

# Community Press

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROCHESTER, MN



## A Pastor Is Called!

Thanks be to God! On April 19, 2026, the Community Presbyterian Churches of Rochester and Plainview voted to call Rev. Paul Banchasawan to be our shared pastor and approved the terms of call agreed upon by the Sessions of both churches. Rev. Banchasawan traveled from Elkhart, Indiana for the weekend, and preached at both churches. He was accompanied by his family: his wife: Ea (Areerat), and their three children: Sun (22), Alpha (18), and Win (10). As part of the service, our congregation enjoyed a beautiful song performed by the Banchasawan family in the Thai language. We look forward to hearing the family sing at our churches in the future. The family expects to move to Minnesota soon. Prayers are needed as they look for housing in the area. Thanks to the Pastor Nominating Committee for their diligent work in finding Pastor Paul who will be bringing the word of God to our churches and leading us down new paths.



Prayers are requested as we await Pastor Paul's expedited work visa. The work visa application packet has been completed and submitted. Now we wait... Prayers are also requested as Pastor Paul and his family make preparations to move to Minnesota.

Details as far as Pastor Paul's installation and his start date will be shared as soon as we have them!



The Annual Spring Fling is scheduled for Sunday, May 31 from noon to 4 pm.

Tentatively the agenda will include (weather permitting): cleaning windows inside and out, kitchen deep clean, moving some file cabinets, trimming foliage near the mailboxes to expose the handicapped parking signs, tightening hardware on the great room chairs, cleanup of our area in the middle storage room, and re-install speed bumps.

Come dressed for work! Many hands make light work!

MAY 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.

### 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

Soon to be Rev. Paul Banchasawan  
Dr. Tianyao Xie  
Jennifer Taylor  
Nancy Sanford  
Stephanie Pasch

**Ministers to the world**

**Congregation Members**

Dear Community Presbyterian Church of Rochester,  
Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

My heart is full of gratitude as I write this note to you. My family and I were deeply blessed by the warm welcome, kindness, and hospitality we received from you. It was a joy and an honor to worship with you, to meet many of you, and to experience the love of Christ through your congregation.

I am truly humbled and grateful for the trust and confidence you have shown in calling me to serve as your pastor. I receive this call with thanksgiving, honor, and hope. I believe God, in God's grace, is bringing us together for a faithful journey of worship, fellowship, spiritual growth, and service.

As I reflect on this new beginning, I am filled with gladness and expectation for what God will do among us. I look forward to getting to know you more deeply, hearing your stories, sharing in your joys and concerns, and walking together as we seek to follow Jesus Christ.

Please know that my family and I are thankful for your prayers, and we ask for your continued prayers in this new season. We also assure you of our prayers for you, that the Lord will continue to bless Community Presbyterian Church of Rochester with faith, unity, love, and hope.

Thank you again for your gracious welcome. It is a joy to begin this new chapter with you, and I look forward with hope to all that lies ahead as we serve our living Lord together.

With gratitude in Christ,  
Pastor Paul B.

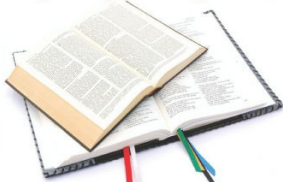


*Picture courtesy of Carole Kinion Copeland*

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## BIBLE STUDY GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

Each of the 66 Books Explained for Getting Started



Brian Gugas

Peggy McCarty will offer a Bible study (Cliff notes version) on all but one Friday in May. The first will be at 10:30 am until 11:30 or so on May 1, then on May 8, 22 and 29. The book will be *Bible Study Guide for Beginners* by Brian Gugas. Hope to see everyone there!



## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

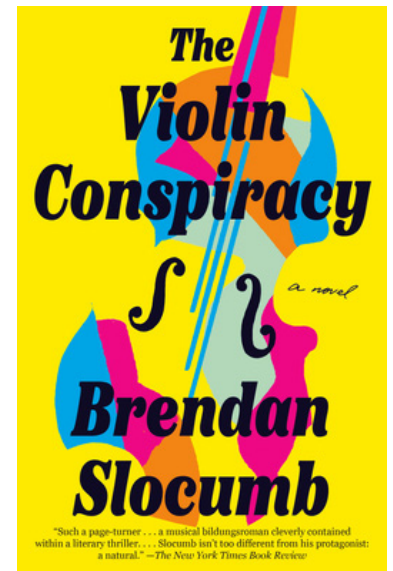


The next selection for the book discussion group is *The Violin Conspiracy: A Novel* (Good Morning America Book Club) by Brendan Slocumb.

*The Violin Conspiracy* is a mystery novel about Ray McMillian, a Black classical musician whose family heirloom violin is revealed to be a priceless Stradivarius, only to be stolen right before the prestigious Tchaikovsky Competition. The book follows Ray's quest to recover the instrument while navigating racism in the classical music world, uncovering a conspiracy involving his family's history with slavery, and proving his talent. It was a Good Morning America Book Club pick and blends suspense with themes of identity, family, and the legacy of racism.

