

Community Press

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROCHESTER, MN



All Saints Sunday

Lighting candles for remembrance

On Sunday November 6th, we remember those dear to us who guided us in faith and preceded us in death, as well as any other who have passed from this life. For example, we may also remember COVID victims or others who perished in natural disasters. The entire service, including communion, will reflect our deep gratitude for God's promise of the resurrection and the eternal life that is ours in Christ.

Worshippers are invited to share the names of loved ones who have died with the office by Tuesday, November 1 at noon, to be printed in the bulletin. Also, all who wish to do so may bring a memorial candle to be placed on a central table and lit from the Christ candle prior to the service. During Joys and Concerns, we will have a chance to share the names of those specially remembered in this way.



Stewardship Sunday, November 13

We express our thanks by pledging our financial commitment to the work of Community Presbyterian in the year to come. For more information, check out the article on page 8.

Armistice Day: Ringing bells for peace

Following worship on November 13, a bell will be rung 11 times as we confirm our commitment to honor veterans.



PW Thank Offering Sunday November 20th

Amanda Nigon-Crowley, Director of the Village Agricultural Cooperative will be the speaker of the day. For more information go to pages 6 and 7.



FROM
GENERATION
TO GENERATION...

Sunday, November 27th is the first Sunday of Advent. We begin the theme *From Generation to Generation*. An Advent devotional and an advent calendar will be available.

Greening of the church will happen after worship on the 27th. Plan to stay and participate!

NOVEMBER 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

Welcome to November! Welcome to the season of gratitude!

The year's end moves closer; our life's end moves closer, too. Most of us tend to forget this; but can't that truth also make each passing day more vibrant, more significant? I remember a line from a Bob Dylan song from my long-ago youth (yes, I still remember that far back!):

“He not busy being born is busy dying.”

Pardon the masculine language; that alone reminds me of how long it's been. But the truth that struck me then still encourages me. No matter the ratio of days behind us versus days still to come, we can live with hope, with zest, with joy and humor, with tenderness, and with appreciation for each day. Baptism reminds us that we are reborn daily in God's good world, clean and scrubbed and fitted up for whatever challenge we will face. Being born, not dying.

A spiritual director gives her directees this ritual for bringing vitality to daily life:

Take one step forward saying, “I step into this day.”

Take another step, saying, “I step into my life.”

And a third step: “I step into the mystery.”

Yes, today is a mystery all its own, just being born.

I also remember the prayer I learned in the African American community: “I thank God that I woke up today fully clothed in my right mind!” What better garment is there?

I think of the Ukrainian people, and their courage and determination in this brutal extended violation of their sovereignty. The horror and the violence shake us all to our bones, as they should. The situation begs me to consider, what would I do? Would I, too, stubbornly do whatever it takes to birth peace with justice?

Whatever each day brings, whatever surprises confound us, compassion and gratitude are never beyond our reach. Neither are stern commitment, deep attachment to our ideals, willingness to sacrifice for the sake of what we hold dear. Yes, we are people of privilege. We are privileged to be able to share what we can't take with us in any case.

Jesus Christ gave his life, not while leading an army into battle, not in a show of dominance, but facing down powers and principalities fueled by hatred, discrimination, and the will to hang onto power by any means. And, at the last, offering forgiveness. Reborn, he is still acting in our world, daily standing with those whose hope is all but quenched. We, too, can stay busy, reborn in him and standing with the least of his people.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

All of this year's books are from the Rochester Public Library, and come to us as Book-Group-in-a-Bag kits.

The first book, *The Book of Two Ways*, by Jodi Picoult was discussed in September. *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson, inspired lively discussion in October.

Each of the upcoming books will be available at church the month before they are scheduled for discussion, and should be returned the day the group meets.

Dates and titles are:

December 4

(one meeting and two fun reads for November/December):

A Christmas Blizzard by Garrison Keillor,
and *A Week in Winter*, by Maeve Binchy

Both are available at church now.

