

# Community Press

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROCHESTER, MN



## The Last Weeks of Lent, Holy Week and Easter

We have been moving through Lent using resources called *Full to the Brim*. It doesn't ignore or deny sin and suffering, usually focused on in Lent. It doesn't absolve accountability for wrongdoing. Instead it contextualizes our faith. If love is our beginning, how can we live our lives led by love's promises? It reminds us to live fully—as we pursue justice and hope, or express grief and gratitude. And so, this Lent, let us trust—fully—that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Let us discover the expansive life God dreams for us.

***Palm Sunday, April 10, 9:30 am worship***

***Maundy Thursday, April 14,  
7:00 pm worship***

***Easter Sunday, April 17, 9:30 am worship***

Easter Sunday: When the women find the tomb empty, they are stunned by the presence and words of the men in dazzling clothing—and yet, they remember. Even in utter shock, they return to their deep knowing and allow themselves to receive the expansiveness of resurrection. Many of the disciples won't open themselves up to this expansiveness and reject their testimony. Peter is curious enough to return to the tomb, and as a result, he is filled with amazement and awe. How do we carry forth what we have learned this Lent? Can we be curious enough to return and remember? Can we allow ourselves to be filled with expansive hope? Can we trust in the expansive promise of new life, and carry that promise with us wherever we go?



APRIL 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**

## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Easter comes late this year. But it comes, sure as the waxing and waning of the moon. In fact, the date of Easter is determined by the phases of the moon. Our holiest Christian holiday is always the first Sunday following the first full moon (or Paschal Moon) after March 21st. This year, that full moon will fall on Saturday, April 16; Easter is the very next day. What seems haphazard, a day that leaps around the calendar without rhyme or reason, is actually very reliable. The date is predicted from a bigger picture than we consult on a daily basis; what we don't understand often feels unpredictable.



Easter comes to Minnesota at a time when we are longing for sunshine, green grass, returning life. This year in particular, it lands at a time when we are desperately in need of hope: hope for peace, health, sanity, stability in what increasingly feels like a world wobbling on its foundations.

I read somewhere recently that “hope is a verb with its sleeves rolled up.” In other words, hope doesn't wait like an inanimate object for something good to happen; it gets to work. Some years ago, I heard an even more muscular definition: “Hope doesn't wait for change to tap at the door; it takes an ax and breaks the door down.” This makes hope sound brave, and brash, and messy, and thoroughly ready to take on the world's woes.

Probably my favorite reflection on hope, though, comes from the fifth chapter of Romans: “Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and *we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God*. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

What I love about it is the link between suffering and hope and glory, which is the fulfillment of all that is good, all that comes from God. *This* is the point of Easter: *this* is the purpose of Jesus' life and death and resurrection, to give us access. Not passively accepting the goodness we possess as our due, but with sleeves rolled up and ax in hand to break through the barriers of evil that keep us apart from one another, apart from God. We hope for the people of Ukraine, of Gage East, of Pine Ridge.

And if we don't see the rewards of our strenuous hope immediately, could it be that it is operating on some stellar scale, some larger pattern than we see? For this above all is true: our God may be unpredictable, but is still unfailingly reliable. Take heart. Take hope. And hope will not disappoint you!

# MISSION: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The pandemic has stretched the Church in many ways — but the Church is still very much ... *here*. Although it was surely hard at first, churches have expanded their thinking and ways to do church in new and innovative ways to reach out and be together. Churches have continued to gather for worship. Churches have continued to build and shape community. Churches have continued to take care of one another. And on top of all that, churches have continued to come together to serve those in need, both here in the local community and all over the world through participation in special offerings and in the spirit of shared mission. Despite difficulty, struggle and loss, the Church continues to declare its presence in the world, through numerous means, certainly, but toward the same purpose.

In Isaiah 58, the prophet reminds people repeatedly that God's people belong with those in need, releasing people from the bonds of injustice and with the hungry who are welcomed and fed. And in Matthew 25, Jesus calls the Church to be with those who are thirsty, imprisoned and suffering illness.

