

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 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 2020</u>	Ivy Pillers Kim Nickander	Worship and Music Finance and Stewardship
<u>Class of 2021</u>	Ronda Marshall Dave Copeland	Mission Personnel
Class of 2022	Gene Kopecky Sue Chipman	Building and Grounds Christian Education
<u>Officers:</u>	Mary Meyer Mark Pillers Joanne Powell	Clerk (Non-voting) Financial Secretary Treasurer

2020 Nominating Committee

Jeanette Hallbeck, Peggy McCarty, Mary Alice Richardson, Bruce Felger, Dave Copeland

Membership (a sub committee of Christian Education) Chairperson: Amanda Ross

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 and serve a three year term.

<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>
Marcia Britain Ann Hesley	Jeanette Hallbeck Jennifer Hall	Kari Streff Ron Murray

Staff

Pastor/ Head of Staff	Rev. Jan Wiersma
Choir Director	Meg Cain
Pianist	Glenna Muir
Bell Choir Director	Judy Kereakos
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

Ministers to the world

Congregation Members

A Day of Witnessing

A few Sundays ago, I talked about two ways of being a witness. There's seeing, and there's telling. The latter often has painful associations, both for those who feel pressured to go out and buttonhole strangers, drilling them about their personal relationship to Jesus; and for those who are buttonholed. That's not the kind of witnessing I'm talking about.

On Tuesday, June 16, sixteen members and friends of CPC traveled to Minneapolis for a long, hot day of seeing, absorbing, witnessing the epicenter of an event that has traveled the world like a global tsunami: the death of George Floyd in the hands of four Minneapolis police officers.

We began at Calvary Lutheran Church, whose "Black Lives Matter" banners have proudly hung on the church tower for five years. We heard from Pastor Hans Lee about the hospitality the church has provided for those who visit the memorial, and the food support for community members bereft of stores or public transportation to reach them. Their food shelf, which served approximately 25 families a week pre-COVID-19 jumped to 75 a week during the last couple of months; since Memorial day, they serve 150 families.

The memorial begins literally outside their front door. This is somber, sacred space, with only foot traffic permitted, masks encouraged, and hand-sanitizer provided at each entrance. Flowers--some fresh, some fading--encircle a raised-fist sculpture and murals depicting George Floyd. Names of persons of color, all victims of lethal police violence, are painted neatly on the street: one whole city block's worth. A nearby grassy area displays hundreds of inscribed tombstones; it's called "Say Their Names Cemetery."

At Powderhorn Park, Maggie Mills of the Mapping Prejudice Project (mappingprejudice.org) explained the history of racism in Minneapolis as told through the practices of red-lining and, even more insidious, racial covenants written into real estate titles. She told of her work with unhoused persons displaced from their previous tent city by the riots, now living in a tent encampment in the park. A sense of community flourishes among the residents but life is complicated by the restrictions of COVID-19.

Our last stop was Holy Trinity Church, across the street from the 3rd Precinct police station, which is now reduced to blackened rubble. Horrifying to all, these burned and boarded businesses especially saddened me: they are places I used to frequent. Holy Trinity, where I worshipped for several years, barely escaped burning. Pastor Doug Mork informed us that they provided 3-4000 (yes, thousand) community residents a day with food, diapers, and other essentials.

We witnessed so much that follows in the wake of unspeakable tragedy: grief and trauma and violence, but also hope and the resilience of communities rising up to work together, effectively nullifying barriers of race and class and creed.

And we witnessed the best kind of witness to a personal relationship with Jesus: the visible, tangible outpouring of love, compassion, care and concern. As St. Francis said, "Preach the gospel at all times. Use words only when necessary."



AN UPDATE FROM FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

Thank You! to those of you that have prayerfully kept up with your giving during this time of virtual Worship and other virtual fellowship during a time like we've never experienced before!! It is so uplifting to see the support to get us through this! We also want to share with you other means that F&S has been working to help us through this.

First, we applied for and received a PPP Loan for \$6600 from the Cares Act. We were able to receive two months worth of payroll/utilities protection that will certainly help us as we were devoted to pay our staff of Guest Pastor Ann (originally scheduled, but cancelled in March and April), Pastor Jan, Stephanie, Glenna, Meg, and Nancy beginning mid-April. We plan for the entire amount to be used as it is intended which will mean the loan will be forgiven.

Second, we assisted our Moderator of Session, Pastor Adam Copeland and Mary Meyer, Clerk of Session, apply for and were granted a Community-Based Ministry Support grant of \$10,000 from the Presbytery Leadership Team, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. The majority of this grant will be used to assist Children's Place Nursery School with rent for 4 months over the summer to help them with financial difficulties. Another portion will be donated to Village Community Gardens who have taken on the past role of Channel One in keeping our gardens viable to the people that appreciate and utilize this valuable resource for growing their own produce. The final portion is available to our members on a first come/first serve basis for groceries or other basic needs if you are experiencing difficult times. Please see the ad in the newsletter for this opportunity. Any remainder will be donated to other COVID-19 related causes.

