

Community Press

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROCHESTER, MN



**ONE GREAT
HOUR OF SHARING**

What does the Lord require of you?

...to do justice

and to love kindness and to walk
humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

Responding to Christ's call to ministries of
compassion for the world's most vulnerable.



May God who seeks
you by night and by
day, in death and in
life, open your senses
to the mystery of
God's grace...

REV. MARISSA SOTOS

*Lent continues through
March! Palm Sunday
is March 29, Maundy
Thursday is April 2 and
Easter is April 5!*



**SPRING
FORWARD!**

SET YOUR
CLOCKS
AHEAD
1 HOUR

**Daylight Saving Time
begins on March 8!
Remember to "spring
forward"!**

*Community Presbyterian Church will collect the
One Great Hour of Sharing special offering on
Easter Sunday, April 5.*



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

MARCH 2026

005313 26-001



Text **OGHS** to **91999** to support these vital ministries, or visit pcusa.org/oghs.



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.

Class of 2026

Carole Kinion Copeland
Margaret Petersen

Class of 2027

Stacy Kopecky
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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FROM PEGGY MCCARTY

NEW HAPPENINGS IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Ever wanted to read the whole Bible, but it was just too daunting? Yes, me too.

Our first new class beginning in April will be a “Cliff notes” version of each book of the Bible. There will be a series exploring each book in short explanations of just 2 or 3 pages. We will cover several per session. In just a few weeks, we will be familiar with each book. If a book interests you, feel free to read the whole thing.

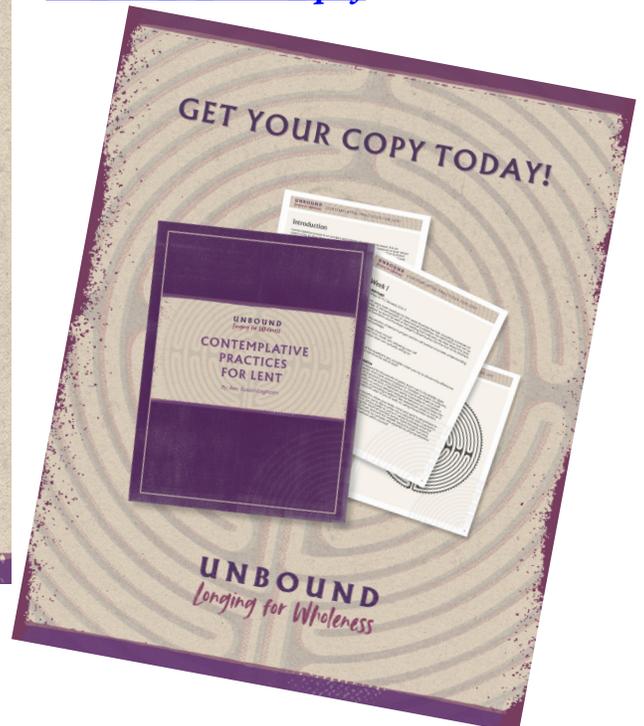
Our second happening will be a series of Sunday morning speakers. There will be invitations to Jewish leaders, Hindu leaders, Muslim leaders and perhaps Buddhist or others. Watch for details in future newsletters.



CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES FOR LENT



*As Lent will continue through the month of March, it is not too late to pick up a copy of **Contemplative Practices for Lent**. Paper copies are available at church, in the narthex. Electronic copies can be found here: [http://www.cpcrochester.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Contemplative Practices - Lent To Go Vol 5 2026 .pdf](http://www.cpcrochester.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Contemplative-Practices-Lent-To-Go-Vol-5-2026.pdf)*



Subject: Note from the Twin Cities

This is a personal note with stories about what is happening here in the Twin Cities. The ICE invasion is impacting me, my family and just about everyone I know. And, everyone I know is doing something to resist ICE, from protesting in the streets with whistles and recording whatever ICE does to lending support and/or directly helping the immigrants living here. Regardless of what we do, resistance remains strong and deeply felt because it is about more than politics. It is about morality. It is about resisting evil.

