

Community Press

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROCHESTER, MN



Expanding connections with friends at Gage East and Lifegate Services



Gage East Summer Party: July 22

Four CPC members enjoyed a hot day of fun and food at Gage East. Wes Brandenburger, their director, thanked us in an email. "All the staff really enjoyed Margaret, Mark, Jan and Sue. Sue, who ran the bounce house, was awesome and had way more patience than I might have had. They commented in our meeting this morning how we would like ALL of you to come back for future events. We would have been stretched too thin had it not been for ALL of you! Families commented this was the best summer event we have had! I also saw over the weekend some people posted on Facebook about what a great experience the event was."

The children and youth we entertained (and who entertained us!) will be heading back to school this fall. Gage East helps supply them with basic needs.

Gage East Back to School Event Thursday, August 19, 11 am - 2 pm

We are invited to help by helping them distribute these items, and also by donating:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| College-ruled notebooks (single subject) | Large pink erasers |
| Regular-ruled notebooks | Washable markers |
| 2-pocket folders | Glue sticks |
| Colored pencils | 24 count crayons |
| Black pens | |
| Box of tissues | |



Lifegate Services

"Touching Lives, Restoring Hope"

Lifegate Services Saturday, August 21

Another option for building connections could happen on Saturday, August 21. Lifegate Services (near Jefferson School) is offering a free health fair, including mammograms. Volunteers would be useful in driving people from Gage East who wish to participate to and from the church.

Please let Pastor Jan or Mark Neville know if you can help with the Back to School Event or the Healthfair!



*Pastor Jan had fun
face painting at the
Summer Party!*



*Many thanks to the
guys from El Carambas
for serving food at the
Summer Party!*

AUGUST 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	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

August Deliciousness (O Taste and See that God Is Good)

A few years ago, I went to a fancy health food restaurant with a friend. When I ordered my soup, the waitron asked, “And you’d like gluten-free bread with that?” I was horrified. “No, please! I love gluten. I’m a glutton for gluten!” The regular bread that arrived was hard and stale. Maybe they didn’t serve much of it. Now I know that



gluten-free bread and muffins and rolls and cakes available can be just as sumptuous and satisfying as my glutenous favorites. I rejoice that those of you who cannot tolerate old-style baked goods have these excellent options. For sure, bread is good. There’s nothing quite like it.

These next few weeks, we’re kneading up a fine batch of it, straight from the sixth chapter of the gospel of John: a whole series of readings centering around bread, and Jesus as the bread of life. For someone who loves bread as much as I do, the prospect is mouth-watering. Typically, though, Jesus goes deeper than the outward appearance to the essence of things. What, he asks, really satisfies our souls? What gives us life that lasts?



The gospel of John never speaks of miracles. John only writes about “signs.” Signs are pointers. They show us where to go. We get confused, lost along the way, distracted by passing fads and fancies, enticed by appetites for what doesn’t really feed our spirits. The “sign” of Jesus feeding 5000 people with five small loaves of bread and two little fish points us toward something beyond pacifying our growling stomachs. Where are we, really? What is our goal? How do we get there?

In this land of abundance, it’s easy to forget the droughts, the famines, the lack of food that plague much of the world. It’s easy to forget that people in our own community may be going hungry, lacking even the most basic sustenance. And it’s also easy to miss the spiritual desert in which we sometimes plod along, dust-dry and thirsting for something more.

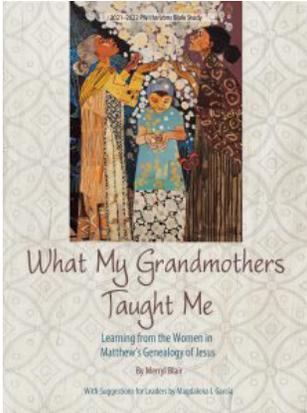
In these times, we may also feel as though we’re traveling through uncharted territory, with antagonism and impasse on every level. In the midst of this, Jesus speaks to us with deep gentleness and profound love, saying, “Don’t be afraid. I am with you. And I AM as I have always been, your comfort, your guide. Your bread.”

I hope you can join and share this bread for our journey together.

Pastor Jan



UPCOMING ADULT STUDIES

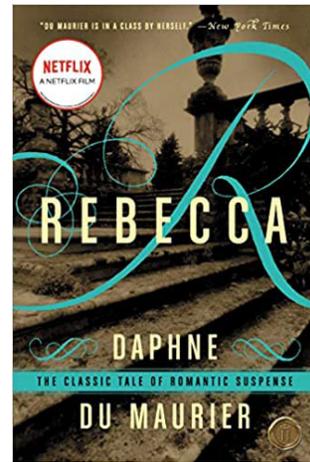


“What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus” By Merryl Blair will be the PW study that is offered this fall. Dates and times have yet to be decided.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The book discussion group selections for 2021-2022 are being discussed and decided now and the list should be ready for publication in the September Newsletter. But, if you are looking to reading ahead... the September selection will be “Rebecca” by Daphne du Maurier. Carol Jones will lead the discussion on September 26 after worship..



AROUND THE COMMUNITY

from the Rochester Public Library:
Congratulations, local writers!