January 29, 2023

(due to the annual meeting being scheduled for January 22)

The Accidental Wife, by C.J. Fosdick

February 26

First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers, by Luong Ung

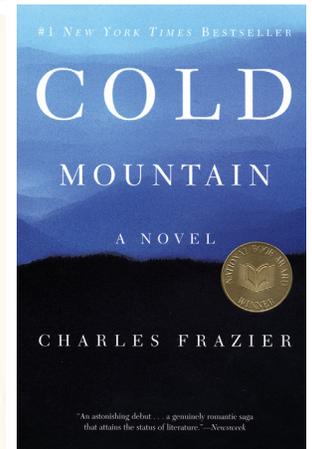
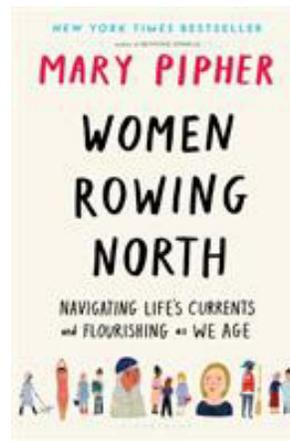
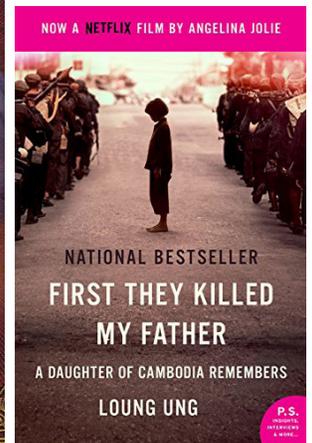
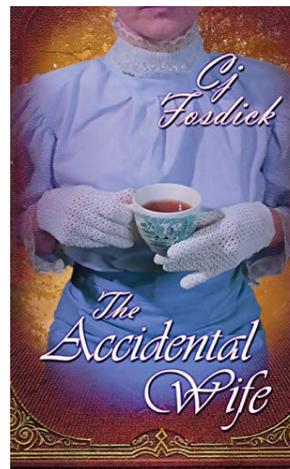
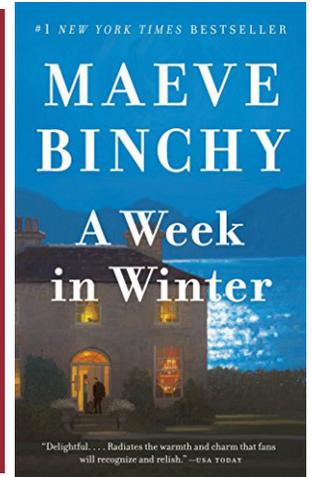
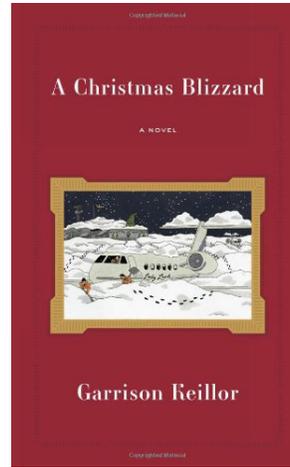
March 26

Women Rowing North, by Mary Pipher

April 23

Cold Mountain, by Charles Frazier.

All are welcome to borrow books and attend, but please be sure to return the books promptly.



AROUND CPC

BIRTHDAY WISHES

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



Stephanie will be out of the office (office closed) on Monday, November 21 and Thursday, November 24.

MISSION

The CPC Mission Committee is sponsoring a holiday drive to provide gifts to 23 young adults at Gage East Apartments.

The committee is asking the congregation to donate money to purchase such items as body wash, shampoo/conditioner, tooth brushes/toothpaste, deodorant, hairbrushes and razors for gift baskets. Such items as bathroom rugs and lamps for apartments also may be purchased.

Money may be dropped off in the church office or put in the offering plate. Please make checks payable to the church and put "Gage East young adults" in the memo line. Please submit donations by Sunday, Dec. 11.

The gift baskets will be wrapped after church on Dec. 11. We're looking for volunteers to help. Refreshments will be served.

The Gage East project will substitute for Adopt-a-Family, a longtime giving program in which CPC has participated. The congregation has worked with Gage East over the past two years and wanted to provide gifts specifically for the young adults.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

COFFEE HOUR ANYONE?

