

COMMUNITY PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROCHESTER, MN



Celebrate Advent and Christmas at CPC!

Advent:

**Sundays: December 3, 10, and 17
at 9:30 am**

Christmas Eve Worship:

Sunday, December 24, at 9:30 am

Candlelight Worship Service

Sunday, December 24, at 5:00 pm



The Sunday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 10 during the worship service! Don't miss this fun day, as the kids present the message of the day and of the season! Afterwards, we'll celebrate with the Christmas Joy Potluck!



CHRISTMAS JOY POTLUCK

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10, 2017

Following the Youth Christmas Program Service

Sign up in the Narthex!

DECEMBER 2017

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2017 LEADERSHIP

Session

The Session is the governing board of the church. It consists of six ruling elders, elected 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 2017</u>	Ronda Marshall Mark Neville Amanda Ross	Finance and Stewardship Worship and Music Christian Education
<u>Class of 2018</u>	Dave Copeland Ivy Pillers	Nominating Mission
<u>Class of 2019</u>	Gene Kopecky	Building and Grounds
<u>Officers:</u>	Mary Alice Richardson Kim Nickander Joanne Powell	Clerk (Non-voting) Financial Secretary (Non-voting) Treasurer (Non-voting)

2017 Nominating Committee

Ann Hesley, Stacy Kopecky, Mary Meyer and Jeanette Hallbeck

Membership (a sub committee of Mission) Chairperson: 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 2017</u>	<u>Class of 2018</u>	<u>Class of 2019</u>
Peggy McCarty Bernie Nicholson	Jennifer Hall	Louis Bouchard Mary Meyer

Staff

Head of Staff/ Transitional Pastor	Pastor Steve Pannkuk
Choir Director	Meg Britain
Pianist	Glenna Muir
Bell Choir Director	Judy Kereakos
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

Ministers to the world

Congregation Members

Grace to you and peace this morning as December dawns upon us.

Jesus words from last Sunday keep washing over me and I'm sure they will throughout Advent. ***"When you did it to the least of these, who are members of my family, you did it to me."*** We might call them people living on the edge, but he calls them brothers and sisters, members of his own family. (See Matthew 25.31-46--Bible Gateway is a great bible app that has lots of translations!) Will we take the time to care and share? As Pete Steinke says, would the poor write our church a letter of reference and recommendation?



I shared on Sunday that as I was writing my sermon, a few days before, I went out to get cough drops for my oldest son, Zac who had a bad cold. A man met me outside Walgreens, asking for a couple of bucks for a sandwich. He seemed a bit desperate, living on the edge, with a beat up bike and a beat up back pack... Definitely one of those Jesus would call the least of these... but I didn't really think about it at the time. But in the back of my head, wondered. *God are you testing me here?! Is the sermon you're about to preach in line with the life you live?*

I normally don't like to give out money, so I bought him a box of protein granola bars and large bottle of orange juice. I maybe spent \$7.00. I wasn't in the most graceful mood. I wasn't rude but I wasn't overly friendly either. I thought about it later that I didn't even ask his name... And then I went on with my day, to go to a few computer shops to see about estimates for fixing the church's laptop screen. I was looking for a better estimate than the \$700 one from Apple!

At the second to last place I went, a guy tipped the computer screen at an angle. "You might be able to get this fixed for free. Go to Team Tech and have them tell you for sure." My eyes got wider... **OK!** Sure enough he was right. I'm getting a brand new screen on the computer for free, a \$700 fix to keep the computer going for a while longer!

As I was driving home, I was unpacking the day's events and I couldn't help but think of weird and wild and wonderful connections between the two events. I realized that I had just received a \$700 gift. And just a few hours earlier I spent \$7.00. God blessed me (*and all of us, because it's your computer!*) 100 times over. I'm no prosperity gospel preacher, but God's math surprises me and you've shared stories like mine too. I've already been blessed 100 times over. I've got a job and a roof over my head. Opportunities abound... But Jesus wants my attention and wants to be a priority in my life. Will I let him? Will you? I'm certain he'll keep sending us members of his family to bless us and teach us.

