

# Community Press

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROCHESTER, MN



## Join us

FAREWELL CELEBRATION FOR

REV. JAN WIERSMA  
JUDY KEREAKOS AND  
MEG CAIN

SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH  
WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM  
LUNCHEON FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Community Presbyterian Church  
3705 Fairway Place NW  
Rochester, MN 55901

RSVP to the office  
office@cpcrochester.org or 507-280-9291

In lieu of a gift, please consider bringing a card or sharing a memory.  
Pastor Jan has suggested donations to the Gage East library fund  
would also be welcome.



**CPC is proud  
of the following  
graduates!**

Alayna Kopecky, JMHS  
Nathan Kopecky, JMHS

Roy Pillers, PhD  
Peggy Pillers, Masters

Vera's granddaughter,  
Laura Walters, Doctor  
of Developmental  
Education



## The Annual Spring Fling returns with a fabulous Low Country Boil!

Come ready to do some clean up and fix up projects around Community Presbyterian Church. We will do a little work and share in a specially prepared meal by Aaron Simms.

**May 19, 5-8 pm  
Dinner provided**

**Many hands make light work!**

Sign up in the narthex or by contacting the church office.

MAY 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 2023</u>	Ivy Pillers Kim Nickander Lyal Powell	Worship and Music Finance and Stewardship Building and Grounds
<u>Class of 2024</u>	Amanda Ross Sherrie Wilson	Personnel and Nominating Mission
<u>Class of 2025</u>	Sue Chipman	Christian Education
<u>Officers:</u>	Mary Meyer Mark Pillers Joanne Powell	Clerk (Non-voting) Financial Secretary Treasurer

### 2023 Nominating Committee

Mark Neville, Bruce Felger, Dave Copeland, and Mary Alice Richardson,  
Margie Petersen (Deacons)

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 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>
Margie Petersen Peggy McCarty	Dave Copeland Aaron Simms	Ron Murray Louis Bouchard

## 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**

### Try the 100-year plan

Sarah Augustine, co-founder and executive director of the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition, has a plan in mind to overturn the effects of that misguided dictum of 1493. That's the one Pope Alexander VI issued not long after Columbus "discovered" North America, which was actually inhabited by at least 95 million people. To be fair, he merely refined on similar declarations of Pope Urban II in 1095 and Pope Nicholas V in 1452. The Popes gave explorers *carte blanche* in claiming any land previously unknown to Europeans for their God and country, so they could drain them of resources.



The same decree assured the Portuguese that they were doing God's will in siphoning Africans off their homelands and enslaving them to labor until dead (usually about 8 years) in the "New World" (again, not new to those who had lived there for millennia). What a tangled web this doctrine has woven, working its way into almost every global social structure of the last 1000 years. Effects are too complex to think of for long without having to lie down with a headache.

But, as I said, Sarah Augustine has a plan in mind as comprehensive and brilliant as the Doctrine of Discovery itself. On Monday, April 17, she shared it with Presbyterians, Quakers, and Mennonites here at CPC. Her plan involves seizing openings on every level, from personal to political to judicial, truth-telling, opening history to honest scrutiny, and winning trust. But, as she pointed out, you can't turn around trends of this magnitude overnight. Hence, the 100-year plan. Those who labor today merely do so to pass a brighter torch to the next generations than the one they were handed.

In our swiftly evolving world, where the current century is likely to see more changes than we can readily imagine, the prospect of a 100-year plan is a little dizzying. But when I consider how Indigenous people somehow survived the ethnic cleansing that accompanied colonization, I realize that they may be onto something. It's like the Seventh Generation Principle, based on a Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) philosophy dating probably from a timeframe similar to that of the Doctrine of Discovery. This maintains that the decisions we make today should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future.

In that light, my few years with you resemble a fraction of a nano-second. Yet as Indigenous people know well, we work not to see the culmination of our plans but rather to set a truer course for those who come after us. I think of this as we bend our energies toward seeking new leadership. Shall we make decisions only in light of the next few months or years, or can we make them on the 100-year plan? Certainly the disciples in year 33 couldn't conceive of their teacher's mission still blossoming 2000 years in the future. But thanks to their devotion, their faith, and their unremitting commitment to the task Jesus delegated to them, here we are. Two thousand years is a bit beyond my comprehension. But a 100-year plan—why not?