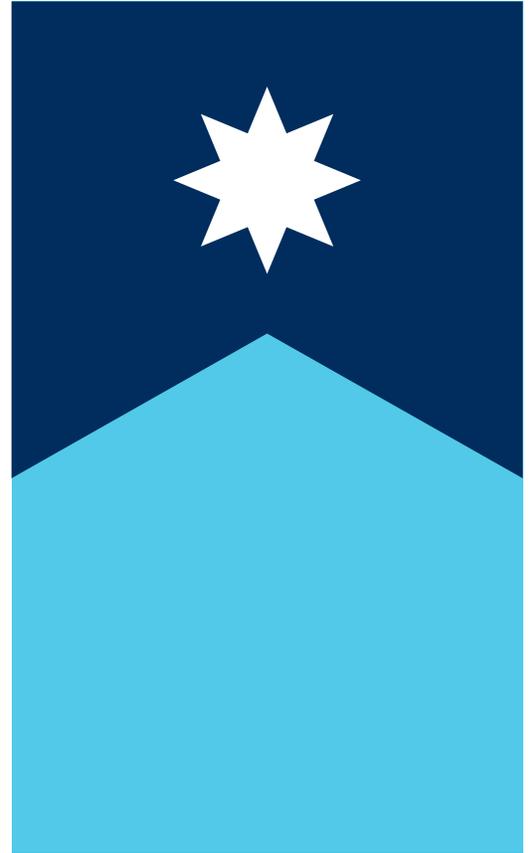
So you know, I purposely am not protesting in the streets, although I attend the large marches whenever I can. (I missed the big one in minus 20 to 30 degree temperatures because I can't manage that much cold.) That said, I think the protesters throughout our streets and neighborhoods, whistles and phones in hand, are all heroes, and they are paying huge personal prices to do this work. ICE is indescribably cruel and brutal, even using weapons of war with impunity. And now the government is using its surveillance abilities to seek out and go after them after the fact.

People are helping. Everywhere I drive I see people on corners, protecting schools, childcare facilities, bus stops and the other places ICE targets. Other helpers drive children to and from school or do errands for locked in families. Some help with food shelves and solicit donations for food, rent, and legal fees.

“The Resistance” is conducted through a unique web of neighborhood and community interconnections I find difficult to describe. It is like a living web, spontaneously changing with need, but without any leader. Completely a “grassroots” pheromone, the support and resistance is conducted with neither permission nor help from generally recognized leaders.

My immediate family members live in south Minneapolis. Each family is affected by and dealing with the ICE invasion differently. (It goes without saying that no one in my immediate family supports ICE.)

Family A. My daughter's family. My grandchildren (8 and 13 years old) attend a small Catholic school in South Minneapolis. Classes are extremely small and everyone knows one another in this tight community. About 80 percent of the children come from immigrant families. This school has been directly impacted since mid December, a time when members of two families were detained. It is difficult to describe how the children in this school have been impacted. Their understanding of the world has been turned upside down. My grandchildren are classmates with children who have had family members ripped away. I think every child in this school, including my own grandchildren, has lost a bit of childhood.



AN REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

My daughter volunteered to be a “room mother” anticipating she would be doing typical volunteer work (cupcakes) for the school year. Instead she is engulfed in school planning and activities designed to protect and create a feeling of safety for the children within the school. Making the school a “safe place” is a priority. Her off work hours are now spent as a troubleshooter/communication resource for parents. She financially contributes and solicits support for the school’s decision to help eight locked in families, drives children to and from school, brings donated groceries etc. My daughter is also a “soccer mom,” helping as a parent liaison with her child’s soccer team. The soccer club is impacted too, and some families no longer send their children to practices and games. Bottom line: ICE’s invasion impacted my daughter’s life in a major way, and no, she is not protesting. Just helping.

