

# Community Press

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROCHESTER, MN



## In this Issue

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Around the Presbytery  | 7  |
| Blue Sky Conversations | 5  |
| Calendar               | 11 |
| Celebrations           | 5  |
| Christian Education    | 8  |
| Church Leadership      | 2  |
| From the Pastor's Desk | 3  |
| Mission                | 9  |
| Season of Peace        | 6  |
| Peace & Global Witness | 7  |
| Presbyterian Women     | 10 |
| Worship and Music      | 4  |

A large mosaic graphic on the right side of the page depicts a dove with its wings spread, holding an olive branch. The dove is composed of small, colorful tiles in shades of purple, blue, green, and yellow. The olive branch is also made of mosaic tiles.

**PEACE**  
BEGINS  
WITH EACH  
OF US.

A circular logo for World Communion Sunday, featuring a globe and the text "WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY" and "OCTOBER 2, 2022".

**PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION  
SEPTEMBER 5-OCTOBER 3, 2022

***Back to Church in September! Don't miss out!***

***PW Bible Study begins September 13***

***Outdoor worship on Sunday, September 18***

***Bring your lawn chair!***

***Brass, Etc!***

***Blue Sky Conversation after worship***

***Book Discussion Group on Sunday, September 25***

***CPC Presents... a Movie! on September 25***

SEPTEMBER 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<br>Sue Chipman                 | Building and Grounds<br>Christian Education            |
| <u>Class of 2023</u> | Ivy Pillers<br>Kim Nickander                | Worship and Music<br>Finance and Stewardship           |
| <u>Class of 2024</u> | Amanda Ross<br>Sherrie Wilson               | Personnel and Nominating<br>Mission                    |
| <u>Officers:</u>     | Mary Meyer<br>Mark Pillers<br>Joanne Powell | Clerk (Non-voting)<br>Financial Secretary<br>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

Why be Christian? Why stay in church? Or, if you've already left, why come back?

A couple of decades ago, friends of mine started a new kind of church. That is to say, an old, old kind of church, where rules were few, clothes were relaxed, and songs were catchy. Where pastors sounded less like college professors and more like Jesus, bringing a grin to the faces of worn-out parents and distracted teenagers, making them feel like hanging out on Sundays might actually be a good idea. It wasn't "church light;" it was "church real." Real church for real people.



Their invitational pitch was, "You should come. It's not that bad." That always made me laugh.

But it was true. Their honesty appealed to all sorts of people who had given up on church. People did come, and kept coming. Families. Singles. Hipsters and artists. Dropouts and activists. Rising young professionals. Retired academics. A few street dwellers.

What's different about this congregation? Not much, maybe. They have Sunday School and scripture and sermons; they pray for the world and each other, and provide home-cooked meals for people in a crunch. What they do best of all is just show up: show up with their guard down, show up needing God and grace. Show up feeling gratitude for the little gifts we often forget to look for: a glimpse of heaven on a child's face, a pause to let go of stress. A genuine compliment or a tiny favor that means the world to someone else.

I think they remain successful because they recognize that real faith isn't cozily insulated at the heart of the mainstream but on the knife edge of its forward movement. Ahead of the crowd on inclusivity, diversity; on race, class, and gender repair, and other seismic shifts in the world - like finding God in silent listening *as well as* in marching for peace with justice.

The world has changed since my small-town childhood, where naming your church affiliation slotted you firmly into your designated role in society. Confessing to "*none*" put you right on the path to perdition. The answer to "Why church?" might have been, "Because you're strange if you don't." Now, it would seem to be, you're strange if you do. Now there are other options for Sunday mornings: my team, my troupe, my club, my meeting, my cabin, the family time, my down time.

The answer to "Why church?" that makes most sense to me is this: far from separating us from other precious and life-giving activities, our God-connection shines a generous light on all of them and illuminates their sacred qualities. Real church helps us savor our real lives while nudging us beyond them to a wider, deeper dimension where our deep joy meets the world's deep need, doing together we can do what we can't do alone. We can hang out where Jesus is still hanging out, on the cutting edge, with the damaged and the doubters and the lost ones.

We are the church. We are the world. We belong to God. We belong to each other. You should come. It's not that bad.

## **Peace and Care of Creation: In our work and in our worship**

Peace on earth and care for creation go hand in hand. The environmental impacts of global warming disproportionately affect the people who contributed least to its causes. Droughts, fires, and floods destroy productive land, driving individuals to overtaxed urban areas or to seek haven in other lands even as nations vie for resources.

