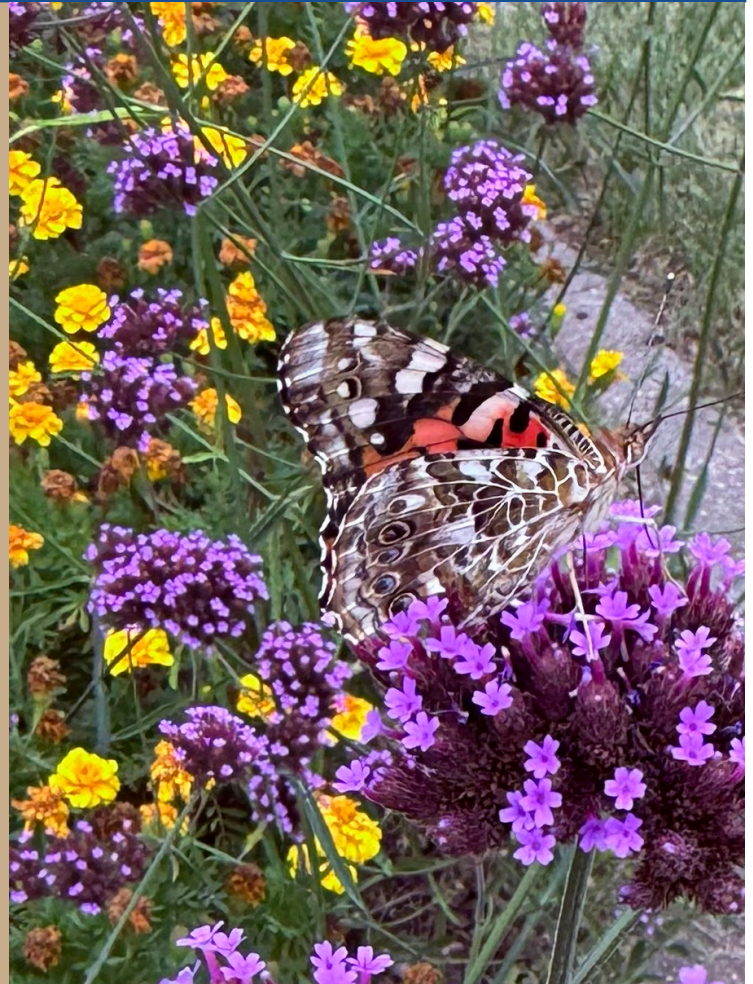


Community Press

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROCHESTER, MN



***A Taste of Italy Progressive Dinner
Community Presbyterian Church
Saturday, October 10 at 6:30 pm
Sign up in the narthex
or by contacting the office!***



*From the Garden of Life
photo taken by Stacy Kopecky*

What does the Lord require
of you, but to do justice,

...to love kindness

and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8



**WORLD COMMUNION
OFFERING**



OCTOBER 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

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

Ministers to the world

Congregation Members



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

Dear Friends,

Our sons Tucker and Luke, Amy's sisters Linda, Kathy, Heather, and Phyllis, and I invite you to join us as we gather on Sunday, November 1 @ 11am at Community Presbyterian Church to celebrate Amy's amazing life. Our celebration will include some of her favorite things - music, stories, and a light luncheon with some favorite dishes (many gluten free) including Pad Thai prepared by our pastor's family, Kalifornia salmon sliders and mini vegetarian quiches catered by Novios Café, and a family friend's Tres Leches cake.

The invitation above includes details and RSVP information. By October 12, please let me know how many will be in your party and/or if you have a special Amy story to share.

Also, if you know someone I may have inadvertently missed who would like to join us, please feel free to share this invitation with them.

Warmly,
Cal Ward

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

“Celebrating God’s Faithfulness and Preparing Our Hearts”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

September has been a very meaningful month for me, my family, and, I believe, for the life of our two congregations. As I look back over these past several weeks, my heart is filled with gratitude for what God has already done among us and with hope for where God is leading us next.

One of the greatest joys of this month was the **Pastoral**

Installation Celebration on Sunday, September 6. It was much more than a special service for me as your pastor. It was a beautiful reminder that ministry is something we share together.

