

Community Press

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROCHESTER, MN



Annual Spring Fling May 15 12:30-3 pm

All Hands on Deck!

Help give our church some cleaning TLC both inside and out! Sign up in the narthex! Some of the things to be done are:

- Speed bump installation
- Clean windows inside and out
- Clean lights and replace bulbs
- Clean kitchen
- Clean vents
- Clean and repair chairs
- Organize storage shed and rooms inside of church

Energy-boosting snacks will be provided.



MAY 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

Every day is Earth Day, every day is Easter

Before Easter, I received the thoughtful gift of a fresh flowering plant in a pink pot covered with butterflies. A tiny sign tucked into the soil reads, “Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime” (attributed to Martin Luther). The plant is technically known as *Viola tricolor*, but is called by many common names, including wild pansy, heart’s ease, or heart’s delight. I like the name Johnny Jump-up best; it has the ring of resurrection and of life’s persistent, insistent return.

This perky bit of green, yellow, and purple is found almost everywhere on earth and is credited with a variety of medicinal qualities. Everything about it seems designed to connect us with what is good, wholesome, and hopeful, with creation and with the Creator. This is what delights me, because connections are what we need most right now.

In my Easter devotions this year, I keep running across this truth: resurrection isn’t about bouncing back, it’s about bouncing forward, like my Johnny Jump-up. It’s not just resuscitation of the dried-out husk of something dead and gone, it’s the start of something new that’s happening right now. As I remarked on Easter, eternal life is not just one day after the next, endlessly, it’s infinite in all directions. The risen Christ invites us into a depth and breadth of life that both dazzles and comforts us—if we are willing to take God up on the promise, and let new leaves of life and love unfold in us.

As the days warm (we fervently hope), and springtime truly overtakes us, we plan to celebrate a belated Earth Day on Sunday, May 15. Weather permitting, we’ll worship outside, surrounded by the beauty of the Garden of Life, connecting and reconnecting with the Creator, the creation, and one another, possibly even mask-free (another fervent hope, at least for outdoor gatherings). And reaffirming that we are part of a glorious whole, and newly committed to caring for one another and God’s gift of our precious, threatened, resilient world.

This is good news in the turbulent tsunami of unsettling news: the Spirit lives all around us. I return to the words of Wendell Berry, farmer, environmentalist and poet: “When despair for the world grows in me...I rest in the peace of wild things.... For a time, I rest in the grace of the world and am free.” Let us deepen our freedom from fear together.



Illustrations and facts are from Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viola_tricolor

The poem is “The Peace of Wild Things,” by Wendell Berry.

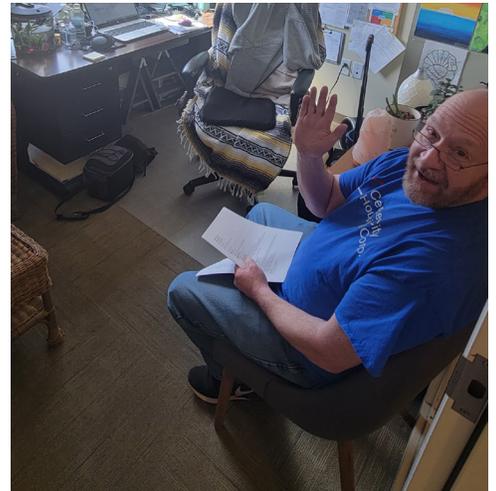
MISSION AND BLUE SKY OUTREACH



Never mind the heavy skies and biting wind, the children of Gage East scampered around their playground joyfully piling colorful eggs in baskets. Later, in the warmth of the lobby, we watched them pry each plastic egg open to retrieve the candy tucked inside by CPC volunteers. Each child took a basketful of candy home, while the eggs were saved to be hidden and found another day.

The next big event at Gage East will be a mid-summer extravaganza on June 23rd. This year, the bike rodeo and give-away supported by the Rochester Police Department will be combined with more feasting and fun in the parking lot. They're hoping for a return of the bounce house, face painting, and outdoor games, plus Flapdoodles ice cream and hot dogs on the grill. All of this is part of the community building activities that provide a foundation for residents' health and growth.

And we are part of that community! CPC will be invited to have a share in the planning as well as the carrying out of this day of joy. And they're hoping we can find 10-12 volunteers to participate! Watch our communications for further information.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



The session would like to thank the congregation for donating \$2150 to the special offering for Ukraine through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in March.

The session has donated \$500, in addition to the \$2150, for humanitarian assistance for Ukraine. Thanks to all for your generosity.

<https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/ukraine/>

BIRTHDAY WISHES

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



Pastor Jan is out of the office April 30- May 13. The office will be closed May 3-15. Stephanie will be on vacation, as well. If there is a pastoral emergency during that time, please call Ann Siverling at 507-993-2969.

Volunteers Needed for English Lessons

Rochester Area Friends:

We have been asked to help provide English support for eight Afghan families who have recently relocated to Rochester. Thankfully, the men in these families are all working now. However, their employment hinders their ability to learn English well. Obviously, English is important for them as they integrate into our community.



We will be providing English lessons on **Friday Mornings for 10 weeks** beginning **Friday, May 6th**. Lessons will be at their apartment complex from **10am-noon every week**.

We need more support to make this a successful time for these men. Are you free on Friday mornings and have the ability to come and converse with these men? Even if you can't make every Friday work, maybe you can assist every other week. I would love to have one tutor for each student if possible.

The best way to take the next step is to respond to this email and let me know of your interest. acheney@arriveministries.org

Thank you all for loving the refugees and immigrants among us.

