Community Press

A publication of Community Presbyterian Church
Rochester, MN



"A Heart of Gratitude" • Remembering • Responding • Returning • Rejoicing

NOVEMBER SERMON SERIES AT CPC ROCHESTER — "A HEART OF GRATITUDE"

Remembering God's Faithfulness, Living with Thanksgiving, and Preparing Our Hearts for Christ

In October, our series "A People Made Ready" called us to be rooted in Christ, attentive to God, open to God's presence, and ready for faithful service. In November, we take the next step together: becoming a people whose hearts overflow with gratitude. Through All Saints Sunday, stewardship, thanksgiving, and the approach of Advent, we will explore four ways to live gratefully: Remembering, Responding, Returning, and Rejoicing.

November 1 — "I Am Remembering with Gratitude" — Revelation 7:9–17 — REMEMBERING.
November 8 — "I Am Responding with Gratitude" — 1 Chronicles 29:10–18 — RESPONDING.
November 15 — "I Am Returning with Gratitude" — Luke 17:11–19 — RETURNING.
November 22 — "I Am Rejoicing with Gratitude" — Habakkuk 3:17–19 — REJOICING.

At Community Presbyterian Church - Rochester, November 8 will be Stewardship Sunday. November 1 is All Saints Sunday, a time to remember faithful witnesses. November 29 begins Advent and is not part of this four-week series.

Come worship with us as gratitude deepens our faith, opens our hands, and prepares our hearts to welcome Christ anew.



November 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.

Class of 2026	Amanda Ross	Personnel and Nominating
	Lyal Powell	Building and Grounds
Class of 2027	Peggy McCarty	Christian Education
	Ronda Marshall	Finance and Stewardship
	Mary Alice Richardson	Mission
	Dave Copeland	Worship and Music
Officers:	Mary Meyer	Clerk (Non-voting)
	Mark Pillers	Financial Secretary
	Joanne Powell	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	Class of 2027
Carole Kinion Copeland	Stacy Kopecky
Margaret Petersen	Mary Meyer

Staff

Pastor/Head of Staff	Rev. Paul Banchasawan
Pianist	Dr. Tianyao Xie
Music Director	Jennifer Taylor
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

Ministers to the world **Congregation Members**



Sunday, November 1st, is All Saints Sunday. We remember those that have passed in the last year, as well as those that passed before. Names are read in church and a bell is rung.

Please bring a candle from home to be lit in honor of your loved one on All Saint's Sunday.



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



Congregational Meeting
Sunday, November 22,
following worship
For the purpose of electing elders and deacons. Plan to attend!



The Mission Committee has decided to assist in the Adopt-a-Family program by providing $25. gift cards. Some of the suggested places are Hy-Vee, Walmart, movie theater gift cards, Menards, Target, Amazon, X-box, Aldi, and fast-food restaurants. The gift cards should be turned in no later than Sunday, December 6. If you would prefer to donate by check or cash, we will purchase the cards. Thanks as always for your generosity to those in need in our community.



On Sunday, November 8th, we will remember Armistice Day with a bell tolling eleven times and a short reading.

Greening of the Church
Sunday, November 29
following worship!

"A People Made Ready: Gratitude for the Journey, Readiness for What Comes Next"



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! October has been a month of preparation, listening, service, and gratitude in the life of our congregations. As I look back on these weeks, I am thankful for the ways God continues to form us, not only through Sunday worship, but also through our conversations, meetings, visits, acts of care, and the many quiet ways members serve one another and our communities.

I am especially grateful for the privilege of gathering around the Lord's Table with you. The two photographs included with this article capture moments from Holy Communion and remind us that Christ is the One who gathers, nourishes, and sends us. At the Table, we receive grace together and are formed again as one body for Christ's mission in the world.



Sharing the bread at the Lord's Table.



Giving thanks at the Table of grace.

"A People Made Ready"

Our October sermon series, "A People Made Ready," has invited us to prepare our hearts and lives for the Lord. Our guiding words have come from Luke 1:17: "to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Before we move toward Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, we have been asking what it means for God to prepare us from the inside out.

We began with "I AM ROOTED." Colossians 2:6–7 reminded us that readiness begins by being rooted and built up in Jesus Christ. We cannot faithfully face every new season merely through our own strength; our lives need a deep foundation in Christ.

Then we prayed, "I AM LISTENING." In 1 Samuel 3:1–10, Samuel learned to answer God's call with the words, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." In a noisy world, spiritual readiness requires attentive hearts—hearts willing to hear God before rushing to speak or act.

