

# COMMUNITY PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROCHESTER, MN



In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us,

these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer. (from the PCUSA website, [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)).

Please join us for Advent as we look towards and prepare for Christmas! Advent is celebrated on the four Sundays before Christmas (this year: November 29, December 6, 13, and 20).

CPC will welcome the Christmas season with Fellowship and Refreshments on December 24th at 5:30, followed by a Candlelight Family Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 PM.

*We hope to see you here!*

## Table of Contents

CPC Leadership .....	2
Musings from the Pastor .....	3
Worship and Music .....	4
Christian Education .....	5
Membership/Fellowship .....	6
Member Spotlight .....	7
Celebrations .....	7
Mission .....	8
Presbyterian Women .....	8
Building and Grounds .....	9
Finance and Stewardship .....	9
Around the Community .....	10
Calendar .....	11



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

**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!

DECEMBER 2015

# COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2015 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 2015</u>	Ellen Warner Mary Meyer Ivy Pillers	Worship and Music Nominating Mission
<u>Class of 2016</u>	Bruce Felger Stacy Kopecky Amy Anderson	Building and Grounds Membership Personnel
<u>Class of 2017</u>	Ronda Marshall Mark Neville Amanda Ross	Finance and Stewardship Clerk Christian Education

### 2015 Nominating Committee

Bruce Bigelow, Judy Leal, Katie Marker, Mary Alice Richardson

Deacon representative: Peggy McCarty, Ruling Elders: Mark Neville & Mary Meyer

## Deacons

The Board of Deacons are 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. They 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 2015</u>	<u>Class of 2016</u>	<u>Class of 2017</u>
Carol Bigelow Linda Overton	Louis Bouchard	Peggy McCarty Bernie Nicholson

## Committees

Membership: Stacy Kopecky (chairperson), Peggy McCarty, Aaron Simms

Worship and Music: Ellen Warner (chairperson), Duane Olson, and Amy Ward

Pastor/Head of Staff  
Choir Director  
Pianist  
Pianist  
Bell Choir Director  
Office Manager

### Ministers to the world

Rev. Laurene M. Lafontaine  
Meg Britain  
Laurie Priniski  
Glenna Muir  
Judy Kereakos  
Stephanie Pasch

### Congregation Members



*“God dreams for us today. Today, at this moment, God has an image and hope for what we are becoming. We should not let God dream alone.”*

*-Dorothee Sölle, 20th Century Theologian*

Advent is my favorite season...I love the powerful symbols which help prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This time of preparation focuses on the “already” and the “not yet” presence of Christ. The annual celebration of the historic birth of Jesus, which occurred over 2000 years ago, is a reality that the church has known and has already experienced. Although the Gospels provide us with somewhat incomplete historical accounting of Jesus’ birth and life, especially prior to his public ministry, we do have a glimpse into that first Christmas.

The “not yet” aspect is that Christ is not fully realized in our lives. We have not fully embraced the love, grace and forgiveness of Jesus. And of course, we trust that Christ will come again for the full realization of God in the world. Advent serves to remind us of the power and possibilities through Jesus in our lives, in our church, and in our world. Rev. Kathleen Matthews suggests that there “exists an in-between time that we have to live with things being not so clear or comfortable, not familiar and reassuring, and yet not being what they will be one day. Advent living is about the way we live in the meantime, which, surprisingly and simply, calls us to live “the usual” unusually well. She goes on to suggest that Advent is a time of heightened awareness, it is “as ordinary as the birth of a child; it is as extraordinary as the revelation of God.”

Each year as we light the Advent candles, this simple act reminds us of the hope, peace, love and joy, which is essence of God’s spirit within our lives and within the world. The physical act of lighting the candles within worship can be a powerful statement of faith. We are trusting that God is bringing hope, peace, love and joy into our world. We are trusting that we can experience and express the fullness of God’s presence in our lives now.

Present within the gospel account of events surrounding Jesus’ birth are four dreams involving Joseph and the Magi. God speaking through dreams has played an important and instructive role throughout the Jewish and Christian traditions. Within this context, the dreams provide divine guidance to Joseph and the Magi. These dreams remind us about God’s intent as well as the possibilities for transformation. Are we open to God speaking to us through dreams? What are our hopes and dreams for this upcoming year?

