

# Community Press

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROCHESTER, MN



This Lent, we will be using this resource from Church Anew: *Unbound: Longing for Wholeness*.

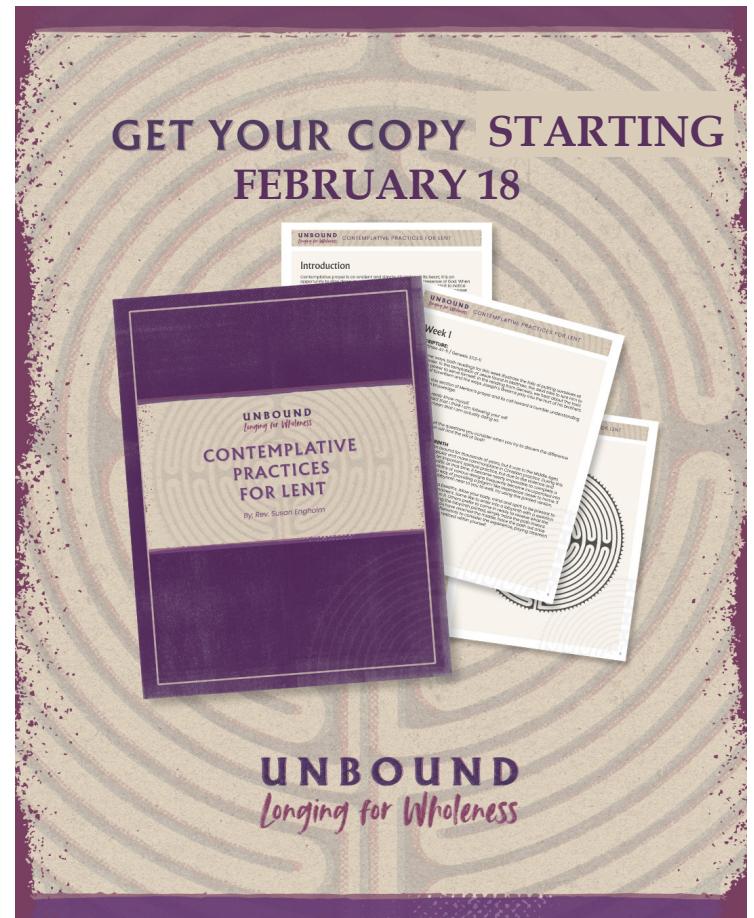
From the Church Anew's website:

"What if the opposite of being bound is being whole? Our world is filled with things that hold us captive. These things that bind us prevent us from living the whole, abundant life that God has promised us. Through the stories of regular people encountering Jesus, and being drawn to the wholeness that Jesus provides, we can learn about our own longings and be drawn into wholeness."

We welcome longtime friend, Rev. Julie Beck, who will join us for worship (virtually) during Lent.

Instead of a traditional devotional or the daily texts, we will delve into contemplative practices. The resource will be available on Ash Wednesday!

**Ash Wednesday is February 18. We will begin our Lenten journey together with a Wednesday evening service at 7 pm.**



FEBRUARY 2026

# 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 2026</u>	Amanda Ross Lyal Powell	Personnel and Nominating Building and Grounds
<u>Class of 2027</u>	Peggy McCarty Ronda Marshall Mary Alice Richardson Dave Copeland	Christian Education Finance and Stewardship Mission Worship and Music
<u>Officers:</u>	Mary Meyer Mark Pillers Joanne Powell	Clerk (Non-voting) Financial Secretary Treasurer

### 2026 Nominating Committee

Mary Meyer, Jane Burgstaler, 2 open spots

## 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.

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Carole Kinion Copeland	Stacy Kopecky
Margaret Petersen	Mary Meyer

