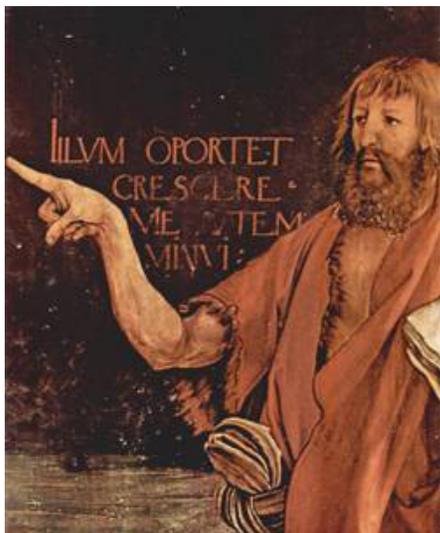


# COMMUNITY PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROCHESTER, MN



## ADVENT

John the Baptist points to Christ, as depicted by Matthias Grünewald (1470-1528). This was a favorite image of the theologian Karl Barth. “Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of

Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ’s return.

[www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/advent/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/advent/)

As this is the beginning of the church year (Advent), and we look to the beginning of a new year (2017)... we also look to new beginnings for Community Presbyterian Church. What are you being called to do? Who are you being called to be? Likewise, what is CPC being called to do and be? Where does Community Presbyterian Church fit in Rochester, MN? It is exciting to look forward and see the possibilities!!!

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## Community Presbyterian is “an open-hearted, open-minded Christian community sharing a ministry of faith, hope and love.”

Community Presbyterian Church is a proud member of the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA). We were founded by a group of Rochesterites who were committed to building a church based on the simple idea that Christians should be “open-hearted, open-minded.” We’re located at 3705 55th Street NW, just across from Sam’s Club. Join us for worship at 9:30 Sunday mornings! You are welcome to join us on this journey of faith!

Community Presbyterian Church \* 3705 55th Street NW \* Rochester, MN 55901 \* 507-280-9291 \* [www.cprochester.org](http://www.cprochester.org)

DECEMBER 2016

# COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2016 LEADERSHIP

## Session

The Session is the governing board of the church. It consists of nine ruling elders, elected in classes of three, for three 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 2016</u> | Bruce Felger<br>Stacy Kopecky<br>Amy Anderson | Building and Grounds<br>Membership<br>Personnel         |
| <u>Class of 2017</u> | Ronda Marshall<br>Mark Neville<br>Amanda Ross | Finance and Stewardship<br>Clerk<br>Christian Education |
| <u>Class of 2018</u> | Dave Copeland<br>Ivy Pillers<br>Ellen Warner  | Nominating<br>Mission<br>Worship and Music              |

## 2016 Nominating Committee

Bruce Bigelow, Ann Hesley, Mary Alice Richardson, and Mary Meyer

Deacon representative: Peggy McCarty, Ruling Elder: Dave Copeland, Stacy Kopecky

## 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. Deacons are elected in classes of two for three years.

|                             |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <u>Class of 2016</u>        | <u>Class of 2017</u>              | <u>Class of 2018</u>           |
| Louis Bouchard<br>Judy Leal | Peggy McCarty<br>Bernie Nicholson | Carol Bigelow<br>Jennifer Hall |

Choir Director

Pianist

Bell Choir Director

Office Manager

Custodian

**Ministers to the world**

Meg Britain

Glenna Muir

Judy Kereakos

Stephanie Pasch

Carrie Fletcher

**Congregation Members**

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

### Your help is needed for Worship!

Our Worship Volunteers create a warm, welcoming, and orderly environment so the focus of our worship services can remain on worship. Volunteering as a Worship Assistant, Greeter, or Liturgist is an important way to contribute to the CPC community. Nursery Volunteers and Refreshments hosts are also needed. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex, or email Stephanie at [office@cpcrochester.org](mailto:office@cpcrochester.org).