The worship committee is suggesting that CPC restart the coffee hour after Sunday service to encourage everyone to spend some time together. The worship committee want to do this without putting the congregation at risk and so CPC will adopt the following guidelines.

- The individual(s) who host coffee hour will be the only individual(s) serving to minimize handling of items.
- Coffee hour hosts will wear a mask and gloves while serving.
- It is strongly encouraged that items be individually wrapped.
- Disposable cups will be used.

Please consider signing up for a Sunday – in the narthex or by contacting the church office.

COVID-FLU-MASKS

The worship committee has considered and suggests that those who desire/who are comfortable may attend worship without a mask. However, if a person feels better wearing a mask, that is also okay. As always, it is suggested that if a person is not feeling well that they choose to attend virtually. The choir will be singing without masks but will be standing more than 10 feet from the congregation.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

On Sunday, November 20th, PW will celebrate Thank Offering. The speaker for the day will be Amanda Nigon-Crowley, Director of the Village Agricultural Cooperative. The coop is the group that coordinates the gardens at CPC. For more information about the Village Ag Coop, go to: <https://www.rochvillage.org/>.

Amanda was raised on and still works a farm just outside of Rochester, which was purchased in 1897 by Irish and German immigrants. Raising her kids as the 6th generation on the family farm is an honor and a privilege, and a motivator to involve more people in the development and operation of our local food systems.

As a former mental health practitioner, Amanda believes in the intersection of community health and our connection to the land. As a co-founder of the Village, she uses her local agricultural connections and experience as an advocate to connect people who want to grow food to their local communities in a meaningful way, which includes preservation and regeneration of our soil.



• Working for Justice and Peace •

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN 2022 CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

Native American Heritage Month; archives.gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month
also see nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov

6 Caregiver Sunday; presbyterianmission.org/story/november-12-2017/

13 World Kindness Day; randomactsofkindness.org/world-kindness-day

13 Hunger and Homelessness Sunday;
presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/hunger/

14 J&P Book Discussion Group online, 6:30–8:30 PM (Eastern) on *This Land Is Our Land: An Immigrant's Manifesto* by Suketu Mehta (FSG Books, 2019).

Register at presbyterianwomen.org/justice

20 Universal Children's Day; un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day

24 Thanksgiving—
americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving_poster.pdf

25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women;
un.org/en/events/endviolenceday

also see unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action

25–D10 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence;

unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism



Thank Offering

2022

OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



*Always seek to do good to one another and to all.
Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*
– 1 Thessalonians 5:15b-18

Presbyterian women have been heeding the call to give thanks to God and “to do good to one another and to all” (I Th 5:15) since they started organizing as aid societies in the 1700s. Over the following decades, women’s charitable groups formed in cities and churches across the country with the purpose of exercising women’s leadership as well as benefitting those in need. Today PW continues that tradition of generosity and care through giving to the Thank and Birthday Offerings.

The Thank Offering began in 1888 when Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women’s General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America. A century later, the newly formed Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) adopted the Thank Offering as one of the two grant-making programs of the national organization. Since then, close to \$27 million has been granted to more than 1,600 different projects in the United States and around the world from the PW Thank Offering.

It has been nearly 125 years since Eliza asked women to give a “thank offering to her Lord” and support mission initiatives at home and abroad. Today faithful givers are still responding to her inspiring call.

In 2022 the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women reviewed 24 Thank Offering applications and selected 10 projects for funding. Eight of the projects serve people in the United States and two are international. In keeping with the Thank Offering bylaws, more than 40 percent of the selected projects are related to health ministries.



FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP and DONUTS!!

Sunday November 13th is DONUT SUNDAY!! Also known as the annual Stewardship Sunday. This year, you are challenged to see how many "DONUTS" you can add to your 2023 pledge. If a traditional DONUT cannot be added to your pledge, let the traditional Long John DONUT guide you. We know that decisions should not be made on an empty stomach, so come and join us on Stewardship Sunday. In addition to the normal operating pledging, we also have an opportunity for Mission directed pledging available on your pledge card. Our tradition of DONUTS from OTT's Bakery in Byron continues!!

