

Community Press

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROCHESTER, MN



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Annual Report/ Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 22, after worship, will be the Annual Congregational Meeting. Plan to attend as CPC will look back on the past year, recognize leaders that have completed their term, vote for the new class of elders and deacons, and look forward to the year ahead. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

The **annual report deadline is Monday, January 9th**, with the hopes that the annual report will be available on Sunday, January 15th.

Epiphany theme: Light in the World

Where in the world is God? Everywhere! Theologies and worship styles differ; but God's love transcends differences. We celebrate Epiphany (January 8-February 19) with a look at Christians of different contexts, and God at work in other lands. Of special interest:

- January 29 (Fifth Sunday) - Labranza de Dios, message and special music
- February 5 - A message from Ronda Marshall and Ivy Pillers about their experience volunteering at a camp in Poland, teaching Polish and Ukrainian refugee children.

Epiphany thought to ponder in your heart:
When has someone from another culture or faith tradition added light to your life?

You will have an opportunity to share your thoughts!



JANUARY 2023

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
Choir Director
Pianist
Bell Choir Director
Custodian
Office Manager

Rev. Jan Wiersma
Meg Cain
Glenna Muir
Judy Kereakos
Nancy Sanford
Stephanie Pasch

Ministers to the world

Congregation Members

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

“O come, let us adore him,” as we sang on Christmas Eve, as we sing every Christmas. This is not puppy-cute “adorable,” but awe-infused adoration of God who *opens in* our lives, and *opens up* our lives not only at Christmas but all year long. We worship not just on Sundays, but every day that we celebrate God at work in us.

But what does it mean to worship God, the God we see and know in Jesus Christ? Sunday morning gatherings are precious to many of us, forgettable to others, to some a boring but inevitable part of the week. Some prefer to give it a miss and worship in nature. But even for those whose week feels incomplete without a Sunday service, it's rare to feel the electrifying sense of God absolutely present and powerful. The writer Annie Dillard said authentic worship should require us all to strap on crash helmets. That's how thrilling worship should be. (Or something along those lines.)

Sometime in early 2023, we as a congregation will begin talking about what would make worship more meaningful. Before that happens, can I ask you to ponder something written by Episcopal priest Nontombi Naomi Tutu? “Worship of God is . . . all about how we treat our neighbor, how we deal with the less fortunate, what we do to or for the widow and orphan, and how we treat the stranger in our midst. I have seen it in the small parish of St. Thomas, Kagiso, South Africa. When we visited some years ago, the rector at the time, Xolani Dlwati, told us, ‘*We do not do outreach. Everything we do is worship.*’ This congregation, comprised of predominantly poor families, fed lunch to children in the neighborhood school; bought school books, shoes, and uniforms for children in the community; stood as guardians for families of child-headed households; and made sure that those dying from AIDS had their homes cleaned, were eating healthy food, and knew they were loved. There was no fancy church sanctuary, no glamorous life for the rector, just worship of God that showed, through their caring, what Christianity is all about.”

In that sense, the most exciting worship we have experienced this year has been through our relationships with Gage East, LifeGate Services, and the Village Community Garden. When we presented the \$40,000 check from Margaret's bequest to the Women's Shelter for the purchase of a safe, reliable van, they jumped for joy and cried tears of happiness. Gage East was similarly touched by the smaller gift of \$5000. This brings joy to others, and returns joy to us, and glorifies God above all. That is our worship.

While our primary goal was simply to offer help where it was most immediately needed and had the most direct impact, it appears that we may also win some media attention for this. That's OK. It's good for people to know that this is how we worship a God of love and abundance.

We have five months in which to build on our already firm foundation in preparation for a new pastor, so let's get going! We have a lot of worshiping to do!



MISSION

Gage East Christmas

Seven volunteers from CPC drove through snow on Thursday, December 15, to serve Christmas Dinner to Gage East residents. Our participation makes it possible for staff to observe and interact with families in a natural setting.

Once again, children raced around through the Empowerment Center, high on Christmas fun, or came through the serving line with their parents, politely holding up their plates for shredded beef buns, grilled vegetables, mashed potatoes and gravy, and sparkly sugar cookies, all catered by the Canadian Honker.

Our Christmas bags filled with toiletries for young adults had already been delivered. Thanks to all those who volunteered and all those who donated toward filling the beautiful Christmas-themed gift bags, which were hand-made by Karen Atkinson.

Coming soon: Gage East's onsite library was unfortunately destroyed by a fire in the building. We hope to help them rebuild with donations of culturally appropriate books, educational materials, and shelving. Stay tuned for developments!



