

# Community Press

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROCHESTER, MN



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.

Peace is active, not passive. Peace is doing, not waiting. 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.

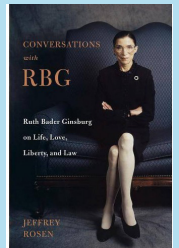
As a shared offering, your gifts on World Communion Sunday to the Peace & Global Witness Offering support peacemaking in your own community, your own region and places around the world. Thank you for your generosity; *for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.*

*At the end of August, we were thrilled to celebrate Margaret's 100th birthday (a year and a few months late). In addition to the birthday party, financial gifts were collected to donate to Rochester Public Library in Margaret's Honor. A total of \$1400 was collected! It will go towards Rochester Reading Champions (RRC) which helps struggling readers achieve results by pairing them with a one-on-one tutor trained in a multi-sensory approach to learning. This program is poised to grow, as the Library is working to bring it into a local school system, which is very exciting because transportation is often a barrier to low-income students who could benefit the most from this program. Check out pictures from the party on the Celebration page (page six)!*

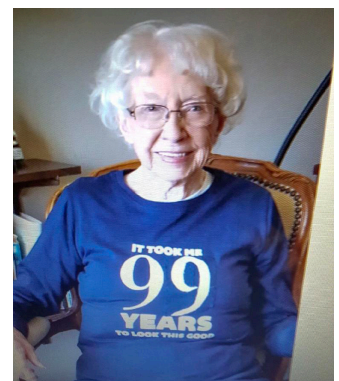
## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The Book Discussion Group will meet on Sunday, October 24 at worship. The group will discuss *Conversations with Ruth Bader Ginsburg* by Jeffrey Rosen.



From Amazon: "This remarkable book presents a unique portrait of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, drawing on more than twenty years of conversations with Jeffrey Rosen, starting in the 1990s and continuing through the Trump era."



OCTOBER 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**

## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

We didn't intend to adopt a special needs dog. We didn't even know she had special needs when we chose her (or she chose us) at Paws and Claws five and a half years ago. But it seems every year, our Missy (aka "Mystery") has encountered a new health crisis. Some have brought her to the brink of death, but she's always edged her way back. This year, we're not sure she has the strength or the will to do that. We're growing reconciled to the obvious: she's nearing the end of her days.

You know how it feels, don't you? In the recent past, some of us have said goodbye to much loved companions, after quick or prolonged illness, or suddenly, by accidental death. Some people have chosen to share their grief, others have chosen to keep it close and private. We all mourn in our own way, and that's as it should be.

And it's right that we mourn. Our pets are companions more constant than any except our immediate family; they never judge us; they stand in as therapists through the dark days of divorce, or frightening diagnoses, or our own physical decline. They ask so little and give so much.

And they are beloved by God, their Maker. No one expressed this better than St. Francis of Assisi, who called all creatures his brothers and sisters. Many churches offer a "Pet Blessing" service around October 4, on the Feast of St. Francis, and we might consider this, too, in some post-COVID future, though in my experience, cats are not best pleased to be asked to worship next to dogs, nor rats and gerbils with cats. (A blessing for animals that you can use at home is included elsewhere in this newsletter.)

But we need not limit the blessing of our animal friends to a narrow window in early October. I have been known to make house calls to bless sick and dying pets, and have conducted more than one memorial service for beloved companions.

And we need not limit our prayer to domestic pets. To ask for God's blessing on animals everywhere reminds us of the suffering of those trapped, abandoned, or dying in violent weather events, destructive wildfires, or warfare. We remember that we, too, are animals, and part of God's vast and splendid world, with this difference: we have the privilege and responsibility of caring for the rest of it. Thanks be to God.

P.S. As this newsletter goes to print, Missy Mystery is still hanging onto life with all four paws. We're thinking of renaming her Lazarina Felina, because of her repeated defiance of death.



## A PRAYER TO USE IN YOUR HOME

### A prayer of blessing for the animals

In early October, many Christians celebrate the Feast of St. Francis by gathering for a blessing of the animals. In former times, for agricultural communities this would include the work horses and other livestock that supplied so many needs. Today, the brief service is mostly for pet owners: “no pet too large, too small, too hairy, or too scaly,” as one church used to say.

If you like this idea, here is a prayer of blessing you may use. If you pray it with your own companion animals, hold your right hand over their head and call them by name, using their preferred pronoun.

*Blessed are you, Beloved God, maker of all living creatures.  
You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land.  
You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters.  
We ask you to bless them [or use proper name] now.*

*By the power of your love, enable them to live according to your plan.  
May our relationship with them mirror your love,  
and our care be an example of your bountiful mercy.  
Grant to all animals, wild or tame, health and peace,  
and when the time comes for them to leave this life,  
may it be with dignity and without suffering.  
May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation.  
Blessed are you, Beloved God, in all your creatures! Amen.*

## FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

***Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you have received.***

1 Peter 4:8-9

This year's stewardship theme is Growing in Faith Together: Growing to Serve. Watch your home mailbox for a letter and pledge card during the last week of October. Please plan to return your pledge on Stewardship Sunday, November 14.



Sometimes it feels like the world is coming at us so quickly that we don't know which way to turn, where to look, what to do next. In a chaotic world, we find strength in knowing that God is always near. That is that is a cause for gratefulness for the *Season of Peace* right now, which culminates with the Peace & Global Witness Offering on World Communion Sunday. The ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation witness to the Prince of Peace. It is good to be reminded that, with all the discord, pain and conflict in communities and in the world, God promises harmony and responds to violence with reconciliation and peace.