Through Community Presbyterian Church, we also connect with those beyond our walls, in whatever way each is able, and celebrate the many ways God connects with the Church. During Lent, it is celebrated that God connects with the faithful through Jesus' resurrection and connects people with "those who have least" — that's how Matthew 25 puts it — and that's what One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is all about. Connecting. People experiencing oppression, need, loss, or lack: those are the people with whom Jesus connected, and they are the people congregations are invited to connect with today.

Please visit the OGHS website ([pcusa.org/oghs](http://pcusa.org/oghs)) to find out more information on how a gift helps people all over the world. A person can also offer prayers for the people and projects who receive this support.

Please strongly consider making a gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering — especially considering the challenges that have been witnessed over the past year. Join CPC on Sunday, April 17, as we collect our One Great Hour of Sharing offering. CPC joins Christians across the country in opening our hearts to witness tangibly to the abundant love of God through One Great Hour of Sharing.



## Branching Out

This painting was done during the March 20, 2022 church service as part of a creative service featuring a variety of music, poetry, dance and painting. My painting was inspired by the following scripture:

Luke 13:6-9

*Then Jesus told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard: and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have been looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"*

The painting shows a tree full of life exaggerated by the many curling branches. I included several knots and used a dry brush method to exaggerate the bark in the tree trunk. The tree is painted in white with a black background. I limited the colors used in the painting so I could complete it during the service. In the upper right corner is a circular shape made of gold glitter. This glitter highlights various areas including three small triangles under a low branch. For me, they symbolize future figs. Using the glitter medium can get messy. I mostly applied it with a palette knife as a brush didn't work. At times I used my fingers to spread the glitter.

Creating art for me is usually a solitary activity, so I was nervous about painting in front of the congregation. Most of my work takes hours to complete. I create detailed works of art. This painting was my third painting of this subject with several practice sketches leading up to the final work.

What did I learn from this experience? I was reminded that I get more out of something if I'm involved. I'm a gardener and the scripture resonated with me. Growing things need nurturing to be productive and fruitful. And if they aren't fruitful- don't give up! This applies to us too. We are gardeners of each other.

It was an honor to share my talents with the congregation. In the process I learned hands on about the parable of the fig tree.



**"Fruitless"**  
**2022 Carole Kinion**  
**Copeland, Artist**  
**Acrylic on canvas**  
**24 x 48 inches**



BIRTHDAY WISHES

birthdays and anniversaries are listed in the print edition of the newsletter - pick one up at church!

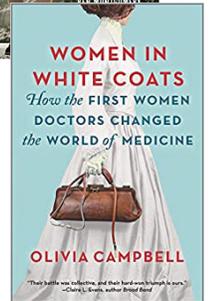
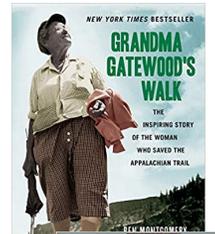


HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The Book Discussion Group will take the month of April off, and instead gather to remember Margaret Nelson, a steadfast lover of books. On May 22, the group will meet to discuss both Grandma Gatewood's Walk by Ben Montgomery and Women in White Coats by Olivia Campbell.