Beginning with the World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation on September 1, through mid-October, we'll blend ideas of peace and environmental stewardship. We'll draw from the PC(USA) emphasis on Peace (pp. 6-7) and from the international "Season of Creation."

The burning bush is the symbol for the Season of Creation in 2022. Today, the prevalence of unnatural fires are a sign of the devastating effects that climate change has on the most vulnerable of our planet. Creation cries out as forests crackle, animals flee, and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of injustice that we have caused. On the contrary, the fire that called to Moses as he tended the flock on Mt. Horeb did not consume or destroy the bush. This holy fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered, and promised to be with us as we followed in faith. God's Spirit calls us to listen to the voice of creation, and faithfully respond through worship, repentance and action.

September 4: God's Glorious World: Introduction to our early fall emphasis. Red streamers will be inscribed with prayer concerns and attached to our own "burning bush" near the church.

September 11: Ocean Sunday: We worship with the waters of Earth, created by the Wisdom of God. God calls the seas to roar with praise!

September 18: Animal Sunday: We worship with the entire living family on Earth, celebrating birds, mammals, reptiles, and all living creatures.

September 25: Land Restoration: "Makoce Ikikcupi" in the Dakota language. How we can be allies with Native people in our own area who seek to restore the land according to Dakota values?

October 2: Peace and Global Witness: "You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace." Isaiah 5:12.

October 9: Storm Sunday: We sing with the winds, the clouds, and the thunder. Through changes in nature along with the autumn equinox, God's presence is revealed in power.

October 18: Universe Sunday: We worship with the entire universe, conscious that it is a vast, sacred space. We focus on God's presence permeating the whole expanse, yet connected with each of us on earth.



## Blue Sky conversations are back!

### September 18 after worship (onsite and online)

In the spring of 2021, when we still dreamed of a life-after-covid, we opened a conversation where the sky would literally be the limit: what will we take on when we can move freely through the world again? The end of covid would not catch us unprepared; plans would be in place.

Now that the world has reinvented itself to include covid-without-end, we look back on those days with gratitude. We didn't have to wait; our connections blossomed with Gage East, with LifeGate Services. In the midst of the lockdown, we broke out. And those conversations left a hefty handful of good ideas waiting to be picked up.

One amazing true thing we learned was that if you ask for a direction, God provides one, or even many! All it took was putting our heads together (figuratively, on Google Meet) and listening to each other. Gage East came straight from the mind and mouth of Margaret Nelson.

Now we have the luxury of expanding our dreams. On September 18, we all may come with good ideas of how to spend our "tithe" portion of Margaret's bequest, but it's through sparking off one another that the ideas really begin to soar.

In October, Session will appoint an ad hoc committee for the fascinating task of allocating funds. Committee members will probably emerge from Blue Sky conversations and the Mission Prayer Group. Choose your preferred vehicle, or take a ride in both! We have great work ahead.



# CELEBRATIONS

## BIRTHDAY WISHES



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

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

# PCUSA - THE SEASON OF PEACE

## About the 2022 Season of Peace

**September 4 – October 2, 2022**

Welcome to the 2022 Season of Peace. This four-week pilgrimage is designed to deepen the pursuit of peace for congregations, small groups, families, and individuals.



Participants are invited to define and deepen their calling as peacemakers. This season is a time of encouragement, challenge, inspiration.

This year's theme is drawn from the book of Isaiah: *You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace* (55:12). It is hoped that one will go out with joy and be led forth in peace in all their peacemaking and global witness.

### *Path of Peace Daily Reflections*

This new set of daily devotions accompanies the 2022 A Season of Peace.