## Staff

Pastor/Head of Staff  
Pianist  
Music Director  
Custodian  
Office Manager

Dr. Tianyao Xie  
Jennifer Taylor  
Nancy Sanford  
Stephanie Pasch

## Ministers to the world

## Congregation Members

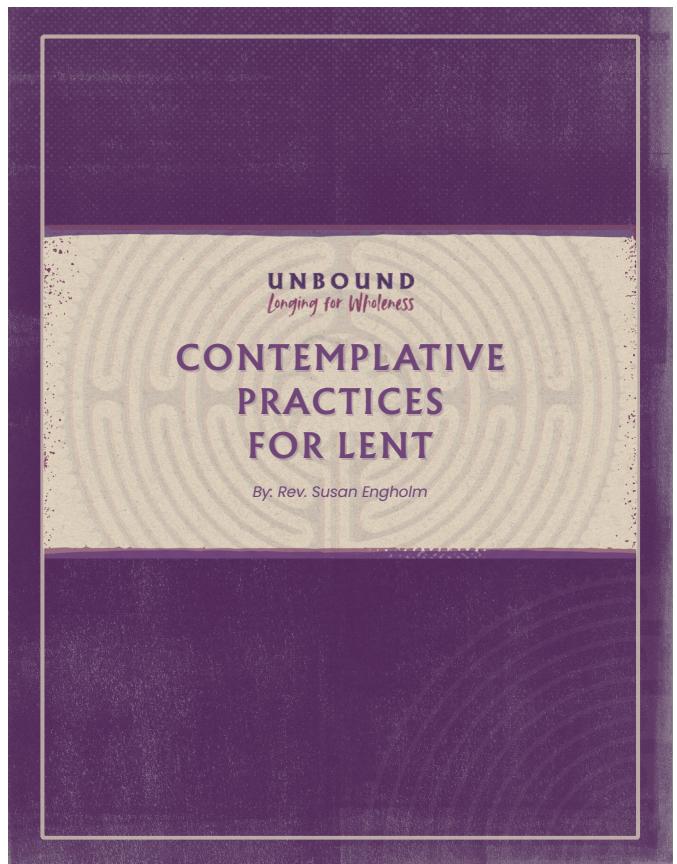
# CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES DURING LENT

From the Introduction:

Contemplative prayer is an ancient and simple discipline. At its heart, it is an opportunity to slow down, to create space, and to notice the presence of God. When we slow down, we can hear the inner stirrings a little clearer and we start to notice the ways God is already at work in our lives and in the world.

Contemplative prayer practices help us be in the world with solid footing, clarifying our understanding of how God is calling us to serve our neighbor.

Throughout these weeks in Lent, we will use Thomas Merton's famous prayer from *Thoughts on Solitude* as a guide. (You can easily find this prayer online if you'd like to reflect on its entirety.) Merton (1915-1968) was an American Trappist monk who lived at the Abbey of Gethsemani in Trappist, KY. Merton wrote prolifically about faith and spirituality and is credited as one of the people who reintroduced contemplative prayer into Christian practice. Merton's prayer offers an honest look at the ways we might wrestle with our faith towards God and the ways we delicately step into a future that can appear so uncertain, making it an ideal companion in this season.



## CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY WISHES



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

# BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The book discussion group will read *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr for the February meeting.

From the Rochester Public Library website:

**Winner of the 2015 Audie Award for Fiction**

**Winner of the Pulitzer Prize**, a *New York Times* Book Review

Top Ten Book, National Book Award finalist, more than two and a half years on the *New York Times* bestseller list

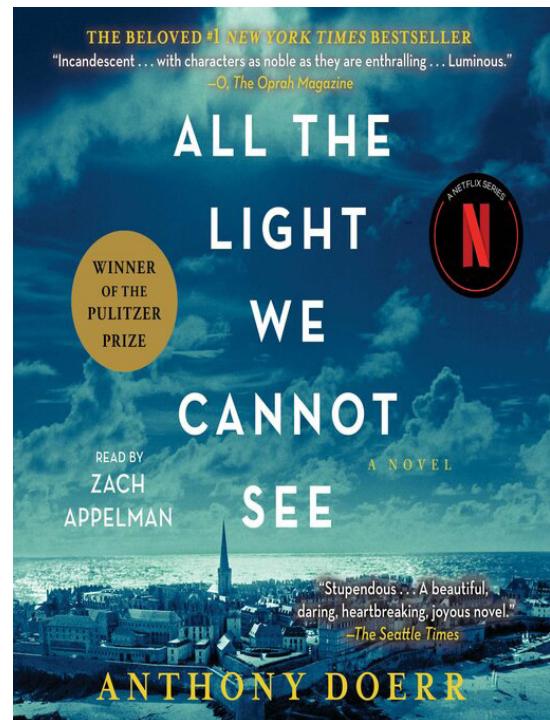
"From the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning Anthony Doerr, the stunningly beautiful instant *New York Times* best-seller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