During the installation, the pastor, the congregations, and the Presbytery publicly affirmed our covenant to serve Jesus Christ faithfully together. I was deeply moved to see members and friends from both **Community Presbyterian Church of Rochester** and **Community Presbyterian Church of Plainview**, representatives of the Presbytery, fellow pastors, friends, and family gathered together in worship and prayer.



*A joyful moment from the Pastoral Installation Celebration -
September 6, 2026*



Celebrating together following the Service of Installation.

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare for the service, participated in worship, provided music, welcomed our guests, prayed for us, and celebrated with my family and me. Your presence and encouragement meant so much to us.

The installation was not simply the completion of a process. In many ways, it marked **another beginning**. It reminded me again that God has brought us together not merely so that I can be your pastor, but so that **we can become partners in Christ’s ministry together**.

“Alive Together”

That spirit has also been at the heart of our September sermon series, “**Alive Together.**” These are not merely sermon themes. They describe the kind of Christian community I pray we will continue becoming.

To say, “**I am present,**” means that we intentionally show up for God and for one another.

To say, “**I am growing,**” reminds us that Christian faith is never finished. God continually shapes us through Scripture, prayer, worship, fellowship, service, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK, CONTINUED

To say, **"I am influencing,"** reminds us that our Christian lives always touch the lives of others. Our words, attitudes, generosity, kindness, faithfulness, and everyday actions can become a witness to Jesus Christ.

And to say, **"I am participating,"** reminds us that church is not something we simply attend. **We are the church.** Every person has gifts, experiences, abilities, and opportunities that can contribute to God's mission.

My hope is that these four statements will remain with us even after September is over. *When we gather for worship, may we say, "I am present." When God challenges us, may we say, "I am growing." When we enter our homes, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and communities, may we remember, "I am influencing." And when God places opportunities for ministry before us, may we respond, "I am participating."*

Looking Ahead to October

"A People Made Ready"

"Growing Deeper in Christ as We Prepare to Welcome Him Anew"

As we move into October, our journey will continue with a new four-week sermon series: **"A People Made Ready."** Our guiding words come from **Luke 1:17**: "to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

October will invite us to move from participation into deeper spiritual preparation. Before we arrive at Advent and once again celebrate Christ's coming, we will spend time asking how God prepares our hearts and lives to recognize, receive, and follow Him.

October 4 - "Rooted in Christ" - Colossians 2:6-7 *I AM ROOTED.*

We begin by strengthening the foundation of our lives in Jesus Christ.

October 11 - "Listening for God's Voice" - 1 Samuel 3:1-10 *I AM LISTENING.*

Like Samuel, we learn to recognize God's voice and respond faithfully.

October 18 - "Making Room for God" - Luke 10:38-42 *I AM MAKING ROOM.*

In the busyness of life, Jesus invites us to make room for His presence.

October 25 - "Ready for Every Good Work" - 2 Timothy 3:14-17 *I AM READY.*

God's Word prepares and equips us to live faithfully and serve others.

There is a beautiful movement in these themes:

ROOTED → LISTENING → MAKING ROOM → READY

We cannot become ready for what God wants to do through us unless our lives are first rooted in Christ. As our roots grow deeper, we learn to listen. As we listen, we begin making room for God. And as God fills that space, we become ready to serve.

My prayer is that we will not simply move from one sermon series to another, but that God will weave these messages together into the life and identity of our congregations.

I continue to be deeply grateful for the privilege of walking with you as your pastor. September has reminded me that this ministry does not belong to one pastor, one Session, or a few leaders. **It belongs to all of us because together we belong to Christ.**

May God continue to make us present, growing, influential, and participating disciples.

And as we enter October, may Christ deepen our roots, open our ears, create room within our hearts, and make us ready for every good work God places before us.

Let us continue this journey together - faithfully, prayerfully, and joyfully.

In Christ's love and service, **Pastor Pornchai (Paul) Banchasawan**

OCTOBER SERMON SERIES



OCTOBER 2026 SERMON SERIES

“A People Made Ready”

Growing Deeper in Christ as We Prepare to Welcome Him Anew

OCTOBER SERMON SERIES AT CPC ROCHESTER — “A PEOPLE MADE READY”

Growing Deeper in Christ as We Prepare to Welcome Him Anew

Throughout the past several months, we have explored what it means to be Christ’s Church, to become faithful stewards of God’s gifts, and to participate fully in the life and mission of the congregation. During October, we take the next step together: spiritual preparation.

