

# Community Press

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROCHESTER, MN



## An Affirmation of Faith

We believe that faith is a journey marked by  
rituals and rhythms.

We come to worship.

We confess our sins.

We pass the peace.

We offer grace.

We hear the Word.

We baptize children.

We break the bread.

And we tell the story of a loving God.

And through these sacred rituals,  
we are reminded: we are not alone.

God is near, and we have work to do.

May this belief shape the rhythm of our lives.

Amen.

## ANNUAL MEETING



The **Annual Meeting** of the congregation will be Sunday, **January 28th after worship.** All are needed to remember the year that has passed and look forward to 2024. The budget will be gone over, in addition to reports for all areas of the congregation.

**Items for the Annual Report are due to Stephanie by January 16th.**



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JANUARY 2024

# 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	Worship and Music Finance and Stewardship
<u>Class of 2024</u>	Lyal Powell Amanda Ross Sherrie Wilson	Building and Grounds 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

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

**Ministers to the world**

**Congregation Members**

As we move into January people start looking at how they are living their lives and deciding what changes they need to make, if they want to make any changes, if they SHOULD make any changes. Then they start looking at what they would have to give up, or what they would have to start doing to make those changes happen – and that's where the trouble starts.

We don't like change and we definitely don't want to give anything up. We're pretty happy in the rut we've made for ourselves. It's got nice solid side walls, the bottom is smooth and easy to travel on, no one can rock the boat in our nice rut.

If we get out of our ruts we'll be exposed, we won't have any protection around us. We might make mistakes and people will see that we aren't as good as they think we are – they might see our flaws, they might not like us as much.

Trying something new, something different isn't easy, but it can be really fun and rewarding especially if you are doing it with friends. That's why I suggested that people let us know where they were volunteering, because maybe someone else would like to join them and see if they could help too. We are all children of God, beloved, but not perfect. We will make mistakes, and we will still be loved.

If you would like to do something new, but don't want to go alone let me know maybe we can find someone to join you.

In January, I am going to start volunteering at Cottage Wood hopefully Monday afternoons. At the time of this article we don't have all the details down.. I'll be singing and praying at Cottage 5. Would you like to join me? You could come once a month or every week it is so much fun to sing the old songs with people who remember them when they don't remember other things they remember the music and even make requests.

When you make life changes, diet, exercise, journaling add something that brings you joy. Add something that enriches your heart and you will find that it is much easier to keep the things that make your life better. God wants only the best for you and you will find more of God's spirit when you are sharing the love God gave to you with someone else.

The name this congregation gave itself Community Presbyterian speaks to who you are called to be as people individually and together. You cannot be a community alone, nor can you be alone in a community. We are here for each other, we are here with each other, we are here to walk along side each other through difficult situations and in times of joy. We need to reach out to each other when WE need support and when we know someone else needs support. Unless you tell us we won't know you need support. Unlike "Siri" or "Google" we don't know everything lol!

Blessings to you on your New calendar Year! May it be filled with blessings and joy.  
Fully Rely On God





## MISSION



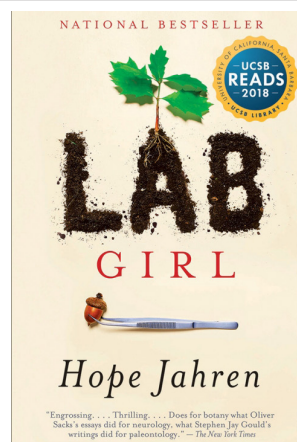
### *Gage East Christmas Party*

About 10 representatives of CPC attended a Christmas party for Gage East families on December 13. From CPC: Mark Neville and daughter Emily, Carol and Frank Jones, Sue Chipman, Mary Alice Richardson, Nellie Brovold and Ethan, Ivy Pillers, Sherrie Wilson, Pastor Carla and Brian Nelson. They helped serve the Italian feast, salad and cookies. Individual gifts were purchased by the staff and handed out to each resident; another church purchased brand-new winter outerwear for the kids. The CPC congregation raised \$1,200 for holiday gift cards given to Gage East children and families to use for their needs. A message attached to the cards said “Merry Christmas from your friends at Community Presbyterian Church.” CPC's wonderful contribution was 50 gift cards, one for each of the currently occupied units! It must have been a God thing, for our gifts to come out so perfectly. Everyone had a festive time.

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Join the book discussion group on Sunday, January 21st, after worship to discuss *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren.

From Goodreads: “*Lab Girl* is a book about work, love, and the mountains that can be moved when those two things come together. It is told through Jahren’s stories: about her childhood in rural Minnesota with an uncompromising mother and a father who encouraged hours of play in his classroom’s labs; about how she found a sanctuary in science, and learned to perform lab work done “with both the heart and the hands”; and about the inevitable disappointments, but also the triumphs and exhilarating discoveries, of scientific work.”





