

Community Press

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROCHESTER, MN



Where in your world is God?

What in the world would you like to talk or learn about with your faith family at Community Presbyterian Church?

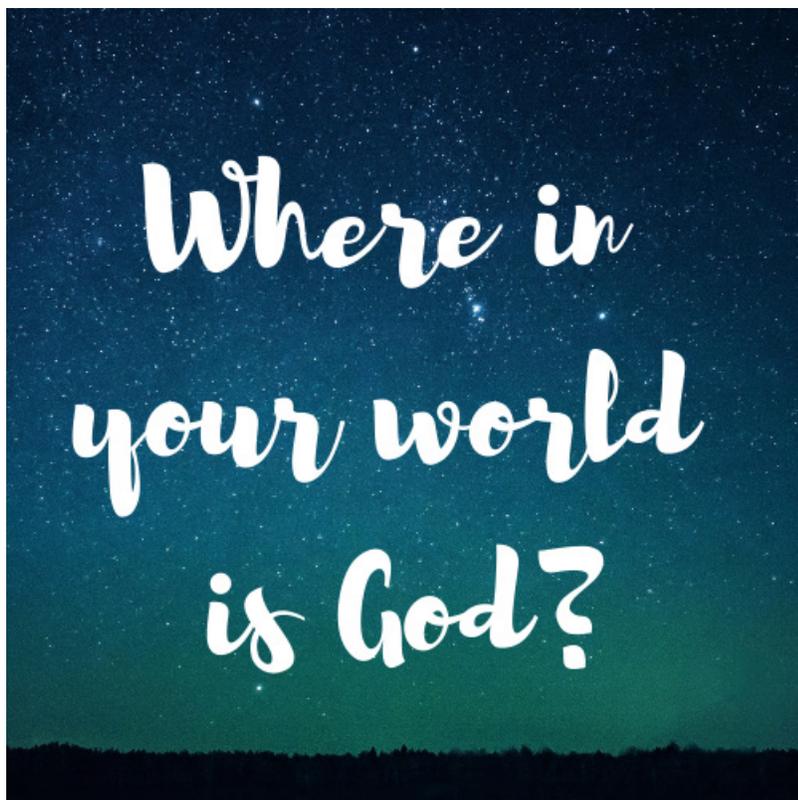
2020 helped us see the world more clearly. 2021 leaves us still wondering what to do about it. Can 2022 bring us together in God-space and God-time?

Church is a safe space to ask each other, where in this world is God:

In climate change? Pandemic? Refugee resettlement? Transgender folk?

Where is God in the past and future of Rochester? In the Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota people whose traditional land we inhabit? In Critical Race Theory?

What intrigues you? Concerns you? We'll help the conversation happen. Talk to Pastor Jan, Sue Chipman, or Amanda Ross about your preference for time and topic in the New Year.



ANNUAL MEETING



On Sunday, January 23rd, CPC will hold the annual congregational meeting following worship (about 10:30 am). The Annual Meeting is a time to vote on leadership positions. It is also a time to look back on 2021 and look ahead to 2022. We will receive the budget and finance reports. All members of Community Presbyterian are invited and encouraged to attend! Submissions for the Annual Report are due on Monday, January 10.

JANUARY 2022

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

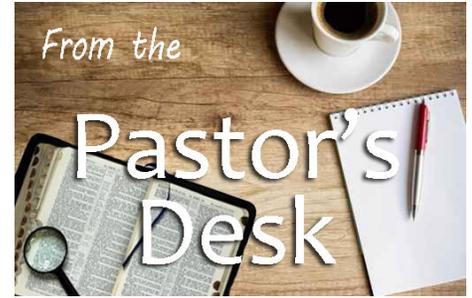
Pastor/ Head of Staff	Rev. Jan Wiersma
Choir Director	Meg Cain
Pianist	Glenna Muir
Bell Choir Director	Judy Kereakos
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

Ministers to the world

Congregation Members

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

In mid-December, the thought of the new year pales before the excitement of Christmas worship, and spending long-deferred time with family and friends. But now, 2022 is upon us! The light begins its slow return, and its promise of a fresh start fills me with as-yet-unfocused energy, and excitement about how we can grow as a community of faith.



I think of all of you who attend committee meetings, who fill the chairs and the air in the Great Room with your warm selves and songs, and you who grace the Google Meet screen, too. As time passes and Sundays and seasons come and go, I feel I have come to know you more deeply, your various brands of wry and broad humor, your gifts and commitments, your distant families and friends, with needs of their own.