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may we also celebrate the new birth of Christ within our own lives, within the life of our congregation and within the world. The birth of a baby reminds us about the possibilities for that child. As we celebrate Jesus’ birth, what are the divine possibilities for each of us? What are the divine possibilities for this congregation? How is God leading us here and now as we seek to live into God’s call?

Advent and Christmas touch the child within each of us. May we be open to experiencing the fullness of God’s presence in our lives, may we be open to the renewed spirit of God coursing through our veins, may we be open to the spirit of God leading us as we seek to be God’s hope, peace, love and joy made manifest here and now. May it be so.

*Peace,  
Pastor Laurene*

**Worship is one of the most important things we do together each week! You are invited to participate!**

Our Worship Volunteers create a warm, welcoming, and orderly environment so the focus of our worship services can remain on worship. Volunteering for one of our Worship Teams as an Assistant, Greeter, or Liturgist is an important way to contribute to the CPC community.

There are three ways to volunteer for worship at CPC! Sign up in the narthex, contact the office (email or call), or use Sign-Up Genius. You can see the dates and volunteer opportunities available for each Sunday on Sign Up Genius or on the sign up in the narthex. The December Volunteer link is: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0449afab23a3fd0-december1> Stephanie also sends a Monday E-blast with Worship needs for the upcoming Sunday.



Your help is needed to staff our nursery! Two people (two adults or one adult and one responsible youth) are needed each week. There is a sign up in the narthex, or you can sign up along with the other worship volunteers (see above). Thank you for helping cover this important ministry!



**CPC is blessed with a fantastic choir!** They practice most Wednesday evenings and sing most Sundays. If you enjoy singing, you are most welcome to give it a try! Talk to Meg Britain if you have questions!

You are invited to bring or purchase **poinsettias** to help decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Poinsettias can arrive anytime from now until Christmas Eve. OR If you ordered one, it will be delivered directly to church! Poinsettias should be taken home after the Christmas Eve service or after the worship service on Sunday, December 27.



**Jubellation Handbell Choir,** led by Judy Kereakos, will play during worship on Sunday, December 6. They will also accompany our Advent Candle Lighting each week during Advent. Thank you for the beautiful music!



*Christmas Eve Service*  
*Thursday, December 24*



**5:30 pm**

**6:00 pm**

**Fellowship and Refreshments**

**Candlelight Family Service**

*Childcare is available*

*Community Presbyterian Church, 3705 55th St NW, Rochester, MN*

## Upcoming Christian Education for Children and Youth

December 6	Practice for Christmas Program
December 13	Christmas Program during worship Baking cookies for the Christmas Eve Social
December 20 and 27	No Children/Youth Sunday School Classes

**Sunday School will resume on January 3rd**



**Christian  
Education**



## Rehearsals for “The Best Story: An Imperfect Christmas Eve Pageant”

have begun during the Sunday School hour. The program will be Sunday, December 13, during worship. Don't miss out on this fun, Christmas tradition!

## Upcoming Adult Education Classes

### December 6 Creating a Welcoming Community, part 2

Racism, prejudice and bias is painful conditioning we all experience in our society. We can heal this conditioning as we reclaim our own goodness and create a truly welcoming, connected community that respects and values the gifts of all.

*Dorothea Hrossowyc MA, RMPA, is a somatic therapist and empowerment counselor, Rosen Method Somatic Bodywork teacher and practitioner in Northfield, Lakeville and Rochester for over 15 years. She has led many workshops on liberation issues including eliminating racism, sexism, parenting, internalized oppression, listening skills, educational change, self compassion, and the human connection system. Human transformation and evolution are lifelong passions.*

### December 13 Making Christmas Less Stressful and More Enjoyable!

The holiday season is typically a time for high stress for so many of us. This is often caused by job and family stress, excessive food and drink, along with unrealistic expectations of ‘The perfect Christmas.’ Join us as we discuss ways to

- Reduce stress by rethinking how we respond to the expectations of the season.
- Develop a greater appreciation of your friends and family.
- Develop a greater sense of gratitude for your many blessings.

