

Community Press

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROCHESTER, MN



What are you thinking about as you prepare your homes and hearts for the coming of the Christ Child? In the first week let us consider the words: BEGIN, BLESS, COURAGE, POSSIBILITY, REMEMBER.

How do you think of these words? Advent represents the beginning of the church calendar. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving. We invite you to move through this Advent season as if you are entering a sacred new chapter, holding fast to the reminders that will bolster you for the journey ahead. May you find words for belovedness and hope.

Remember to take time to share the pictures which capture these Advent words – by sending photos digitally or hard copy to Stephanie so we can share in our collective Advent experiences as a community on December 29th. These can be photos of anything that brings these words to life for you. Send your photos to Stephanie at office@cpcrochester.org or put them in an envelope.



WORDS
FOR THE **BEGINNING**

ADVENT PHOTO-A-DAY CHALLENGE @sanctifiedart

For each day of Advent, we invite you to take a photo inspired by the word of the day. Share your daily photos on social media along with the words that inspired them.

DEC.1 BEGIN	DEC.2 BLESS	DEC.3 COURAGE	DEC.4 POSSIBILITY	DEC.5 REMEMBER
DEC.6 MARVEL	DEC.7 GO	DEC.8 TOGETHER	DEC.9 EMBRACE	DEC.10 JOURNEY
DEC.11 PEACEMAKER	DEC.12 CONNECTION	DEC.13 ENOUGH	DEC.14 GOODNESS	DEC.15 WORTHY
DEC.16 REPAIR	DEC.17 MAGNIFY	DEC.18 MERCY	DEC.19 DREAM	DEC.20 HOPE
DEC.21 RISK	DEC.22 GRACE	DEC.23 JOY	DEC.24 LOVE	DEC.25 AMAZEMENT

1 ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	2 ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	3 RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	4 TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	CHRISTMAS EVE	SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS	EPIPHANY
YOU ARE A BLESSING	WE CAN'T GO ALONE	DO THE GOOD THAT IS YOURS TO DO	HOPE IS WORTH THE RISK	LOVE KNOWS YOUR NAME	DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH	THE ROAD ISN'T STRAIGHT
<p>Luke 1:26-38 (The angel Gabriel comes to Mary)</p> <p>Isaiah 43:1-7 ("I have called you by name")</p>	<p>Ruth 1 (Ruth says to Naomi, "Where you go, I will go")</p> <p>Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 ("A threefold cord is not easily broken")</p>	<p>Luke 3:7-16 (John the Baptist proclaims how to bear good fruit)</p> <p>Isaiah 58:9b-12 ("You shall be called the repairer of the breach")</p>	<p>Matthew 1:18-25 (The angel visits Joseph in a dream)</p> <p>Luke 1:46-55 (Mary's song)</p>	<p>Luke 2:1-20 (The nativity story)</p> <p>Isaiah 9:6 ("Wonderful Counselor; Prince of Peace")</p>	<p>Luke 2:10, Matthew 2:10, Isaiah 9:2-3, Psalm 148, Psalm 126:1-3, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Isaiah 55:12-13 (Selections on joy)</p>	<p>Matthew 2:1-12 (Magi come from the East)</p> <p>Isaiah 43:16-21 ("I am doing a new thing, now it springs forth" from the East)</p>
						

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)

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	Louis Bouchard	Peggy McCarty Margaret Petersen

Staff

Pastor/Head of Staff
Pianist
Music Director
Custodian
Office Manager

Jennifer Taylor
Nancy Sanford
Stephanie Pasch

Ministers to the world

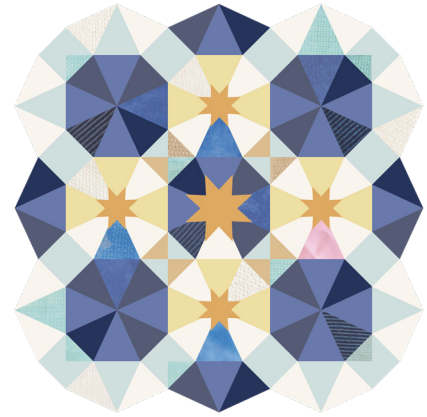
Congregation Members

Community Presbyterian Church will use the Sanctified Art resource *Words for the Beginning* for the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

