

Community Press

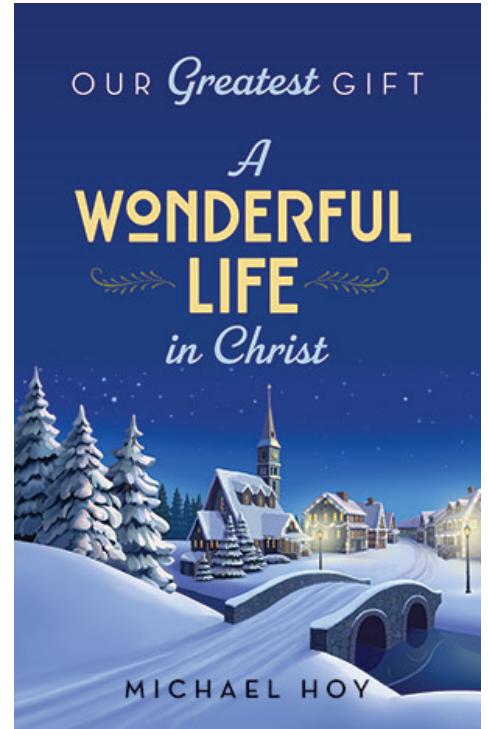
A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROCHESTER, MN



Advent has begun! Read about the Advent themes on p. 4!
If you haven't picked up your Advent devotional, they are available
in the narthex or you can have Stephanie mail one to you.

Christmas Eve, December 24 beginning at 4 pm

The worship team is inviting all to participate in a special Christmas time church family celebration on Christmas Eve. We will watch *It's A Wonderful Life* using our new projector! During the watching there will be a light meal served and so we ask that only those who are vaccinated participate in order to minimize risk issues. If you want you can bring a different chair or cushion to recline on during the performance. After the movie we will be putting out luminaria to light the Christ Child's path to our 'home.' We hope you will come and bring any family and friends you wish to invite. We do need to have an idea of the number of people so please sign up in the narthex or call/email the church office to indicate your participation by Sunday, December 19th.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

**December 24th at 7 pm
(following the movie and meal)**

**All are welcome and invited (please
wear a mask and social distance
between households).**



Sign up for the item(s) that you want to give to our Adopt-A-Family participants. This year, our family is a 30 year old mom and her 4 children (ages 6,7,12, and 14). Let's share some Christmas joy with them! Please sign up by December 5th and return the wrapped gifts to church by December 12th. Monetary donations are also accepted - please bring them by December 5th. Questions? Talk with Ronda with questions!

[https://www.signupgenius.com/
go/20f0545a5ab2fa5f85-cpcadoptafamily](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0545a5ab2fa5f85-cpcadoptafamily)

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

Pondering wonder

This Advent, I'm pondering wonder. A wonder is something astonishing, marvelous or miraculous, something that arouses in us the feeling that is also called wonder: an awe that fills us with joy and hope rather than fear or foreboding. This seems a suitable state of mind for anticipating Christmas, the miracle of the God of heaven born as a baby here with us on earth.



But wonder is also something we *do* when we are struck by something new and strange and beautiful, like whispering a “wow” in elated amazement. Wondering can lead us to feel curiosity, a desire to dig deeper and know more: wondering about the observed mysteries of nature has led to most of our scientific discovery.

That being so, I have to wonder (as in “question”) why the word has also come to express disbelief or doubt, as in, “I wonder how this crazy, mixed-up world can survive on its current path. Have we wandered so far from God?” The various meanings slide around in my head, mingling glad anticipation with a gloomy dread - an unsettling mixture.

Which leads me to the hauntingly beautiful carol the Jubellation Bells have been practicing: “I Wonder as I Wander.” The kernel of this song was heard with amazement by folklorist and singer John Jacob Niles in 1933 while traveling through Appalachian North Carolina, in search of preserved folk tunes. He wrote in his autobiography, “A girl had stepped out to the edge of the little platform attached to the automobile. She began to sing. Her clothes were unbelievable dirty and ragged, and she, too, was unwashed. Her ash-blond hair hung down in long skeins. ... But, best of all, she was beautiful, and in her untutored way, she could sing. She smiled as she sang, smiled rather sadly, and sang only a single line of a song.” The girl, named Annie Morgan, repeated the fragment seven times in exchange for a quarter per performance. Niles expanded the fragment into the song we know today:

“I wonder as I wander out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor or’ny people like you and like I; I wonder as I wander out under the sky.”