**Pastor Carla is in the office on  
Monday and Tuesday, 9-12.**

**Stephanie is in the office on  
Tuesday and Wednesday, 9:15-11:30/12:00.**

**Stephanie works remotely on  
Mondays and Thursdays.**

## 2024 Holidays

### Church office will be closed

January 1	New Year's
January 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 19	President's Day
April 1	Easter Monday
May 27	Memorial Day
July 4	Independence Day
September 2	Labor Day
November 28	Thanksgiving
December 25	Christmas

**Be sure to let the church office or Pastor  
Carla know if you end up in the hospital or  
have other pastoral needs!**

**[pastor@cpcrochester.org](mailto:pastor@cpcrochester.org) or 507-254-1254  
[office@cpcrochester.org](mailto:office@cpcrochester.org) or 507-280-9291**

*Thank you for the wonderful Christmas  
gift - I appreciate the gift and the givers!*



*May you each be blessed with peace and  
the feeling of being held in God's hands  
Pastor Carla*

## CELEBRATIONS

# BIRTHDAY WISHES

*Birthdays can be found in the print edition  
of the newsletter - pick one up at church!*

# Thank you

*Thank you so much for thinking of me, Glenna  
and Nancy! Your gifts are much appreciated,  
as are each of you. Blessings to you this coming  
year! Thanks again!*

*-Stephanie*



## • *Working for Justice and Peace* • PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN J&P CALENDAR

### JANUARY

- National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month—[polarisproject.org](https://polarisproject.org)
- 6 Epiphany of the Lord
- 8 J&P Book Discussion Group online, 6:30–8:30 pm (Eastern)  
on *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot.  
Register at [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](https://presbyterianwomen.org/justice)
- 11 National Human Trafficking Awareness Day,  
[presbyterianwomen.org/justice](https://presbyterianwomen.org/justice), [traffickingresourcecenter.org](https://traffickingresourcecenter.org) or  
[presbyterianmission.org/human-trafficking](https://presbyterianmission.org/human-trafficking)
- 14 Matthew 25: Dismantle Structural Racism Sunday; Racial & Intercultural  
Justice/Presbyterians Affirm Black Lives Matter;  
[presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/racism](https://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/racism)
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, [thekingcenter.org](https://thekingcenter.org)
- 16 National Religious Freedom Day, [religiousfreedomday.com](https://religiousfreedomday.com)
- 18–25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, [oikoumene.org/week-of-prayer](https://oikoumene.org/week-of-prayer)
- 27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day;  
[en.unesco.org/commemorations/holocaustremembranceday](https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/holocaustremembranceday)



# JUSTICE and PEACE

While PW Bible Study is on a break until spring, you can consider joining a Churchwide PW Book Discussion Group!

January 8  
*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

March 11  
*Our Missing Hearts*

May 13  
*transforming*

July 8  
*A Place Called Home*

September 9  
*Poverty*

November 11  
*Searching for Savanna*



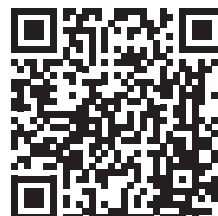
DISCUSS THE BOOKS WITH OTHERS VIA ZOOM  
• The J&P Book Discussion Group is open to all!



DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS EVERY OTHER MONTH  
• Read and discuss any or all books that appeal to you. Registration will be needed to join the discussion on Zoom.



RECEIVE STUDY GUIDES TO INFORM YOUR READING  
• Questions for discussion or reflection will be sent with your registration confirmation.



To register, scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](https://presbyterianwomen.org/justice).



# Community Presbyterian's Calendar

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> 9:00am Deacons Meeting 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b> office closed CPNS Winter Break	<b>2</b> Stephanie work remotely 9:00am Pastor Carla Office Hours 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	<b>4</b> 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>8</b> 9:00am Pastor Carla Office Hours 9:30am Mission Prayer Group	<b>9</b> 9:00am Pastor Carla Office Hours 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	<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> Office Closed Martin Luther King Jr Day CPNS Closed 9:00am Pastor Carla Office Hours	<b>16</b> Annual Report Items Due 9:00am Pastor Carla Office Hours 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	<b>18</b> 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 12:00pm Newsletter articles due
<b>21</b> 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:30am Book Discussion Group 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>22</b> 9:00am Pastor Carla Office Hours 9:30am Mission Prayer Group	<b>23</b> 9:00am Pastor Carla Office Hours 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Session Meeting (v) 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	<b>24</b> 6:30am Prayer Group at CPC	<b>25</b> 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:30am Annual Meeting 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>29</b> Pastor Carla - Continuing Education 9:00am Pastor Carla Office Hours	<b>30</b> Pastor Carla - Continuing Education 9:00am Pastor Carla Office Hours 12:00pm Bulletin info due 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	<b>31</b> Pastor Carla - Continuing Education 6:30am Prayer Group at CPC	<b>1</b> 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

*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)**

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