

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROCHESTER, MN



Figuring out faith with Peter

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us. As we were studying Peter's faith journey, the lyrics of "Come Thou Fount" came to mind. It's as if Peter himself wrote this song. And so, for each step in Peter's journey, we have selected a phrase from this hymn. As we follow Peter's story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God. In this series, we want to affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows, seeks and wanders. We want to affirm that wandering is exploration, not necessarily distance from God. We want to affirm the ways Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls. This Lent, we will look for ourselves in the stepping stones of Peter's story. We will reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys as well as who and what has shaped us along the way. As we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.

Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God. When you look closely at Peter's story, you find Jesus at each step along the way— offering him abundance, catching him when he begins to sink, challenging him when he stands in the way, washing his feet, predicting his betrayal, and offering him agapē love. This Lent, we're joining Peter in figuring out faith. We're not idolizing or vilifying him; instead, we're hoping to wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes.

FEBRUARY 2024

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Session

The Session is the governing board of the church. It consists of six ruling elders, elected for two 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 2024</u> | Lyal Powell Amanda Ross Sherrie Wilson | Building and Grounds Personnel and Nominating Mission |
| <u>Class of 2025</u> | Sue Chipman Ivy Pillers Aaron Simms | Christian Education Worship and Music Finance and Stewardship |
| <u>Officers:</u> | Dave Copeland Mark Pillers Joanne Powell | Clerk (Non-voting) Financial Secretary Treasurer |

2024 Nominating Committee

Mary Meyer, Dave Copeland, Jane Burgstaler, Peggy McCarty (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 2024</u> | <u>Class of 2025</u> | <u>Class of 2026</u> |
| Dave Copeland Aaron Simms | Ron Murray Louis Bouchard | Peggy McCarty Margaret Petersen |

Staff

Bridge Pastor
Pianist
Custodian
Office Manager

Rev. Carla Nelson
Glenna Muir
Nancy Sanford
Stephanie Pasch

Ministers to the world

Congregation Members



Happy February!



What do a Hallmark holiday and Ash Wednesday the beginning of Lent have to do with each other? That's the question many people ask themselves especially when the two days fall on the exact same day like they do this year.

Truth be told Valentines Day started out as a religious holiday. "Valentine is likely based on a combination of two Valentines who were executed on February 14 in different years by Roman Emperor Claudius II in the 3rd century A.C.E., according to [NPR](https://www.countryliving.com/life/a46353/history-of-valentines-day/). The Catholic Church maybe have established St. Valentine's Day to honor these two martyrs. The day was later dropped from the Catholic Church calendar in 1969. The day was turned into a romantic holiday by a poem by Chaucer." <https://www.countryliving.com/life/a46353/history-of-valentines-day/>

Of course, I have a completely different take on the two days falling on the same day – Maybe its just me, sitting in my offices surrounded by my crosses, books, and frogs, but I think the two days – Valentines Day and Ash Wednesday falling on the same day is perfect.

I will spend Valentines Day delivering flowers for a local flower shop – it's a fund raiser for Eastern Star – it is a day filled with joy as each delivery is made – especially when the person is not aware that they are going to be getting anything.

Then I will be coming to the church and I will be giving each person who comes the greatest valentine they could ever receive – the sure knowledge that they were created by a loving God, and that when they leave this earthly realm to that loving God they will return. No greater gift do I have to give on a day that celebrates love, than to take the ashes made from palms used to celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem before giving himself for us. These ashes represent a life given in love so we can love and be loved just as we are – wanders on this journey of life.

I hope you will join us at the start of our Lenten journey, Wandering Heart. I pray that you will take the time this year to set aside space in your day to day living for God. To read about Peter and his journey – it wasn't a straight line! We all have our ups and downs even the great pillars of the faith fall down sometimes. What we can learn from Peter is how to get back up again. How to find the path again, how to sustain our faith when the road seems to be all up hill and no footholds can be found.

We are in this together – faith is not a solo act – blessing on your journey no matter where it takes you – you can always get back home to the One who created you.

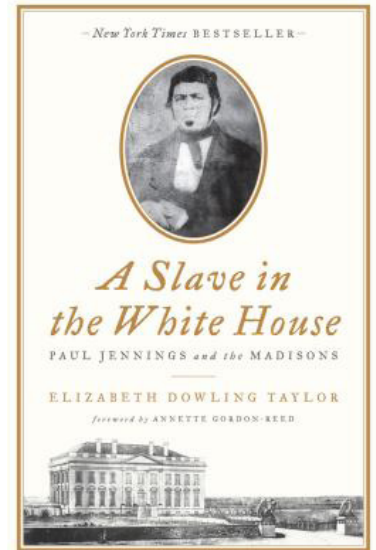
Pastor Carla



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The book for February is *A Slave in the White House* by Elizabeth Dowling Taylor. The discussion will be held on February 18, following worship.