While it’s likely that the people were originally just “ordinary,” the shortening of the word to “ornery” seems better to express the temper of our times. I wonder if we need to be so ornery, though? In our ordinary lives, there is still enough of wonder to fill us with all the special yearnings of Advent for Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

I invite you to ponder with me the feeling of wonder through this month of waiting. Weigh in your heart all there is of beauty, astonishment, and eager anticipation of something new and marvelous. Wait for the “Wow!” of Christ’s new birth within and among us. It will surely come, if we make space for it!

Adventures in Wonder

We can be filled with a joyful anticipation as we ponder the gifts of God this Advent

November 28: Advent 1

Advent begins with a hopeful wonder:

Jeremiah the prophet spoke long ago to reassure the people: “The days are surely coming when I will bring justice and righteousness to the land.”

December 5: Advent 2

The hopeful promise leads to a peaceful wonder:

Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, was filled with the Spirit and continued the promise: “The dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

December 12: Advent 3

Peace and hope give way to a joyful wonder:

As the prophet Isaiah declared, “With joy we will draw water from the wells of salvation; Shout aloud and sing for joy!” But what does this even mean?

December 19: Advent 4

The meaning of all this build-up is nothing less than love-filled wonder:

As Mary and Elizabeth sang, God’s love becomes real in our lives as ordinary poor and hungry people are filled and lifted up above the rich and the proud and God’s promise is fulfilled.

December 24: Christmas Eve

It's a wonderful life in Christ:

We celebrate the miracle of God with us, in hopeful, peaceful, joyful, loving wonder that transcends whatever doubt and despair the world may throw at us.



*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor or'n'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.*

*When Mary birthed Jesus, all in a cow's stall,
Came wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,
And high from the heavens a star's light did fall;
The promise of the ages it then did recall.*

*If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
He surely could have had it, 'cause he was the king.*

Volunteer to serve at the Gage East Christmas Party! At least 4-5 volunteers are needed. As they have been short-staffed, CPC's help is critical at these events.



Pastor Jan and Mary Alice had fun helping with the food distribution at Gage East during the week of Thanksgiving.

Gage East Holiday Party

Where: Empowerment Center (Enter in door?)

When: Tuesday, December 21st

4:00pm-5:30pm

Come for dinner, games, Santa Claus, and fun!

AROUND THE COMMUNITY



Transportation Volunteers Needed!

Elder Network has openings for volunteers willing to take seniors to their crucial medical appointments, as well as other essential, non-medical needs in the community. This service is currently only available in Olmsted County. This is particularly important in the winter as other transportation options are reduced, and during COVID-19, as many clients prefer to work with an agency they know and trust to provide safe rides. Volunteers will undergo a background check, and clean driving records are considered essential in supporting the transportation needs of our seniors. Please call Melissa at 507-285-5272 or email melissas@elder-network.org with interest. Look at our website to learn more: <http://www.elder-network.org/volunteer.php>.

Paid Companions Needed!

A Paid Companion is a part-time paid position, providing non-medical services, to support individuals experiencing the limiting effects of aging to have an optimal quality of life. We are looking for dependable, compassionate, self-directed individuals who enjoy working with older adults; and who have a desire to care for, assist, and work as a companion with senior clients in their homes. Previous work with seniors and/or those with dementia is a plus. This position requires a background check and ongoing education and training. Immediate, flexible, part-time positions available. Call Holly Brown at (507)-285-5272 or hollyb@elder-network.org for Olmsted County, Barb Parker at (507) 452-0580 or barbp@elder-network.org for Winona County, Bonnie Sandberg at (651)-565-3237 or bonnies@elder-network.org for Wabasha County. Review our website to learn more about these opportunities: <http://www.elder-network.org/careers.php>.

AROUND THE CHURCH

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Birthdays are available in the print edition of the newsletter. Pick one up, next time you are at church!