Thank you for your generosity saints. Thank you for the ministry you are doing in our church and outside our church. I'm looking forward to spending Advent with you, as we prepare for Christ's Coming again and again.

With peace and prayer,
Your Transition Pastor Steve

A Word from the Finance/Stewardship Committee

THANKS!!! for the exceptional response to the 2018 Pledge drive. All but 2 expected pledges came in. It is outstanding to have responses from most of the congregation this quickly.

On top of that, the pledge amount for 2018 increased by \$3,600.

The session and Finance committee is most appreciative of your generosity and commitment to CPC

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Christian Education for Children and Youth

December 3 • Two-sided Coin • Isaiah 64:1-9

December 10 • Sunday School Christmas Program

December 17 • Shout With Joy • Psalm 126

December 24 • Here I Am • Luke 1:26-38 (No Sunday School)

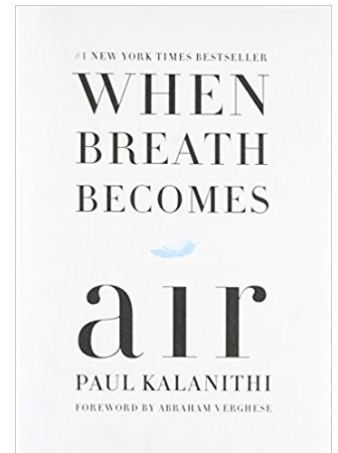
December 31 • New Beginnings • Luke 2:22-40 (No Sunday School)

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Our next book up for discussion is When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi.

For November and December, we will do one combined meeting on December 3rd. Talk with Margaret N. if you have questions!



CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Birthdays and anniversaries can be found in our print edition. Pick one up at church!



***A blessed Christmas to you and yours, this year!
Whether you are here or far away, know that
you are an important part of the Community Presbyterian Church family!
Safe travels and have a blessed Christmas!***

Saturday Noon Meal

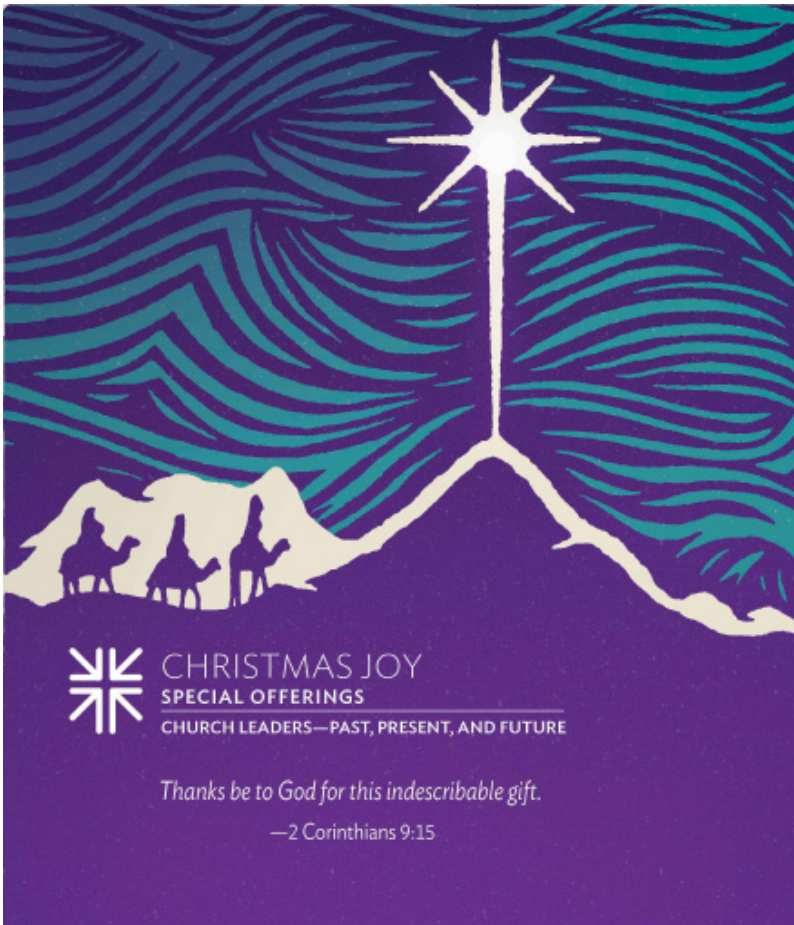


There are some great cooks, brownie bakers, and waiters/waitresses in our congregation! We are betting that you are one of them! Check your schedule, are you available on Saturday, December 30 to share your gifts? See I Corinthians 12: 4-11, right. Sign up to volunteer at the **Saturday Noon Meal on December 30** in the narthex!

