

# Community Press

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROCHESTER, MN



## Jerry Locula's "Enormous Africa" available to attend online!



Jerry Locula, who has twice served as our special Sunday speaker, has been offering a series of events delving into amazing facts about the continent he hails from, and not just his own country of Liberia. Held on Zoom the first Thursday of each month, the hour-long gatherings offer an opportunity to simply listen or to discuss an educational YouTube video viewed prior to the gathering.

Some background on Jerry himself: as an attorney, he was deeply involved in human rights, especially for women, in Liberia. He had been to the US as an international camp counselor prior to 2019, but that year he was invited back to receive an international award for his work. First the awards ceremony was postponed; then Covid happened, keeping him here, far from his wife and four children. During this time, he also suffered the loss of his father and a much loved aunt at home.

Thanks to the outreach of Peace UCC, he obtained a position with their staff that permits him to support himself. Speaking engagements with various groups and congregations supplement their stipend to him. The "Enormous Africa" series is provided at no charge to attendees.

Watch the e-blast/bulletins for a link!



*This year, Ash Wednesday is March 2. Pastor Jan, Ivy Pillers and the Worship and Music team have chosen "Full to the Brim" resources to guide CPC through Lent and Easter. CPC members and friends will be treated to beautiful artwork, poetry, devotions, and worship plans as we travel throug Lent. Watch for more information in late February!*

**Look inside for  
"Some Takeaways  
from the Annual Meeting,"  
the book discussion group  
February bookselection,  
PW bible study dates  
and more!**

FEBRUARY 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 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>Class of 2024</u>	Amanda Ross Sherrie Wilson	Personnel and Nominating Mission
<u>Officers:</u>	Mary Meyer Mark Pillers Joanne Powell	Clerk (Non-voting) Financial Secretary Treasurer

### 2022 Nominating Committee

Amanda Ross, Mark Neville, Bruce Felger, Dave Copeland, Mary Alice Richardson

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 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
Kari Streff	Margie Petersen	Dave Copeland
Ron Murray	Peggy McCarty	Aaron Simms

## 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**

### *Some takeaways from the annual meeting...*

Annual Meetings sometimes seem more of a necessary chore than a time of uplift and renewal, and this year's on Sunday, January 23rd, presented its own special challenges. Many of you wisely tuned in from home on account of both cold weather and the current Covid surge. Those who attended in person arrived to find an unplowed

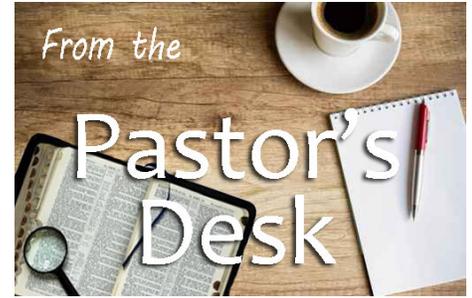
parking lot after a fresh snowfall and a front door frozen shut. On top of that, the sound system proved quite frisky, taking our livestream program into its own wiring and periodically muting the service for online attendees.

Nevertheless, the majority of you patiently hung in for the 50 percent of the service you could actually hear and the meeting following. Those onsite, I might add, did so without the usual mercies of calories and caffeine. We had a generous quorum between onsite and online members and business was conducted with grace, tolerance and humor.

Here are some of my morning-after thoughts:

- In many ways, we are in an excellent position to move forward in 2022
  - Our finances are solid and a healthy budget was unanimously approved
  - Our leaders devised an ambitious 5-year strategic plan, also unanimously approved
  - New leaders have stepped up to take the places of those whose terms are up
- No controversies! In some cases, this might be the result of passive acceptance of a status quo no one has the energy or interest to question. Not so for us! Change is on the horizon, some of which may move us out of our current comfort zones. People expressed a willingness to try new ways of coming together to meet God and one another in worship, learning, and service. Wow! Please understand how exhilarating this is for a pastor! I hope it is for you, too.
- Nevertheless, there are challenges beyond the gremlin in the sound system, the weather, and the circumstances afoot in the world beyond our temporarily frozen door:
  - Our leader pool, while strong and willing, is small. Many of those going off are weary; some have agreed to stay on past their original commitment. All of them have borne huge responsibilities the past 5-6 years. Burnout happens.
  - We face a real challenge in that Covid has limited the opportunity to spread the word about who we are and invite new people into our midst.
- Given the strong gifts we have in hand as well as the real efforts that will be required, I invite all of you to consider in the light of the Spirit what your role may be this year.
  - Serve on a project if asked - or volunteer for one that interests you!
  - Support your Session and staff in prayer
  - Show up regularly for worship. You might be pleasantly surprised! And invite others to join you.
  - As always, strive to keep your own relationship with our loving God alive and blooming.

Yours in faith, hope, and love!