Our third movement has been "I AM MAKING ROOM." Through the story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38–42, we have been reminded that even good responsibilities can fill our lives so completely that we miss the presence of Christ. Jesus invites us to make room for what is truly needed: His presence, His voice, and His grace.

Finally, on October 25, we came to "I AM READY." Second Timothy 3:14–17 reminded us that Scripture equips God's people "for every good work." Readiness is not passive. God roots us, speaks to us, and makes room within us so that we may be prepared to serve.

Ready to Participate Through Stewardship

October 25 also marked an important point in our stewardship journey as we begin our 2027 pledge emphasis. This fits beautifully with the final movement of our sermon series. When we say, "I AM READY," we are also asking: How will I participate in what God is doing through this congregation? How will I use the time, abilities, relationships, prayers, and financial resources God has entrusted to me?

Stewardship is not simply about meeting a budget. It is a spiritual response to God's grace. We give and participate because God has first given to us. I encourage each household to pray about how God is calling you to support the ministry and mission of the church in the coming year—with gratitude, faith, and joy.

In November: "A Heart of Gratitude"

"Remembering God's Faithfulness, Living with Thanksgiving, and Preparing Our Hearts for Christ"
As October closed, our preparation will lead naturally into a four-week November series called "A Heart of Gratitude." Gratitude is more than saying "thank you." It is a way of seeing our lives through the faithfulness of God and responding with worship, generosity, remembrance, and joy.

November 1; "I Am Remembering with Gratitude" (Revelation 7:9–17). On All Saints Sunday, we will remember the faithful witnesses who have gone before us and give thanks for the great communion of saints in Christ.

November 8; "I Am Responding with Gratitude" (1 Chronicles 29:10–18). Gratitude becomes a response. At Rochester, this will also be Stewardship Sunday, inviting us to recognize that everything we have comes from God and to respond faithfully.

November 15; "I Am Returning with Gratitude" (Luke 17:11–19). Like the one healed leper who returned to Jesus, we will consider the difference between receiving a blessing and returning to the Giver with a grateful heart.

November 22; "I Am Rejoicing with Gratitude" (Habakkuk 3:17–19). As Thanksgiving approaches and as Plainview dedicates its stewardship pledges, we will practice a gratitude that can rejoice in God even when circumstances are uncertain.

The four movements of November are simple: REMEMBERING → RESPONDING → RETURNING → REJOICING. My prayer is that these words will help prepare us for Thanksgiving and then lead us naturally toward Advent, which begins on November 29.

Continuing the Journey Together

When I look back over these first months of ministry together, I see a beautiful progression. In July, we reflected on being the church. In August, we learned to become fruitful stewards. In September, we considered what it means to be alive together. In October, God has been making us ready. And in November, we will practice a heart of gratitude.

These are not separate themes. Together, they describe a congregation being formed by Christ: belonging to God, caring for what God entrusts to us, participating in the body of Christ, preparing our hearts, and responding with thanksgiving.

Thank you for your prayers, your encouragement, your patience, and your faithful participation in the ministry of our congregations. I continue to give thanks to God for the privilege of serving alongside you.

May we remain rooted in Christ, attentive to God's voice, willing to make room for His presence, ready for every good work, and always growing in gratitude.

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





A PASTORAL INVITATION TO JOYFUL STEWARDSHIP

October 16, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we prepare for another year of ministry, I want to begin not with a request, but with gratitude. Since becoming your pastor this summer, I have been deeply encouraged by the warmth of your welcome and the faithful ways you care for one another and our neighbors. I see God's generosity in our worship, music, fellowship, mission, and the quiet acts of kindness that often go unnoticed.

In 2 Corinthians 9:7, the Apostle Paul reminds us that giving is not meant to arise from pressure or obligation, but from a willing and joyful heart. Christian stewardship is more than meeting a budget. It is our grateful response to God's grace sharing the gifts God has entrusted to us so that others may experience Christ's love.

As we look toward 2027, we have meaningful opportunities before us. Together, we can sustain worship and pastoral care, support our dedicated staff, care for the church building and grounds, welcome our neighbors, and extend compassion through mission and outreach. Every gift, large or small, helps our congregation remain a place of belonging, hope, and service.

I invite you to prayerfully consider making a pledge for 2027. As in previous years, you may support both our ongoing operating ministry and our mission commitments. If you already pledge, please consider renewing your commitment or increasing it if you are able. If you have never pledged before, I warmly invite you to begin. Whatever the amount, your pledge matters, and it helps our church leaders plan faithfully and responsibly.