Family B. My son’s family. This family is the most purposefully calm of my three families, although they fully understand how damaging the ICE occupation is. They, like many parents, are focused on helping their 15 year old process what he is seeing and experiencing. They answer questions and help him figure out what, if anything, he thinks he can or should do.

It is noteworthy that this grandchild is not as strongly impacted as my other grandchildren insofar as he has only one immigrant friend at school and is immersed in studies and music. Nevertheless, he is very aware. I believe there is not a child living in Minneapolis who has not been impacted by ICE’s presence here, including children in GOP families.

Family C. Family C is my cousin’s family. Of all my families in Minneapolis, this one is the most active and frankly, traumatized, because they have chosen to protest. They help too. I fear for them... and am grateful they are such a strong family that they have been able to navigate what is happening.

Their daughter is a senior at Roosevelt High School, the school where ICE appeared the afternoon Renee Good was murdered. She witnessed ICE on school property, confronting and tear gassing students, some who she knew. She saw ICE forcefully detain a teacher trying to put himself between the students and ICE. This young lady was traumatized... and now spends her extra time protesting, helping with food shelves, whatever moves her.

Their son (not the active a protester/helper his sister is) goes to a different high school. He has a classmate who was working at Target when the store allowed ICE on its premises and did nothing to protect its employees. ICE chased this (brown skinned) teen out of the store and tackled him to the ground!

The parents of this family now spend most of their non-working hours protesting and/or helping. They are so active, even spending time at the Whipple Building, that I fear for them. And their stories are mind numbing.

This family protests through the networks in their church, St. Joan of Arc, which deserves special mention. St. Joan is famous as THE liberal Catholic Church in the Cities and has been dedicated to social justice for decades. It is currently a buzzing central point in “the neighborhood web” organizing assistance and resistance. For example, St. Joan’s has housed the religious organization, Isaiah, in the cities for a long time. Isaiah is well known for connecting/partnering with multiple organizations,

AN REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

training protestors, organizing marches, protests, and helping impacted immigrants. It's work is state wide and I know they are in Rochester. (St. Joan's houses the pre-school Renee Good's child attended).

We just had brunch with friends. They, previously not politically active, shared stories of protesting, joining organizations, making signs and shirts, holding vigils... and their stories are both heart warming and heart breaking. One heart breaking story is of about a friend (in her 50's) who was quietly standing at a protest when a masked ICE man grabbed her, threw her to the ground and used some kind of painful weapon on her... pain up and down her leg! (a taser?) She was not detained... just roughed up... and this happens all the time.

These are just some of the stories personally impacting me.... multiply them many times over... we are a city being occupied by a hostile (unconstitutional/illegal) army using tactics some military people have publicly said they were not allowed to use when stationed in Afghanistan! To be clear, this is our federal government is waging war against a (blue) state! And the assaults continue; ICE has not left nor has it backed down.

The impact of this invasion on our institutions is just starting to be recognized. The financial and mental health costs are astounding. I think our schools are being destroyed from within. Many children are not attending school (large numbers opt for remote learning). ICE circles schools and bus stops hunting parents and in some cases, (even children) to detain.

Our health care system is deeply affected, with overworked health care providers trying to help people needing care but are too frightened to come in. ICE forced is way into medical clinics and hospitals and has been told to leave, so now patrols surround them, seeking brown/black patients as they leave.

Our police and state/local government officials are overworked, services are being curtailed and businesses closing. I fear our legal system is breaking too. It is a lot.

My biggest concern is how deeply ICE is traumatizing the people in the Cities. Just think. Every person detained leaves a family split apart... often the family has no idea of what happens to their loved one .. they simply disappear. Until (IF) they reappear in a distant place. Every remaining family member is traumatized.. and many families are leaving. (What Trump wants).

And, the trauma spreads well beyond the affected immigrant family, to other family members, friends, work places, neighbors; the entire community is affected. I cannot accurately describe the pervasive sense of fear and anger that has spread everywhere.