Mission Prayer Group to resume meeting in January

“For Jesus, prayer seems to be a matter of waiting in love. Returning to love. Trusting that love is the deepest stream of reality.... The stream will flow through us, and all we have to do is keep choosing to stay there.” (Richard Rohr)

Through the fall, a small group met every other week simply to pray—to pray for one another, for CPC, for the best use of Margaret Nelson’s bequest, to pray for the world and its wounds and weapons, its divisions and disasters, its healing and its joy. To pray with words, and without them.

The 10% offering to God has been bestowed, and wisely, we feel. Some of those who participated in the group would like to continue this deep, communal practice in the New Year.

If you would like to join with others to pray, please let Pastor Jan know. We will resume sometime early in 2023, meeting on alternate Mondays at 10 am, virtually or in person.

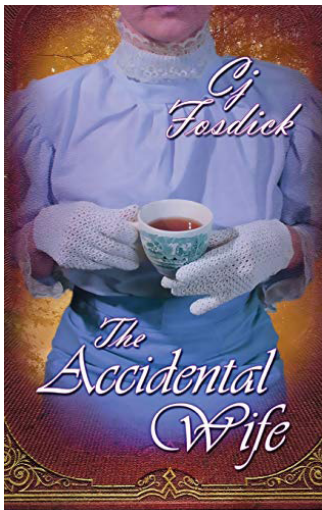
AROUND CPC

BIRTHDAY WISHES

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

Thank you

Many thanks for the generous gifts given to the church staff members! The generosity of CPC members is always astounding! Thanks again!



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Sunday, January 29, following worship, the Book Discussion Group will discuss the fiction novel, *The Accidental Wife*, written by local author, C.J. Fosdick. “A magical family heirloom will send one woman back in time to live the life of her ancestor, while finding a love that time could not destroy.” Enjoy this heart-warming novel in January!

AROUND THE PRESBYTERY

"Bridging the Divide" Workshop at Bryn Mawr

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church will host a Bridging the Divide workshop on January 12, 2023. In our current polarized political environment, people may worry about conversations with friends or family members whose views differ from their own. This workshop teaches skills for having respectful conversations that clarify differences, search for common ground, and affirm the importance of the relationship. It also gives participants a safe environment to practice those skills.

The workshop is facilitated by the Braver Angels, a national movement to bridge the partisan divide and strengthen our democratic republic. It begins at 6:30 p.m. and runs about 2 1/2 hours. The church is at 420 S. Cedar Lake Road Minneapolis MN 55404

Please RSVP to office@brynmawrchurch.org by January 9, 2023. Or go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/skills-for-bridging-the-divide-mn-statebryn-mawr-presbyterian-church-registration-473791131027?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=escb> for more information. There is no charge for the workshop, and all are welcome.



Explore the Cradles of Christianity: A Travel Seminar to Greece and Istanbul

Westminster (Minneapolis) is looking for a few more participants in a travel seminar that will visit Istanbul, Thessaloniki, Philippi, Delphi, Athens, Corinth, and other places with historic importance for understanding the Bible and how Christians have lived out their faith and navigated their relationships with other religious communities. As we travel we will consider how the early church's geographical expansion brought the Christian movement into close contact with other religions and cultural norms.

The travel seminar is hosted by the Revs. Tim and Beth Hart-Andersen and New Testament professor Matt Skinner. The dates are May 18 through May 31, 2023. Currently there is room for three more pairs of travelers (all remaining lodgings are double-occupancy rooms).

For more information, including a digital brochure, visit: <https://cvent.me/q3dnNZ?RefId=FBG120>. You can also e-mail Matt Skinner (mskinner@wpc-mpls.org).

Community Presbyterian's Calendar

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	2 Office Closed	3 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	4 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	5 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	6	7
8 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:30am De-greening of the Church 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	9 Office Closed 9:00am Annual Report Items due	10 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	11 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	12 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	13	14
15 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	16	17 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 5:30pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	18 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	19 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	20 12:00pm Newsletter articles due	21
22 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:30am Annual Meeting 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	23	24 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	25 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	26 Pastor Jan Vacation 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	27 Pastor Jan Vacation	28 Pastor Jan Vacation
29 Pastor Jan Vacation 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:45am Book Discussion Group 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	30 Pastor Jan Vacation	31 Pastor Jan Vacation 12:00pm Online Conference Call 12:00pm Bulletin info due 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	1 Pastor Jan Vacation 6:30am Prayer Group 7:00pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	2 Pastor Jan Vacation 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	3 Pastor Jan Vacation	4 Pastor Jan Vacation

Community Presbyterian Church
3705 Fairway Place NW
Rochester, MN 55901

**2023 Holidays
Church office
will be closed**

January 2	New Year's
January 16*	Martin Luther King Jr. Day

*(*Stephanie will close the office
January 9th, instead)*

February 20	President's Day
April 10	Easter Monday
May 29	Memorial Day
July 4	Independence Day

September 4	Labor Day
November 23	Thanksgiving
December 25	Christmas



**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