Week 1 September 4-10: Climate Change

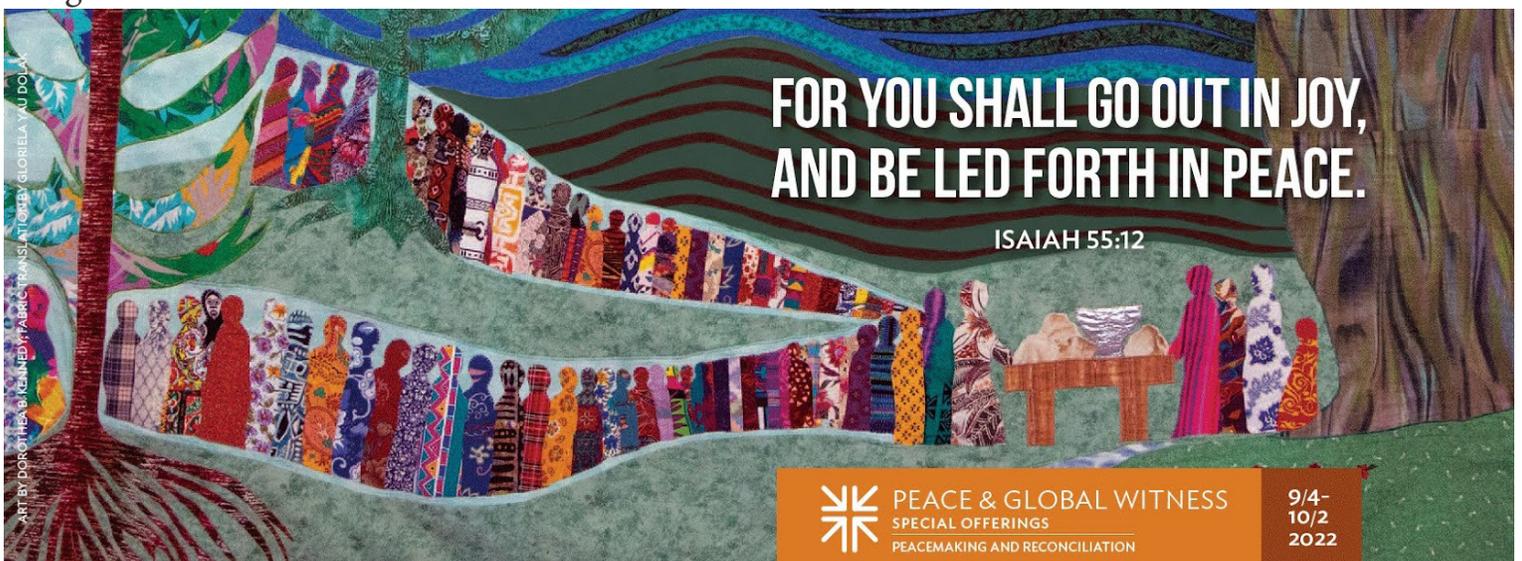
Week 2 September 11-17: Non-Violence

Week 3 September 18-24: The Intersection Between Race and Poverty

Week 4 September 24-October 2: Immigration and Migration

A person has the option of subscribing to these reflections for daily delivery into their inbox or [downloading](https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/2022-path-of-peace-reflections/) (<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/2022-path-of-peace-reflections/>) and printing the written portion of the reflections as a devotional resource. Many thanks to Anne Russ for serving as editor of the 2022 Path of Peace Reflections and to the outstanding team of contributors she assembled.

[Subscribe](https://pcusa.activehosted.com/f/178) (<https://pcusa.activehosted.com/f/178>) to daily reflections that will be delivered directly to your inbox September 4 – October 2. “We hope that you will be encouraged, inspired and challenged during this season of peace to continue and expand your work for peace in a world that needs all it can get.”



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

9/4-  
10/2  
2022

# PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

**Peace and Global Witness Offering** will be collected on Sunday, October 2nd. Watch the eblast and the October Newsletter for more information about this offering, including the designation of where CPC's portion (25% of the offering) goes locally!



## AROUND THE PRESBYTERY



Please join us in welcoming Rev. Elizabeth "Libby" Shannon as the PTCA Transitional Executive Presbyter!

The Presbytery Leadership Team is pleased to announce that we have unanimously accepted the search committee's nomination for the position of Transitional Executive Presbyter, and welcome the Rev. Elizabeth "Libby" Shannon to the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. Libby will be starting virtually on August 22nd and will be in the office no later than October 3rd, 2022. I encourage you to read the letters from the committee and from Libby to get to know her better.

We would like to give thanks to the incredible search committee who worked as quickly and efficiently as possible. The members accepted the invitation to maneuver through the system and did so decently and totally in order. They represented the Presbytery well and were willing to spend their time for the best outcome for us all. Now, please read on and help us welcome Libby to the Presbytery!