I believe the long term impact of ICE's invasion on the Cities (and Minnesota) will last decades. Our most basic institutions are purposely being destroyed and recovery will require more years than I reasonably expect to live.

So, I discussed my family and friends in this message but not myself. You may ask what I am doing. No longer the activist I once was, I focus on helping. I contact my elected representatives often and spend a lot of energy supporting family and friends. I contribute money to help immigrant families. I communicate with everyone I can about what is happening here (writing this note partly an act of resistance). I believe it is not enough, but it is what I can do.

Ordinary actions

They dressed up like frogs.
 They danced. In tear gas they danced.
 They sang. In below zero weather they sang.
 They brought food to those in hiding.
 They walked. For 2300 miles they walked.
 They made phone calls. Every day they called.
 They showed up.
 With loving kindness, they were present.

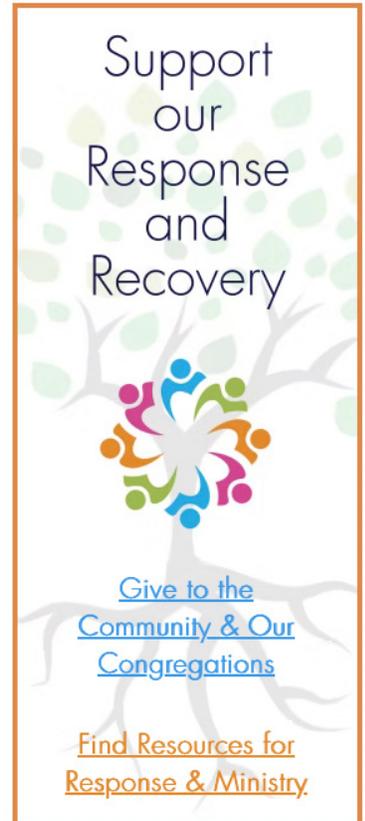
This is how we change the world.
 One heart at a time,
 by the simplest of things.
 A conversation.
 An act of generosity.
 (The new world
 is waiting within us.)
 Mustard seeds of peace.
 Word made flesh.
 Ordinary actions.
 They create ripples,
 which become waves.

This is how God parted the Red Sea:
 not with awesome powers,
 but little ripples
 that just kept going.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes, *Unfolding Light*
www.unfoldinglight.net

New Feature on the Presbytery Website

Visit the home page, ptcaweb.org, to see our new “Response and Recovery” section. You will find links to giving to support Minnesota communities and congregations, and information on how to support the ongoing resistance and care work of the Presbytery and its congregations. You will also find a link to a 12-part, always-updating document that helps you find Resources for Response and Ministry. If you have any questions about what you see, email us at office@ptcaweb.org.



THANK YOU

*Dear CPC members and friends,
 You gave me a very generous bonus this year. I can't tell you how much that means to me! As you know, I am a quilter. I spent some of the money on a travel case for my machine and some projects. The rest will be put towards a trip later this year. Thank you so much! You always make me feel so appreciated!
 -Stephanie*



A MEDITATION

A meditation for our time -
based on Jesus' beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount
Shared by Rev. Jan Wiersma

Blessed are those who are weak by worldly reckoning;
They wield the strength of love.

Blessed are those who despair for detained and deported loved ones;
God's loving arms enfold them all in one embrace.

Blessed are those who fear to leave their homes;
They will walk the streets of glory, unafraid.

Blessed are those who hunger for a world where might does not make right;
They are empowered by the justice of the Almighty.

Blessed are those who value their neighbors' safety above their own;
Heaven's protection spreads over them all.

Blessed are those whose hearts are fixed on truth;
They see clearly through the teargas and lies.

Blessed are those who work for peace even at the cost of their lives;
Jesus, the Son of God, names them brother, sister.

Blessed are you - yes, you - when you have to beware of armed men trailing you as you bring food to the hungry, sheltering in fear of those same men.