# OUR FAREWELL HONOREES BY SHERRIE WILSON

## Pastor Jan Wiersma

Pastor Jan Wiersma, beloved stated supply pastor at CPC for the past three years, has decided to retire. Her last sermon will be June 4.

Pastor Jan's arrival coincided with COVID, so the congregation was faced with finding new ways to function. This meant wearing masks, social distancing and creating an online method for church. Pastor Jan led this effort – all with patience and a wide smile.

She also has performed the typical duties of a pastor: leading worship services, teaching PW Bible studies, moderating session, providing pastoral care and performing the sacraments.

However, “the most important thing pastors do for their congregation is pray,” Pastor Jan said. “It makes me feel more in touch with people. It’s a spiritual umbrella.”

Church member Sue Chipman, said: “I have learned so much about many things while Jan has been our pastor. I am more aware of Indigenous people’s issues, social justice problems and opportunities for service in our community. While she has been Pastor Jan, she has also been Friend Jan. While Pastor Jan soon concludes, I am glad Friend Jan will continue.”

Pastor Jan will retire – “for the fourth time” -- but plans to stay in the Rochester area and continue volunteer work. At Gage East, she will help in the library and tutor children. She also participates in the Land Recovery Project, whose goal is to return land to Minnesota’s Indigenous people. She also has done advocacy work for the Quakers in Washington.

Jan is eager to have more time for biking, playing piano, reading and training her new dog, April. We wish her well in the future!



## OUR FAREWELL HONOREES CONTINUED

### Meg Cain

What started off as a five- or six-week trial as CPC choir director has turned into nine years on the job for Meg Cain.

“Meg has an amazing gift of choosing music appropriate to the day or season, and accessible for a small group, then stretching our singers to accomplish more than they thought possible,” said Pastor Jan Wiersma. “She is always upbeat and encouraging. Her wide range of connections in the musical world has enhanced our summer music program with professional-quality instrumentalists and singers.”

Meg was a music education major in college but wanted more experience with music interpretation, and working with the choir members. The CPC choir is small but mighty. Meg also has taught music at the high school level. Since age 3, Meg has been involved with all kinds of music that began with singing with the Sunday school children at church.

Meg has enjoyed the people at CPC. “It doesn’t seem like a lot of work. They don’t take themselves too seriously. Thank you to everyone. They are like family,” she said.

Meg and her family are moving to the Fort Dodge/Webster City area in Iowa, where her husband, Brad, has received a job promotion. Meg will continue to work full time for an organization that organizes student travel. She can do this from home. With three young children – Quinn, Freya and Tristian, a hockey player -- her schedule is beyond busy.

We wish her well in the future!





## OUR FAREWELL HONOREES CONTINUED

### Judy Kereakos

The past 15 years at CPC have been a ringing success for Judy Kereakos. During that time, she has served as Jubellation Handbell Choir director, working with both adults and children.

The bell choir performs several times throughout the year, particularly for holidays. Judy has been involved with the CPC bell choir for about 18 years total.

With Meg Cain's departure as the choir director, Judy decided to retire from her handbell role, too. However, Judy plans to continue directing the 20-member chimes choir at Charter House where she lives. CPC member Duane Olson and family donated the handbells and handchimes to CPC, and Judy and Carole Kinion Copeland were asked to learn how to play and teach others.

They started by attending conferences, including one in Rochester in the summer of 2008. "I've learned so much," Judy said. "I have enjoyed new music, learning bell techniques and how to teach about bells and chimes."

Pastor Jan Wiersma said: "Judy combines musical virtuosity with patience and humor to make handbell ringing a joy for both new and seasoned ringers and, need I say, a delight to those who listen."

Judy and her late husband, Steve, have a son, Nicholas, who is the vice president of technology for Minnesota Public Radio. He and his wife, Carolyn Fairbanks, have two children, Kevin and Katie. Kevin is a music major at Macalester College.

