

COMMUNITY PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROCHESTER, MN



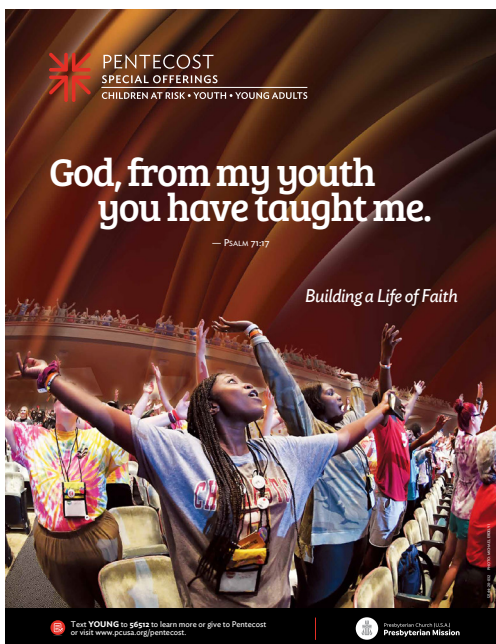
CPC MAKES IT OFFICIAL – JAN WIERSMA IS OUR NEW PASTOR

With approval from Session during a special meeting (via Google Meet) on Tuesday, May 12th, and approval by the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry on Monday, May 18th, Pastor Jan Wiersma will now officially be the new half time Pastor of CPC.

The process in which Pastor Jan was hired is called a Stated Supply Pastor. This is because as she is a “retired” pastor from ELCA, a branch of the Lutheran Christian tree, she

could not be hired as a Designated Pastor, which was originally our intent. The only real difference is that she will be part of our ministry and mission work through a one year contract that can be renewed annually rather than a 2-3 year contract. She will be able to perform all of the duties that our church requires of our pastor.

Some time when we all are able to be together again we will have a more formal welcome of Jan, but in the meantime please help welcome her to our ministry. We have been blessed to have her fill our pulpit these past months and are now doubly blessed by having her join us on a more permanent basis.



While we did not collect the Pentecost Offering on Pentecost, if you are still interested in contributing, donations will gladly be sent on to the appropriate recipients.

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

JUNE 2020

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 WORD FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I have just received the joyful news that the Presbytery Committee on Ministry has approved the contract between this wonderful, gifted, faithful congregation and myself! Our journey together is officially beginning. My profound thanks go to Session, to Dave Copeland and the Personnel Committee, Mark Neville and the Nominating Committee, and all of you, people of Community Presbyterian, as well as John Curtiss and Jeff Japinga for their support through the Presbytery.



With the contract negotiations and approvals behind us, I would like to propose what is, for me, more important: the spiritual covenant we enter. I am returning to parish ministry after a hiatus of 15 years, and I am new to Presbyterian ways. You have had many leaders, and have yourselves stepped ably into leadership roles. Your history is rooted in faith and in strong convictions about how to live as Christ-followers. I have so much to learn from you.

Besides this, the world is changing around us even as we embark on this adventure. I am convinced that not only will there be a new normal, but that we need to begin immediately to seek and shape CPC's future, and so I propose the following covenant of mutuality.

Prayer: My first commitment as your pastor is to pray for you, collectively and individually, so that God's love is always the lens through which I see you. And I ask for your prayers for me.

Excellence: I promise to bring the best in myself -- mind and training, spirit and talent, body and soul -- to God's worship and God's service with you and among you. I hope you will be led to offer the best of yourselves, too.

Openness: "Open hearted, open minded" defines the way we approach each other and the world outside our doors as well as those who enter. A world in flux demands that we open ourselves to creative ways to speak and live God's love.

Connection: CPC has been abundantly blessed by the spiritual leadership and financial support of a compassionate and proactive Presbytery. By strengthening our partnership with them, the PCUSA, and with other faith-filled organizations, we can better make Christ known in the world.

Respect: My desire is to honor your history, and to build on its strengths. I, too, have my own experiences and convictions. We may surprise each other in ways that are not always comfortable. Mutual respect will ensure we can navigate uncomfortable moments smoothly.

Honesty: When tense moments occur, honest communication is our best friend. People love affirmation, and I am no exception; but constructive criticism has helped me grow, too. I promise, also, to speak truth to you in love.

Responsibility: God has brought us together as gift and as task - the gift of enjoying collegiality, friendship, and deep love; and the task of working together as one body, recognizing our varied needs and leadings. Calling a pastor and being called is a sacred responsibility on both sides.

With great anticipation for what lies ahead: with Christ, in Christ, for Christ,
Pastor Jan Wiersma

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK, CONTINUED

An overview of new beginnings in ministry - Pastor Jan's short-term goals

About half Pastor Jan's time initially will be devoted to worship planning, sermon preparation, study, and leading worship. Pastor Jan will continue, of course, to provide pastoral care. Pastor Jan hopes you know you can always contact her in any emergency, at any time.