From Sanctified Art:

“We have crafted an Advent series filled with blessings, with the words we need to hear again and again as we begin a new season. We imagined the words Mary would speak to her newborn son. What scriptures and stories would she impart to him? What lessons would she teach him as he grew? And so, our weekly themes may feel like the lessons we teach to children, but in reality, these are lessons we continue to learn and relearn as adults. They may sound like the messages or homilies we impart to loved ones during special ceremonies or sacred rituals. We intentionally selected scriptures that may be frequently used in weddings, ordination services, or baptisms. We invite you to enter this Advent season as if you are entering a sacred new chapter, holding fast to the reminders that will bolster you for the journey ahead.

In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small, personal and political. And yet, Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. As we also move through new personal and political chapters, may these words for the beginning renew us and remind us of the ways we are called to live out our faith. No matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, let love be your beginning.”



JOY AND CELEBRATION

You are a blessing.

***If you hear nothing else,
if the wind howls, if your brain runs
amok,
if rebuttals and denials line up
like little toy soldiers,
then hear this— you are a blessing.***

For our creating God

breathed life into your being.

***And there is simply no way that,
along with that life,***

some of God’s goodness didn’t slip right in.

So tell the rebuttals to rest.

***Tell the toy soldiers to find another hill,
because this one is reserved for joy and
celebration.***

You are a blessing.

Breathe it in.

Ways to Engage with “Words for the Beginning”

- In worship each Sunday, we will use “Words for Beginning” as the liturgy, bulletin artwork and sometimes an original poem or song.
- Pick up an advent devotional which includes art work, poems, food for thought.
- Pick up an advent calendar and find pictures that fit with the theme for the day As you collect your photos (could be old, could be new, could be printed, could be digital), send or drop off your pictures to the office. Stephanie can scan printed photos and return originals to you asap. The photos will be shared in worship on Sunday, December 29th.
- Follow the CPC page on Facebook for a daily reminder or thought.

AROUND CPC AND THE COMMUNITY

BIRTHDAY WISHES

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



JM Band Extravaganza
Indoor Marching Band Concert
December 3 at 7pm
John Marshall High School
Ilstrup Auditorium

FREE ENTRY
Donations Appreciated



Prayers Requested

Rev. Dr. Lisa Johnson, TE at the Presbyterian Church of Oronoco, is in the process of being diagnosed with cancer. Her doctors haven't determined type or stage yet, but if you'd like to follow along with her health care journey, you can follow her CaringBridge page: <https://www.caringbridge.org/site/f00a5941-8da1-11ef-a331-55628b8b9231>.

Heather Marshall shares the following:

"This year on December 3rd at 7 pm John Marshall High School will be hosting the return of the Band Extravaganza. The Extravaganza is a free community centered indoor marching band concert, in which the Marching Band will be playing a review of the songs from the 2024 season. This event will also be a fundraiser for the giving season, JM gives, where the money will go towards the local organizations Christmas Anonymous and Family Promise. All are welcome and we hope to see you there!"

If anyone has any questions they are more than welcome to reach out to the Marshall family."

GIVING

Per Capita

Per Capita

Providing the means to strengthen the connections of our work, and build lasting relationships to help all Presbyterians share God's love through mission and ministry.

Per Capita Apportionment rate for 2024 is set by the presbytery at \$38.50 per member.

Stephanie will be in the office on Monday morning, December 30th, if you need to drop off any end-of-year donations or commitments.

Merry Christmas to All!



