

Community Press

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROCHESTER, MN



THANK YOU, GOD FOR CONNECTING US.

Thank you for neighbors, each with needs and gifts to share, and for our church, the Whole Church, together, and for Jesus Christ, Amen.

Peace and Global Witness Offering will be collected on October 2nd. To read more about the local recipient, turn to page 7!



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

9/4-
10/2
2022

Date Change!!!

October 9: Climate Change Forum to wrap up fall series on Peace and Care of Creation



**The Climate
Reality Project**

Presenter Kate Remmes bases her challenging and hopeful presentation on work she has done with Al Gore's Climate Reality Project (<https://www.climaterealityproject.org/>). She will be here via internet following worship on Sunday, October 16, for an hour-long forum, highlighting up-to-date information on climate change and offering positive opportunities for response. Kate has a Master's degree in geology and has worked at Argonne National Laboratory and at Indiana Geological Survey. She has also taught at Indiana University and RCTC. Please invite your friends to join in via the worship link!

Guest worship speaker, October 30: Melece Cheal Orme

Melece is a lifelong member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and an active member of the Rochester 4th Ward in the Rochester, Minnesota Stake, where she now serves as 2nd Counselor in the Young Women Presidency. Born and raised in Cache Valley in the Rocky Mountains, she attended Brigham Young University and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music. She is also the mother of four children (the youngest attends Children's Place Nursery School), and a dedicated writer, currently working on a fantasy novel for young adults.



OCTOBER 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

Boundaries, borders, and other imaginary lines

I heard of a ceramic sculpture artist, Karla Garcia, whose exhibit of clay cacti appears in the US and Mexico, both. Simultaneously. She calls it “la linea imaginaria,” the imaginary line. The soil, she points out, is the same on both sides of the border; the plants are the same, the root systems identical. She transcends this line to imagine a future without borders, when people work together as equals. (<https://www.karlamicHELLgarcia.com/>)

She got me thinking about boundaries and borders: are they good, bad, helpful, harmful, indifferent? What do you think?

My heart aches for women (and men) whose personal boundaries have been violated by others more powerful than they, who have been humiliated and harmed by these transgressions. I pray deeply over the situation in Europe, where one nation's borders have been overrun by another; how much death and destruction have followed!

Ms. Garcia envisions a peaceable border, where walls separating people are not erected intentionally to keep one group and their problems on one side, and another group and their power on the other. I think of the enormous wall that separates Palestinians from necessary medical care and other resources in Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus. In 2004, “*the International Court of Justice said the barrier...violates international law because it infringes on the rights of Palestinians.*” The wall still stands. <http://www.openbethlehem.org/the-wall>

Oceans, mountains, and rivers form natural boundaries, and can provide natural protection. Human-made laws are devised, often by trial and error, to protect people from those who would harm them, to ensure their autonomy over their own bodies. But things can change.

The organization Doctors without Borders deploys health care professionals in 70 countries around the world, “providing medical assistance to people affected by conflict, epidemics, disasters, or exclusion from healthcare.... Our actions are guided by medical ethics and the principles of impartiality, independence and neutrality” (<https://www.msf.org/>). Jesus' healing ministry, too, extended beyond the bounds of his homeland, and transgressed the Sabbath laws so carefully guarded by some officials.

Some of the most significant boundaries are those imaginary lines we have almost unconsciously drawn between ourselves and other human beings. We have rendered so many people all but invisible, their voices inaudible, even when we are partly responsible for their suffering. But they need our friendship and our cooperation, and we need theirs, too! There's a reason Peace and Global Witness are linked in our appeal this month.

So, maybe you agree with me that borders and boundaries, like so many products of human imagination, can be used for either harm or for healing. Let us, for the sake of our children, our planet, our future, our own well-being, use them for healing.

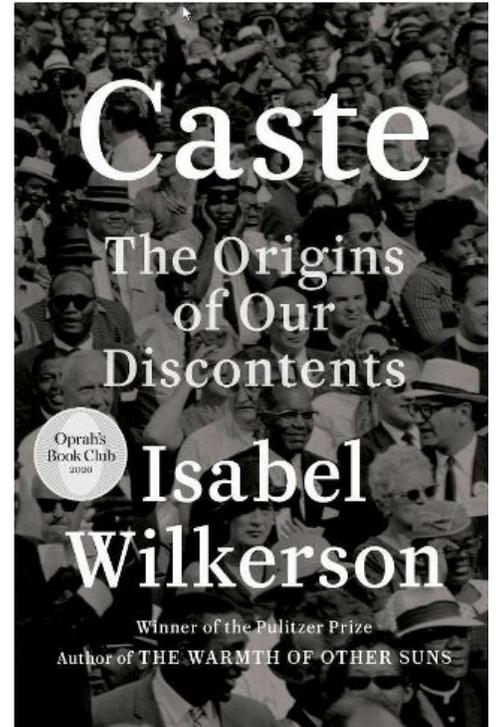


BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



October 23, 2022
10:45 am (following worship)
Caste by Isabel Wilkerson

Caste, by American journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner Isabel Wilkerson, is a book that exposes the struggles the United States has experienced due to the preservation of the constraints and legacy of slavery that still leaves its mark on our modern society.



