

# Community Press

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROCHESTER, MN



**Come Worship in the sun and enjoy our Garden of Life!  
Sunophobe? Bring your umbrella!**

## OUTDOOR WORSHIP



**Volunteers to help set up required!**

### **Outdoor Worship on September 7!**

Join CPC as we worship in the garden one last time for 2025! We will celebrate communion together with Pastor John Curtiss presiding and preaching. The music will be fantastic as Brass, Etc! will be our guests again. Bring your sunglasses and a lawn chair. Afterwards, there will be a pancake breakfast. Don't miss this fun Sunday!



*The Peace and  
Global Witness  
Offering will  
be collected on  
October 5, World  
Communion*

*Sunday. Watch for more information about this offering later in  
September and in the October newsletter. In preparation for this of-  
fering, you can sign up for daily devotions via email. See page 3.*

SEPTEMBER 2025

# 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 2025</u>	Sue Chipman Aaron Simms	Christian Education Finance and Stewardship Worship and Music
<u>Class of 2026</u>	Amanda Ross Sherrie Wilson Lyal Powell	Personnel and Nominating Mission Building and Grounds
<u>Officers:</u>	Dave Copeland  Joanne Powell	Clerk (Non-voting) Financial Secretary Treasurer

### 2025 Nominating Committee

Mary Meyer, Dave Copeland, Jane Burgstaler, Mary Alice Richardson  
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 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Louis Bouchard Mary Meyer	Peggy McCarty Margaret Petersen	Carole Kinion-Copeland Dave Copeland

## Staff

Pastor/Head of Staff  
Pianist  
Music Director  
Custodian  
Office Manager

Jennifer Taylor  
Nancy Sanford  
Stephanie Pasch

**Ministers to the world**

**Congregation Members**

## Prayer at Community Presbyterian Church

- If you or your loved ones need to be on the prayer chain or in the Sunday morning prayers, please contact the office with your request!
- There are 2 prayer groups at CPC. One meets every other week on Monday mornings at 9:30 am. The other prayer group meets Wednesdays at 9 am.



PRESBYTERY OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA

**A Prayer for the Church Program Year from church-wide PC-USA.**

**O God, gather us back, gather us in, and surround us with community and your grace as groups kick off, studies return, and opportunities for formation and fellowship begin anew.**

**By your Spirit, walk with families as they resume familiar or even new routines of school and activities as time together becomes scarce again.**

**By your grace, grant us all a renewed spirit as we prepare for our stewardship season, the quickly approaching Advent season and session and committee meetings.**

**Strengthen us for the journey ahead by providing us with energy, wisdom, and enthusiasm for the mission and ministry we do in your holy name. Remind us of your love when the days are long, the task list seems to never end and the emails pile up. Give us the gift of levity and help us know that you, O God, are with us every step of the way.**

**Amen.**

May God bless your ministry!  
Have a blessed year!  
Blessings!  
Zach Wilson

Blessings in your ministry!  
Steve Martin

May God continue to guide, bless and send you on your mission and ministry!  
Sincerely many blessings to you all  
Dana Kewig  
Flora

Peace to you all!  
Helen

19 August 2025

Dear Pastor, Session, and people of Community Presbyterian,  
The staff of the Presbytery prayed for you in our staff meeting today. We pray the Holy Spirit grants you grace and wisdom as you discern your next stages in ministry.  
Presbytery Staff

## The Season of Peace begins in September.

**The Path Begins Here: A Call to Daily Reflection and there's still time to join us in reflection and prayer. Beginning Sept. 7 through Oct. 5, World Communion Sunday, you can receive a daily devotional in your email inbox featuring Presbyterians that faithfully pursue(d) peace and justice. These reflections invite you to: Pause. Reflect. Pray. And realign with God, who calls us toward peace. You can sign up using this link: [Sign Up for Daily Devotionals from the PCUSA](#).**



## IMPORTANT EVENTS OF CPC MEMBERS



BIRTHDAY WISHES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

***Birthdays and Anniversaries are in the print edition of our newsletter. Pick one up next time you are at church!***



*Ann Hesley's celebration of life will be held on October 18 at 11:30 am-2:30 pm will be held in the Old School House in Oronoco. There is the old brick school house in Oronoco which has been modernized into an event center. The address is 25 2nd St. SE, Oronoco MN. The family would like an*

*RSVP, so they can more accurately plan for the meal after the memorial service. Either RSVP by calling (410) 746-2255 or emailing [allisonhaus@verizon.net](mailto:allisonhaus@verizon.net). Watch for a sign up for carpooling from CPC, in October.*

*Our dear friend and member Ann Hesley passed away on June 23, 2025. Her obituary can be found here: <https://mackenfuneral-home.com/memorial-services/ann-l-hesley/>*



## IMPORTANT EVENTS CONTINUED

**Ralph Sidney Smith** was born December 1, 1935 in Bismarck, ND to Edna (Lehman) and Ralph Smith. He passed away August 16, 2025 in Rochester, MN. He was 89 years old.