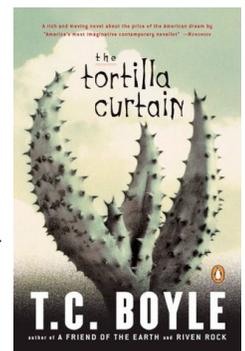
*Donna Magtibay, MSN, RN, in addition to be Meg Britain's babysitter so many years ago, is a Mayo Clinic Nursing Education Specialist who provides Reiki services to Mayo Clinic patients undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplants, those with PTSD, pre and post-operatively and for pain management. She is a member of Dr. Amit Sood, Mayo Clinic SMART: Stress Management and Resiliency Training program and leads trainings throughout the Rochester area.*

### December 20 The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Birth

Pastor Laurene will lead a discussion of Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan's book “The First Christmas.” Borg and Crossan help us to see this well-known narrative afresh by answering the question, “What do these stories mean?” in the context of the 1st Century and 21st Century. Their work provides an opportunity to have a deeper and more meaningful understanding of the Christmas Story.

### The Book Discussion

**Group** usually meets the fourth Sunday of each month. Due to the holidays, the book discussion group will combine the meetings for the months of November and December. They will meet on Decem-



ber 6 at 1:00 PM at Madonna Towers. The book for November/December is The Tortilla Curtain by T.C. Boyle. Please come, you are invited to join in!

## MEMBERSHIP/ FELLOWSHIP EVENTS



### Christmas Social - December 12, 2:30-4:00

Join us for the most delicious party of the year!

Saturday, December 12, 2015

2:30 – 4:00 pm at CPC

Bring 2 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies or treats to share. Great company and hot beverages await you. Sign up today!

### 39 Forever Holiday Lunch

December 5

12:15-2:00 PM

Madonna Towers Dining Room  
4001 19th Ave NW

Soup, salad, sandwiches and  
dessert for lunch and best of all,  
time with each other!



## HOLIDAY LIGHTS TOUR

All aboard!

Jolly Trolley Holiday Lights Tour

Friday, December 18, 2015

7 pm Tour – 75 Minutes

Enjoy classic holiday music aboard the warmth of a lighted, decorated, & HEATED trolley and experience some of Rochester's most creative lights displays.

Purchase your tickets at [www.rochesterMNTours.com](http://www.rochesterMNTours.com) (Tours often sell out, so get your tickets early)

Adults \$15.00 and Children 11 & under \$10.00

Contact Stacy Kopecky if you would like assistance with your ticket purchase or to set up carpooling.



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



### Meet the Andersons!

Most of you have known the Andersons for many years, even if you haven't seen all of them as often. Dave, Amy, Claire, and Will (Thor) moved to Rochester in 1997 and joined Community Presbyterian in 1998.

Dave and Amy are originally from the Twin Cities, and after attending the University of Minnesota, they moved to San Jose, California in 1987, where Amy had landed a job with IBM. Dave's education was in geology, and he found a job in the environmental consulting business there. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, there were many military base closings in California, and they all needed an environmental analysis before the land was sold.

Both Claire and Will were born in California. Many people don't know that Will's birth name is William Thor, and he went by Thor when he was small. But by middle school, he decided to go with his first name, and generally goes by Will. Of course, he doesn't mind when his family (even his church family!) still calls him Thor.

Both Claire and Will have attended the University of Minnesota. Claire graduated a year ago with a degree in Organizational/Industrial Psychology. She's had some great employment experience—both internships and full time work in the employment placement industry—and has been evaluating grad schools. She's recently decided to move to Seattle, Washington, where she'll work for a while before enrolling in grad school there.



Will is a sophomore in bio-medical engineering at the U. He's looking forward to landing an internship this summer, and spends his precious free time gaming with his roommates.

Dave and Amy are enjoying the empty nest, and they spend many weekends between May and October rehabbing the mid-century modern cottage that they bought in Northern Minnesota. They are on Year Six of their five-year remodeling plan.

## Adopt-a-Family



packages to church by Sunday, December 6. If you didn't get a chance to select a gift tag, there are a few left on the Christmas tree in the narthex. Or if you wish to contribute monetarily, please see Ivy Pillers. Thanks so much for your support of the mission work of CPC!