## AROUND THE CHURCH

### BIRTHDAY WISHES

*Birthdays and Anniversaries are listed in the print edition of the newsletter... pick one up at church!*

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dear friends,  
Perhaps you know that the church has a wheelchair that they loan to people at times. I have been using that wheelchair until I could get one of my own. It's been useful and fun to ride around in now that my legs are no longer strong enough to hold me up. The wheelchair worked just fine. Thank you very much for letting me use it. Now I've returned it so perhaps someone else who has a temporary need can use it. A physical therapist is coming from the Cities later this week to give me lessons so I can be a better driver. I've enjoyed being able to attend the church and Bible Study online and able to feel a part of the group. Love, Margaret Nelson



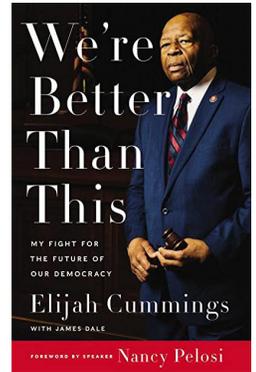
## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

### BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



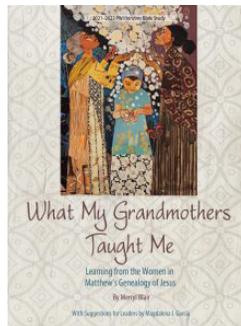
The Book Discussion Group will meet in Sunday, February 27 at 10:30 am to discuss We're Better Than This by Elijah Cummings.

NPR's Ericka Taylor reviewed this book in September of 2020. She said: "It is a compelling memoir, highlighting some of the formative experiences that shaped Elijah Cummings, a son of sharecroppers who would go on to become one of the most influential members of Congress. It is an urgent call to action, imploring us to defend our democracy as it is assailed by threats internal and external. And, perhaps above all, it is a poignant reminder of just how much the nation lost with his death."



To read the entire review, go to: <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/24/916420232/in-were-better-than-this-rep-elijah-cummings-offers-some-lasting-thoughts>

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



PW will resume its Bible Study, *What My Grandmothers Taught Me*, on Tuesday, February 22 at 10:00 am. They will continue the study, March 8, March 22 and conclude on April 5. Participants can meet onsite or online, whatever way is most comfortable!

The World Day of Prayer, usually scheduled in early March, will also not take place this year due to Covid concerns. Hopefully in 2023, things will look better! Stay safe and healthy.

# In Search Of: Home Furnishings

Couches, Tables, Dressers, and more



## Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement

is in need of home furnishings to support several more Afghan and refugee families expected to arrive in Rochester in the next few weeks. All of our stored furnishings were depleted after the first wave of Afghan evacuees were resettled in 2021.

Currently, the most needed items are:

- 10 couches
- 10 dressers
- 10 kitchen tables with chairs
- Twin beds
- Lamps
- Coffee tables



## How to Help:

Please email a picture of your donation item(s) to [rrvolunteer@ccsomn.org](mailto:rrvolunteer@ccsomn.org) . Once received, we will contact you to coordinate a drop-off time. Thank you for your consideration!

# MISSION

## Adopt-a-Family



January 2022

Dear Community Presbyterian Church:  
Because of generous donors like you, we are delighted to share that the 2021 Adopt a Family program was a great success. With your generous gifts, Adopt A Family was able to provide food, toys, clothing, and hope to 304 families in our community this past holiday season. Your support allowed us to impact 755 individuals.

Take time to reflect on the impact that you made, the smiles you created, and the sense of hope you brought to community members in need. We are so impressed by the thoughtful, caring, and giving folks in our community.

We are grateful for your support and appreciate your commitment to Adopt A Family. This letter is just a small demonstration of our gratitude for your donation.

We look forward to many wonderful years of providing hope to our community.

Sincerely,  
Diane Tradup  
Volunteer Services Coordinator  
Adopt-A-Family Holiday Program

ROCHESTER  
NONPROFIT  
CONSORTIUM

**COMMITMENT  
TO RACIAL JUSTICE**  
DAY OF LEARNING

LEARNING INTO BELONGING AND LEADING FROM AN ANTI-BIAS MINDSET  
UNPACKING THE CULTURAL ICEBERG

February 24, 8am-noon  
Zoom

\$20 Consortium members and Undersigned  
\$65 General attendees

FREC Facilitating Racial Equity Collaborative  
Family Service  
Channel One Regional Food Bank  
ROCHESTER NONPROFIT CONSORTIUM

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.rochesternonprofitconsortium.org/commitment-to-racial-justice>



You love justice and you establish peace on earth. We bring before you the disunity of today's world: the absurd violence, and the many wars, which are breaking the courage of the peoples of the world; militarism and the armaments race, which are threatening life on the planet; human greed and injustice, which breed hatred and strife. Send your Spirit and renew the face of the earth; teach us to be compassionate toward the whole human family; strengthen the will of all those who fight for justice and for peace; lead all nations into the path of peace, and give us that peace which the world cannot give.

*Amen*



BCW, 797-798  
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# Community Presbyterian's Calendar

February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>30</b></p> <p>9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:30am Book Discussion Group</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>31</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>1</b></p> <p>12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Christian Education Committee meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>2</b></p> <p>6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>3</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>4</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>5</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>6</b></p> <p>Postponed: Scout Sunday 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion 10:45am Deacons Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>7</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>8</b></p> <p>12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>9</b></p> <p>6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>10</b></p> <p>6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>11</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>12</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>13</b></p> <p>9:30am Online and Onsite Worship</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>14</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>15</b></p> <p>12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 5:30pm Finance &amp; Stewardship Meeting 6:30pm Worship and Music Committee</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>16</b></p> <p>6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>17</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>18</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>19</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>20</b></p> <p>9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 12:00pm Newsletter articles due</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>21</b></p> <p>Office Closed - Presidents Day</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>22</b></p> <p>10:00am PW Bible Study 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Session Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>23</b></p> <p>6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>24</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>25</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>26</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>27</b></p> <p>9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:30am Book Discussion Group</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>28</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>1</b></p> <p>12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 7:00pm Christian Education Committee meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>2</b></p> <p>6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>3</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>4</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>5</b></p>

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](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#**