In 1948 he and his family moved to Frazee Minnesota. Ralph graduated from Frazee High School in 1954 and the following year enlisted into the US Air Force. Ralph spent the next three years in France and Germany. In Germany, he met his first wife, Marion. They were married in 1959. They were blessed with four wonderful children, Rebecca Ann and Barbara Jean were born in Germany. Steve and Raymond were born in Minnesota.

In 1961, Ralph entered the US Army and returned to Germany for two years.

After a short time back in Frazee, Ralph and his family moved to Minneapolis where he drove transit bus for Twin Cities Lines.

In 1965 Ralph moved his family for the last time, to Rochester, MN. This started a long and distinguished career at IBM which lasted 27 years. During this time, he also completed his career with the MN Army National Guard. He retired as Supply Sergeant for "Charlie" Company 1-135 in Faribault, MN.

Ralph and his family spent 30 wonderful summers at their river home on Lake Peterson by the Pioneer Club in Wabasha, MN.

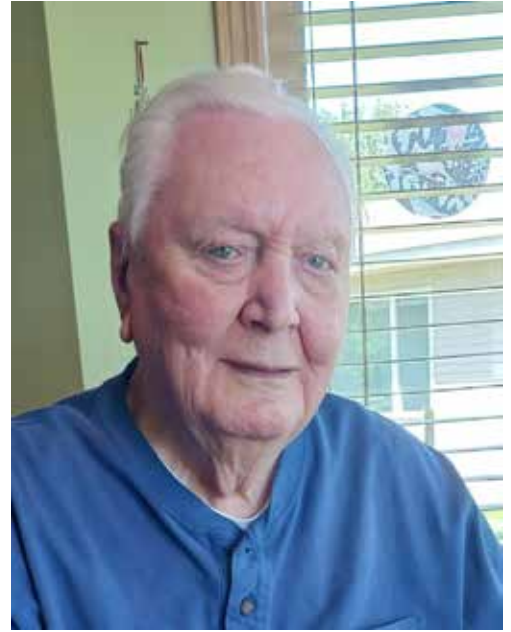
Following the death of his first wife of 39 years, he married Launie J. Olson at Lake Peterson on the Mississippi river in August 2001.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents, stepfather Rudy Hille, first wife Marion, daughters Rebecca Ann and Barbara Jane, one grandson and one great granddaughter.

Ralph is survived by his wife Launie, sons Steven and Raymond, a brother-in-law and two sisters-in-law, nine grandchildren and twenty great grandchildren.

Ralph will be laid to rest at a later date in a private service at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests memorials be directed to the Eagles Cancer Telethon, 917 15th Ave SE, Rochester, MN 55904 or to an organization of your choice.



# MISSION



Community Presbyterian Church  
3705 Fairway PI NW  
Rochester, MN 55901-5036

Dear friends in Christ at Community Presbyterian Church,

Taking the next step is hard.

Whether it's starting a new job, moving to a new city, or adopting healthier habits, the process of transformation can be daunting and filled with obstacles.

Now imagine how difficult it is for those experiencing homelessness.

At The Landing MN, we understand the immense courage it takes to make positive changes under such challenging circumstances. With your generous gift of \$235.00 on August 11, 2025, you are helping us provide the support and resources needed to make next steps just a little bit easier.

Thank you for partnering with us to create a supportive environment where small changes happen every day.

With our deepest gratitude,

Sincerely,  
Alex Hurlebaus, LGSW  
Executive Director

Thank you!

#### FOR YOUR TAX PURPOSES

Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. We acknowledge no goods or services were provided to you in return for your contribution. Please save this letter for your tax records as confirmation of your donation. The Landing MN is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, EIN 83-2953783



## The Landing shared an update with CPC.

“We had a successful Breakfast Program Trial earlier in August!! A total of 304 hot breakfasts were served over the 5 day week and it was so well received by our guests. We will be starting this program permanently this fall and we could not do what we’re doing without all of YOU! Thank you so much for your time, efforts, and donations to make this possible.”