One of the very nicest things you do for me is to ask me to pray for you and for those who are dear to you. As I pray, or “hold them in the Light,” as the Quakers say, you yourselves grow more clear to me in the layered beauty of your lives.

When we heard the Advent story of Mary and Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-80) on December 19, I was struck by the sense of holiness passing between them. They blessed one another, they sang together, maybe they danced together, surely they enjoyed each other. I imagine them looking at one another saying, “I see you. I know you. You are God’s chosen and anointed one. You are holy. You are whole.” This is how we see one another, too, when the holy passes between us.

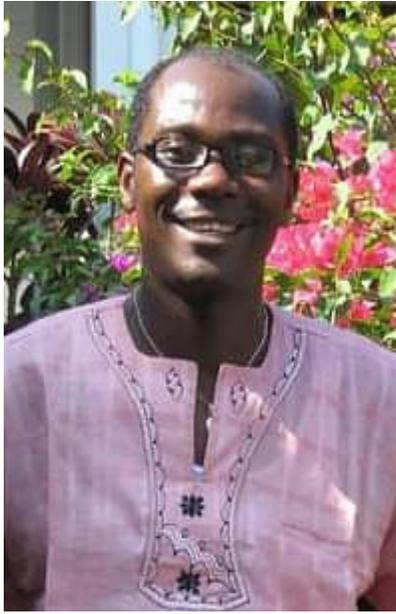
This profound connection is not ruffled by superficial differences or conflicting opinions that change with time. In fact, as we see each other in this Christ-light, we care more deeply about what shapes and informs the other, even if we don’t immediately understand it. This is one reason why the Christian Education planners and I are inviting you to propose new ways of being together in the coming year. (See the article on the front page of this newsletter!)

We are asking for your ideas on where and how to talk about ideas and happenings that intrigue, trouble, or challenge you. How can we approach these issues: through experiencing films, reading books, discussing the news? How often might we do this: regularly or spontaneously, as opportunities arise? The point is not to make up one more thing to have to do, but rather to grow closer to God and to one another as we live our faith in this mixed up world.

Let’s make 2022 a year of deepening as we invite holiness to pass between us and among us. God makes us holy; God makes us whole.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC



Special guest preacher for January 16: Jerry Locula

Combining our observance of the PC(USA) *Dismantling Structural Racism Sunday* with our national commemoration of *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day* (January 17), we welcome Jerry back to our worship.

“Observed every January on the third Monday of the month, the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service is the only federal holiday that has a call to action focusing on building beloved communities from coast to coast. It was King who, in fact, popularized the concept of the “beloved community,” explaining that economic equity and social justice are the twin pillars of a healthy society. At its heart, the idea of the beloved community is simply this: We share the wealth of the Earth with all so there is human decency for all and no hunger, poverty, violence or homelessness for anybody.” from *Presbyterians Today*, December 20, 2021.

Jerry Locula comes from Liberia. He’s currently with Peace Church in Rochester. Jerry has spent his adult life working for peace, human rights and social justice in Africa in both Church and society.

CHRISTMAS CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you

Dear friends at CPC,

Pastor Jan, Stephanie, Meg, Glenna, Nancy and Judy all share their deepest gratitude for the generous Christmas gifts. CPC always make us feel so appreciated! Perhaps Judy said it best and we all join in with her words:

“I want you all to know how much I appreciate your generous Christmas gift. Whether I am working with the handbell choir or am at the piano, [or serving members of CPC in each of our different capacities] it is always a great pleasure for me to be with our CPC people. We love what we do, and I think it shows! Happy New Year to you and your loved ones.”



Peace on Earth

Jan-2021
MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR...
NOW IS A NICE TIME TO BE IN ARIZONA. CHECK WITH US COME SUMMER. STILL LEARNING TO STAY INSIDE ALL DAY LONG IN JULY!
WARMEST REGARDS,
Don & Bernie Nichols



Volunteering at Gage East in December was a lot of fun!

FROM THE ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY



Celebrating 100+ years

When Margaret Nelson turned 100 years old last year, her friends wanted to do something special to celebrate.

Some know her as part of the congregation at Community Presbyterian Church. Other friends know her from her 25+ years of dedication to building a library at Madonna Towers. And staff at the library remember Margaret from her volunteer days at RPL.