This year's stewardship theme is "Do not be afraid, keep on speaking." CPC members and friends will receive a letter and pledge card soon. Please plan to return the pledge card on Stewardship Sunday, November 13 or that following week. Remember, all budget decisions are based on the pledged amounts... so all pledges are important!

*"Do not be afraid,
keep on speaking."*

Acts 18:9

Image: Dawn at Sunrise Peak, Bryce National Park, Utah,
September 5, 2022. Mark and Ivy Fillers

AROUND THE PRESBYTERY

Overcoming Loneliness Retreat

Pathways to Belonging Retreat:

Overcoming Loneliness in Our Society

Monday, December 5th to Wednesday, December 7th, 2022

Lakeshore Center at Okoboji

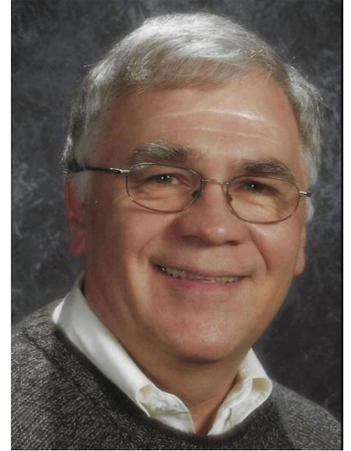
Loneliness is an epidemic. According to a 2018 national survey by Cigna Insurance, almost half of us feel sometimes or always alone (47%), and about the same number feel left out at any given moment. Why would a health insurance company be interested in loneliness? Aside from the mental health implications, the physical consequences for premature death due to loneliness are statistically equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes per day. Loneliness takes both an emotional and physical toll.

At this retreat, Mark Sundby and Mary Kay DuChene will share what they have learned about loneliness for people in general, and also people in ministry. We'll then wonder together what congregations and denominations can do to bring healing and belonging to their corners of the world.

To register or get more information, go to <https://www.lakeshorecenteratokoboji.org/adults.html>

On Sunday, November 13, we will honor veterans by observing Armistice Day, with a moment of silence and the tolling of a bell.

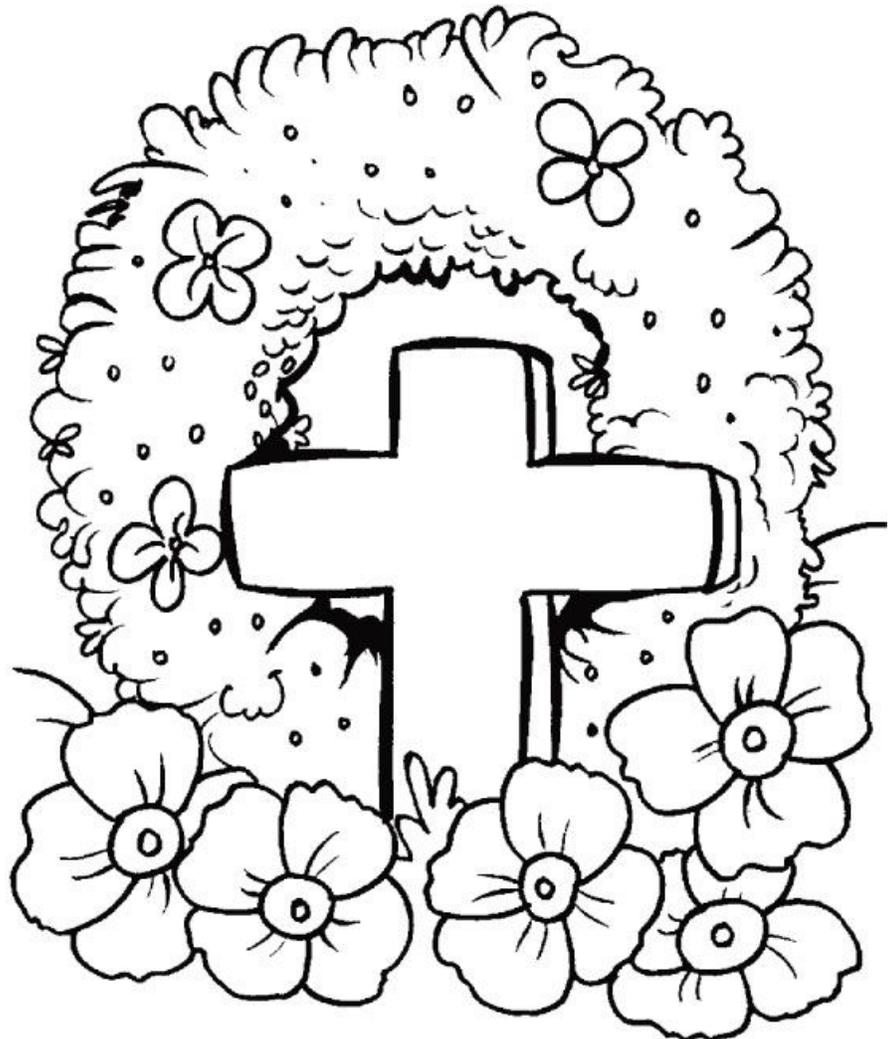
Veterans Day, Nov. 11, originally called Armistice because the horror of World War I, ended officially at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. For many years, bells rang worldwide at that ancient moment of power, coupled with a commitment to honor veterans by ending the suffering of war. Veterans for Peace revived that practice 30 years ago, and in 2018, 100 years from war's end, even groups like the American Legion replaced their traditional 21 gun salute with an 11th hour, 21-bell volley.