AROUND CPC

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Birthdays, Anniversaries and the change of address are in the print edition of the newsletter... pick up a paper copy at church!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

New address!
Margaret Petersen



NOTE!
ADDRESS CHANGE

Blue Sky Conversations 2.0

An enthusiastic group of members and friends of CPC gathered on September 18 to begin envisioning our next ventures into the Blue Skies of tomorrow here in Rochester.

Our previous conversations blossomed in a new, vital relationship with Gage East, which provides permanent supportive housing for previously unhoused people. We have also enhanced relationships with other ministry partners like LifeGate Services (culturally relevant foods for immigrants and a free clinic) and our Village community gardeners. The Ice Cream Social in July brought all three together, making connections.



These relationships confirm our identity as Christians who are deeply committed to our faith and values, and willing to carry our convictions into the community where they can be seen and felt. Our hope is to engage others who share these values and offer them, too, the chance to unite with us in both work and worship.

Sharing our space with the Spanish-speaking congregation Labranza de Dios is one more path to community collaboration. Other outreach ideas projected in last summer's strategic plan may yet be put into action. <http://www.cpcrochester.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-CPC-Strategic-GoalsV3.pdf>

In Mark Neville's words, "We have great opportunities to work with existing partnerships and new ones to come. We also have great gifts, and we ourselves CAN BE great gifts!

Remember that gifts are measured by how they benefit the lives of others. For example:

It isn't the Mission dollars you donate, it's the food and shelter they provide

It's not the new college facility that's the gift, it's the learning that happens inside

A building alone is lifeless; but what takes place inside it can:

Protect those who share it

Provide for their growth

Permit them to reach beyond their walls and do God's work in the world."

Two current opportunities:

- Volunteers for a Gage East Halloween party that promises a lot of seasonal fun. Contact Mark Neville if you are interested in helping – maneville1950@gmail.com
- Thanks to the tithe of 10% of Margaret Nelson's bequest, we have the gift of monetary resources to bestow *outside our walls, on people who need to know that someone cares*. If you are interested in helping determine where funds go, contact Pastor Jan – pastor@cpcrochester.org.

And come to the next Blue Sky conversation after the worship service on **October 2**.

PICTURES AT CPC



*Outdoor Worship in September...
with special guests, Brass, Etc.!*

All ages enjoyed the day!

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

"I was thinking about how participating in Peace & Global Witness is so needed in our world now.



As a pastor and a Christian, what I really appreciate about the Special Offerings that have the national, international and local component is that they really do make it possible for us, as a single congregation, to participate in this larger work that we would not be able to do on our own. Then we get the nudge to look at what's going on in our local community and how we can be actively engaged and contributing there.

It's a wonderful balance and a new kind of challenge for us every time."

The Rev. Charlotte Lohrenz
Faith Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana



INDY TENPOINT COALITION

Faith Presbyterian Church uses their share of the Peace & Global Witness Offering to support Indy TenPoint, a not for profit organization in their community that works with young people to reduce gun violence, stabilize neighborhoods and build better lives.

Peace

is doing, not waiting.
Peace begins
with each of us.

Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we connect with each other to confront systems of injustice and promote reconciliation in places around the world — and right here at home.

25%

of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.

25%

of this Offering goes to our mid council to join with other congregation gifts to support peacemaking work in our region.

50%

of this Offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.



Please give what you can.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.

Thank you!



Community Presbyterian Church will donate 25% of the Peace and Global Witness offering to the Southeastern Minnesota Interfaith Immigrant Legal Defense (SMIILD). SMIILD is a non-profit organization whose members are communities of faith concerned with addressing the needs of immigrant communities in our area and providing legal defense for those wrongfully detained or in danger of deportation. They depend on donations to do this good work. More information about that organization can be found on their website, <https://www.smiild.org/>.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY



The Village Farmers Market at the History Center

Join us for our remaining fall markets at the History Center, every Tuesday evening from 4 - 7 pm through October 11. This market features emerging farmers from our network as well as other vendors you may know from existing markets. You will find the ordinary and extraordinary at our markets!

Please come by and check us out. We encourage gentle parking on the lawn or parking in the front parking lot and taking a stroll across the lawn. Feel free to check out the gardens and buildings too. We will be growing through the season and coming years and greatly appreciate your support!