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Christmas Joy Offering



Advent is a time of anticipation and promise, of thanksgiving and celebration.

Every year, we pour out our gratitude by giving to those who faithfully serve the church and are now in need of service themselves. We honor the promise of Christ by giving toward the promise of our future racial ethnic leaders.

50% provides critical financial assistance to church leaders in need

- Support grants that help retired church workers and their families with financial and housing needs
- Provide aid to church workers with urgent financial and medical needs

50% supports opportunities for future leaders at Presbyterian racial ethnic schools

- Give scholarships for racial ethnic students and future church leaders
- Equip racial ethnic leaders for ministry
- Support vital ministries in Presbyterian-related schools

Please give generously!

The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected on December 17.



Spotlight on Vera Atkinson and Family

Vera and her daughter Karen have been attending CPC ever since their Disciples of Christ Church closed a few years ago. Vera is active in PW and Bible Study, Karen was a member of the Book Discussion group until added responsibilities at her teaching job interfered, at least temporarily. Karen is teaching Family and Consumer Services (which we used to call Home Ec) at John Marshall. Her daughter Kara has a Law Degree and is a Law Clerk for Olmsted County. Vera lost her eldest daughter, Sheryl, a few years ago and has two other daughters; Teresa who lives in Iowa and is retired from working in the Business field was the first woman Optimist in Rochester. Carla, the youngest, holds a B.A. in Special Education and a Masters in Divinity. She is a behavior specialist in one of Rochester's two Autism schools.

Born on a farm in northeast Nebraska, Vera soon moved with her family to Eldorado Springs, Missouri, staying until her senior year in high school when they moved to Wichita, KS. After the small school in Eldorado Springs, Wichita's

senior class of 1000 overwhelmed Vera so that after three weeks she quit and went home to inform her parents that she had obtained a job at Woolworth. As they did not have high school degrees themselves, they did not protest.

Vera met Corky in Wichita on a blind date. He was a member of the Marine Corps and soon after they were married he shipped out for the Korean War. After the War, Corky took advantage of the G I Bill and attended Kansas State for an Electrical Engineering Degree. From there they came to IBM in Rochester. Vera decided to finish her education and got her GED followed by a Liberal Arts Degree at RCTC. She then found work as an operator with the telephone company where she ultimately worked for ten years plus five more years in their engineering department.

Typically IBM, the company moved the Atkinson family to Texas and three years later moved them back to Rochester. Before going to Texas they had lived in several rental quarters, so when they returned in 1983 they bought their lovely home with several wooded acres on Trapper Lane. Here Vera had a large garden which of course entailed a large amount of canning.

The Northwest part of Rochester did not have a Girl Scout Chapter, so Vera started one. She was the leader and Corky joined her in weekend camps. All the girls also attended church camp annually as well as a mission camp in Bowling Green, Kentucky, where they helped at a school, doing roofing, and painting, and general maintenance. The family as a whole was active beyond church work, Sheryl did a lot of canoeing on the St. Croix River, Karen hiked on Isle Royale, and at home the family played games and worked puzzles together, They also visited the grandparents in Missouri a couple of times a year.