No matter how they first met Margaret, everyone seems to agree that she has a passion for books and libraries. She spent many years working in the midwest at libraries in schools, churches and private libraries, and has volunteered her time to support reading and learning.

To honor her, Margaret's friends reached out to the Rochester Public Library Foundation and donated to the Rochester Reading Champions tutoring program and also made a financial contribution to purchase a book for every decade of Margaret's life, 1920 to the present:

- 1920s - ***Peter Pan*** by J.M. Barrie (beautifully annotated and illustrated)
- 1930s - ***The Boys in the Boat*** by Daniel James Brown
- 1940s - ***The Book Thief*** by Marcus Zusak
- 1950s - ***Hidden Figures*** by Margot Lee Shetterly
- 1960s - ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** by Harper Lee
- 1970s - ***The National Parks: America's Best Idea*** by Dayton Duncan
- 1980s - ***Libraries of Minnesota*** by Doug Ohman
- 1990s - ***The House that Love Built: the story of Millard and Linda Fuller, founders of Habitat for Humanity and the Fuller Center for Housing*** by Bettie B. Youngs
- 2000s - ***Ordinary Grace*** by William Kent Krueger
- 2010s - ***Being Mortal*** by Atul Gawande



AROUND THE CHURCH

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Birthdays are listed in our print edition of the newsletter. Pick one up at church or have Stephanie in the office send you one!

2022 Holidays

Church office will be closed

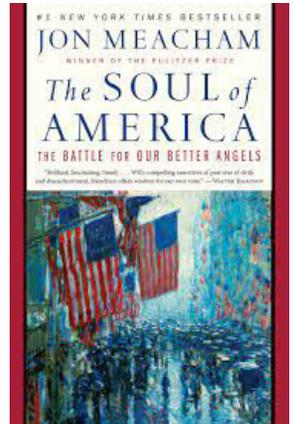
January 3	New Year's Observance
January 17	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 21	President's Day
April 18	Easter Monday
May 30	Memorial Day
July 4	Independence Day
September 5	Labor Day
November 24	Thanksgiving
December 26	Christmas Observance

Stephanie will be out of the office January 7-12. Pastor Jan will be out of town January 9-12. Rev. Ann Siverling will be available for pastoral emergencies during this time.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Book Discussion Group will meet Sunday, January 30 at 10:30 am, to discuss *The Soul of America* by John Meacham.

According to Amazon: "Our current climate of partisan fury is not new, and in *The Soul of America* Meacham shows us how what Abraham Lincoln called the "better angels of our nature" have repeatedly won the day. Painting surprising portraits of Lincoln and other presidents, including Ulysses S. Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, and Lyndon B. Johnson, and illuminating the courage of such influential citizen activists as Martin Luther King, Jr., early suffragettes Alice Paul and Carrie Chapman Catt, civil rights pioneers Rosa Parks and John Lewis, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, and Army-McCarthy hearings lawyer Joseph N. Welch, Meacham brings vividly to life turning points in American history."



AROUND THE COMMUNITY



DONATE YOUR OLD CAR- GIVE IT NEW LIFE!

Vehicles (2009 or newer) are needed for repair by RCTC Automotive students.

- Get a tax deduction
- Help provide an affordable, safe car to those who need one.
- Help train your future mechanic

After repair, the cars will be put up for auction in April & May. We will advertise to those serving people in need to offer safe, affordable vehicles at below market prices.



Contact RCTC Foundation for more info
Call 507-281-7770 or foundation@rctc.edu

Community Presbyterian's Calendar

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship	27 Office Closed	28 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due	29 Office Closed 6:30am Prayer Group	30 Office Closed	31 Office Closed	1
2 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion	3 Office Closed	4 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:00pm Brain Injury Support Group 7:00pm Christian Education Committee meeting	5 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7	8
9 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship	10 Office Closed Annual Report Items Due	11 Office Closed 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting 6:30pm Worship and Music Meeting	12 Office Closed 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14	15
16 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship	17 Martin Luther King Celebration Office Closed Annual Report Submissions Due	18 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 5:30pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting	19 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	20 12:00pm Newsletter articles due	21	22
23 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:30am Annual Meeting	24	25 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Session Meeting	26 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28	29
30 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:30am Book Discussion Group	31	1 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:00pm Brain Injury Support Group 7:00pm Christian Education Committee meeting	2 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	3	4	5

Community Presbyterian Church
3705 Fairway Place NW
Rochester, MN 55901

**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#