Key aspects of the book:

- Protagonist: Ray McMillian, a talented Black violinist from North Carolina.
- Plot: Ray discovers his beat-up family fiddle is a valuable Stradivarius, leading to fame, but the violin is stolen on the eve of a major competition, prompting a search for the thief.
- Themes: Racism in classical music, family secrets, the legacy of slavery, and the meaning of music.
- Genre: Mystery, thriller, and coming-of-age story.
- Author: Brendan Slocumb, a musician himself, who weaves his own experiences into the narrative.



***The Book Discussion Group will meet after worship on Sunday May 17.  
Read the book and join in the discussion!***

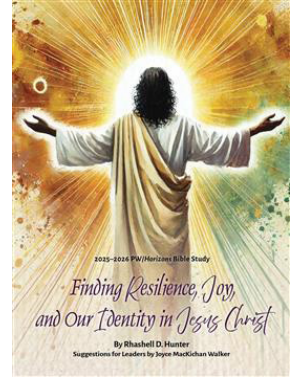


PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

*The PW Bible study continues on Tuesday, May 5 at 9:30 am with Lesson 7: The Woman Who Was Bent Over, Scripture: Luke 13:10-17*

*“If you had to describe to someone what identity is what would you say?”*

Check out the blog: <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/2026/01/04/ifinding-resilience-joy-and-our-identity-in-jesus-christi-lesson-seven/>



## Working for Justice and Peace

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN J&P CALENDAR

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)

#### MAY

- Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month; [asianpacificheritage.gov](http://asianpacificheritage.gov)
- 04–10 PW Together in Action Days for Children’s Literacy; [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](http://presbyterianwomen.org/justice)
- Children’s Book Week; [everychildareader.net/cbw](http://everychildareader.net/cbw)
- 05 National Teacher Day; [nea.org](http://nea.org)
- 09 World Fair Trade Day; [wfto.com](http://wfto.com)
- 09 Stamp Out Hunger Day; [about.usps.com/corporate-social-responsibility/nalc-food-drive.htm](http://about.usps.com/corporate-social-responsibility/nalc-food-drive.htm)
- 10 Mother’s Day
- 15 Palestinian Nakba Remembrance Day; [un.org/unispal/about-the-nakba](http://un.org/unispal/about-the-nakba)
- 22 International Day for Biological Diversity; [cbd.int/idb](http://cbd.int/idb)
- 24 Pentecost; [pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theologyworship/worship/christian-year/day-pentecost](http://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theologyworship/worship/christian-year/day-pentecost)
- 25 Memorial Day; [cem.va.gov/history/Memorial-Day-history.asp](http://cem.va.gov/history/Memorial-Day-history.asp)

## BIRTHDAY WISHES

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



# Thank you

*Thank you for the lovely bulb garden for Administrative Professionals Day. I have the pot sitting on my deck at home. Thanks so much! -Stephanie*

# A SERVICE OPPORTUNITY



## You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!

Where: Community Presbyterian Church  
3705 Fairway Place NW  
Rochester, MN 55901

When: **May 5, 2026**



Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screenings.**

*Trusted by over 11 million customers.*

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

**Who should attend:** Anyone **age of 40+**

**Special Pricing for \$129**

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

### 4 ways to book your appointment...

Scan here:



Call 800-324-9458  
and use promo  
code: HABC001

Visit  
LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC

Text the word  
"circle" to  
216-279-1607

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease.

Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

# May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship	<b>27</b> 9:00am Session Packet Items Due 9:30am Women's Prayer Group	<b>28</b> 9:00am Bulletin info due 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network 7:30pm Session Meeting	<b>29</b> 8:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> 10:30am Bible Study for Beginners	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 8:00am Great Room Use: Life Line Screening Event 9:00am Bulletin info due 9:30am PW Bible Study 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	<b>6</b> 8:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:30am Bible Study for Beginners 6:30pm Great Room/ Library Use: SE MN ASD Social Group	<b>9</b> 11:00am Great Room Use: Rental
<b>10</b> 9:30am Onsite and Online Worship	<b>11</b> 9:30am Women's Prayer Group	<b>12</b> 9:00am Bulletin info due 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	<b>13</b> 8:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Music Appreciation Sunday 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship 10:40am Book Discussion Group	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00am Bulletin info due 9:30am PW Bible Study 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	<b>20</b> 8:00am Prayer Group 12:00pm Newsletter articles due	<b>21</b> 9:00am Session Packet Items Due	<b>22</b> 10:30am Bible Study for Beginners	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship	<b>25</b> Memorial Day - Office Closed	<b>26</b> Office Closed 9:00am Bulletin info due 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network 7:30pm Session Meeting	<b>27</b> 8:00am Prayer Group	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10:30am Bible Study for Beginners	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Spring Fling 9:30am Online and Onsite Worship	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00am Bulletin info due 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	<b>3</b> 8:00am Prayer Group	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</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)**