Before we enter the busy seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, we will ask how God is preparing our hearts for what comes next. Through Scripture, worship, and prayer, we will discover what it means to become a people who are rooted in Christ, attentive to God’s voice, willing to make room for God, and ready for every good work.

October 4 — “Rooted in Christ” — Colossians 2:6-7 — I AM ROOTED.

October 11 — “Listening for God’s Voice” — 1 Samuel 3:1-10 — I AM LISTENING.

October 18 — “Making Room for God” — Luke 10:38-42 — I AM MAKING ROOM.

October 25 — “Ready for Every Good Work” — 2 Timothy 3:14-17 — I AM READY.

Series Scripture: “to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” — Luke 1:17

Join us throughout October as God forms us together into *A People Made Ready*.



PCUSA SPECIAL OFFERING: WORLD COMMUNION

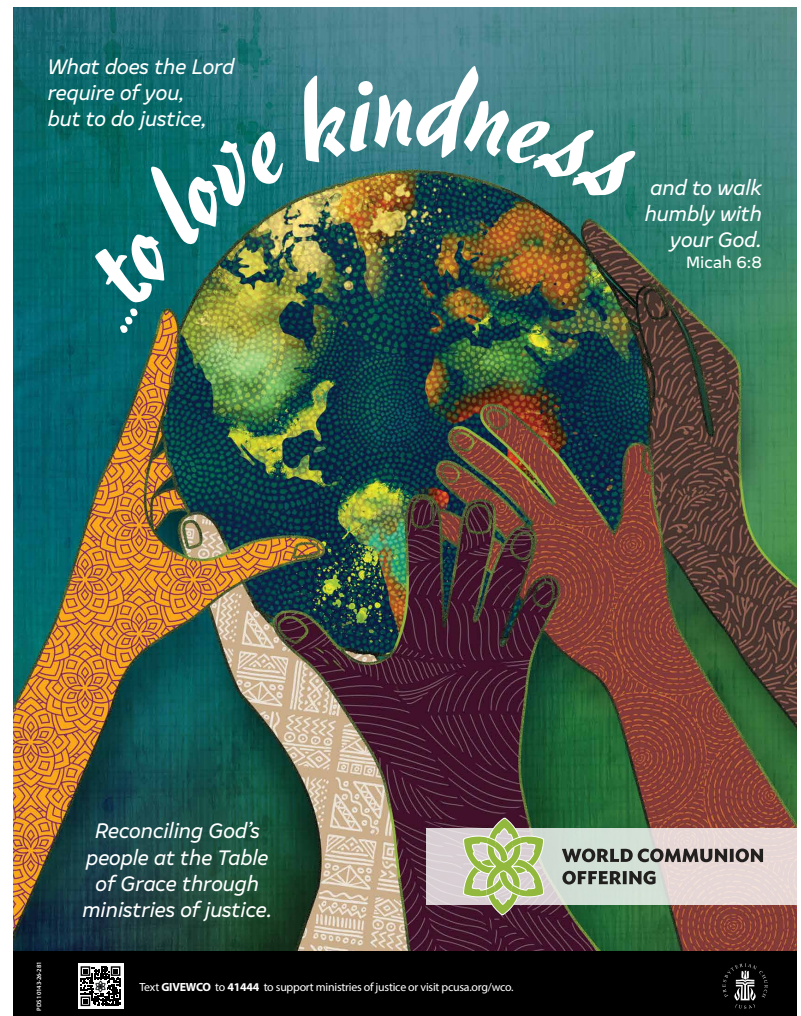
The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), is inviting congregations to participate in World Communion Sunday on Oct. 4 in a new way: the World Communion Offering. On this day, Christians around the globe gather around Christ's table to celebrate our unity. And Presbyterians will join together through the Offering to cultivate reconciliation and support PC(USA) ministries that embody Christ's love and justice in the world alongside our partners.

The World Communion Offering supports ministries focused on racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations. Through the monetary gifts, we participate in God's work of reconciliation around the corner and around the globe. In this divided and hurting world, this Offering reminds all that Christ's table is open to all people and that Christians are called to build communities shaped by compassion, justice, peace and hope, something our world desperately needs right now.