In Peace,

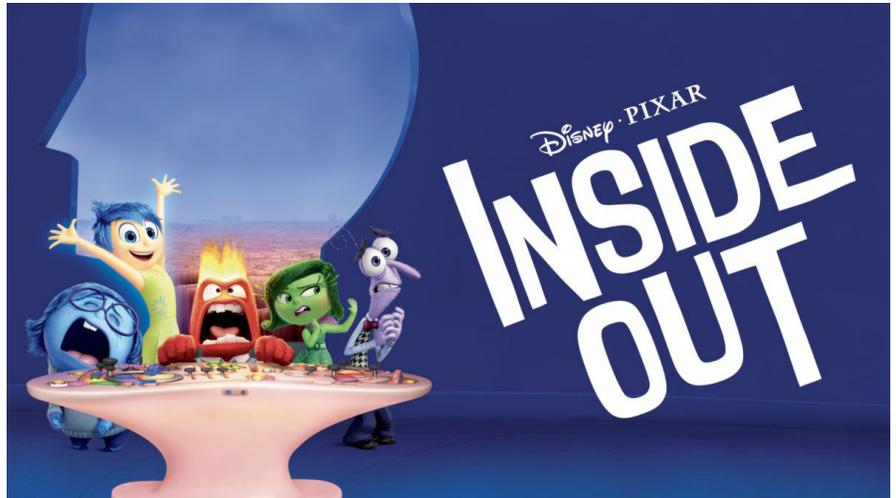
Jean Emmons, PLT Chair

To read the announcement and letters go to: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Transitional-Executive-Presbyter.html?soid=1102010843761&aid=L6Ej2A-8ihk>

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## CPC presents... a Movie!

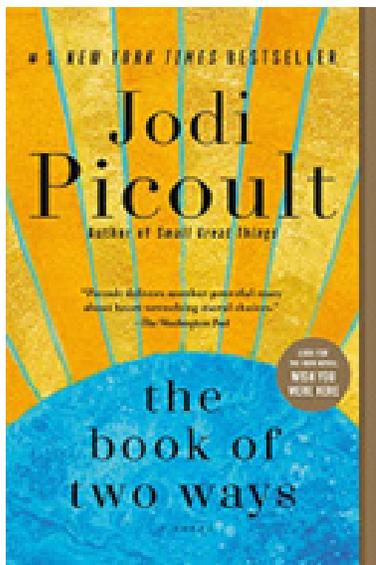
On Sunday evening, September 25, Christian Education will host an outdoor, back-to-school movie event, screening the highly acclaimed Disney film, *Inside Out*, which explores the complex emotions of Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust and Sadness in ways that young children can understand, but that we all experience.



We'll gather at 7:00 to grab some popcorn, and settle in on the west lawn as dusk falls. The movie is 90 minutes long.

Bring lawn chairs, blankets, drinks and friends. Popcorn will be provided free of charge!

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The book discussion group will meet on September 25, following worship (onsite and online). The group will discuss Jodi Picoult's book, *The Book of Two Ways*. Copies are available at the Rochester Public Library.

Dawn Edelstein's life instantly changes when the plane she's on crashes. Before impact, she thinks not of her husband but of a man she last saw fifteen years ago: Wyatt Armstrong. Dawn, miraculously, survives the crash. She could return to Boston, back to her husband, their beloved daughter, and her work as a death doula. Or she could go to Egypt to find Wyatt, who works as an archaeologist, a career Dawn once studied for but abandoned. She could potentially complete her research on *The Book of Two Ways*--the first known map of the afterlife. As the story unfolds, Dawn's two possible futures unspool side by side, as do the secrets and doubts long buried with them.

It will be an interesting book and an even more interesting discussion! All are welcome to join in!

## Mission Prayer Group

All are welcome to join this group, to pray in support of one another, our congregation, our world, and to ask God's guidance on the use of Margaret's bequest.

Participants are asked to bring a concern that's been weighing on them, and with the concern, a scripture text, quote, or story that has helped them face concerns in the past. We'll put our concerns together and go from there.

The group will meet in hybrid fashion, onsite and online (use Sunday worship link) throughout this fall, mostly on Mondays at 1 pm, every other week. Dates going forward will be Tuesday, September 6 (shifting from the 5th, Labor Day)

September 19

October 3

October 17

October 31

November 14

November 28

All are welcome!