Marie-Laure lives in Paris near the Museum of Natural History, where her father works. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel.

In a mining town in Germany, Werner Pfennig, an orphan, grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find that brings them news and stories from places they have never seen or imagined. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments and is enlisted to use his talent to track down the resistance. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another.

Doerr's "stunning sense of physical detail and gorgeous metaphors" (*San Francisco Chronicle*) are dazzling. Ten years in the writing, a National Book Award finalist, *All the Light We Cannot See* is a magnificent, deeply moving novel from a writer "whose sentences never fail to thrill" (*Los Angeles Times*).

The Book Discussion Group will meet on Sunday, February 15, following worship. All are welcome to join in the discussion!





*In December, CPC members and family were happy to volunteer at the Gage East Holiday party!*

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

FEBRUARY 2026

- Black History Month; [blackhistorymonth.gov](http://blackhistorymonth.gov)
- National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month; [teendvmonth.org](http://teendvmonth.org)
- 01 National Freedom Day; [presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-2824-national-freedom-day](http://presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-2824-national-freedom-day)
- 01–07 World Interfaith Harmony Week; [worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com](http://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com)
- 08 Souper Bowl of Caring; [tacklehunger.org](http://tacklehunger.org)
- 12 International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers; [redhandday.org](http://redhandday.org)
- 18 Ash Wednesday; [pcusa.org/resource/ash-wednesday-service](http://pcusa.org/resource/ash-wednesday-service)

# Hope That Transforms Us

Saturday, February 28th  
9:00am-12:00pm

Attend in-person or via Zoom

Hear a variety of people share their stories of hope.  
Find joy in the midst of darkness through group discussion and individual reflection.



**Dr. Edward Creagan**

Dr. Ed Creagan, Mayo Clinic oncologist and palliative-care pioneer, former president of the Mayo Staff, is a beloved speaker and author known for his humor, compassion, and practical wisdom on living well through life's hardest moments.



**Fr. Nick Mezacappa**

Fr. Nick Mezacappa, longtime Calvary Episcopal Church rector, is a retired priest devoted to community connection, justice, humor, and storytelling—still serving others in both ministry and everyday life.



*Sisters of Saint Francis*  
**Assisi Heights Spirituality Center**

1001 14th Street NW | Rochester, MN 55901



507-280-2195 | [rochesterfranciscan.org](http://rochesterfranciscan.org)

# February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>9:30am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion</b>	2 9:30am Mission Prayer Group 6:00pm Great Room Use: Med City Tai Chi	3 9:00am Bulletin info due 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	4 8:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm CPC Choir Rehearsal -	5	6	7 5:00pm Great Room Use: Birthday Party
8 <b>9:30am Onsite and Online Worship</b>	9 6:00pm Great Room Use: Med City Tai Chi	10 9:00am Bulletin info due 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	11 8:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	12	13 6:30pm Great Room/ Library Use: SE MN ASD Social Group	14
15 <b>9:30am Online and Onsite Worship</b> <b>10:40am Book Discussion Group</b>	16 Office Closed - Presidents Day 9:30am Mission Prayer Group	17 9:00am Bulletin info due 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	18 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 8:00am Prayer Group <b>7:00pm Worship</b>	19	20 12:00pm Newsletter articles due	21
22 <b>9:30am Online and Onsite Worship</b>	23 6:00pm Great Room Use: Med City Tai Chi	24 9:00am Bulletin info due 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network 7:30pm Session Meeting	25 8:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	26	27	28

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)**