You are invited to bring a poinsettia to help decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Poinsettias can arrive anytime from now until Christmas!



*Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Worship Service  
December 24th at 5:00 pm  
All are welcome and invited!  
Rev. Julie Beck officiating*

**There will be no worship service at Community Presbyterian Church on Sunday, December 25.**

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS



**Key Check!** - We are doing inventory on who has what keys for the church. If you have church keys, please look to see the markings (letters/numbers) and email that information to Stephanie in the office. Thanks!

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### Presbyterian Women Monthly Event, December 8, 12:30 pm

Hostess and Devotions: Margaret Nelson, 4001 19th Ave NW

Program: Christmas Story Sharing

**Save the Date: Annual PW Luncheon** will be January 7 at 11:30 am at Victorias. Watch for a sign up in the narthex! The charity supported will be Families First, formerly the Crisis Nursery.





## Christian Education for Children and Youth Sundays at 10:45 am

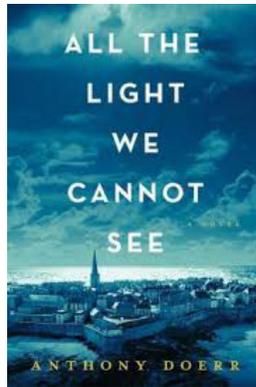
December 4 \* Christmas Program Practice  
December 11 \* Christmas Program  
December 18 \* Faithful Response \* Matthew 1:18-25  
December 25 \* Merry Christmas! \*No classes



### Your input is needed!

We are seeking input on what topics adults would be interested in discussing during adult Sunday School. If you have ideas or topics that interest you it probably is something that others are also curious about. Send your ideas to Ivy Pillers. Here are some thoughts of topics being considered: John Calvin and the Origins of the Presbyterian Church (or Why does everyone sit in the back of the church?), Reflections on Church Vitality, Bible study related topics (Who were the Wise Men, Thankfulness, Spiritual struggle of life, spiritual gifts, Ways to manage stress, and more).

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The combined November and December meeting of the Book Discussion group will be at 1:00 pm on December 4 at Madonna Towers.

Lunch is available in the dining room at 12:00 for those who want to get together socially before the meeting. Gather at 1:00 pm in Apartment 908 for the book discussion.



### Confirmation Class Starting in January

Classes will be led by Session members until the interim Pastor is hired. The program will follow the Presbyterian USA curriculum Professing our Faith. Watch for more information regarding class times in the January newsletter and in bulletins and e-blasts.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Preparations are under way for the annual Sunday School Christmas program. Parts were assigned in November. Practices happen each Sunday morning during the Christian Education time.

**The program will be  
Sunday, December 11  
during the worship service.**

If you have questions, please talk to Amanda Ross!

# Forever 39

Forever 39 Lunch  
Saturday, December 3rd, Noon  
Watch the e-blast for details! Questions, talk to Margaret Nelson!

# CHRISTMAS Joy

**Sunday, December 11**, we will celebrate the season with our children, youth and our church family! Worship will be blessed with the Sunday School Christmas program. Afterwards, we will join together in a Christmas Joy Brunch. Talk to Stacy if you have questions about the brunch. Talk to Amanda if you have questions about the Christmas Program.



Thank you to those who participated in and contributed food for the Harvest Dinner on Nov 4. It was an enjoyable feast of thanks, food, and fellowship.



Thank you to those who participated in Greening of the Church. CPC looks beautiful and ready for the holidays.



## MISSION



### Help share Christmas with a family in need!

Slips were handed out with the needs and wants of our appointed family. This year, our families are a mother (45), a dad (45) who has some disabilities, 2 daughters (11 and 14) and a son (9); and a single woman (54) who lives in adult foster care with no family contact (she has some mental health issues). Talk to Mary Alice or Ivy if you did not get a slip, but would still like to contribute.