On Sunday, December 12th, the **Jubellation Handbell Choir** will play during worship. The CPC handbells, hand chimes and related equipment used in the worship service were purchased with funds donated initially in 2004 by the Duane Olson family and, also, continuing donations from them.

The Jubellation Handbell Choir rings in tribute to the memory of Kathy Remtema, a charter member. When the bell choir was established and submissions were taken from the congregation for a choir name, it was Kathy's name submission, Jubellation, that was voted upon and chosen by the bell choir members.

A special thanks to the PW for all their hard work putting together another amazing Thanksgiving service. Thanks to Carol Jones, Mary Alice Richardson and Gwen Riggins for their participation in the service as well as the message from Wes Brandenburger

Your Session leaders express their gratitude to all who participated in the congregational survey. Early in 2022, opportunities will be offered for fun and creative interactive events built around your responses and the outcome of the Session retreat. Want to take a sneak peek at the plan emerging from that day? Find it on our website, <http://www.cpcrochester.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-CPC-Strategic-GoalsV3.pdf>



Updates from Finance & Stewardship

Pledge cards: You may return your pledge cards to the offering plate, the office, or in the mail. Thank you to all who have returned their cards! Pledging is vital in preparing a budget for the upcoming year.

Per Capita: If you haven't already, please submit your 2021 per capita of \$36.50/person.

Mission & Special Giving: If you made a 2021 pledge towards Special Mission Pledges or other special giving, please check your Giving Statements from October and at year end to make sure any special giving was accounted for properly. Also, be sure future special giving is accompanied by a note or a note in the memo field. You may contact Mark Pillers with any corrections: pillersmn@charter.net or 507-269-2115.

Presbytery-wide choir to sing at CPC this Christmas season (virtually!)

Back in early fall, Pastor Scott Larson of First Presbyterian in Shakopee had an idea. With COVID still inhibiting choir activity, perhaps singers from around the region could participate in a virtual choir, blending their voices in one video performance. This could bring congregations closer, provide locally-produced special music for smaller churches, and give some who miss singing a chance to do so.

With the support of the CPC choir and others, Pastor Scott wrote a grant proposal to the Presbytery to cover the cost of professional mixing. The award received is enough to cover production of four video pieces! The first one planned will be "Joy to the World." Led by Meg Cain, members of the CPC choir will be recorded and mixed into the finished anthem, joining others from around the Presbytery. The video should be ready in time for Christmas. If so, Worship and Music plans to air it during worship on December 26.

Community Presbyterian's Calendar

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Advent Begins 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:30am Greening of the Church	29	30 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due	1 6:30am Prayer Group 6:30pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	2	3	4
5 Sign-up for Adopt-A-Family gifts closes today! 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion 10:30am Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal 10:45am Deacons Meeting 10:45am Book Discussion Group	6	7 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:00pm Brain Injury Support Group 7:00pm Christian Education Committee meeting	8 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9	10	11
12 Adopt a Family wrapped gifts due to church 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship	13	14 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting	15 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18
19 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship	20 12:00pm Newsletter articles due 6:30pm Session Meeting	21 10:00am PW Christmas Party 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 5:30pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting 7:00pm Session Meeting	22 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24 4:00pm It's a Wonderful Life movie and meal 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	25 Christmas Day - Merry Christmas!
26 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship	27 Office Closed 12:00pm Bulletin info due	28 12:00pm Online Conference Call	29 Office Closed 6:30am Prayer Group	30 Office Closed	31 Office Closed	1

Community Presbyterian Church
3705 Fairway Place NW
Rochester, MN 55901



Presents aren't permanent, give a gift that lasts.

PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG

Small Gifts. Big Impact.

Give today at presbyteriangifts.org

Looking for a unique Christmas gift in honor of somebody? Generous gifts to the Presbyterian Giving Catalog are signs of our gratitude: feeding the hungry, comforting the brokenhearted and sharing our faith with young and old. By joining our gifts together, however large or small, we expand our witness to God's gracious and abundant work in the world.

Here's the link to the online catalog:
<https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/gifts/>

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

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#