Please bring or return your pledge card for Stewardship Sunday on November 8, 2026, when we will give thanks for God's generosity in worship. If you cannot be with us that Sunday, you may send your card to the church office. And remember stewardship also includes the time, talents, presence, and prayers through which we serve God together.

My prayer is that our response will be shaped not by anxiety, but by joy because we trust the God who has first been generous to us. May our gifts, offered freely and faithfully, help our church continue to grow in love and service in the year ahead.

With gratitude and blessings,

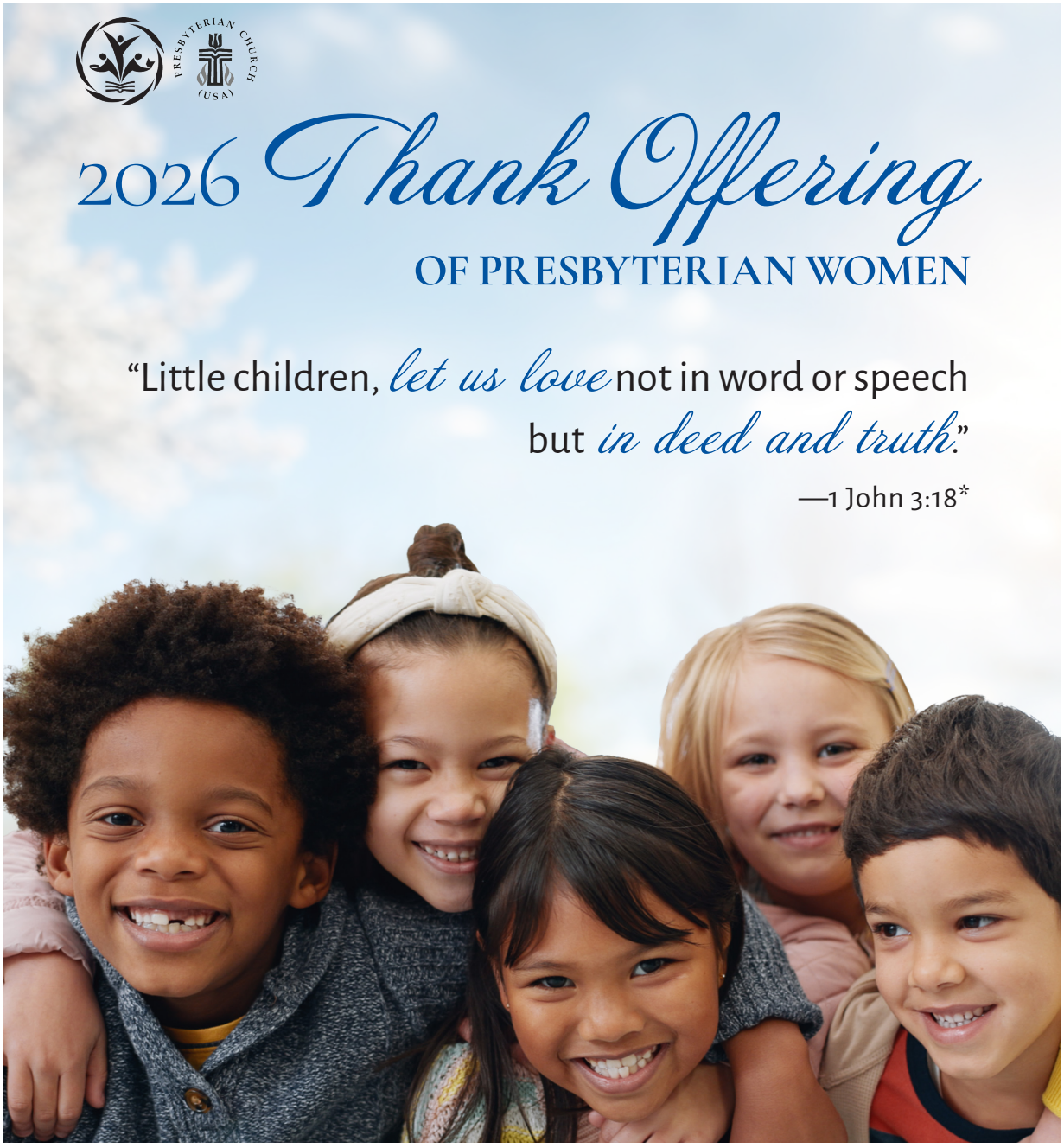


Pastor Paul B.
Shared Pastor, Community Presbyterian Church of Rochester

Stewardship Sunday is November 8! Please return your pledge card that Sunday or the week before!