## How one Matthew 25 church used a member's bequest

First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater, Oklahoma, let their youth lead the way in putting windfall funds to work in the community. What they called "the 'Pay It Forward' challenge" was made possible by a \$5,000 bequest from a church member. Thirty-one children and youth each received \$150 and were asked to "make a difference in the world." Conversations "about where they see need in the world" led to empowering the youth to make a difference.

Encouraged to "grow their gifts and multiply their impact," the 31 children brought in an additional \$8,500. Twenty-three organizations or projects received funds. According to youth leader Jenna Campbell, "You might be one person, but you can make a difference. Your gifts and your passions can make a difference in this world."

Read the full article online here: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/this-pcusa-church-in-stillwater-runs-deep/>



# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



**Presbyterian Women**

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

• **Working for Justice and Peace** •

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN *2022* CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER

- **Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women;** [presbyterianwomen.org/thank](https://presbyterianwomen.org/thank)
- 1 **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation;**  
[creationjustice.org/world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-of-creation.html](https://creationjustice.org/world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-of-creation.html)
- 5 **Season of Peace begins;** [presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/season-peace/](https://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/season-peace/)
- 5 **Labor Day;** [iwj.org/resources/plan-labor-day-service](https://iwj.org/resources/plan-labor-day-service)
- 8 **International Literacy Day;** [en.unesco.org/commemorations/literacyday](https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/literacyday)
- 12 **J&P Book Discussion Group online, 6:30–8:30 PM (Eastern) on Poverty in America: A Handbook (3rd ed) by John Iceland (University of California Press, 2013). Register at** [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](https://presbyterianwomen.org/justice)
- 18 **Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence begins**
- 21 **International Day of Peace;**  
[presbyterian.typepad.com/peacemaking/2010/08/celebrate-the-international-day-of-peace.html](https://presbyterian.typepad.com/peacemaking/2010/08/celebrate-the-international-day-of-peace.html)
- 23 **Native American Day;** [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native\\_American\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_American_Day)



*The 2022 PW Bible Study, “Celebrating Sabbath” begins on Tuesday, September 13th at 10 am, onsite or online. Talk to Pastor Jan for more info!*



# Community Presbyterian's Calendar

September 2022

| Sunday  | Monday                                | Tuesday  | Wednesday                 | Thursday                      | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|----------|
| 28<br>9:30am Online and Onsite Worship  | 29                                    | 30<br>12:00pm Online Conference Call<br>12:00pm Bulletin info due  | 31<br>6:30am Prayer Group | 1                             | 2      | 3        |
| 4<br>9:30am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion<br>2:30pm LaBranza de Dios   | 5<br>Labor Day - Office Closed        | 6<br>12:00pm Online Conference Call<br>12:00pm Bulletin info due<br>1:00pm Mission Prayer Group (v)<br>5:15pm Christian Education Committee meeting<br>6:00pm Brain Injury Support Group | 7<br>6:30am Prayer Group  | 8<br>5:30pm LaBranza de Dios  | 9      | 10       |
| 11<br>9:30am Online and Onsite Worship<br>10:30am Blue Sky Conversation<br>2:30pm LaBranza de Dios                                    | 12                                    | 13<br>10:00am PW Bible Study<br>12:00pm Online Conference Call<br>12:00pm Bulletin info due<br>6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting   | 14<br>6:30am Prayer Group | 15<br>5:30pm LaBranza de Dios | 16     | 17       |
| 18<br>9:30am Online (Outdoor) and Onsite Worship<br>2:30pm LaBranza de Dios   | 19<br>1:00pm Mission Prayer Group (v) | 20<br>12:00pm Newsletter articles due<br>12:00pm Online Conference Call<br>12:00pm Bulletin info due<br>5:30pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting<br>6:30pm Worship and Music Committee       | 21<br>6:30am Prayer Group | 22<br>5:30pm LaBranza de Dios | 23     | 24       |
| 25<br>9:30am Online and Onsite Worship<br>10:30am Book Discussion Group<br>2:30pm LaBranza de Dios<br>7:00pm CPC Presents... a movie! | 26                                    | 27<br>10:00am PW Bible Study<br>12:00pm Online Conference Call<br>12:00pm Bulletin info due<br>6:30pm Session Meeting  | 28<br>6:30am Prayer Group | 29<br>5:30pm LaBranza de Dios | 30     | 1        |

*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#**

**Contact CPC: 507-280-9291  
Church office: [office@cpcrochester.org](mailto:office@cpcrochester.org)**