PW will have their annual Christmas party on Tuesday, December 3 at 11:00 am. Mary Alice is lining up sandwiches for us to enjoy. Participants are invited to purchase a gift card (this is optional!!!) in the amount of \$25.00 to be given to the Gage East families for Christmas. The places that Missy of Gage East suggests are as follows:

- Walmart
- Hy-Vee
- Circle K
- Uber

Gage East is having their holiday party on Wednesday, December 4 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm. They have asked CPC to provide 5-6 volunteers to help serve the catered dinner. If you are interested in helping out, please talk to Mark Neville.



Donation to The Reading Center



The committee on the allocation of funds gifted by Margaret B. Nelson to CPC has made a final distribution of \$10,000.00. The committee considered “what would Margaret Nelson do” in determining where the funds should be directed. Last year, funds were given to The Women’s Shelter for the purchase of a much needed van and to Gage East. Margaret brought Gage East to CPC as a place where our church could make a difference. This year it was decided to donate the funds to The Reading Center to help dyslexic children whose family has limited financial resources to be tutored. As you may know, Margaret was a college professor who loved reading and children. In 2025, a speaker from The Reading Center will make a presentation to CPC explaining what The Reading Center provides to Rochester and how the donation will be used. We are most grateful for the gift Margaret made to CPC and believe she would approve how part of that gift is being used. This is a gift that keeps on giving.



CHRISTMAS MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Vote for your favorite Christmas Hymns

This will be used to select the hymns for Christmas eve and Sunday services after Christmas. Please turn in either by e-mailing or leaving in the church office by Dec 15. Thanks for participating!

Rank your top 10 (1-10)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Angels from the Realms of Glory | <input type="checkbox"/> Lo, How a Rose E'er Bloometh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Angels we Have Heard on High | <input type="checkbox"/> O Come All Ye Faithful |
| <input type="checkbox"/> As with Gladness Men of Old | <input type="checkbox"/> O Little Town of Bethlehem |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Away in a Manger | <input type="checkbox"/> Once in David's Royal City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go Tell it on the Mountain | <input type="checkbox"/> Silent Night |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good Christian Friends Rejoice | <input type="checkbox"/> Still, Still, Still |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hark the Herald Angels Sing | <input type="checkbox"/> The First Nowell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In the Bleak Midwinter | <input type="checkbox"/> The Snow Lay on the Ground |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infant Holy, Infant Lowly | <input type="checkbox"/> What Child is This |
| <input type="checkbox"/> It Came Upon a Midnight Clear | <input type="checkbox"/> While Shepherds Watched their Flocks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joy to the World | |



Community Presbyterian's Calendar

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Advent I 9:00am Deacons Meeting 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	2	3 11:00am PW Christmas Party 12:00pm Bulletin info due 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	4 9:00am Prayer Group at CPC 4:30pm Gage East Christmas Party 6:45pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal 7:30pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	5 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	6	7 1:30pm Building Use: Piano Recital
8 Advent II 9:30am Onsite and Online Worship 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	9	10 12:00pm Bulletin info due 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	11 9:00am Prayer Group at CPC 6:45pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal 7:30pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	12 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	13	14
15 Advent III 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	16 9:30am Mission Prayer Group 6:00pm Joint Session Meeting, CPC Session Meeting following	17 12:00pm Bulletin info due - for 12/22 and 12/29 5:30pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	18 9:00am Prayer Group at CPC 6:45pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal 7:30pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	19 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios 6:30pm Worship and Music	20 12:00pm Newsletter articles due	21
22 Advent IV 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	23 Office Closed	24 Office Closed 6:00pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 Office Closed 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	27	28
29 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	30 Office Open 9:00am Bulletin info due	31 Office Closed 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 Office Open - may be remote 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	3	4

Community Presbyterian Church
3705 Fairway Place NW
Rochester, MN 55901



***Christmas Eve
Worship
Onsite and Online***

***Tuesday,
December 24th
6 pm***

**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**