

# Community Press

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROCHESTER, MN



## *Worship with CPC this April!*

April 2nd, Palm Sunday, we will have a dramatic reading of the Passion Story. This will be a meaningful and moving experience for all involved!

April 6th, Maundy Thursday, we will worship at 7 pm.

April 9th, Easter Sunday, celebrate Christ's resurrection with your CPC family and friends! We will also collect the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

## *Easter Season: gather in gratitude!*

"If the only prayer you ever said was 'Thank you!' that would be enough." Meister Eckhardt.

Beginning on Easter Sunday, join in the celebration of the resurrection, continuing through Pentecost, May 28, with the theme of **Gratitude**.

We rejoice in God's great gifts to us of renewal and rebirth in Jesus Christ, in this loving and deeply connected family of faith, and in the various ministries now coming to a close of Meg Cain, Music Director; Judy Kereakos, Handbell Director, and Pastor Jan Wiersma.

Gratefully, we look forward to new leadership yet to be determined!



*We are there*

... with Presbyterians worldwide who are answering God's call.  
This Lenten season, please give what you can.

 ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT 02.22.23 - 04.9.23

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APRIL 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**

“I keep having these irresistible impulses to speak the truth to political leaders.”

Have you had those urges yourself? Whatever side of the aisle you shop on, the truth often seems faded, frayed, or falsified entirely. “How could we have come to such a pass?” I hear people lamenting. I lament myself.



That's why I found it strangely comforting to encounter the words above, quoted in a recent meditation by Richard Rohr.<sup>1</sup> The words are not those of a disgruntled 21st century observer. They were written by a 16th Century Spanish mystic, Teresa of Ávila. Truth was apparently as rare in public spaces then as it remains today, and politics the same mish-mash of good intentions, noble and nefarious deeds, and misdirection. “What atrocities could be avoided,” Teresa said, if world leaders could be brought to an understanding of the truth rather than simply grasping at power.

The Bible had a lot to say about truth and its absence. Jeremiah, whose prophetic ministry predated Teresa's by 2000 years, was told by God, “Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, look around and take note! Search its squares and see if you can find one person who acts justly and seeks truth.” According to the Psalms, truth is seen as a guide for our actions and the measure of our lives. Jesus referred to himself as “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). God and truth are indivisible.

John 9, our gospel story from a recent Sunday, presents a sometimes hilarious picture of regular folks and religious leaders wrangling among themselves over the case of the man born blind but given sight by Jesus. Ironically, in their so-called quest for truth they discount the testimony of the one person who can accurately describe what happened: the man who now can see. Their minds were made up. Both Jesus and the man he healed were labeled guilty, sinners, sinister characters.

The newly-sighted man meets Jesus again at the end of the narrative. This time he sees also with his heart and spirit, and recognizes Jesus as the Son of God, the Messiah. No doubt remains for him.

I wish I could say that I have a firm grasp of The Truth at all times, but the real truth is that I have my own points of view, and any point of view is also a point of blindness. Still, in faithfulness, I can seek the whole picture as well as my corner of it. I can question anything that doesn't seem consistent with the Gospel message of peace, forgiveness, love and compassion.

In faithfulness, I can pray with St. Teresa, “God, please help world leaders understand the magnitude of their responsibilities.... I sincerely pray for our leaders, and I would like to be of some help to them.... Here is my life. Here is my honor. Here is my will. I give them all to you. I am yours. Use me as you will.”

In faithfulness, when I am convinced that God has shown me the truth in the light of Christ, I will not be afraid to speak that truth to power. May we all seek, question, and pray with such desire in our hearts, and may we all be unafraid to speak when the Spirit moves.

<sup>1</sup> <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/a-heartfelt-and-humble-prayer-2023-03-15/>

# SPECIAL OFFERING: ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

We are slowly coming out of a fog — not only arising from the shadow of a global pandemic, but also emerging out of the haze of our own wilderness journey through Lent. What began on Ash Wednesday ends on Easter Sunday. Through personal reflection and reparation, Lent brings us to our knees, but the glory of the Resurrection lifts us up into the welcoming arms of a Savior, who sees our failings, but loves us unconditionally, nonetheless. Thanks be to God!

In Isaiah 58, the prophet exclaims, “Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in” (Isaiah 58:12). As the people of Israel returned from the cloud of exile and struggled to rebuild their lives, Isaiah questioned their efforts: [Are you not called] “to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them?” (Isaiah 58:7).

Then in Matthew 25, we hear Jesus calling to us, “For I was hungry and you gave me food ... I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing. ... As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:35–40).

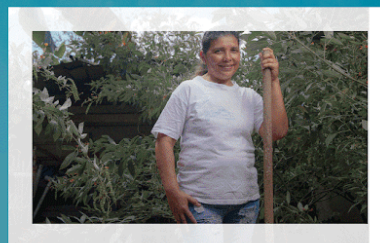
Isaiah and Jesus are making an important theological point: Faithfulness to God leads to fixing things that are broken — broken lives, broken spirits, broken hearts, broken relationships, and broken breaches of faith and trust.

When we give to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering on Easter Sunday, we are helping repair peoples’ lives — people who are hurting, broken, oppressed, lost or in need. The people about whom Isaiah and Jesus spoke. The people we are invited to connect with, today.

All are invited to visit the OGHS website ([pcusa.org/oghs](http://pcusa.org/oghs)) to find out more information on how a gift helps people all over the world, and offer prayers for the people and projects who receive this support.

All are invited to give a gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering — especially in light of the challenges over the past year. Join Christians all across the country in opening their hearts to witness tangibly to the repairing love of God in Jesus Christ through One Great Hour of Sharing.