The Village Agricultural Collaborate & Learning Community is a place where global cultures gather to grow culturally relevant food, increase food security, increase access to local foods, and boost our food systems and markets.

The Village Agricultural Collaborative is who coordinates the community garden space at CPC!



FAIR TRADE MARKET

OCTOBER 2022

7th | 4pm-7pm

8th | 8am-4pm

9th | 10am-1pm

Over 20 fair and ethical trade vendors under one roof selling food, chocolate, home décor, and so much more

Hosted by: Our Savior's Lutheran Church

2124 Viola Rd NE

Rochester, MN 55906



JOIN US for shopping, education, and food samples. Come early for the best selections! By choosing Fair Trade products, you are making a difference for farmers, artisans, and their communities worldwide.

Bring your own bag and fill it up.

WE ACCEPT



 Find us on Facebook

OSLCFairTrade

www.rochesterosl.org | 507-289-3021

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Presbyterian Women
Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community

• **Working for Justice and Peace** •

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN *2022* CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- **Domestic Violence Awareness Month;** ncadv.org/take-action; nomore.org/
- **Fair Trade Month;** fairtradefederation.org/celebrate-fair-trade-month/
- 2 **World Communion Sunday;**
presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/world-communion-sunday
- 9 **Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday;** presbyterianwomen.org/justice;
presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa/
- 11 **International Day of the Girl Child;** unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/girl-child
- 11 **National Coming Out Day;** hrc.org/resources/national-coming-out-day
- 11 **National Indigenous Peoples' Day;** en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_People's_Day
- 16 **World Food Day;** fao.org/world-food-day/home/en
- 16 **Children's Sabbath: Educate a Child, Transform the World;**
pcusa.org/news/2015/8/14/educate-child-transform-world/
- 24 **United Nations Day;** un.org/en/observances/un-day

AN ANIMAL BLESSING

A prayer of blessing for the animals

In early October, many Christians celebrate the Feast of St. Francis by gathering for a blessing of the animals. In former times, for agricultural communities this would include the work horses and other livestock that supplied so many needs. Today, the brief service is mostly for pet owners: “no pet too large, too small, too hairy, or too scaly,” as one church used to say.

If you like this idea, here is a prayer of blessing you may use. If you pray it with your own companion animals, hold your right hand over their head and call them by name, using their preferred pronoun.

*Blessed are you, Beloved God, maker of all living creatures.
You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land.
You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters.
We ask you to bless them [or use proper name] now.*

*By the power of your love, enable them to live according to your plan.
May our relationship with them mirror your love,
and our care be an example of your bountiful mercy.
Grant to all animals, wild or tame, health and peace,
and when the time comes for them to leave this life,
may it be with dignity and without suffering.
May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation.
Blessed are you, Beloved God, in all your creatures! Amen.*

Community Presbyterian's Calendar

October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:45am Book Discussion Group 2:30pm Labranza de Dios 7:00pm CPC Presents... a movie!	26	27 10:00am PW Bible Study 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Session Meeting (v)	28 6:30am Prayer Group	29 5:30pm Labranza de Dios	30	1
2 Peace and Global Witness Offering 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion 10:30am Blue Sky Conversation 2:30pm Labranza de Dios	3 1:00pm Mission Prayer Group (v) 6:00pm Med City Tai Chi	4 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:00pm Brain Injury Support Group 6:30pm Christian Education Committee meeting	5 6:30am Prayer Group	6 5:30pm Labranza de Dios	7	8
9 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:30am Climate Change Forum 2:30pm Labranza de Dios	10 6:00pm Med City Tai Chi	11 10:00am PW Bible Study 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting	12 6:30am Prayer Group	13 5:30pm Labranza de Dios	14	15
16 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 2:30pm Labranza de Dios	17 1:00pm Mission Prayer Group (v) 6:00pm Med City Tai Chi	18 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 5:30pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting	19 6:30am Prayer Group	20 MEA (no school) 12:00pm Newsletter articles due 5:30pm Labranza de Dios	21 MEA (no school)	22
23 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:45am Book Discussion Group 2:30pm Labranza de Dios	24 6:00pm Med City Tai Chi	25 10:00am PW Bible Study 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Session Meeting (v)	26 6:30am Prayer Group	27 5:30pm Labranza de Dios	28	29
30 Guest Speaker: Melece Cheal Orme 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 2:30pm Labranza de Dios	31 1:00pm Mission Prayer Group (v) 6:00pm Med City Tai Chi	1 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Christian Education Committee meeting	2 6:30am Prayer Group	3 5:30pm Labranza de Dios	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#**

**Contact CPC: 507-280-9291
Church office: office@cpcrochester.org**