Corky's job with IBM was in Development, so he was not allowed to tell anyone exactly what he was doing. After 29 years at IBM he retired. In his retirement he was instrumental with the Optimist club starting "Kans for Kids". In the last 11 years he was voted Cascade Township Supervisor for four consecutive terms. He died two years ago. He had done a lot with the girls and it was through Karen that Vera got him interested in the church. Karen refused to go to the church nursery. (It had a crib and she was afraid they would put her in it.) Corky took her to the preschool teacher and informed her that Karen was to be in her class now. The teacher wasn't so sure about this but Corky was firm and it worked fine. And Corky then began attending church with the family. All church work was important to Vera, giving a lot of time to Church Women United. After holding all their executive offices, she was presented The Valent Woman of the Year Award in 1998. Vera did a lot of baby-sitting over the years, so, in addition to her 4 girls, 7 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren she has one "great-grand friend," one of the children she baby-sat who has kept up with her over the years. That "great-grand friend" resides in California.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Don't forget to sign up for helping in worship! Each week we need :

- a liturgist
- worship assistants
- a greeter
- nursery volunteers
- refreshment host(s)

Once a month, we need 4 communion assistants. For Advent, we will also need candlelighters. Please look at your schedule and sign up to help! Sign up in the narthex or by emailing/calling the office!



SCRIBBLES FROM SESSION

A special congregational meeting is called for Sunday December 17, 2017, after worship for the purpose of election of officers. Please come and vote and support those who have been called to serve CPC.

Session combined the October and November meetings so we had a jam-packed meeting with much hard work and joy spread through the meeting. We honor Ronda Marshall's service as Chair of Finance and Stewardship for 6 years and Mark Neville's service as Clerk of Session for 2 years and Chair of Worship and Music for 2 years. (Am I correct on Mark's times?) We also honor Peggy McCarty's 6 years of service as a Deacon, Bernie Nicholson's 3 years of service as a Deacon, and Carol Bigelow's 5 years of service as a Deacon. (Please see if I am right on the times for Deacons)

Please notice the 2 new refrigerators in the kitchen. Thanks to the Kopeckys for all the arrangements to get them.

Session will be gathering in January to discuss plans for CPC in the future and will be involving all of CPC in the plans and goals early next year. The whole church will be involved in moving forward in the life and ministry of CPC. If you have any thoughts, please share them with any member of Session or Pastor Steve.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



**Women of CPC!
PW Monthly Get-Together
Wednesday, December 6, 12:30 pm
Hostess: Margaret Nelson**

**Join us for hors d'oeuvres and desserts!
Topic: Christmas Memories
Location: Madonna Towers, Rochester Room**



Save the Date! The Annual PW January Luncheon will be Saturday, January 6, 11:30 am, at Victoria's Ristorante. We will be collecting baby supplies for Families First.

Save the date! More information to come!

Community Presbyterian Church
3705 Fairway Place NW
Rochester, MN 55901

Put these dates on your calendar!

**December 3 Book Discussion Group
Adopt-A-Family Gifts Due**

**December 6 PW Monthly Get Together
at Madonna Towers**

**December 10 Sunday School Christmas Program and
Christmas Joy Potluck**

December 17 Special Congregational Meeting

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

December 25-26 Office Closed

December 27-28 Office Hours 9 am-noon

December 30 Saturday Noon Meal

**A full calendar can always be found
on the CPC website! www.cpcrochester.org**

Community Presbyterian
*is “an open-hearted, open-
minded Christian commu-
nity sharing a ministry of
faith, hope and love.” CPC
is a proud member of the
Presbyterian Church USA
(PCUSA).*

*We’re located at 3705 Fair-
way Place NW, just across
from Sam’s Club.*

**Join us for worship at 9:30
Sunday mornings!**

**You are invited to join us
on this journey of faith!**

Struggling Maplewood church finds new life by living 'like you are dying'

By Shannon Prather Star Tribune

October 20, 2017

<http://www.startribune.com/struggling-maplewood-finds-new-life-by-living-like-you-are-dying/451860703/>

Facing a slow death, the declining membership of Christ United Methodist Church in Maplewood gathered in 2015 to confront their future. The aging, mostly white congregation had shrunk to fewer than 100 members. The collection plate no longer covered a full-time pastor's salary. And it had tenuous connections to its neighborhood, now a mosaic of immigrant families of differing faiths.

"We gave up on survival," said the Rev. Rachael Warner, then a rookie pastor in her first assignment. "We decided if our church only had a few more years left, we wanted them to be years of full integrity — our values, lived out. We decided to let the Holy Spirit show us where to go and follow without reservation." Taking a line from country star Tim McGraw, they were going to "live like you were dying."