Long before Nov. 11 became Armistice Day, it was celebrated as St. Martin's Day, honoring one of those Saints, a fourth-century Roman soldier converted to Christianity. [He proclaimed]: "I am now a soldier for Christ. I can no longer kill." Too many churches fear the implications of this story, but St. Martin did take on the practice of early Christianity, refusing to kill even in war.

Being a veteran/medic immersed me in the adage: "The first casualty of war is the truth." Truth is the last thing that should die. Would that everyone, especially Christians, totally grasped the truth "Perfect love casts out fear," captured in the Bible's I John 4:18. Our world is a magnificent garden, to be protected by strategic worldwide collaboration. We need massive, tough, perfect love that transforms killing into liberty and justice FOR ALL.

Larry Johnson, Veterans for Peace - adapted from a column printed in the *Sun Post*, October 28, 2021



Reimbursed Senior Volunteer Positions

We're looking for friendly, caring older adults (ages 55+) to serve as a Senior Companion.



SENIOR COMPANIONS

serve older adults by providing friendly in-home visits and transportation.

BENEFITS

- Hourly tax-free stipend
- Mileage/public transportation reimbursement
- Training and recognition
- Find purpose and create new friendships

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

-  Joyce Lehman
-  joyce.lehman@lssmn.org
-  507-512-1036



lssmn.org/volunteernow

Community Presbyterian's Calendar

November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 7:00pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	3 5:30pm Labranza de Dios	4	5
6 All Saints Sunday 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion 2:30pm Labranza de Dios	7 10:00am PW Bible Study	8 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting	9 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	10 5:30pm Labranza de Dios	11	12
13 Stewardship Sunday/Donut Day Armistice Day 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 2:30pm Labranza de Dios	14 1:00pm Mission Prayer Group (v) 6:00pm Med City Tai Chi	15 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due	16 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	17 5:30pm Labranza de Dios	18	19
20 PW Thank Offering 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 12:00pm Newsletter articles due 2:30pm Labranza de Dios	21 Office Closed 6:00pm Med City Tai Chi	22 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due	23 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	24 5:30pm Labranza de Dios Thanksgiving - Office Closed	25	26
27 First Sunday in Advent 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:30am Greening of the Church 2:30pm Labranza de Dios	28 1:00pm Mission Prayer Group (v) 6:00pm Med City Tai Chi	29 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Session Meeting (v)	30 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	1 5:30pm Labranza de Dios	2	3

Community Presbyterian Church
3705 Fairway Place NW
Rochester, MN 55901

Ad Hoc COMMITTEE

Session seeks volunteers for an ad hoc committee to oversee investment and use of the remainder of the Margaret Nelson bequest. The committee will probably meet twice before the new year. Contact Pastor Jan if you are interested.

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