Generous gifts will go a long way as the PC(USA), alongside global partners, addresses some of the most pressing challenges facing communities and the world. The PC-USA works to foster understanding across differences, accompany communities impacted by violence and injustice, strengthen relationships across cultures and faith traditions and bear witness to the reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

Give because reconciliation is not simply an idea; it is central to the calling as the Church. Every act of compassion, justice and peace becomes part of God's healing work in the world. Learn more about the World Communion Offering and its impact through the mission and ministry of the Church at pcusa.org/wco.

Presbyterians proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord of all Creation and seek to follow him in lives marked by compassion, kindness and grace. And through giving, the Church joyfully shares Christ's reconciling love with all those that are cared for, loved and served.



AROUND THE PRESBYTERY AND COMMUNITY

Matthew Black in Concert

Two PTCA congregations are hosting touring musician Matthew Black for free concerts in October, and invite the whole presbytery to consider attending one or both.

- On Sunday, Oct. 18, at 2pm, Matthew Black will be in concert at First Presbyterian Church, 1901 Vine Street, Hudson, WI 54016. This free concert will benefit St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity, with info shared about their current work and an opportunity to give in support of that work.
- On Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 6:30pm, Matthew Black will be in concert at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, 2200 W. Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington, MN 55431. This free concert follows a free community meal at Oak Grove at 5:45pm, to which all are also welcome.

Matthew Black is an indie-folk singer-songwriter known for incisive lyrics and singable melodies. The literal son of a preacher man, Matthew left his job as a mild-mannered IT manager in 2022 to make music full-time. His songs are honest, earnest, questioning, and provocative. Humorous to deeply serious. Profane to sacred. Simple, melodic tunes that can transport you and make you believe there might be meaning and kindness in a chaotic world. And you'll still be humming the chorus days later. He's been compared to songwriter heroes like Cat Stevens and Paul Simon, along with contemporaries Jason Isbell, Sufjan Stevens, and Joe Pug. His sophomore album, *A Little Closer*, was released in 2024. You can learn more about Matthew at his website www.matthewblackmusic.com



Matthew Black
in Concert

"Passionate,
provocative songs
that will feed
your soul."

Sunday, Oct. 18, 2pm
First Presbyterian Church,
1901 Vine St., Hudson, WI 54016

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 6:30pm
Oak Grove Presbyterian Church,
2200 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington, MN 55431

More info at: matthewblackmusic.com/shows/

FAIR TRADE MARKET

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



Friday, October 2, 3pm-7pm
Saturday, October 3, 9am-4pm
Sunday, October 4, 10am-1pm

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



OSLCFairTrade

www.rochesterosl.org | 507-289-3021



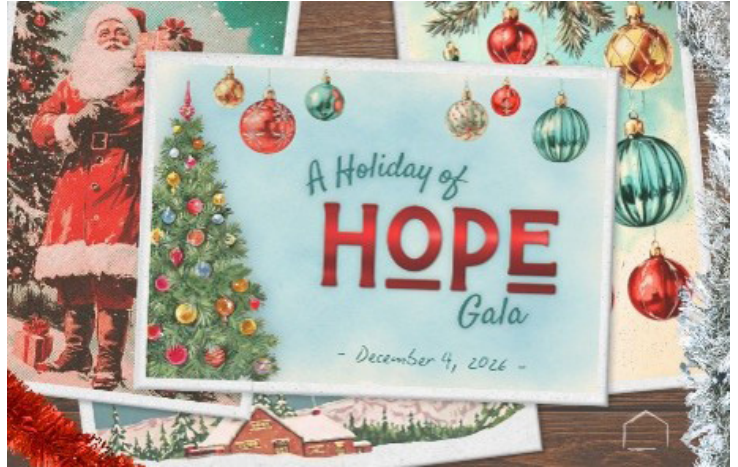
News from The Landing!

6th Annual Holiday of Hope Gala!

Tickets are officially on sale to the public! Join us on Friday, December 4th for an evening of food, fellowship, music and more--all to support The Landing MN and the unhoused community. For more information or to reserve a table now, please reach out to Erin at erin.sinnwell@thelandingmn.org or click this link to purchase tickets: <https://thelandingmn.betterworld.org/events/the-sixth-annual-a-holiday-hope>.

Save the date!!

Tuba Christmas will be back and even bigger!! This is a free, family friendly event that brings together local musicians putting on a wonderful holiday music concert. This year it will be held Saturday, December 12th at Autumn Ridge Church. More details to come!