## The Landing MN Breakfast Trial Week:



**August 11th-15th**



**Monday:** Scrambled Eggs, Turkey Sausage, English Muffin, Breakfast Potatoes (70 served)

**Tuesday:** Corn Beef Hash, Hard Boiled Egg, Toast (50 served)

**Wednesday:** Oatmeal with Berries and Melon, Toast (54 served)

**Thursday:** Pancakes with Syrup and Peanut Butter, Turkey Sausage (65 served)

**Friday:** Mexican Scrambled Eggs, Beans, Tortilla (60 served)

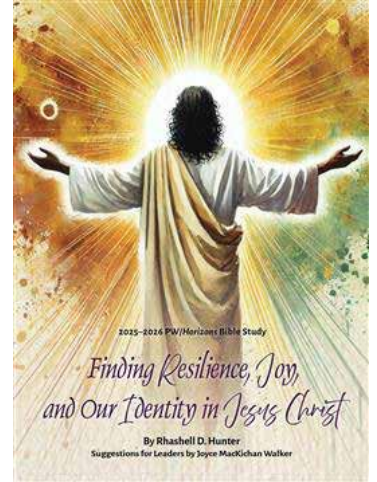


The PW Bible Study for 2025-2026 will begin on Tuesday, September 23 at 9:30 am. They will meet every other week for 5 times this fall, and then do the remainder of the study in the spring.

*Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*

By Rhashell D. Hunter

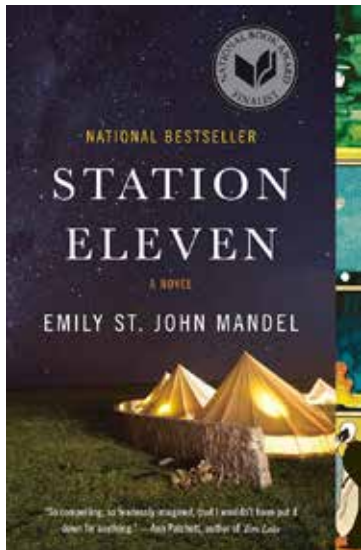
From the Introduction to *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*: In this Bible study, we will explore resilience. This is modeled for us by several biblical characters, gospel and epistle writers, as well as Jesus. So, what exactly is resilience? Resilience is the ability to spring back into shape and to adapt well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or stress—such as from family, relationships, health, workplace, and financial stressors. People who survive and thrive well in change are resilient.



The Bible study is also about joy. How do we find joy in a chaotic world? Christian joy may be different from how a lot of people define joy. Joy is sometimes confused with happiness. For Christians, joy can occur while we are in the midst of difficult circumstances. Joy is the second fruit of the spirit, preceded by love and followed by peace (Gal 5:22-23). Trusting in God when we are in trying times can fill us with glorious joy and peace. We have joy in our suffering, because ultimately our joy is found in Jesus Christ.

We will also seek to rediscover our identity. Identity is more than who we are or who we show ourselves to be. At its core, it points to our humanity. Our core identity is not found in our titles, our positions, our spouses, our partners, or our possessions. For Christians, our identity is found in Jesus Christ.

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The book discussion group will meet to discuss *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel on Sunday, September 21 after worship.

One snowy night a famous Hollywood actor slumps over and dies onstage during a production of *King Lear*. Hours later, the world as we know it begins to dissolve. Moving back and forth in time – from the actor's early days as a film star to fifteen years in the future, when a theater troupe known as the Traveling Symphony roams the wasteland of what remains – this suspenseful, lamenting, spellbinding novel charts the strange twists of fate that connect five people, the actor, the man who tried to save him, the actor's first wife, his oldest friend, and a young actress with the Traveling Symphony, caught in the crosshairs of a dangerous self-proclaimed prophet. Sometimes terrifying, sometimes tender, *Station Eleven* tells a story about the relationships that sustain us, the ephemeral nature of fame, and the beauty of the world as we know it.



2025–2026 PW/Horizons Bible Study

# Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

By Rhashell D. Hunter

Suggestions for Leaders by Joyce MacKichan Walker



How do we find our resilience and joy in the midst of stressful life circumstances? By reconnecting to our spirituality, following women in the Bible, and studying Jesus' witness, we can discover a path that helps us fully embrace and celebrate who we are as faithful disciples.