Margaret Nelson

April 14, 1920 - March 26, 2022

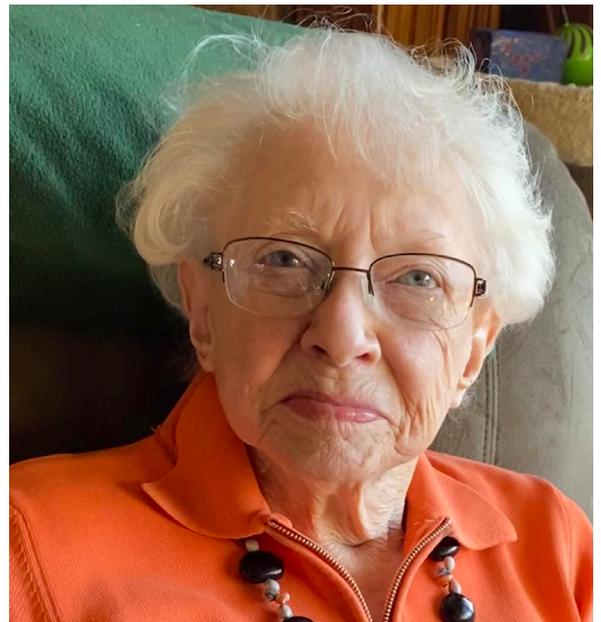
Margaret's prayer to go home to God and Hank was answered around midday on Saturday, March 26. She had been well cared for at Seasons Hospice House, and by her cousin-by-marriage, Victoria, who was with her when she died.

Thanks to every one of you for your prayers and love and concern for Margaret. Her generosity of spirit was clearly contagious, because she saw the best and brought out the best in all who were fortunate enough to know her.

In accordance with her wishes, no special funeral service will be held but on April 24th, after worship, there will be a time of remembrance. Following a brief time of music, readings, and prayer, Margaret's friends will have a chance to remember Margaret informally, sharing, in her words, "a simple, joyful coffee time."

Death is not the extinguishing of a light, but the putting out of the lamp because the dawn has come. Rabindranath Tagore.

Margaret's obituary can be found here: <https://www.ranfranzandvinefh.com/obituary/643366/Margaret-Mary-Nelson/>



# BLUE SKY OUTREACH BY MARK NEVILLE

St. Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland, but it takes a village to stage a great St. Patrick's Day party for a bunch of kids at Gage East! I don't have participation numbers, but I know there was a blur of youngsters in the activity room at Gage East yesterday.

They were making and getting their pictures taken in their Leprechaun masks. Making and enjoying their Leprechaun Hat blowers, and digging in to a wonderful array of St. Patrick's Day treats. They had green balloons to play with... and POP! And, they had fun displaying their new shamrock pins and rainbow magnets.

Pastor Jan and I want to thank everyone who helped with the event:

Work party helpers on 3/15:

- Vera and Karen Atkinson
- Sue Chipman
- Judy Robb
- Sherrie Wilson

Homemade treat helpers:

- Vera and Karen Atkinson
- Carol Jones
- Heather and Ronda Marshall
- Ivy Pillers
- Mary Alice Richardson

Event helpers:

- Frank and Carol Jones
- Sherrie Wilson

Thank you for your efforts in support of this event. You are making Community Presbyterian a real force for GOOD in our community!



Community Presbyterian Church  
3705 Fairway Place NW  
Rochester, MN 55901

**Enormous Africa:** Jerry Locula's next informative discussion session will be on Thursday, April 7 at 7:00 pm. Watch the video "Resistance and Liberation": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlwGz3BgUZM> prior to attending. Jerry says, "Feel free to come with your thoughts, questions or comments. Kindly tell a family member, friend, neighbor, colleague or acquaintance about this learning and knowledge-sharing possibility."

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Topic: Enormous Africa

Time: Apr 7, 2022 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81910219843?pwd=RWgrCHZGNlE0bFRnc3piWGcrOTExQT09>

**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#

# Community Presbyterian's Calendar

April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:30am Book Discussion Group	28	29 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due	30 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	31	1	2
3 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion 10:45am Deacons Meeting	4	5 10:00am PW Bible Study 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:00pm Brain Injury Support Group 6:30pm Christian Ed. Comm. Meeting	6 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8	9
10 Palm Sunday 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship	11	12 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting	13 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	14 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	15	16
17 Easter Sunday 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship	18 Office Closed - Easter Monday	19 10:00am PW Bible Study 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 5:30pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting 6:30pm Worship and Music Committee	20 6:30am Prayer Group 12:00pm Newsletter articles due 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23
24 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:30am Remembrance Coffee for Margaret	25	26 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Session Meeting	27 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29	30