Blessed are you - yes, you - when people call you deluded and hysterical for calling out lies and injustice in public places.

Blessed are you - yes, you - when you are falsely labeled a "domestic terrorist" for confronting an army with a whistle, for so did Jesus stand vulnerable before the oppressors of his people.

Rejoice and be glad, for eternity belongs to those who live in the power of love;
The strength of heaven is with you today. Amen. May it be so.

--

Be joyful though you have considered all the facts.
Wendell Berry

Working for Justice and Peace

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN J&P CALENDAR



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

We are called to share God's love with the world by being God's hands in the world. We answer God's call to "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

Remember, every Thursday is an opportunity to participate in Thursdays in Black. See oikoumene.org/what-we-do/thursdays-in-black

MARCH

- Women's History Month; womenshistorymonth.gov
- 06 World Day of Prayer; wdp-usa.org or worlddayofprayer.net
- 08 International Women's Day; internationalwomensday.com or un.org/en/observances/womens-day
- 08 Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday;
pcusa.org/events/celebrate-gifts-women-sunday/march-8th-2026-0800am
- 09–20 UN Commission on the Status of Women;
unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-ofwomen/csw70-2026
- 15–21 National Agriculture Week; iatp.org
- 22 World Water Day; un.org/en/observances/water-day
- 24–30 National Farmworker Awareness Week; saf-unite.org/national-farmworker-awareness-week
or saf-unite.org/

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY WISHES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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





THE LANDING MN'S C2 FORUM

FROM HOMELESSNESS TO HOUSING: A CONTINUUM OF COMMUNITY, SUPPORT, & BELONGING



THURSDAY, MARCH 12
05:30 PM - 08:00 PM

Autumn Ridge Church
3611 Salem Road SW Rochester

Join The Landing MN for a free, public C2 Forum bringing together local nonprofit and community partners working across the homelessness response system.

The evening will begin with nonprofit resource tables, light snacks and beverages, followed by a moderated educational forum featuring short presentations from partner agencies. Speakers will share how their organizations support adults experiencing homelessness and how each plays a role along the continuum from homelessness to housing.

The event will conclude with a community Q&A and open discussion.

Community Partners include:

- Catholic Charities ◀
- City of Rochester ◀
- Dorothy Day ◀
- The Landing MN ◀
- Mayo Clinic ◀
- Olmsted County HST ◀
- The Salvation Army ◀
- The TABLE ◀
- Three Rivers Community Action ◀
- Zumbro Valley Health Center ◀

Event Sponsor:

Nothing Bundt Cakes



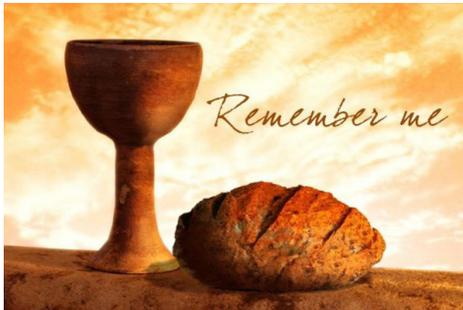
Contact us
+507-884-0423

Website 
thelandingmn.org

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion	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 7:30pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal -	5	6	7
8 9:30am Onsite and Online Worship	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 7:30pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal	12	13 6:30pm Great Room/ Library Use: SE MN ASD Social Group	14
15 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship	16 9:30am Mission Prayer Group 6:00pm Great Room Use: Med City Tai Chi	17 9:00am Bulletin info due 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	18 8:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm CPC Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal	19	20 12:00pm Newsletter articles due	21
22 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship	23 9:00am Session Packet Items Due 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 7:30pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship	30 9:30am Mission Prayer Group	31 9:00am Bulletin info due 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	1 8:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm CPC Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal	2 6:00pm Soup and Bread Meal 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	3	4

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**

**Contact the church office: 507-280-9291
or email office@cpcrochester.org**