

Community Press

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROCHESTER, MN

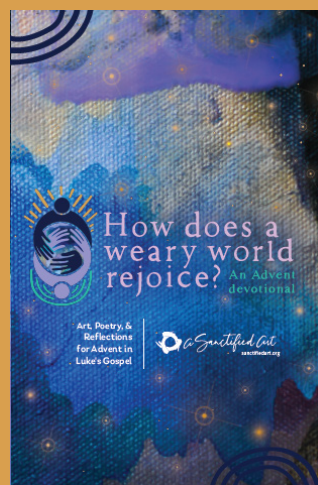


How does a weary world rejoice?

Christ was born into a weary world. King Herod ruled the land with a legacy of ruthlessness. The Romans treated the people of Israel with contempt, imposing harsh taxes and land seizures that forced many into subsistence farming. Poverty and destitution were pervasive. And yet, Christ was born, bringing good news of great joy for all people.

As Advent comes again to a weary world, we ask, "How does a weary world rejoice?" From the opening chapters of Luke's Gospel, we have found a few answers: we acknowledge our weariness, we find joy in connection, we allow ourselves to be amazed, we sing stories of hope, we make room, we root ourselves in ritual, and most importantly, we trust our belovedness. In the parallel birth stories of Jesus and John, joy arrives—despite trepidation, fear, or grief. In these stories, we find rhythms for rejoicing. As we move through our series, we hope to create space for acknowledging the weariness of our world while celebrating God's closeness with great joy.

And so, this Advent, we will hold space for our weariness and our joy. We will seek a "thrill of hope" in our hurting world. We will welcome joy—even if, like the prophet Isaiah, we cry out for comfort (Isaiah 40:1). In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice.



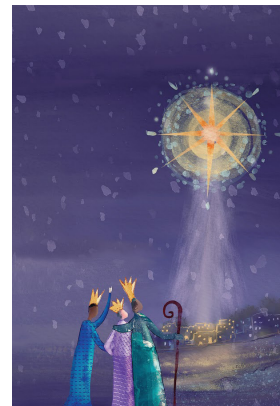
Pick up a printed copy of the devotional when you are at church in December.



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

*Watch for more information about
the Christmas Joy Offering
to be collected December 24 and December 31!*



DECEMBER 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	Dave Copeland	Ron Murray
Peggy McCarty	Aaron Simms	Louis Bouchard

Staff

Bridge Pastor	Rev. Carla Nelson
Pianist	Glenna Muir
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

Ministers to the world

Congregation Members

Happy Advent! Happy New Year! Advent is the start of the Christian year, this year the worship team has chosen to use the materials from A Sanctified Art entitled "How does a weary world rejoice? An Advent series in Luke's Gospel." The series begins with the first Sunday in Advent, December 3rd, and ends with the Baptism of the Lord January 7th.

We will travel through the first three chapters of Luke; you will be provided an Advent devotional, and you can receive a daily message by text if you want one! Imagine what would happen if all of us were studying the same thing at the same time over the course of a month.

Are you in? Why does it matter?

As we are on the journey of discovering who Community Presbyterian Church is – what do we stand for? What is our identity in our community? What is it that God is calling us to do and to be? We are also listening for God – if we are all reading the same thing God can call to us from what we are reading. It might be a phrase, a word, a whole paragraph that leaps off the page, or stays with you throughout the day, or week, or month. As you talk with others you might discover that they too have had that very same scripture, reading, song, following, haunting, bugging, uplifting them. As more people talk to each other we discover that more and more people have been touched by the same piece of Jesus' story – then the work begins.

Are you ready to let God speak to CPC through you? Are you ready to start on a spiritual journey that leads to the future of CPC?

Maybe not and that's okay too – maybe you are weary and need to learn how to rejoice in spite of that weariness. All of our journey's are different and every journey is valid.

No matter where you are on your journey, I want you to know that I am honored to be your pastor and I would be honored to hear your story. I am in the office on Monday and Tuesday mornings; and would love to have you stop in for a visit (I attend the prayer group and the Bible study so every other week I am busy from 9:30-11 on opposite days). You are always welcome to call me at 507-254-1254.

- Pastor Carla



The Last Time I Saw God

The last time I saw God face to face
I was looking at a bed of tulips.
God was every color of red.
I was merely a mortal,
in awe of it all.

The time before that,
we were tying back the curtains,
looking for stars.
God was the deepest purple
and the brightest light.

The time before that,
the city was soft with snow.
God was the quiet
that tucked us all in.