**Please bring the wrapped and labeled gifts to church no later than Sunday, December 4th.**

***The Nicholsons*** are one of several CPC two-generation families: Don and Bernie, and Don's mother Lois. They are all active at CPC with Don on the Finance committee, Bernie on the Deacons, and Lois active in PW. The other members of the family include their black and white poodles, Jimmy and Henry.

Lois was born and grew up in Duluth. She was in high school during WWII and describes a subdued social life with streetlights dimmed and shades pulled after dark. She attended Business College and worked in several banks. She met her husband Don, Sr on a blind date in November and they were married the next May. He worked for Abbott Labs in Grand Forks, ND where they raised their children, Bill, Gail, and Don, Jr. In retirement she and her husband moved to Florida. About 20 years later in 2005 Lois was living in Bradenton when she decided to move to Rochester. As a widow she wanted to be closer to Don and Bernie. Lois has 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. She has led an active life, including many years working in Don's travel agencies. She remembers parasailing in Mexico, traveling to South Korea, and 5 trips to Hawaii.

Bernie was born in Honolulu, the youngest of 6 children of Filipino parents. Her parents divorced, but when her mother remarried a sailor from North Dakota she ended up in Grand Forks. She was actually excited at the prospect of snow! Bernie and Don started dating in high school. She was active in Student council and as a hockey cheerleader.

Two months after graduation Don was involved in a serious motorcycle accident. "Heck of a way to get out of military duty!" After 2 years of college Don joined Northwest Airlines in Detroit. And Bernie continued at UND. Not liking big city living Don returned to Grand Forks a year later. They were married on 6-8-68. Today they have 2 married sons and a 21-year-old granddaughter attending U of M.

In his travel career, Don has managed and owned several travel agencies and tour companies. His "mid-life crisis" lead them to different work in a different part of the country...selling pizza in Ashland, OR! They returned to the mid-West in the late 90's ending up here in Rochester. Don spent his last 12 working years at Mayo Clinic. And Bernie was in the dietary department at Assisi Heights for 12 years before retiring.

Don and Bernie bought a winter home in Green Valley, AZ. They look forward to "missing" our MN winter! One of their first activities will be a training session for the dogs: "thou shalt not mess with rattlesnakes!" And Lois is spending the holidays and most of the winter in Florida near her daughter. She then flies to AZ, with all of them returning to us by spring.



## FROM THE SESSION AND THE OFFICE

### **“Open Hearted, Open Minded” means Open Communication**

Your CPC Session is sincerely interested in making sure that we are listening to every member’s concerns and interests. While you probably know that you can call any Session member, you should also know that you can email all of us with one simple email address: [session@cpcrochester.org](mailto:session@cpcrochester.org).

This email address is called an “alias,” which means that it’s automatically connected to the real email addresses of all the session members. When you send an email to this address, it is automatically sent to the personal email addresses of each Session member. Whenever someone joins or leaves the Session, our administrator simply adds or deletes the real email addresses from the alias list. In this way, you don’t have to keep track of who’s on the session, you just need to know this one address.

**Feel free to contact the Session!**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

As we come to the end of the year, we start thinking about the Annual Meeting and the Annual Report. It is not too soon to put your report together and email it to Stephanie. She can start gathering the reports to be ready to put them together in January. Ideally, all reports will be turned in during December, January 8 at the latest. That way the Annual Report can be produced and distributed a couple weeks before the Annual Meeting.

Note the office will be closed on Monday, December 26.  
There will be limited hours December 27-29.  
Watch the bulletins and eblasts for details!

## CELEBRATIONS



Birthdays and anniversaries can be found in the print edition of the newsletter at church

# CELEBRATING ADVENT

God loves and cares for those in need through us. Isaiah 58:10 declares “If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then your light will rise in the darkness and your gloom will be as the noonday.” One theme that runs all throughout the Bible is that God closely identifies with and cares for the plight of the poor, and that to serve them is to serve Him. Consequently, we volunteer with humility, knowing that we’re working with those God dearly loves. Below you will find 20 relatively simple ways your family can serve together this holiday season. Many of these activities require little to no money. Try one, two, or even all of them (if you’re really ambitious).