Empty Bowls

OCTOBER 13 & 14

#EmptyBowlsRockMN



2112 2nd St SW #100, Rochester, MN 55902

Place your pre-orders at: HelpingFeedPeople.org/Empty-Bowls

As part of this to-go style, pre-order only event, participants will enjoy gourmet soups and bread from local restaurants as well as hand-painted bowls, serving as a reminder of those who may not know where their next meal will come from. All funds raised from the 22nd annual event in 2026 will be put back into our community and will directly benefit those who are facing food insecurity in our region. Feel free to reach out to Jessica Sund, Director of Development and Communications, at jessicasund@channel-one.org or 507-424-1729 with any questions about Empty Bowls.



DRIVE-THROUGH RECYCLING DAY at HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH 2815 57th St. NW, Rochester



October 3, 2026 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Come to Hosanna Lutheran Church for your metal recycling needs!

*This event is a drive-through event, so you will see
traffic cones guiding you through the parking lot.*

*****There is no charge to recycle the items listed on this flyer *****

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Lukas Phillips at Hosanna Lutheran Church by calling 507-285-0092 or emailing the church at admin.assistant@hosannalutheran.org.

This event is co-hosted by Junk Recyclers, LLC.

HOUSEHOLD METALS AND POWER TOOLS ACCEPTED:

- Toasters
- Food Processor and Blenders
(without plastic or glass carafes)
- Food Mixers
- Electric Woks
- Electric Griddles
- Panini Press
- Waffle Makers
- Bread Makers
- Breakfast Sandwich Makers
- Pressure Cookers
- Rice Cookers
- Roasters
- Slow Cookers
(without ceramic insert and glass lid)
- Air Fryers
- Electric Kettles
- Electric and Gas Grills/Smokers
- Box or Oscillating Fans
- Ceiling Fans
- Clothes Irons
- Bottle/can Openers
- Curling Irons
- Hair Straighteners
- Personal Space Heaters
- Paper Shredders
- Sewing Machines
- Metal Shelving
- Metal Bed Frames
- Cast Iron Sinks/Pots/Pans
- Car Hubs and parts **(no tires)**
- Bicycles
- CD Players
- VCRs
- **Electric Power Tools:**
 - Drills, Sanders, Handsaws, etc.
- **Lawn Equipment**
 - Leaf Blowers, Weedwhackers, Lawnmowers, Power Washers
- **Home Gym Equipment:**
 - Dumbbells, Bars, Ellipticals, Exercise Bikes, Treadmills
- **Large Appliances**
 - Water Heaters
 - Washers and Dryers
 - Refrigerators
 - Stoves/Ovens
 - Microwaves
 - Freezers

***Thank you for your participation in
recycling precious metals!***

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00am Quarterly Deacons Meeting 11:00am Online and Onsite Worship	28 6:00pm Med-City Tai Chi	29 9:00am Bulletin info due 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	30 8:00am Prayer Group	1	2	3
4 World Communion Sunday 11:00am Online and Onsite Worship with Communion	5 6:00pm Med-City Tai Chi	6 9:00am Bulletin info due 9:30am PW Bible Study 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	7 8:00am Prayer Group	8	9 6:30pm Great Room/ Library Use: SE MN ASD Social Group	10 1:00pm Great Room Use: 1:00-5:00 6:30pm CPC Progressive Dinner
11 11:00am Onsite and Online Worship	12 6:00pm Med-City Tai Chi	13 9:00am Bulletin info due 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	14 8:00am Prayer Group	15	16	17 possible Great Room Rental
18 11:00am Online and Onsite Worship	19 6:00pm Med-City Tai Chi	20 9:00am Bulletin info due 9:30am PW Bible Study 12:00pm Newsletter articles due 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	21 8:00am Prayer Group	22	23	24
25 Reformation 11:00am Online and Onsite Worship	26 9:00am Session Packet Items Due	27 9:00am Bulletin info due 6:00pm Session Meeting 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	28 8:00am Prayer Group	29	30	31

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 11:00 am each Sunday
Both onsite and online!
Communion is the first Sunday of the month.**

**Online Worship, Sundays 11:00 am
<https://meet.google.com/mhq-retb-jzs>
Or dial: (US) +1 715-600-0099 PIN: 959 349 717#**

**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**