And in between these small gifts there were
newborn babies,
and sapling trees,
homemade bread,
the sound of a church
singing on Sunday.

Why, yes, we are lucky.
We are more than lucky
for the moments when
delight and awe
unzip the weight
we carry around.

A Poem for the Theme | How does a weary world rejoice? |
Written by Rev. Sarah Speed

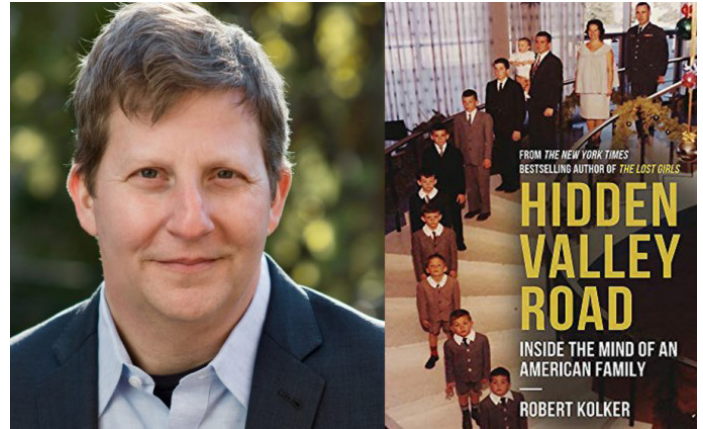
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BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The book discussion group will read and discuss *Hidden Valley Road* by Robert Kolker for the December book group. The discussion will take place on Sunday, December 17th following worship.



From Penguin Random House books:

“Don and Mimi Galvin seemed to be living the American dream. After World War II, Don’s work with the Air Force brought them to Colorado, where their twelve children perfectly spanned the baby boom: the oldest born in 1945, the youngest in 1965. In those years, there was an established script for a family like the Galvins—ambition, hard work, upward mobility, domestic harmony—and they worked hard to play their parts. But behind the scenes was a different story: psychological breakdown, sudden shocking violence, hidden abuse. By the mid-1970s, six of the ten Galvin boys, one after another, were diagnosed as schizophrenic. How could all this happen to one family?

What took place inside the house on Hidden Valley Road was so extraordinary that the Galvins became one of the first families to be studied by the National Institute of Mental Health. Their story offers a shadow history of the science of schizophrenia, from the era of institutionalization, lobotomy, and the schizophrenogenic mother to the search for genetic markers for the disease, always amid profound disagreements about the nature of the illness itself. And unbeknownst to the Galvins, samples of their DNA informed decades of genetic research that continues today, offering paths to treatment, prediction, and even eradication of the disease for future generations.

With clarity and compassion, bestselling and award-winning author Robert Kolker uncovers one family’s unforgettable legacy of suffering, love, and hope.”

An interesting interview with Robert Kolker can be found here: <https://slate.com/culture/2020/04/hidden-valley-road-robert-kolker-interview-schizophrenia.html>.

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Birthdays are listed in the print edition of the newsletter, please pick one up next time you are in the church!

A MEMORIAL SERVICE AT CPC

Remembering Wayne Richardson

February 3, 1940 — November 6, 2023

Memorial Service Wednesday, December 27 at 11:00 am

Wayne Daniel Richardson was born on February 3, 1940, in Salisbury, MD. His parents were Oren Edwin Richardson, Sr. and Dorothy Ann Parsons Richardson. He died on November 6, 2023, from dementia at Cottagewood Senior Communities, Rochester, MN.

His parents, brother, Oren Edwin Richardson, Jr. and son, Joseph Leonard Brom predeceased him.

He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Mary Alice Christmas Richardson, son Edward Daniel Richardson (Elaine Shu-Kyin Law) and grandsons, Rowan Sodacreek Hui-De Law and Asher Parsons Zhi-Wei Law and daughter Heather Noël Richardson (Samuel Phillip Hazen) and grandsons, Linus Edward Hazen and Silas Joseph Hazen, his brother Frank Sheppard (Constance) Richardson and nephews, C. Bradley Richardson and Trevor F. Richardson and great-niece Stella, and his cousins, Patricia Ann Parsons, Michael Parsons and Frank Lane Brittingham...

A Memorial Service will be held at Community Presbyterian Church 3705 Fairway Place NW Rochester, MN 55901 on December 27, 2023 at 11:00 am, with luncheon to follow.