1. Deliver cookies to the employees at a fire station, police station, or hospital on Christmas Day.
2. Choose a child’s name off of a giving tree and pick out the gift together as a family.
3. Pool together some money to buy a tank of gas for a friend or relative who can’t afford to go home for Christmas.
4. Recruit several families and adopt a nursing home. Buy a simple gift for each resident (lotion, slippers, holiday throw blankets, etc) and arrange a time to deliver the gifts.
5. Send Christmas cards to military personnel overseas.
6. Prepare a meal together as a family and take it to a sick or elderly friend. You can use this free “From Our Kitchen to Yours” printable for baking/reheating instructions. (to the right)
7. Deliver a baked good to your neighbors.
8. Leave a Christmas card (and perhaps a little treat) in your mailbox for the mail carrier.
9. Go caroling at a nursing home.
10. Volunteer to read a Christmas book aloud to your child’s class ... or contact your local bookstore to see if you can schedule a time to read aloud to their children’s section. If possible, choose a book about the real meaning of Christmas. You can find a few of my favorites here: <http://www.ican-teachmychild.com/some-of-our-favorite-christmas-books/>.
11. Ring bells for the Salvation Army.
12. Host a Christmas dinner for the widows and widowers at your church.
13. Host a packing party for Operation Christmas Child, a ministry through Samaritan’s Purse that sends a shoebox of gifts/personal items to a child in a Third World country for Christmas—which is often the only gift the child will receive.
14. Take balloons or small gifts to the children’s ward of your local hospital. You probably won’t be able to deliver them to the children themselves due to privacy policies, but you can ask the nurses to deliver them or ask permission of the parents who happen to be present at the time.