LESSON ONE: Mary Magdalene, the Tower



LESSON TWO: Mary "of a Certain Village"



LESSON THREE: Jesus Is Tested



LESSON FOUR: The Prodigal Child, the Eldest Child, and the Devoted Parent



LESSON FIVE: The Gift of the Woman Who Was Poor



LESSON SIX: Finding Our Joy in Christ: "I Will Say It Again, Rejoice"



LESSON SEVEN: The Woman Who Was Bent Over



LESSON EIGHT: Remembering Jesus' Baptism



LESSON NINE: When You Are Walking With Jesus: The Road to Emmaus

HZN25409



## AROUND THE COMMUNITY

### FAIR TRADE MARKET

Over 20 fair and ethical trade vendors under one roof selling food, chocolate, home décor, and so much more



Friday, October 3, 4pm-7pm  
Saturday, October 4, 9am-4pm  
Sunday, October 5, 10am-1pm

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
2124 Viola Rd NE  
Rochester, MN 55906



Find us on Facebook

OSLCFairTrade

www.rochesterosl.org | 507-289-3021

Join Christ United Methodist Church in Rochester, Minnesota, for a Milestone Handbell Anniversary directed by Paul Kingsbury

The handbell program of Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC) in Rochester will celebrate its 60th anniversary on Sunday, November 9th, 2025.

The celebration will include a concert that afternoon including all three of the current ensembles, with ringers ranging in age from 6 to politeness-forbidsdetails-but-definitely-way-up-there.

The concert will also feature the premiere of a new composition commissioned for the occasion, a joyous setting of "I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing," by Brian Childers.

CUMC is also inviting alumni of the program to return for a pick-up choir. Music will be distributed ahead of time and rehearsed on Saturday November 8th. (Selections will be forgiving for alumni who may have rusty ringing skills.) If you are an alum of the CUMC bell program or if you know or are related to an alum who might be interested in participating, please connect with us at [email@cumethodist.com](mailto:email@cumethodist.com) for more details.

The handbell program at CUMC has been a source of joy, worship, and community for six decades, touching countless lives along the way. Join us to celebrate this legacy.



New Event - One Night Only!

### A Choral Arts Cabaret

Friday, September 19, 7:30 pm  
The Castle Ballroom

**Tickets: \$65**

*includes the show, hors d'oeuvres, and a complimentary beverage from the bar*

Our choirs are full of excellent all-around performers who can't wait to present their Broadway and pop favorites in this new Choral Arts event. The evening will feature familiar faces in solo and small group numbers with a live band, food and drinks. Join the spirited atmosphere and get ready to be entertained!

[Buy Tickets](#)

<https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=cae>

# September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> <b>9:30am Online and Onsite Worship</b> 2:30pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>1</b> <b>Office Closed - Labor Day</b>	<b>2</b> 12:00pm Bulletin info due 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	<b>3</b> 9:00am Prayer Group -	<b>4</b> <b>5:00pm Worship and Music Meeting at the Pillers Home</b> 5:30pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>9:30am Online and Outdoor Worship with Communion and special guests: Brass, Etc! Pancake Breakfast following worship!</b> 2:30pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>8</b> 6:00pm Great Room Use: Med City Tai Chi	<b>9</b> 12:00pm Bulletin info due 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	<b>10</b> 9:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 5:30pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>12</b> 6:30pm Great Room/ Library Use: SE MN ASD Social Group	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>9:30am Onsite and Online Worship</b> 2:30pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>15</b> 9:30am Mission Prayer Group 6:00pm Great Room Use: Med City Tai Chi	<b>16</b> 12:00pm Bulletin info due 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	<b>17</b> 9:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 5:30pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 12:00pm Newsletter articles due
<b>21</b> <b>9:30am Online and Onsite Worship</b> <b>10:40am Book Discussion Group</b> 2:30pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>9:30am PW Bible Study</b> 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Session Meeting 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	<b>24</b> 9:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 5:30pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>9:30am Online and Onsite Worship</b> 2:30pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>29</b> 9:30am Mission Prayer Group 6:00pm Great Room Use: Med City Tai Chi	<b>30</b> 12:00pm Bulletin info due 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	<b>1</b> 9:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm CPC Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal	<b>2</b> 5:30pm Great Room Use: Labranza de Dios	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>



Community Presbyterian Church  
3705 Fairway Place NW  
Rochester, MN 55901



*Community  
Presbyterian Church  
Our Mission is to be an  
open-hearted,  
open-minded  
Christian community  
sharing a ministry of  
faith, hope, and love.*

**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 the church office: 507-280-9291  
or email [office@cpcrochester.org](mailto:office@cpcrochester.org)**