Judy also enjoys walking and taking fitness classes at Charter House. She is an avid biker, regularly biking 400 to 500 miles per biking season, which also leads to her hobby of photographing wildflowers near the bike trails.

We wish her well in the future!



# BIRTHDAY WISHES

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

**The Book Discussion Group will meet on May 21st after worship. The selection for May is The Red Tent by Anita Diamant. All are welcome to join in the discussion!**

## Pastoral search update

Session has met several times with Pastor Susan Li, our liaison with the Presbytery Pastoral Positions Team (PPT), a new arm of the Committee on Ministry. Pastor Susan advised us to look first for a Bridge Pastor who will see us through until a longer-term person can be called or designated. Accordingly, Session approved a job description, and the PPT was to consider it on Thursday, April 20, after which it can be posted on the Presbytery website.

In the meantime, Worship and Music is devising a job description for a new Worship Arts leader, encompassing Meg's and Judy's job descriptions and more. This can be advertised locally as we see fit and, best of all, through word of mouth. If you know of anyone who might be interested in either position, pass the word!

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### • Working for Justice and Peace •



#### MAY

- Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month; [asianpacificheritage.gov](http://asianpacificheritage.gov)
- 1 May Day; [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Workers%27\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Workers%27_Day)
- 2 National Teacher Day; [nea.org](http://nea.org)
- 1-7 PW Together in Action Days for Children's Literacy; [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](http://presbyterianwomen.org/justice)
- 4 National Day of Prayer; [nationaldayofprayer.org](http://nationaldayofprayer.org)
- 8 J&P Book Discussion Group online, 6:30-8:30 PM (Eastern) on The Cry of Tamar: Violence Against Women and the Church's Response by Pamela Cooper-White (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 2012). Register at [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](http://presbyterianwomen.org/justice)
- 13 World Fair Trade Day; [wfto.com](http://wfto.com)
- 13 Stamp Out Hunger drive; [about.usps.com/corporate-social-responsibility/nalc-food-drive.htm](http://about.usps.com/corporate-social-responsibility/nalc-food-drive.htm)
- 14 Mother's Day; [presbyterianmission.org/story/a-prayer-for-mothers-day](http://presbyterianmission.org/story/a-prayer-for-mothers-day)
- 21 Intercultural Church Sunday; [pcusa.org/resource/intercultural-ministries-19226](http://pcusa.org/resource/intercultural-ministries-19226)
- 22 International Day for Biological Diversity; [cbd.int/idb](http://cbd.int/idb)
- 28 Pentecost; [presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/pentecost](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/pentecost)
- 29 Memorial Day; [presbyterianmission.org/story/may-30-2022](http://presbyterianmission.org/story/may-30-2022)

## SPECIAL OFFERING: PENTECOST

*“[God’s] purpose was to equip God’s people  
for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ”*  
Ephesians 4:12, CEB

Pentecost is one of my favorite holy days of the church year. It’s one of few days where pastors get to wear red stoles in the life of the church. Pentecost is also commonly referred to as “the Birthday of the Church.”


In Acts 1:8, just before Jesus ascends to the heavens, he commissions the eleven, “Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

God is making a power theological point right here: Jesus leaves and the church is born. The church is the visible body of Jesus Christ alive and at work in the world today.

The Apostle Paul underscores this important teaching. After talking about Christ’s Ascension, he wrote: “[God] gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. [God’s] purpose was to equip God’s people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11–12, CEB). **We are the church, TOGETHER!**


The Pentecost Offering supports ministries with children, youth and young adults in our community, across the nation and around our world. As you give to this important Offering, remember that 40% of your gift remains in our church to support ministries with younger people in our community as we choose. **This year, we plan to use our 40% to the Women’s Shelter.** The remainder of your Offering is forwarded to the denomination so that young adults can form a foundation for their lives through a year of service in the Young Adult Volunteer Program; youth can be among the 5,000-plus having mountaintop experiences in worship, play and faith formation at events like the Presbyterian Youth Triennium; and children can receive educational support through the Educate a Child, Transform the World initiative.


During this Pentecost season we celebrate God’s many gifts to the church, Younger members of the household of faith are not just the future of the church — they ARE the church — and they are God’s gift to us. We will collect this special offering on Sunday, May 28.