Church members breached the comfort of their own walls, offering their service at a school, a mosque and neighbors' homes. The church, located just south of Interstate 94 near McKnight Road, took Highwood Hills Elementary School under its wing. The St. Paul public school of 300 mostly immigrant children has no parent-teacher organization, so church members stepped in. They made and served meals to busy teachers during parent-teacher conferences. When the school designed a new logo and mascot, the church bought T-shirts for the students.

"That relationship surprised us, the way we were so embraced," said Kit Hoskin, church lay leader.

They bought a new rug for a classroom, provided food and beverages for family night and volunteered at school events. "I am very appreciative. They do a whole lot. They help teachers as well as the students," said Highland Hills Principal Fatima Lawson. "They are very open to anything the school needs."

The church opened its doors for a teacher training event. It's working with the school to establish a "peacemaker's program" and student award. And church members gave the school \$7,000 and wrote letters thanking teachers who work long hours. "They are on the front lines of the hard work of education and community building. We wanted to be present in our support and encouragement of them," Warner said.

Church members say they don't speak of their faith; they live it. "Our motivation for partnership is, it's part of our values," Warner said. "We all want our neighborhood to be safe and healthy. We all want our kids to grow up with dreams and the tools to achieve those dreams."

The church forged a bond with the Islamic Society of Woodbury, sharing meals and words of encouragement as it raises money for a permanent mosque. Church members fixed up the society's aging playground, threw open the gates and invited families. They also started a monthly community drop-in day and meal for neighborhood seniors.

What started as community outreach has breathed new life into the church.

"The one who gives up his life will find it," said Warner, paraphrasing scripture. The church is not out of the woods, but membership has grown a bit. Members can now afford a full-time pastor and those who do come are inspired by the new outreach mission. "We are starting to have new families come. We are starting to have baptisms and weddings. There is a feeling of hope and new life," Hoskin said.

Warner agrees. "We have really come alive," she said. "I hope other small churches look outside themselves, and see what God might be pushing them to be."

December 2017 - Community Presbyterian's Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Adopt-A-Family gifts due 8:30am Nominating Committee 9:30am Worship with Communion (Jubellation Bells play) 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Christian Education 10:45am Book Discussion Group	4 6:00pm Med City Tai Chi Class	5 5:15pm 4Kicks Taekwondo 6:00pm Brain Injury Support Group 7:00pm Christian Education Committee meeting	6 6:30am Prayer Group 12:00pm Bulletin info due 12:30pm PW Monthly Get-Together 7:00pm Choir	7 5:15pm 4Kicks Taekwondo	8 5:30pm 4Kicks Potluck	9
10 Channel One Sunday 9:30am Worship with Christmas Program 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Christian Education 10:45am Mission Meeting 11:00am Christmas Joy Potluck 6:30pm Girl Scout Troop	11 6:00pm Med City Tai Chi Class	12 5:15pm 4Kicks Taekwondo 6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting	13 6:30am Prayer Group 12:00pm Bulletin info due 7:00pm Choir	14 5:15pm 4Kicks Taekwondo	15	16
17 Noisy Can Sunday Christmas Joy Offering 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Christian Education 10:45am Special Congregational Meeting	18 6:00pm Med City Tai Chi Class	19 12:00pm Area Presby Clergy Group 5:15pm 4Kicks Taekwondo 5:30pm Finance & Stewardship meeting 7:00pm Session Meeting	20 6:30am Prayer Group 12:00pm Newsletter articles due 12:00pm Bulletin info due 7:00pm Choir	21 5:15pm 4Kicks Taekwondo	22	23
24 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship 6:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service	25 Office Closed 6:00pm Med City Tai Chi Class	26 Office Closed 5:15pm 4Kicks Taekwondo	27 limited office hours 6:30am Prayer Group 12:00pm Bulletin info due 7:00pm Choir	28 limited office hours 5:15pm 4Kicks Taekwondo	29	30 9:00am Saturday Noon Meal
31 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship						