Diane O'Mara at 507-261-3773 dianeomara@charter.net, Rev. Justin Chapman at 612-618-3826 revjustinc@gmail.com, Rev. Beth Royalty at 651-253-5920 rector@calvary-rochester.org

Sincerely, St. Luke's and Calvary Episcopal Churches

PERSONNEL

The CPC Personnel Committee is asking for feedback from the congregation on the job performance of Pastor Jan and Stephanie, our office Administrative Assistant. We would like to hear from you concerning both joys and issues from your perspective.



If you want to send your feedback via email, you can contact any of the Committee members prior to May 15th. They are:

Dave Copeland, Chair at davelcopeland@msn.com

Mary Alice Richardson at wdmacr@gmail.com

Sherrie Wilson at swilson@unomaha.edu

Jane Burgstaler at chablis3640@yahoo.com

Ronda Marshall at rondamarshall@gmail.com

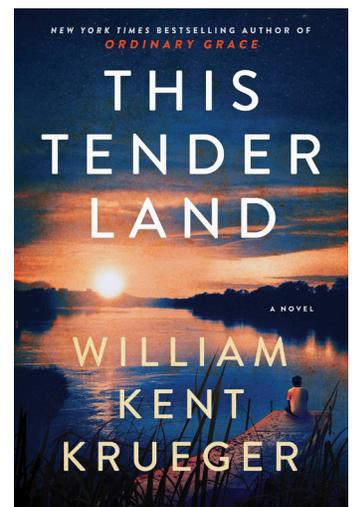
If you are unable to send an email and want to provide feedback please feel free to call Dave at 507-226-6986, or any other Committee member if you have their phone number. Due to the excessive number of “robocalls” we all seem to receive these days, if no one answers please do leave a message and your Committee member will call you back.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

This Tender Land
by William Kent Krueger
Sunday, May 23 at 10:30
(just stay online after worship!)
All are welcome!



[This Tender Land](#) by William Kent Krueger is the selection for our May 23 book discussion. The Lincoln School, on the Gilead River, is home to hundreds of Native American children separated from their parents to be educated at the school. Odie O’Banion and his brother, Albert are also students there, along with their friend, Mose, and Emmy. Odie is often in trouble with the superintendent of the school and the four children are forced to flee, beginning a journey down the river to the Mississippi to find a place of their own. Join us for an interesting discussion of this fantastic book! This will be the last book that we discuss until this fall! Have an interesting book to discuss with a book? Let Gwen Riggins know!



AROUND THE PRESBYTERY

The moderator of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, Jean Emmons, released this statement on Tuesday morning. Many of you have seen already seen it; we are repeating it today for those who have not.



*They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying, "Peace, peace," when there is no peace.
(Jeremiah 6:14)*

Daunte Wright's life *matters*. Yet his life was stolen by tragic and absolutely preventable violence from police.

We, the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, lift up the soul-level exhaustion of the Black community - both within our presbytery and in our wider society. Our Black siblings are beloved, made in God's image, and deserve safety, joy and thriving. Their voices and advocacy call *all of us* to join together in the work for change.

Yes, we must pray... *and*, as a majority-white presbytery, our faithful prayers must be matched with transformative actions within ourselves and our systems. In this moment, we must keep our eyes firmly fixed on what truly matters: reforming our hearts *and our systems*, including our systems of policing.

We must not mistake quiet streets for peace.
We must not accept explanations as innocence.
We must not equate protests of lament for "violence."

This is our prayer, our lament, and our confession - and it is one that must take root in our lives and change us going forward.

*Jean Emmons, Moderator
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area*

Community Presbyterian's Calendar

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 9:30am Online Worship 10:30am Book Discussion Group	26	27 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Session Meeting	28 6:30am Prayer Group 6:30pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal	29	30	1
2 9:30am Online Worship with Communion	3	4 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:00pm Brain Injury Support Group 8:00pm Session Special Called Meeting on Preparedness Plan	5 6:30am Prayer Group 6:30pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal	6	7 1:00pm PW: "White Savior" video viewing	8
9 9:30am Online Worship 10:30am Blue Sky Conversation	10	11 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting	12 6:30am Prayer Group	13	14	15 Deadline for feedback on staff to personnel committee
16 9:30am Parking Lot In-Person Worship 9:30am Online Worship	17	18 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 5:30pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting	19 6:30am Prayer Group	20 12:00pm Newsletter articles due 7:00pm Homelessness Panel Discussion	21	22
23 Pentecost Offering 9:30am Online Worship 10:30am Book Discussion Group	24	25 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Session Meeting	26 Last Day Classes - Children's Place 6:30am Prayer Group	27 Stephanie Vacation	28 Stephanie Vacation	29
30 9:30am Online Worship	31 Memorial Day Stephanie Vacation	1 Stephanie Vacation 9:00am Children's Place Summer School 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:00pm Brain Injury Support Group 7:00pm Christian Education Committee meeting	2 Stephanie Vacation 6:30am Prayer Group 9:00am Children's Place Summer School	3 Stephanie Vacation 9:00am Children's Place Summer School	4 Stephanie Vacation 9:00am Children's Place Summer School	5

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

Tuesday's Conference Call - 12:00 noon
<https://meet.google.com/kee-rcys-sdh>
+1 413-889-2244 PIN: 433 818 991#