*We are there*

The Pentecost Offering helps our youth build a solid foundation of faith to last a lifetime.

 **PENTECOST**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

 **MATTHEW 25**  
April 10–May 28, 2023

WE WILL NOT SHARE YOUR NAME OR BALANCE WITH ANY OTHER CHURCH OR ORGANIZATION. YOUR GIFT IS HELD IN TRUST BY THE CHURCH OF THE SOUTHWEST. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. COMPASSION CONNECTIONS FROM WWW.COMPASSIONCONNECTIONS.COM



## Gage East Library!

The bookshelves in the pictures were designed and built by Melvin Tyree for the Gage East library. Mark Neville and Bob Hoxin helped deliver them on April 21. Later, about 600 books were placed on the shelves in anticipation of the grand opening on Thursday, April 27. Look for more news of this wonderful connection with our ministry partners in upcoming bulletins and newsletters.



**Introducing an exciting opportunity to become a part of the new sign to be installed at our Villa Road Entrance!! Donation drive will run from May until the end of October.**



**\*Final design to be determined.**

**Be a part by donating towards the overall cost of \$20K with matching funds provided from our Capital Activity Funds.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small bucket of bricks \$100  | <input type="checkbox"/> Panel of sign \$5000              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medium bucket of bricks \$500 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large bucket of bricks \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Any size bucket of mortar \$_____ |

**Please make checks payable to CPC and add a memo of "Sign Me Up!!"**



*Pictures: Mel installs the shelves (upper left), the team: Pastor Jan, Melvin Tyree, Sara Garner Tyree, Bob Hoxin, and Mark Neville (lower left). And the library waiting for the Grand Opening (above).*



# Rochester Area Volunteer Fair

May 9, 2023 - 3-6pm

Join us to discover how you can share your time and talents through volunteering.



- Free public event
- Opportunities for all ages
- No registration required

## Event Details:

**Date:** May 9, 2023

**Time:** 3pm-6pm

**Location:** 125 Live  
125 Elton Hills Dr NW  
Rochester, MN  
55901

This event is sponsored by:



Nonprofits may join by completing an enrollment form using the QR code or emailing the contact below. Participation is free, but space is limited.

Email: [ravanetwork@gmail.com](mailto:ravanetwork@gmail.com)  
[rochesterareavolunteeradministrators.webs.com](http://rochesterareavolunteeradministrators.webs.com)

## More Information:

Use this QR code for more information:



# Community Presbyterian's Calendar

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>1</b> 10:00am Mission Prayer Group	<b>2</b> 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Christian Education Committee meeting 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	<b>3</b> 6:30am Prayer Group at CPC 12:00pm Online Conference Call 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Building Use: Piano Recital
<b>7</b> 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	<b>10</b> 6:30am Prayer Group at CPC 12:00pm Online Conference Call 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>15</b> 10:00am Mission Prayer Group	<b>16</b> 12:00pm Bulletin info due 5:30pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	<b>17</b> 6:30am Prayer Group at CPC 12:00pm Online Conference Call 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 12:00pm Newsletter articles due for June and July
<b>21</b> 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:45am Book Discussion Group 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Session Meeting (v) 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	<b>24</b> <b>Last day of school - Children's Place</b> 6:30am Prayer Group at CPC 12:00pm Online Conference Call 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>Pentecost - Wear Red!</b> 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>29</b> <b>Memorial Day</b> Office Closed	<b>30</b> <b>CPNS - Summer School begins</b> 12:00pm Bulletin info due 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	<b>31</b> 6:30am Prayer Group at CPC 12:00pm Online Conference Call 7:00pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	<b>1</b> 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00am Building Use: Graduation Party



Community Presbyterian Church  
3705 Fairway Place NW  
Rochester, MN 55901



**Per Capita  
Apportionment rate for 2023  
\$37.50**

as follows:

PTCA per capita - \$22.15  
(an increase of \$0.13)

Synod per capita - \$5.50  
(no change)

PC(USA) per capita - \$9.85  
(an increase of \$0.87)

**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)**

**Wednesday'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)**