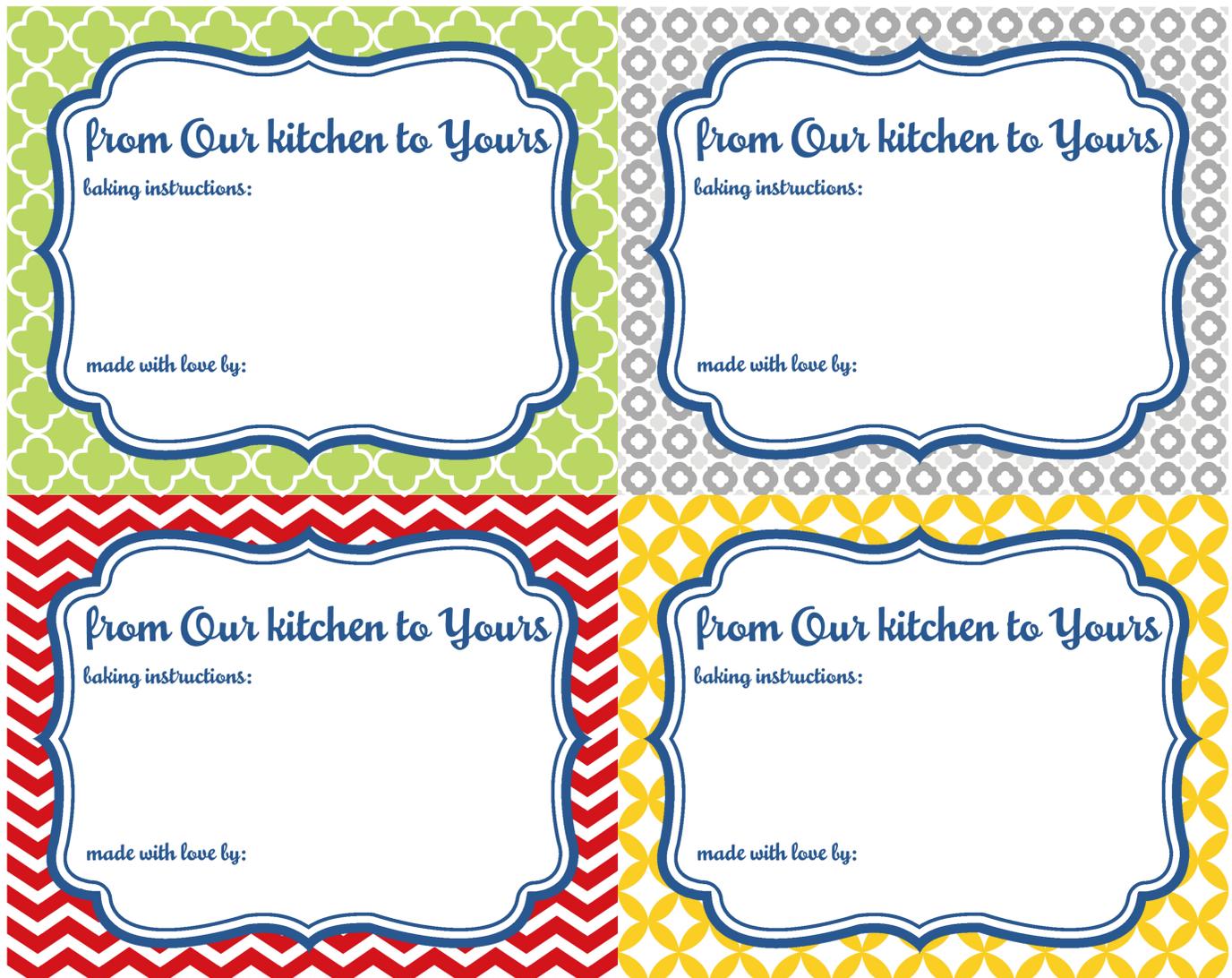


## CELEBRATING ADVENT CONTINUED

15. Choose a day to serve each other inside your own home. Take out the trash for your husband, encourage your children to pick up their sibling's toys, and show appreciation for one another.
16. Encourage every member of your family to look each person they come across that day in the eye, smile, and express their appreciation with a simple "thank you" or a compliment.
17. Go to the grocery store together as a family and pick up a few items for your local food pantry. Many stores have drop-off locations within the store itself during the Thanksgiving/Christmas seasons.
18. Volunteer to babysit, as a family, for a couple with small children so that they can go out on a date.
19. Clean out your coat closet and take your old coats to a local shelter.
20. Set the timer for 10 minutes. Have each person in your house go through their books and choose a few to donate to your local library (or elsewhere).



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*Thank you*  
for helping us  
provide hope to  
people in need this  
holiday season.



"Channel One is a great organization! It helps with people that don't always have the money for groceries. It helps me feed my kids. I can't thank you enough!" -Jennifer, Food Shelf Client



"It is refreshing to know that this resource is available when families are in need. Being hungry is one less thing that we need to worry about." -Stephanie, Food Shelf Client



"Channel One has been a God send to my family and I since I have been out of work and we needed a little extra help. They have been there for us when we needed them. I am thankful for Channel One and their volunteers." - Kelly, Food Shelf Client



## From the MN Council of Churches:

### La Natividad at In the Heart of the Beast Theatre December 15 - December 22

#### Heart of the Beast Theatre, Minneapolis

This modern-day retelling of the Nativity story is brought to life on the streets of Minneapolis. La Natividad frames the Christmas story within the context of the Mexican-American immigrant experience. The pregnant Maria and her fiancé José (played both by actors and giant puppets) travel along 15th Avenue in South Minneapolis. Dress for outdoor weather. Learn more and purchase tickets <http://hobt.org/show/la-natividad/>. Discounts are available for church groups of more than 10 people.