Memorials are suggested to Seasons Hospice 1696 Greenview Drive SW, Rochester, MN 55902; or to Foundation Fighting Blindness, P.O. Box 45740, Baltimore, MD 21297-5740; or to American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Inc., 125 Broad Street, 18th Floor, New York, NY 10004; or to Quarry Hill Nature Center, 701 Silver Creek Road NE, Rochester, MN 55906.

The full obituary can be read here: <https://www.ranfranzandvinefh.com/obituaries/wayne-richardson>



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

• *Working for Justice and Peace* •

DECEMBER

- 1 World AIDS Day;
presbyterianmission.org/resource/presbyterian-aids-awareness-sunday-worship-material
- 5 International Volunteer Day; un.org/en/observances/volunteer-day
- 10 International Human Rights Day; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_Day
- 18 International Migrants Day; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Migrants_Day
- 25 Christmas; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/nativity-lord-christmas

MISSION

Community Presbyterian Church is aiming to make Christmas a bit brighter for Gage East children and their families this holiday season.

The congregation is collecting gift cards, preferably in \$25 denominations at Target and Walmart, for children and their families. Donations of cash and other gift cards also are welcome. Gage East staff and parents will make the decisions about how the cards are distributed, which will be based on need.

The deadline for submissions is Sunday, December 3rd 10th. You can bring the gift cards and other items to church. Be careful about sending the cards through the mail. Checks can be written to “Community Presbyterian Church” with a note in the memo line “Christmas for Gage East.” Cash and small items donated also should be labeled, so we know who contributed them.

Another possible gift would be small, inexpensive kids' items of the stocking-stuffer type. The Gage East library is encouraging the children to read aloud to volunteers or have a book read to them. “The best way I've found to encourage reading is to promise kids a prize for a certain number of books read,” said Jan Wiersma, library volunteer and former CPC pastor.

Possible selections are:

- Small notebooks and pens
- Little handheld games or puzzles
- Anything Pokemon or Minecraft
- Little stuffed animals.

Questions may be directed to Sherrie swilson@unomaha.edu.



*The deadline has been
extended from Dec. 3
to Sunday, Dec. 10!*

ADVENT

In addition to an Advent devotional, another option is to receive daily messages via text. Please see the information below about signing up for texts/notifications. There will also be different daily messages on Facebook. Check it out in December!

Pick a way to receive messages for Daily Texts:

A) If you have a smartphone, get push notifications. On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link: rmd.at/ga2hfb Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

B) If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications. Text the message @ga2hfb to the number 81010. If you're having trouble with 81010, try texting @ga2hfb to (608)467-4108. Note: you'll be asked if you are a student (s) or a parent (p). Choose either one. The application was designed for schools, but will work for our purposes.

If you received daily texts in the past, you're likely still on the list and you don't need to re-sign up.

* Standard text message rates apply.

Community Presbyterian's Calendar

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:40am Greening of the Church 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	27 6:00pm Building Use: Med City Tai Chi	28 9:30am PW Bible Study 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Session Meeting (v) 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	29 6:30am Prayer Group at CPC	30 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	1	2 1:00pm Building Use: Piano Recital
3 Advent I 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	4 9:30am Mission Prayer Group 6:00pm Building Use: Med City Tai Chi	5 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Christian Education Committee meeting 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	6 6:30am Prayer Group at CPC	7 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	8	9
10 Advent II 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	11 6:00pm Building Use: Med City Tai Chi	12 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	13 6:30am Prayer Group at CPC	14 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	15	16
17 Advent III 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:30am Book Discussion Group 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	18 9:30am Mission Prayer Group 6:00pm Building Use: Med City Tai Chi	19 12:00pm Bulletin info due 5:30pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting 6:30pm Session Meeting (v) 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	20 6:30am Prayer Group at CPC 12:00pm Newsletter articles due	21 CPNS Winter Break 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	22 CPNS Winter Break	23 10:00am Building Use: Labranza de Dios
24 Christmas Eve Christmas Joy Offering 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios 6:00pm Online and Onsite Worship	25 Christmas Day CPNS Winter Break office closed	26 CPNS Winter Break 9:00am Bulletin info due 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	27 office closed CPNS Winter Break 6:30am Prayer Group at CPC 11:00am Wayne Richardson Memorial Service	28 office closed CPNS Winter Break 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	29 CPNS Winter Break	30
31 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	1 New Year's Day office closed CPNS Winter Break	2 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Christian Education Committee meeting 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	3 6:30am Prayer Group at CPC	4 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	5	6

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**

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