Presbyterian Women Thank Offering

In1888, Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, urged each participant in her women's group to add one dollar to her usual mission giving as a "thank offering to her Lord." The Thank Offering was born and through their sacrificial gifts, women helped save Presbyterian worldwide mission endeavors at that time. Since then, givers to the Thank Offering have supported thousands of projects and raised tens of millions of dollars for ministries in the U.S. and across the world.



The Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women carries on this long tradition of binding together to make a greater difference than we could as individuals. Through monetary support, we send love "in deed and truth," for people on the margins, particularly women and children.

In 2026 the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women evaluated sixty-six Thank Offering applications and selected nine projects for funding. In keeping with the Thank Offering bylaws, more than 40 percent of the selected projects are related to health ministries.

Community Presbyterian Church will collectd the PW Thank Offering on Sunday, November 22nd.

How do we help children, youth, and families practice seeing and being Jesus in the world?



Join Around the Table for a new Faith & Practice skill-building webinar featuring author and pastor Mihee Kim-Kort and her book, Seeing and Being Jesus in the World: How to Live God's Radical Welcome as a Family.

Rooted in Jesus' words from Matthew 25:40 — "Just as you did it to one of the least of these . . . you did it to me" — this timely book helps parents, caregivers, and church communities explore what it means to serve others with compassion, pursue justice, and live out faith in everyday life... Whether you are a parent, caregiver, pastor, educator, church leader, volunteer, or caring adult, this conversation will offer practical ways to nurture faith at home, around the table, and in the world.

Seeing & Being Jesus in the World
Thursday, December 3
Noon-1:30 p.m. Central

More information or to sign up:
https://cfportal.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3839591

HIAWATHA HOMES FOUNDATION

FESTIVAL OF TREES
A CELEBRATION OF GIVING
BENEFITING HIAWATHA HOMES FOUNDATION
WITH PRESENTING SPONSOR
khg KAHLER HOSPITALITY GROUP
Serving you with all our heart.

Festival of Trees: Where Tradition Meets Purpose
Opening Night Gala: November 24, 2026
General Admission: November 27 - 29, 2026
The Kahler Grand Hotel

Now in its 41st year, Festival of Trees brings our community together to celebrate the season and support Hiawatha Homes by creating opportunities, connection, and care for people with disabilities.
https://www.hiawathahomes.org/festival-of-trees

Let's prep for the holidays TOGETHER!



There's lots to do in December, so let's do them together! Wrap presents, make gifts and cookies, sing carols, do crafts!

Clearwater Forest Moms RETREAT



December 4-5, 2026

- $200 double occupancy or $125 local/commuter rate
- Includes 4 meals and all workshop supplies
- White Elephant Gift Exchange
- Make holiday centerpieces, Christmas cards, tree decorations, cookies, and more!

Follow the "register for camp" icon on our website to register!

WWW.CLEARWATERFOREST.ORG

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **All Saints Sunday** **10:00am Online and Onsite Worship** **11:00am Amy Ward Celebration of Life**	**2** **Great Room: Floor Polishing**	**3** 9:00am Bulletin info due **9:30am NO - PW Bible Study - Election Day!** 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	**4** 8:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm CPC Choir Rehearsal -	**5**	**6**	**7**
8 **Stewarship Sunday** **Armistice Day Remembrance** **11:00am Onsite and Online Worship with Communion**	**9**	**10** 9:00am Bulletin info due **9:30am PW Bible Study** 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 **11:00am Online and Onsite Worship**	**16**	**17** 9:00am Bulletin info due 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	**18** 8:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	**19**	**20** 12:00pm Newsletter articles due	**21**
22 **PW Thank Offering** **11:00am Online and Onsite Worship** **12:00pm Congregational Meeting**	**23** **9:00am Session Packet Items Due**	**24** 9:00am Bulletin info due **6:00pm Session Meeting** 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	**25** 8:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	**26** Thanksgiving	**27**	**28**
29 **Advent 1** **11:00am Online and Onsite Worship** **12:00pm Greening of the Church**	**30**	**1** 9:00am Bulletin info due 7:00pm Great Room Use: Mission Aid Network	**2** 8:00am Prayer Group 6:30pm CPC Choir Rehearsal	**3**	**4**	**5**

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