Providing **RELIEF** from natural disasters, **FOOD** for the hungry, and **SUPPORT** for the poor and oppressed.



PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): TERESA BIDART/CHILIBE, KATHY MELVIN, ALLIANCE FOR FAIR FOOD



02.22.23 - 04.09.23

# BIRTHDAY WISHES

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**  
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Community Presbyterian Church donated \$1365.00 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to go towards earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria. We send the monetary donations along with our prayers as they begin the long road to recovery and restoration!

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### • *Working for Justice and Peace* •

#### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN J&P CALENDAR



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

#### APRIL

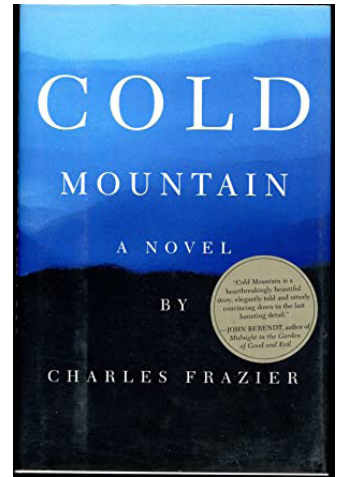
- **Sexual Assault Awareness Month;** [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual\\_Assault\\_Awareness\\_Month](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_Assault_Awareness_Month)
- Ecumenical Advocacy Days; [advocacydays.org](http://advocacydays.org)
- 7 Good Friday; [presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/good-friday](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/good-friday)
- 7 World Health Day; [who.int/campaigns/world-health-day](http://who.int/campaigns/world-health-day)
- 8 International Romani Day; [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Romani\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Romani_Day)
- 9 Easter; [presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/resurrection-lord-easter](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/resurrection-lord-easter)
- 18 Holocaust Remembrance Day; [ushmm.org/remember/days-of-remembrance/resources/calendar](http://ushmm.org/remember/days-of-remembrance/resources/calendar)
- 21-27 National Agriculture Week; [iatp.org](http://iatp.org)
- 23 Earth Day; [presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-day-sunday](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-day-sunday)
- 24 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day; [presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/churchcalendar/armenian-genocide](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/churchcalendar/armenian-genocide)
- 26 Denim Day; [denimdayinfo.org](http://denimdayinfo.org)

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The April selection for the Book Discussion Group *Cold Mountain* by Jonathan Frazier. The group will meet on April 23 after worship. “[T]his extraordinary tale of a soldier’s perilous journey back to his beloved at the end of the Civil War is at once an enthralling adventure, a stirring love story, and a luminous evocation of a vanished land. Adapted into an Oscar-nominated movie starring Nicole Kidman and Jude Law, and a 2015 opera co-commissioned between Santa Fe Opera, Opera Philadelphia and the Minnesota Opera, *Cold Mountain* portrays an era that continues to speak eloquently to our time.”



**Read the book! Join in on the discussion! All are welcome!**

## AROUND THE COMMUNITY... AT CPC



CPC will host a conversation with Sarah Augustine, co-founder and Director of the Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition on Monday, April 17, from 3-5 pm.

The Doctrine of Discovery refers to a principle in public international law under which, when a nation “discovers” land, it acquires rights on that land. In fact, the doctrine was used to legitimize the colonization and theft of already inhabited lands outside of Europe.

The event was arranged by allies supporting Makoce Ikikcupi (Land Recovery) whose goal is the return of land to Indigenous people of Minnesota. This is accomplished through donations and other means of buying back property for which they were never compensated by the US government.

Augustine is a Tewa (Pueblo) descendant who has represented the interests of vulnerable Indigenous people around the world to their own governments, the UN, the World Health Organization, and other international bodies. She has taught in several universities, and serves on multiple boards enabling vulnerable people to speak for themselves.

An Anabaptist, Augustine is the author of *The Land Is Not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery* (Herald Press, 2021).

The congregation is welcome to attend the event. Coffee and refreshments will be served. Pre-registration is not required, but to assure adequate seating is provided, please inform Pastor Jan if you wish to attend.

# Community Presbyterian's Calendar

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:45am Book Discussion Group 10:45am Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	27 6:00pm Med-City Tai Chi	28 10:00am 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 12:00pm Online Conference Call 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	30 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	31	1
2 Palm Sunday 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	3 10:00am Mission Prayer Group	4 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Christian Education Committee meeting 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	5 6:30am Prayer Group at CPC 12:00pm Online Conference Call 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	6 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	7 Good Friday	8
9 Easter 8:30am Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	10 Office Closed for Easter Monday	11 10:00am PW Bible Study 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	12 6:30am Prayer Group at CPC 12:00pm Online Conference Call 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	13 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	14	15
16 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	17 10:00am Mission Prayer Group 3:00pm Building Use: Doctrine of Discovery Conversation	18 12:00pm Presby Pastor's Gathering 12:00pm Bulletin info due 5:30pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	19 6:30am Prayer Group at CPC 12:00pm Online Conference Call 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	20 12:00pm Newsletter articles due 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	21	22
23 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:45am Book Discussion Group 2:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	24	25 10:00am PW Bible Study 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Session Meeting (v) 7:00pm Building Use: Mission Aid Network	26 6:30am Prayer Group at CPC 12:00pm Online Conference Call 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	27 5:30pm Building Use: Labranza de Dios	28	29
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Community Presbyterian Church  
3705 Fairway Place NW  
Rochester, MN 55901



A farewell party for Pastor Jan Wiersma, choir director Meg Cain and bell choir director Judy Kereakos is scheduled for Sunday, June 4, after the church service.

The event will honor the many years these three have served Community Presbyterian Church. Lunch will be served. Watch for more information about the work they have done.

**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)**