Pledges and giving can be sent directly to the church or through the church website www.cpcrochester.org under the Donate button, lower right side. Please forgive us for our lag in time in depositing the monies received. Monies received are safely tucked away until they are counted and deposited, so there are no security worries. Thank you again for all of your support!!

A MESSAGE FROM "THE OFFICE"



Update on Office Hours

Stephanie will likely begin transitioning to working back in the office sometime in July. Watch the bulletins and/or the August newsletter for updated office hours.

However, for the time being Stephanie will take Mondays off from work, shifting those hours to Tuesdays and Wednesdays as that fits the current workload better. For your planning and information, Stephanie is often in the office at CPC on Wednesdays.

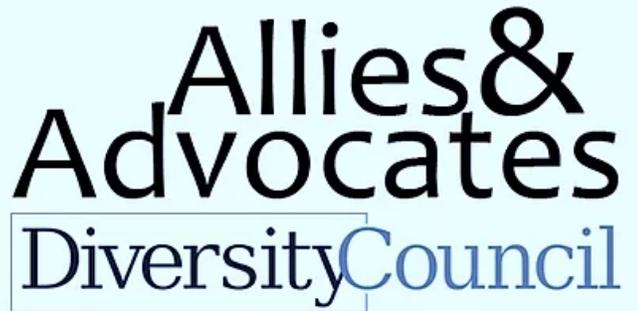
AN INVITATION FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE

Engaging in the work of anti-racism: Mission Committee recommends all attend virtual training

Jeff Japinga, Executive Presbyter, suggests that “we who are white and wondering ‘How do we stop this racism?’ consider shifting our question to ‘What must I do to engage in the anti-racism work needed

to dismantle the white supremacy that is causing this systemic racial violence, trauma and oppression?’ To find specific places and pieces of this issue within our own reach, both internally (our own education) and externally (our own practice); and in embracing them, to learn and grow.”

Within our reach and offered freely to us from within our own community, Rochester's Diversity Council is offering CPC a special 90-minute skills-building event: "Allies & Advocates is an interactive, scenario-based training that provides individuals with the opportunity to learn about and practice responses to incidents they may encounter in their daily lives. The session provides tools and tactics to interrupt bias and hate through effective de-escalation, respectful intervention, and social accountability." More information on the program is available at www.diversitycouncil.org. Those desiring to participate, please indicate your preference for a weeknight evening or weekend afternoon to Carole Kinion Copeland. Carole's current cell phone is: 507-990-0544 and her email is: Carole.kinioncopeland@gmail.com.

The logo features the text "Allies & Advocates" in a large, black, serif font. Below it, the word "Diversity" is in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font, and "Council" is in a larger, blue, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a light blue background.

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY WISHES

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Watch for a special worship service welcoming Pastor Jan, officially, sometime in July!

A SCRAPBOOK FROM THE DAY OF WITNESSING

All five confirmands attended the George Floyd memorial trip. Here are some of their comments:
“It’s amazing how people banded together to create this massive memorial. Every little thing can help.”

“I liked how the churches were stepping up to help.”

“I was impressed to hear how at one church, a volunteer was talking to us in English, and then when someone else came up and asked a question in Spanish, she just shifted into Spanish.”

“Volunteers took their days off just to help out.”

“Everyone was supportive of the protests in every way, donating food, diapers, other products.”

“[The burned out buildings] show how destructive people can be when they feel like they’re not being heard.”

“I learned that sometimes it’s better to listen than to talk.”



Our Group



Group listening to the Pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



Community donations filled the church



Memorial for all of the African Americans killed by police

Margaret Nelson has had a good time choosing books for the Madonna Towers library in honor of her birthday. When they arrive, a bookplate (to the right) will be placed in each book. Our requested titles have been sent to publishers who say the books are available, but they cannot deliver for now, due to Covid-19.

Fiction

The Alice Network, by Kate Quinn. In 1947 Charlie St. Clair began in London in her search for her cousin Rose who disappeared in Nazi-occupied France in WWII. She met her assistant, a crude, drunk young woman and they were soon sailing to France.

Before We Were Yours, by Lisa Wingate, A true crime conducted by the head social worker in the TN Children’s Home as she made millions for herself by stealing children and selling them to lonely couples, We meet some as children and later as grandparents.

The Dutch House, by Ann Patchett. A young man goes from poverty to wealth through a lucky real estate investment and buys a Pennsylvania mansion. But some decades later it led to his losing all the people he most loved and he was back in poverty again.