### German Ecumenical Advent Service

December 18, 3:00 - 4:00pm

#### St. Paul's United Church of Christ, St. Paul

Join in an ecumenical worship service in German celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Hymns, liturgy, readings, special music, and the sermon will all be in German. Attendees are also invited to participate in Holy Communion. More info at <http://www.spas-elca.org/event/weihnachtsgottesdienst-adventchristmas-german-ecumenical-service/>.

# Season of Giving



RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE  
ROCHESTER, MN



Please help us make the season a little brighter for children and families at the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester, MN.

## How You Can Help:

### Donate a Holiday Wish List Item:

Everyone staying at the RMHMN over the holidays can select donated gifts to wrap and give their family members. Our Holiday Wish List is available on our website or Amazon.com.

### Drive-Up Drop-Off Event

Stop by our Wish List Drive-Up Drop-Off Event on December 6th, 2016 at the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester's front drive. In partnership with Rochester Moms Blog, volunteers will unload your wish list items right from your car! More information at [rmhmn.org](http://rmhmn.org).

### Make a Year-End Gift in Honor of Someone Special:

Consider making a charitable gift that will help keep families together when it matters most. To make your year-end contribution extra special, we suggest giving it in honor of a friend or loved one. Visit [rmhmn.org/donate](http://rmhmn.org/donate) to make your gift.

### Be an RMHMN Ambassador:

Spread our message of thanks and joy by sharing the RMHMN mission with your friends, family and social network and encourage them to join you in support.

# December 2016 - Community Presbyterian's Calendar

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday | Saturday   |
|--|--|---|--|---|--------|--|
|  |  |   |  | 1<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal                             | 2      | 3<br>12:00pm Forever 39 Lunch                                    |
| 4<br>9:30am<br><b>Worship with Communion</b><br>10:30am Thank You Coffee for Laurie<br>10:45am Christmas Program Practice<br>12:00pm Deacons Meeting<br>1:00pm Book Group @ Madonna Towers | 5<br>6:00pm Med City Tai Chi Class                   | 6<br>6:00pm Brain Injury Support Group<br>6:00pm Christian Education Committee<br>6:30pm Membership                 | 7<br>6:30am Prayer Group at Madonna Towers<br>12:00pm Bulletin info due          | 8<br>12:30pm PW Monthly Event<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal | 9      | 10   |
| 11<br>Channel One Sunday<br>9:30am<br><b>Worship with Christmas Program</b><br>10:30am Christmas Joy Brunch  | 12<br>6:00pm Med City Tai Chi Class                  | 13  | 14<br>6:30am Prayer Group<br>12:00pm Bulletin info due                           | 15<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal                            | 16     | 17   |
| 18<br>Noisy Can Sunday<br>9:30am<br><b>Worship</b><br>10:30am Fellowship<br>10:45am Christian Education  | 19<br>6:00pm Med City Tai Chi Class                  | 20<br>12:00pm Newsletter articles due<br>5:30pm Finance & Stewardship, Building & Grounds<br>7:00pm Session Meeting | 21<br>6:30am Prayer Group<br>12:00pm Bulletin info due                           | 22<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal                            | 23     | 24<br>5:00pm<br><b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service</b> |
| 25<br><b>NO Worship Service</b>  | 26<br>Office Closed<br>6:00pm Med City Tai Chi Class | 27<br>Office (Limited Hours)  | 28<br>Office (Limited Hours)<br>6:30am Prayer Group<br>12:00pm Bulletin info due | 29<br>Office (Limited Hours)<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal  | 30     | 31   |

Community Presbyterian Church  
3705 55th Street NW  
Rochester, MN 55901

**Put these dates on your calendar!**

**December 3 Forever 39 Lunch**  
**December 4 Thank You Coffee for Laurie Priniski**  
**December 4 Book Discussion Group**  
**December 8 PW Monthly Get Together**  
**December 11 Sunday School Christmas Program**  
**December 11 Christmas Joy Brunch**  
**December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service**

**A full calendar can always be found  
on the CPC website!**

**[www.cpcrochester.org](http://www.cpcrochester.org)**