Three local authors were recognized in July as winners of this year’s Water Stories Memoir Writing Contest.

Melece Cheal Orme, Adrew Pruett, and Jan Wiersma were chosen for their water-related stories as part of the We Are Water MN, a statewide initiative celebrating water. The stories are included in a published anthology, which has been added to the library’s collection.

To reserve a copy of the book, click [here](#).



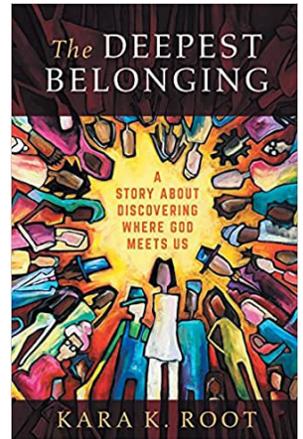
AROUND THE PRESBYTERY

The Deepest Belonging

Rev. Kara Root's new book now available

Where does God meet us in this life? Rooting Christian faith in joy, freedom, and trust that God interacts with us in this life, *The Deepest Belonging: A Story of Discovering Where God Meets Us* invites readers to walk through surprising doorways--weakness, vulnerability, smallness, rest, and honesty--into a new perspective of the Christian life and the role of the pastor.

Rev. Kara Root, pastor at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church, draws wisdom from three compelling stories, all about finding freedom on the other side of fear.



This is a book for all pastors and church leaders, as well as for those disillusioned with Christianity and the church and longing for something more real and honest. It explores questions such as: How does God meet us? What is church for? What is a pastor? What does it mean to be truly human?

The Deepest Belonging is a call not to resist but to embrace our vulnerability. As a move away from religion seeking security, protection, and influence, this story invites individuals and congregations to return bravely to the core of our humanity: our belonging to God and one another.

[Click HERE to read more about the book](#)

[Click HERE to read about the book on Kara's blog](#)

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Birthdays and anniversaries are listed in the print edition of the newsletter. Pick one up at church or ask Stephanie to send you a printed copy!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



PTCA **Anti-Racism Spiritual Pilgrimage**, 2021-22

“What makes this pilgrimage so powerful is that it’s tied so strongly to my faith. The spiritual practices, the Bible verses, starting with prayer... it set the stage to look at [racism] in a more holistic way from who I am.”

- 2020-21 pilgrimage participant

The first year of our anti-racism pilgrimage, which ended in May, was a journey that many participants affirmed as transformative to their experience of church and the world at this time.

We were a group of 150 participants from over 30 PTCA congregations in rural, urban, and suburban areas of our presbytery, as well as honorably retired clergy.

Despite this reach, some folks were unable to be a part of the pilgrimage due to timing, health issues, or some have only now heard about it from others in their congregation who joined, so we are offering a fresh opportunity with renewed content.

This pilgrimage, while it *is* a meaningful time commitment, is also a chance to integrate action with reflection, and develop spiritual capacities for anti-racist action that will serve you your whole life long.

We’re asking you to take **30 minutes a week** from September through May (with breaks for Advent/Christmas and Holy Week/Easter) to practice sustained, habitual engagement with anti-racist practice. There will be five required small group Zoom gatherings, and extra opportunities to gather as a church (in-person or virtually as your church practice and policies allow) or for other special events throughout the year.

- Learn some basics about this opportunity, you can click on the page [introducing our 2020-21 journey](#) (please ignore the exact dates, as they refer to LAST year) [link is here](#)
- Understand more about the basics of [what a “pilgrimage” means in the context of anti-racism and in a virtual setting](#) [link is here](#)
- To register, [CLICK HERE](#) [registration link is here](#)

“We had such thought-provoking conversations in our small group sessions. Hearing from people from across the presbytery that I likely would have never met otherwise was an energizing and rich experience.”

- 2020-21 pilgrimage participant

Community Presbyterian's Calendar

August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion	2 8:00am Med City Driving School	3 8:00am Med City Driving School 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:00pm Brain Injury Support Group	4 6:30am Prayer Group 8:00am Med City Driving School 5:30pm Youth Pizza and Planning	5 8:00am Med City Driving School	6 8:00am Med City Driving School	7
8 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship	9 Jan - Vacation 8:00am Med City Driving School	10 Jan - Vacation 8:00am Med City Driving School 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting	11 Jan - Vacation 6:30am Prayer Group 8:00am Med City Driving School	12 Jan - Vacation 8:00am Med City Driving School	13 Jan - Vacation 8:00am Med City Driving School	14 Jan - Vacation
15 Jan - Vacation 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship	16	17 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 5:30pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting	18 6:30am Prayer Group	19 Gage East Back to School Party	20 12:00pm Newsletter articles due	21 Lifegate Services Health Fair
22 9:30am Online and Onsite/Outdoor Worship (bring your lawn chair!)	23	24 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Session Meeting	25 6:30am Prayer Group	26	27	28
29 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship	30	31 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due	1 6:30am Prayer Group	2	3	4

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



CPC worships at 9:30 each Sunday
both onsite and online!
On the 3rd Sunday (usually) of the month,
worship is outdoors.
Sunday School at 10:45 each Sunday
(September-May).

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#