Family Furnishings: selected short stories, 1995-2014, by Alice Munro. The year after receiving the Nobel Prize for her short stories, Munro selected 24 of them, related to family members of all ages. For those who like short stories, they are cataloged as 813.

A Gentleman in Moscow, by Amor Towles. The novel shows the experiences of Count Rostov, an “unrepentant Aristocrat,” sentenced in 1922 to house arrest in the Metropol Hotel across from the Kremlin, We see great characters surviving, learning, and caring for each other over 30 years under the Bolsheviks. It’s witty, insightful and highly enjoyable.

Jaber Crow, by Wendell Berry. Kentucky-born, orphaned at ten, Jaber, a pre-ministerial student, questioned his professor of N.T.Greek who said, “You have questions to which you cannot be given answers; you will have to live them out.” His ‘living’ is the story.

Kitchen Table Wisdom: stories that heal, by Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D. As both skilled physician and patient with a variety of ills, Dr. Remen is capable of telling stories that go well beyond the medical. Her 80-some very short stories give us much to think about.

The Life We Bury, by Allen Eskens. Joe, a college student, was to write for English class a short biography of a total stranger. He found one in a nursing home “on leave” from the penitentiary’s death row. This leads to police problems. Based on a true crime.

*This book was donated by
the Presbyterian
Women's Group of
Community Presbyterian
Church
Rochester MN
in honor of
Margaret B. Nelson's
100th birthday, April 14, 2020*



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CONTINUED

The Nickel Boys, by Colson Whitehead. A boy who modeled his behavior after Martin Luther King was about to enter a black college when an innocent mistake sent him to Nickel Academy, a dreadful reform school in Jim-Crow era Florida.

Small Great Things, by Jodi Picault. A couple of the White Supremacist Faith entered a hospital for the birth of their baby and found that they had been assigned a black nurse, Ruth. Their complaint accepted. All okay until the baby had a cardiac arrest with only Ruth on duty.

The Year of Wonder, by Gwendolyn Brooks .The plague in Europe in 1666 is told through the eyes of a young girl. Read it to compare their problems, attitudes, and beliefs with ours now.

Nonfiction

Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity, by Katherine Boo. In the shadows of luxury hotels, Abdul, a teenage boy, was filled with hope for a recycling business with garbage tossed out by rich folks. But tragedy, a global recession, tension from religion, caste, etc. left them in turmoil. [Based on publisher comments.]

Being Mortal: Medicine and what Happens in the End, by Atul Gawande. Ideas of caring for the elderly are changing, but for years the idea had been for doctors to keep people alive as long as possible. Too often they only keep them suffering longer. Citing research and Hospice techniques, Gawande points out ways to help people live socially and happier at the end.

Destiny of the Republic: a Tale of Madness, Medicine, and the Murder of a President, by Candice Millard. Garfield, our 25th president, never wanted the job. The politics of the time was interesting, the medical performance showed his doctors did not take their work very seriously, and Alexander Graham Bell was the only real scientist on the scene.

Hell and other Destinations: A 21st Century Memoir, by Madeleine Albright. In 2001 when she was leaving office she was asked what she would do next. She could write, teach, travel, give speeches, start a business, and help empower women. [Based on publisher comments.]

Our Only World: Ten Essays, by Wendell Berry a fine writer of all media. “There is no better spokesman and no more eloquent advocate for our planet ...than Wendell Berry. [Reviewer]

Where Men win Glory: The Odyssey of Pat Tillman, by Jon Krakauer. Patriotism led Pat to abandon his over \$3 million contract with the NFL and join the Army. He was greatly admired, but the real Pat Tillman was much more remarkable then the public knew.



From the United Way of Olmsted County re: Running Start for School

As with so many other things, getting Running Start for School supplies in the hands of students will look different this year. In order to adhere to social distancing and other safety guidelines, all donations will be handled online only.

We are extremely grateful that our Moving Sponsor, Midwest Moving Company- Rochester, will help us take it from there! Without their help, we wouldn't be able to get our backpacks to our 39 participating schools. #CommunitySupport #ThankYou

To donate supplies for over 2,600 students in Olmsted County, community members are invited to visit www.roonga.com/runningstart2020.

Helping local students succeed just got easier!

Donate brand **NEW & FULLY PACKED BACKPACKS** online to Olmsted County students in need by visiting:
www.roonga.com/RunningStart2020

Roonga™

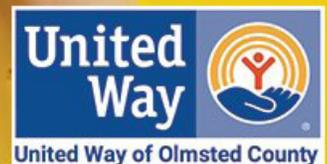


**It's FAST & EASY!
SCAN HERE NOW!!**



United Way's Running Start for School is a community-wide backpack and school supply drive to ensure that every child is prepared to succeed in school.

For more information, please visit:
www.uwolmsted.org/rs



AROUND THE PRESBYTERY

Jeff's Jottings (from the EMerge, PTCA)

Where Do We Start?

"Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul, to assist some portion of this poor suffering world, will help immensely. It is not given to us to know which acts or by whom, will cause the critical mass to tip toward an enduring good. What is needed for dramatic change is an accumulation of acts, adding, adding to, adding more, continuing. We know that it does not take everyone on Earth to bring justice and peace, but only a small, determined group who will not give up during the first, second, or hundredth gale." Clarissa Pinkola Estes



Rev. Dr. Jeff Japinga, Executive Presbyter
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

I hear it daily from an array of connections, from New England to California; from the front page of the Star-Tribune to my Facebook newsfeed; from quiet conversation to amplified protest. From you. And I see it every time I look in the mirror. A kind of growing, heavy, undefined, sense of urgency. Current coronavirus isolation and mixed messages. Economic uncertainty (or outright panic). The murder of George Floyd shining again the harsh light of America's original sin of racism and our inability—or lack of desire—to change it. The enormity of its needed response. Whatever part you touch, it is for many becoming an overwhelming of brokenness and sorrow, desire and paralysis—of desperately wanting to do something, while at the same time seeing something seems so big and out of reach.

Will anything ever change? Where do we start?

The liturgical calendar calls this time in the church's year "ordinary time." It is anything but. The season after Pentecost again invites us to breathe deeply and consciously, expecting to be filled with God's Spirit, God's holy breath. Expecting to be changed by it. And in doing so, expecting to find ways, like those very first disciples, to speak things we did not think we had the courage to say. To be a voice for and to and with all who, in these difficult times, are afraid or grieving or hopeless or isolated. To bring change to the next generation, in ways we might scarcely believe.

Where do we start? Here's one piece of good advice I've gotten, an invitation for the days and years ahead: that we who are white and wondering "How do we stop this racism?," consider shifting our question to "What must I do to engage in the anti-racism work needed to dismantle the white supremacy that is causing this systemic racial violence, trauma and oppression?" To find specific places and pieces of this issue within our own reach, both internally (our own education) and externally (our own practice); and in embracing them, to learn and grow.

Where do we start? Here's another place, a two minute and 9 seconds reminder from our leadership in Louisville of who we are and what we stand for: <https://vimeo.com/429992698>. Then pair that with the three words that have always launched the work of the church, from the very first until now: "Come, Holy Spirit." Fill us with your love, that we may live and act and speak the life you would have for us. A new "accumulation of acts."

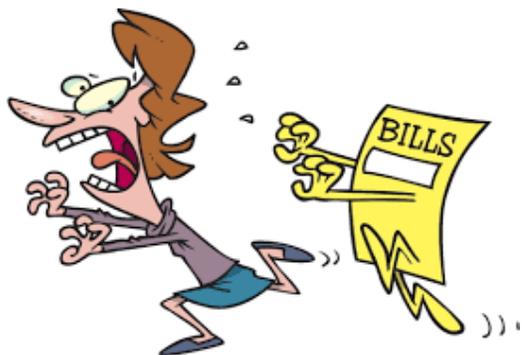
July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30am Prayer Group	2	3	4
5 9:30am Online Worship with Communion	6 6:00pm Med City Tai Chi Class	7 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:00pm Brain Injury Support Group 7:00pm Christian Education Committee meeting	8 6:30am Prayer Group 6:30pm Confirmation	9	10	11
12 9:30am Online Worship	13 6:00pm Med City Tai Chi Class	14 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting	15 6:30am Prayer Group 6:30pm Confirmation	16	17	18
19 9:30am Online Worship	20 12:00pm Newsletter articles due 6:00pm Med City Tai Chi Class	21 12:00pm Bulletin info due	22 6:30am Prayer Group	23	24	25
26 9:30am Online Worship	27 6:00pm Med City Tai Chi Class	28 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:00pm Session Meeting	29 6:30am Prayer Group	30	31	

Community Presbyterian Church
3705 Fairway Place NW
Rochester, MN 55901

Are you facing financial stress?

Through our Community-Based Ministry Support Grant (see p. 4), we are offering limited funds to assist with groceries or other basic needs to any of our members/friends that have such a need on a first come/first serve basis. Please email or call the church office or contact anyone on the Finance Committee, Kim Nickander, Joanne Powell or Mark Pillers.



Normally, CPC worships at 9:30 each Sunday and has Sunday School at 10:45 each Sunday (September-May).

Due to the COVID-19 virus, we will stay connected in these ways:

Online Worship, Sundays 9:30 am

<https://meet.google.com/vao-wjef-cbe>

+1 575-305-4527 PIN: 652 821 468 #

Bulletins for worship can be found on the homepage of our website.

www.cpcrochester.org

Tuesday and Friday Conference Call - 12:00 noon

<https://meet.google.com/kee-rcys-sdh>

+1 413-889-2244 PIN: 433 818 991#