“Paul Jennings was born into slavery on the plantation of James and Dolley Madison in Virginia, later becoming part of the Madison household staff at the White House. Once finally emancipated by Senator Daniel Webster later in life, he would give an aged and impoverished Dolley Madison, his former owner, money from his own pocket, write the first White House memoir, and see his sons fight with the Union Army in the Civil War. He died a free man in northwest Washington at 75. Based on correspondence, legal documents, and journal entries rarely seen before, this amazing portrait of the times reveals the mores and attitudes toward slavery of the nineteenth century, and sheds new light on famous characters such as James Madison, who believed the white and black populations could not coexist as equals; French General Lafayette who was appalled by this idea; Dolley Madison, who ruthlessly sold Paul after her husband’s death; and many other since forgotten slaves, abolitionists, and civil right activists.” www.thriftbooks.com



CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY WISHES

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

FROM THE OFFICE

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

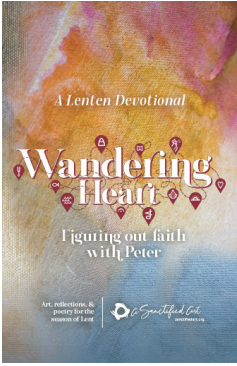
Stephanie is in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday, 9:15-11:30/12:00.

Stephanie works remotely on Mondays and Thursdays.

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 or 507-254-1254
office@cpcrochester.org or 507-280-9291**

LENTEN RESOURCES



Printed Lenten Devotionals will be available beginning February 11, so everyone can start using it on Ash Wednesday, February 14th.

A pack of Daily Devotional Cards can also be picked up. These include a question and a prayer for each day. These cards are likely to be used as a resource for the Daily Texts.



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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

• *Working for Justice and Peace* •

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN J&P CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- Black History Month; blackhistorymonth.gov
- National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, teendvmonth.org

1 National Freedom Day,

state.gov/national-freedom-day-deepening-our-resolve-to-fight-humantrafficking

1-7 World Interfaith Harmony Week, worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com

11 Souper Bowl of Caring, tacklehunger.org

12 International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers, redhandday.org

12 One Billion Rising for Justice, onebillionrising.org

14 Ash Wednesday;

presbyterianmission.org/resource/ash-wednesday-service-baptized-dust/



As I was typing the minutes from our Annual Meeting, these words “We need to look back to help us move forward” that Pastor Carla said, made me wonder.

How far back should we look from the past? What I remember from visiting the church the first few times were:

- The Christian Education teacher allowed Connor to join the Sunday School class.
- At the end of some services, tambourine’s, maracas , etc. were handed around during the last song for those individuals to play .
- There was one time when members brought items to show what their hobbies were “arts and crafts.”
- The rummage sale was popular and fun - maybe we could have another one to help pay for the sign.
- I enjoy the music played by the pianists, the choir, and other guest musicians.

What are some things do you remember from the past?

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Midnight in the Garden
Join us for a spectacular evening...

Saturday, February 24, 2024
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Hilton Rochester Mayo Clinic

***...supporting youth programming at Boys & Girls
Club of Rochester.***

The sublime and seductive await you at A Chair Affair 2024. Smoky jazz. Beguiling entertainment. Surprises and delights. New Orleans-inspired cuisine. An auction to awaken your desires, and of course, the gala’s namesake, artisan-made chairs.

We have a chair for you at A Chair Affair 2024 on Saturday, February 24. Widely regarded as the city’s most prestigious black-tie social event, selling out over 500 tickets each year, A Chair Affair has raised millions of dollars for Rochester youth in need.

Boys & Girls Club of Rochester’s mission is to empower all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring community members. Boys & Girls Clubs provide transformational experiences and opportunities for kids and teens by restoring the foundational tenets of equity and opportunity — a belief that all young people deserve an equal shot at success.

<https://www.achairaffair.org/>



Community Presbyterian's Calendar

February 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|--|-----------|--|
| 28 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:30am Annual Meeting 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios | 29 Pastor Carla - Continuing Education | 30 Pastor Carla - Continuing Education 12:00pm Bulletin info due 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network | 31 Pastor Carla - Continuing Education 6:30am Prayer Group at CPC | 1 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios | | 3 Building Use: Labranza de Dios |
| 4 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios | 5 9:00am Pastor Carla Office Hours 9:30am Mission Prayer Group | 6 9:00am Pastor Carla Office Hours 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Christian Education Committee meeting 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network | 7 9:00am Prayer Group at CPC | 8 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios | 9 | 10 |
| 11 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios | 12 9:00am Pastor Carla Office Hours | 13 9:00am Pastor Carla Office Hours 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network | 14 9:00am Prayer Group at CPC 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service | 15 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios | 16 | 17 |
| 18 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:30am Book Discussion Group 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios | 19 Office Closed - Presidents Day 9:30am Mission Prayer Group | 20 9:00am Pastor Carla Office Hours 12:00pm Newsletter articles due 12:00pm Presby Pastor's Gathering 12:00pm Bulletin info due 5:30pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network | 21 9:00am Prayer Group at CPC | 22 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios | 23 | 24 |
| 25 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios | 26 9:00am Pastor Carla Office Hours | 27 9:00am Pastor Carla Office Hours 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Session Meeting (v) 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network | 28 9:00am Prayer Group at CPC | 29 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios | 1 | 2 |

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**

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