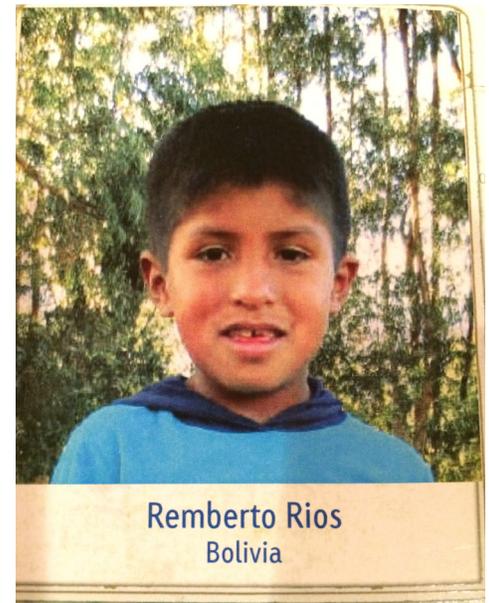
### Adopt-A-Family Update

Thank you to all those who have taken items for our annual support of our friends in the community. This year we have a family of three who have struggled with domestic violence, a mom of 26 with a 7-year-old son and a 3-year-old daughter. The other two individuals are single adults, one a paraplegic and the other who struggles with mental health issues. Please bring your wrapped and labelled

packages to church by Sunday, December 6. If you didn't get a chance to select a gift tag, there are a few left on the Christmas tree in the narthex. Or if you wish to contribute monetarily, please see Ivy Pillers. Thanks so much for your support of the mission work of CPC!

### Opportunity to Help a Child

For a number of years, CPC has been helping support a child through Compassion International. This year our child is Remberto Rios from Marquina, Bolivia. He participates in the Child Development Center there where he has educational opportunities and learns Biblical stories. Our youth have written letters to Remberto this year after learning about Bolivia at the IVBS this summer. Would you consider donating to support Remberto at only \$38 for a month? Sign up is available in the narthex.



Remberto Rios  
Bolivia

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

### Presbyterian Women Gatherings

The **December monthly meeting** Tuesday, December 15th, 6:30-8:00 pm will be hosted by Margaret Nelson at Madonna Towers, 4001 19th Avenue NW. Members are asked to bring two things:

- Either an appetizer or a dessert AND
- A favorite Christmas ornament that may be connected to a Christmas story or memory to tell

**Bible Study** will meet the following Wednesdays at 1:00 pm: December 2, 9, and 16. On the 2nd, we will be discussing chapter 6.

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS

### Building and Grounds Taking Good Care of Us!

This month Building and Grounds

- chose the contractor for snow removal
- worked on getting the cement stoops repaired
- worked out a cleaning schedule for our building
- saw to putting the gardens to bed for the winter
- is checking into the heating of the Great Room.

**Thanks for all you do,  
Building and Grounds!**

The Building and Grounds committee has set up a cleaning plan that we all can be a part of! Thursday Evenings at 7 PM, help a little or help a lot! Help once a month or every week, every contribution is appreciated and needed!

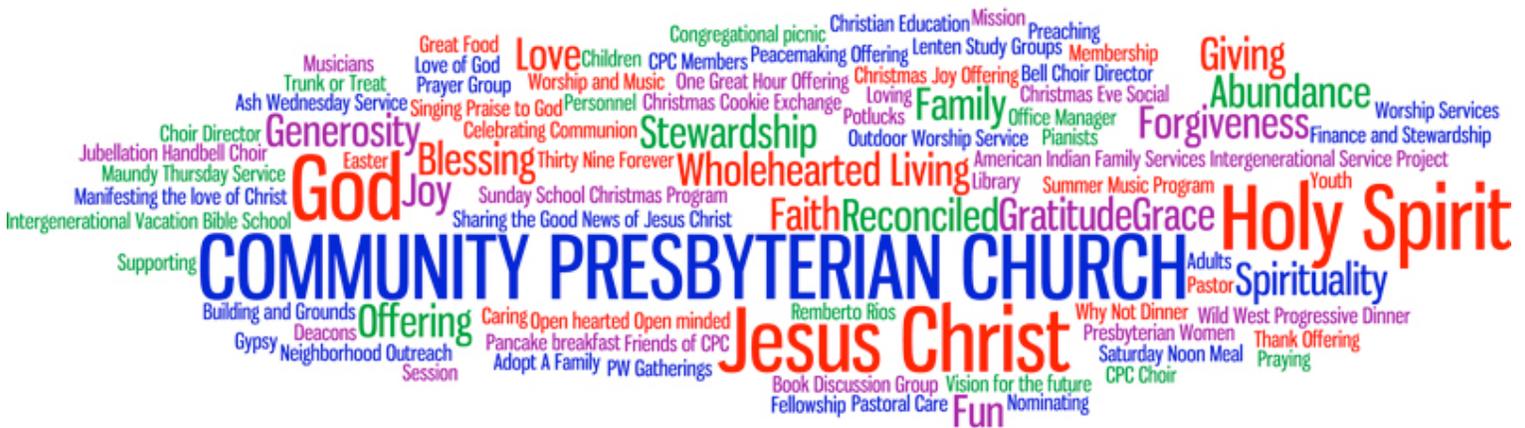
#### Why help clean at church?