Adam Cheney
Rochester Area Coordinator, Arrive Ministries

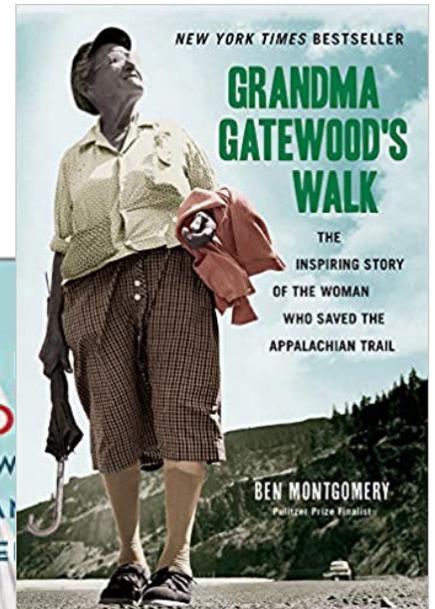
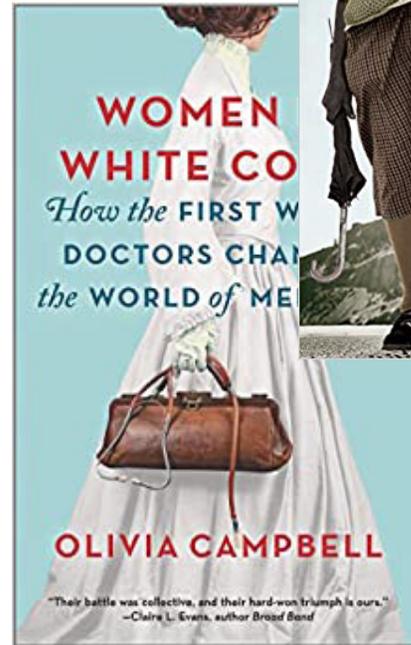
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

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The Book Discussion Group will meet Sunday, May 22 after worship. The group will discuss both *Grandma Gatewood's Walk* by Ben Montgomery and *Women in White Coats* by Olivia Campbell. Each book is interesting to read and will be fun to discuss! All are welcome to join in!

Be thinking about what books you would like to discuss in the future!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



• Working for Justice and Peace • PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN 2022 CALENDAR

MAY

- 1 May Day; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Workers%27_Day
- 3 National Teacher Day; nea.org/
- 3-9 Children's Book Week; everychildareader.net/cbw/
- 3-9 PW Together in Action Days for Children's Literacy; presbyterianwomen.org/justice
- 5 National Day of Prayer; nationaldayofprayer.org/
- 8 Mother's Day; presbyterianmission.org/story/a-prayer-for-mothers-day/
- 9 J&P Book Discussion Group online, 6:30-8:30 PM (Eastern) on Trust Women: A Progressive Christian Argument for Reproductive Justice by Rebecca Todd Peters (Beacon Press Books, 2018). Register at presbyterianwomen.org/justice
- 14 World Fair Trade Day; wfto.com
- 14 Stamp Out Hunger drive; about.usps.com/corporate-social-responsibility/nalc-food-drive.htm
- 15 Intercultural Church Sunday; pcusa.org/resource/intercultural-ministries-19226/
- 22 International Day for Biological Diversity; cbd.int/idb
- 29 Mission Worker Sunday; presbyterianmission.org/story/may-26-2019/
- 30 Memorial Day

Community Presbyterian's Calendar

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Pastor Jan Out of the Office 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion	2 Pastor Jan Out of the Office	3 Office Closed - Stephanie Vacation Pastor Jan Out of the Office 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:00pm Brain Injury Support Group 6:30pm Christian Education Committee meeting (virtual)	4 Office Closed - Stephanie Vacation Pastor Jan Out of the Office 6:30am NO Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	5 Office Closed - Stephanie Vacation Pastor Jan Out of the Office	6 Office Closed - Stephanie Vacation Pastor Jan Out of the Office	7 Office Closed - Stephanie Vacation Pastor Jan Out of the Office
8 Office Closed - Stephanie Vacation Pastor Jan Out of the Office 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship	9 Office Closed - Stephanie Vacation Pastor Jan Out of the Office	10 Office Closed - Stephanie Vacation Pastor Jan Out of the Office 12:00pm Bulletin info due 5:30pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting 6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting	11 Office Closed - Stephanie Vacation Pastor Jan Out of the Office 6:30am NO Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	12 Office Closed - Stephanie Vacation Pastor Jan Out of the Office	13 Office Closed - Stephanie Vacation Pastor Jan Out of the Office	14 Office Closed - Stephanie Vacation
15 Office Closed - Stephanie Vacation 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 12:30pm Spring Fling	16 6:30pm Worship and Music Committee (Virtual)	17 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due	18 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	19	20 12:00pm Newsletter articles due	21
22 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:30am Book Discussion Group	23	24 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Session Meeting	25 6:30am Prayer Group	26 Last Day of School for Children's Place	27	28
29 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 11:30am Building Usage: John Merideth Memorial	30 Memorial Day	31 First day of Summer School - Children's Place 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due	1 6:30am Prayer Group	2	3	4

Community Presbyterian Church
3705 Fairway Place NW
Rochester, MN 55901



Saturday, July 16, 1-3
Christian Education
and Mission are
planning Ice Cream
Social with some of
our local mission
partners: Lifegate
Services, The Village
Community Gardens,
and Gage East.
Watch for details.

**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#
No Conference Calls May 5 and May 10**