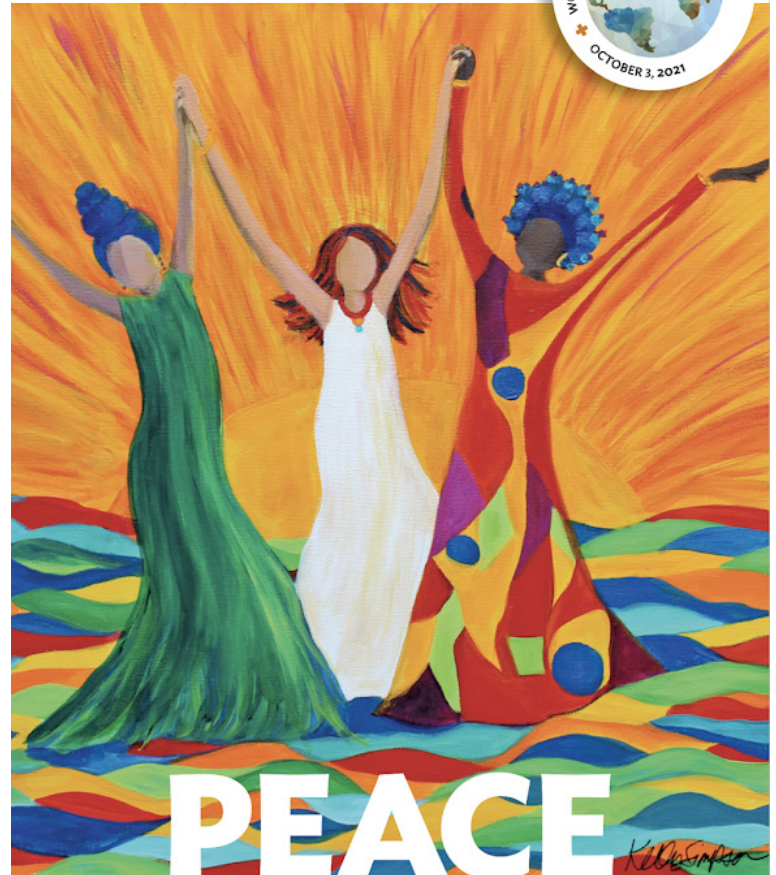
The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together and provides education and exposure to those who show how to do this work well. It has helped support church partners in Lebanon as they recover emotionally from the trauma after a bombing in Beirut. It helped congregations begin to address the growing mental health crisis and the increase in number of suicides in their communities. And the whole church joined together, through this Offering, to lead a Peacemaking Travel Study to the U.S.-Mexico border, where participants got a greater understanding of the difficult life for many people in Central America and Mexico fleeing from poverty and violence

Every level of society is in need of Christ's peace — at all times, in all ways. From CPC, where 25% will be retained of this Offering to support the Diversity Council and its important role in our community; to the region, where 25% is retained by the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area to support peacemaking efforts being pursued, together with neighboring congregations; and to the ends of the earth, where the remaining 50% is deployed by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to join the peacemaking efforts of church partners all over the globe.

All are invited to visit the Peace & Global Witness website ([presbyterianmission.org/peace-global](https://presbyterianmission.org/peace-global)) to find out more information on who this Offering helps. As a community of faith, it is important to deepen the commitment to peacemaking so that it becomes a visible and profound witness. The Presbyterian church claims Jesus Christ as Prince of Peace and church members pattern lives in the compassion, kindness and grace that he shows.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



at all times in all ways.

— 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

# CELEBRATIONS

## BIRTHDAY WISHES

*Birthdays and Anniversaries are listed in the print edition of the newsletter. Please pick one up at church next time you are there!*

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



*Pictures from Margaret's belated 100th birthday party. See article on page 1.*

# Community Presbyterian's Calendar

October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> <b>9:30am Online and In-Person Worship</b> 10:30am Book Discussion Group	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00am PW Bible Study 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Session Meeting	<b>29</b> 6:30am Prayer Group	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <b>9:30am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion</b> 10:45am Deacons Meeting	<b>4</b> Office Closed	<b>5</b> Office Closed 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:00pm Brain Injury Support Group	<b>6</b> Office Closed 6:30am Prayer Group	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>9:30am Online and Onsite Worship</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10:00am PW Bible Study 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting	<b>13</b> 6:30am Prayer Group	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>9:30am Online and Onsite Worship</b> 1:00pm Session Retreat	<b>18</b> Office Closed	<b>19</b> 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 5:30pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting 6:30pm Worship and Music Meeting	<b>20</b> 6:30am Prayer Group 12:00pm Newsletter articles due	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>9:30am Online and In-Person Worship</b> 10:30am Book Discussion Group	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 10:00am PW Bible Study 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Session Meeting	<b>27</b> 6:30am Prayer Group	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>9:30am Online and Onsite Worship</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:00pm Brain Injury Support Group 7:00pm Christian Education Committee meeting	<b>3</b> 6:30am Prayer Group	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</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*



**CPC worships at 9:30 each Sunday  
both onsite and online!**

**Online Worship, Sundays 9:30 am  
PW Bible Study, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays 10:00 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's Conference Call - 12:00 noon**

**<https://meet.google.com/kee-rcys-sdh>**

**+1 413-889-2244 PIN: 433 818 991#**