It is one simple way to help your church home. Cleaning is great exercise! You get to visit with your friends! It gives the church mice a break!

**Join us every  
Thursday at 7 pm.  
Checklists and  
supplies provided.**



## FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP



On November 10, a stewardship letter was mailed out. (If you did not receive one, more are available in the narthex). The letter reflected on the exciting year that we have had and looked ahead to the future with the hopes of a Christian Educator. In order to do the budget for the upcoming year, we need your pledges! Please prayerfully consider increasing your pledge so that we can reach our goals in 2016. If you have any questions or concerns, please talk with Pastor Laurene or Ronda Marshall, the Finance Committee chairperson.

As of 11/24	Pledges	Essentials Budget	Growth Budget
Current	20	\$69,708.00	\$69,708.00
Goal	33	\$124,900.00	\$160,000.00
Total Income		\$175,000.00	\$210,000.00

**Thank you to all who have already pledged!  
Please keep the pledges coming in!  
Please pray for God's good guidance  
as we move forward.**



From the Channel One Website:, [www.channel-one.org](http://www.channel-one.org):

The holiday season is here, and many of us are taking the time to reflect on the many blessings we have in our own lives. Sometimes the simplest of blessings we have are the biggest blessings to others. Please take a moment this season to put your blessings into motion by sharing them with others and

making a gift to Channel One today. Your gratitude for what you have will overflow into the lives of others and make a big impact.

Recently we had a young woman who looked stressed and tired approach us at the Supplemental Food Shelf check-in window. Upon scanning her card, it was discovered that she had already used her monthly visit to the food shelf. Once we informed her that her visit had been used, she looked heartbroken . We looked at her information in the computer and discovered that she had three young children and an elderly grandparent in her home. In an attempt to help this young woman, our staff looked to see if she had used her emergency visit, as all households are allowed one emergency visit per 12-month period for a hard month where just one visit will not suffice. She had not, so we offered to let her use her emergency visit at this time. The young woman began to tear up, and stated that this was a life saver, as she was not sure how she was going to feed her family the rest of the month. We let her know that we understand that some months can be harder than others and two visits are needed. We also informed her about the Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors for her grandparent, which would help by offering a box of nutritious food once per month in addition to the food shelf. She could not thank us enough! She was very appreciative for the emergency visit, and it was apparent that her stress was already starting to melt away.



These groups are held at the Center for Grief Education and Support, 1696 Greenview Dr. SW, Rochester, MN. Call 507-285-1930 or email [shbp@seasonshospice.org](mailto:shbp@seasonshospice.org) to register.

### Coffee & Conversation Group

A group for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one.

**Second/Fourth Wednesdays each month  
December 9 & 23 - 9:00 - 10:00 am**

**Third Thursday each month  
December 17 ☐ 6:30 - 7:30 pm**

### Newly Bereaved Group

A group for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one within the last four months.

**First Thursday each month  
December 3 - 6:30 - 8:30 pm**

**Third Thursday each month  
December 17 ☐ 12:00 - 2:00 pm**



### Pet Loss Group

A group for those who have lost a pet through death.

**Second Wednesday each month  
December 9 - 6:30 - 7:30 pm**



### Pregnancy & Infant Loss Group

A group for those who have lost a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth, at the time of birth or within the first month after birth.

**Second Thursday each month  
December 10 - 6:30 - 8:00 pm**

*Confidential consultation  
and counseling available.*

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

**Put these dates on your calendar!**

**December 5 39 Forever Lunch**

**December 6 Book Discussion Group, Madonna Towers**

**December 6 Adopt-A-Family Gifts Due**

**December 12 Christmas Social**

**December 13 “The Best Story: An Imperfect Christmas Eve Pageant” Christmas program**

**December 15 PW Monthly Get Together, Madonna Towers**

**December 18 Holiday Lights Tour**

**December 20 Election of 2016 Church Officers**

**December 24, Fellowship and Refreshments, 5:30 PM**

**December 24, Candlelight Family Service, 6:00 PM**

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

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