Eventually, she expects to spend a good portion of her time on broader community outreach. To ensure both the inner (congregational) and outer (broader community) focus are in

keeping with CPC's needs and expectations, Pastor Jan wants to spend this time of coronavirus in getting to know you better. Pastor Jan would like to meet each committee, on Google Meet or at church, to learn:

- What is the function of the committee within the mission and ministry of CPC?
- How do committee members relate to each other and the congregation?
- What are achievable but challenging goals for the next year?
- How would you like Pastor Jan to relate to the committee?

She is also especially excited about getting to know CPC better as people, and would like to meet with you individually or in small groups of your choosing (family or other) by phone, on Google Meet, or in driveway visits with physical distancing. She would like to learn from you:* Another way to do this is to do the 5X5 mentioned on page 5 of the newsletter.

- Any part of your personal history you'd like me to know; for example, spiritual/religious background, work and family life, significant events (all optional)
- Your history with CPC and any specific anecdotes that best represent it
- Your sense of the shared values of this faith community
- Your joys and concerns for the congregation
- Your ideal vision for the future of CPC in particular and the Christian church in general



ABOUT COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Five by Five (or, telling Pastor Jan about CPC)

This little exercise is intended to make it easier to answer the questions about what CPC means to you. If you prefer to answer the questions as presented in the article on page 4, that's fine, too.

FIVE ADJECTIVES that describe CPC today

FIVE MOMENTS in CPC's history that you are personally proud of
(or, if you're relatively new, FIVE things that attracted you to CPC)

FIVE QUALITIES that you hope will describe CPC ten years from now

FIVE VALUES (non-negotiables) that Christ's church brings to society

FIVE ISSUES that God's love calls us to address in bringing good news to all God's children

Please let Jan know by phone or email when would be a good time to meet. If you don't call her, she will call you!

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY WISHES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



SUGGESTIONS FOR 2020-2021 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Marg Nelson and Gwen Riggin have put together a list of books from which they ask that you select eight that you would like to consider for next year.

They arbitrarily chose to assign the three books from the 2019-2020 year which weren't discussed as the first three for the upcoming year: September - Educated by Tara Westover; October - Brinkley's Beat - a Memoir by David Brinkley; and the combined November-December - Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout. We need five more to finish out 2020-2021. Please review the list and pass along your eight preferences to Gwen or Marg. Your suggestions are requested by July 5 in order to tally the votes and publish a final list in the August newsletter.

The following are in no particular order.

Chance of a Lifetime by Jennifer (Burgstaler) Shenefield. I don't think there's a copy at RPL, but we should be able to order it through her publisher. The CPC library does have one copy.

If You Lived Here You'd Be Home By Now by Christopher Ingraham, non-fiction, 2019, 4 regular print at RPL, e-formats, no LP. Ingraham, a data reporter for the Washington Post, wrote a column based on livability rankings of counties all over the US, which listed Red Lake County, Minnesota at the very bottom of that ranking. Red Lake County residents protested - loudly and often - and he decided a visit was in order. The result of that visit was that he and his family decided to move to Red Lake County; this book tells that story.

This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger, fiction, 2019, 18 regular print, 1 LP, CD, e-formats. "1932 Minnesota. The Lincoln School is a pitiless place where hundreds of Native American children, forcibly separated from their families, are sent to be educated." (adapted from jacket).

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens, fiction, Book-in-a-Bag; 2018, 27 regular print, 3 LP, CD, e-formats. "steeped in the rhythms and shadows of the coastal marshes of North Carolina's Outer Banks, this fierce and hauntingly beautiful novel centers on...Kya's heartbreaking story of learning to trust human connections, intertwined with a gripping murder mystery."

The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris. 2018, Book in a Bag, 10 regular print, 1 LP, CD, e-formats.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONTINUED

The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead. 2019, 15 regular print, 1 LP, CD, e-formats. “Colson Whitehead brilliantly dramatizes another strand of American history through the story of two boys sentenced to a hellish reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida.”

Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer, 1997, non-fiction, 4 regular print, e-formats. “When Krakauer reached the summit of Mt. Everest in the early afternoon of May 10, 1996, he hadn’t slept in fifty-seven hours and was reeling from the brain-altering effects of oxygen depletion.... Into Thin Air is the definitive account of the deadliest season in the history of Everest.”

Where Men Win Glory by Jon Krakauer, 2009, updated 2010, non-fiction. 2 regular print and CD. “Tillman walked away from a multimillion-dollar NFL contract to join the Army and become an icon of post-9/11 patriotism. When he was killed in Afghanistan two years later, a legend was born. But the real Pat Tillman was much more remarkable, and considerably more complicated than the public knew.”

When Death Becomes Life by Joshua Mezrich. Biography, 2019, 2 regular print, RPL has no other formats. “A transplant surgeon discusses the pioneers, science and ethical challenges of organ transplantation as well as the ways that organ transplants have revolutionized medical care, and offers illuminating stories of his own patients.”

The Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey. 2012, 2 regular print, 1 LP, CD and e-formats. 1920 Alaska. A childless couple builds a child out of snow. The next morning the child is gone but they see her running through the trees. She calls herself Faina. What they learn from her changes their lives in profound ways.

A Piece of the World by Christina Baker Kline. 2017, 5 regular print, 1 LP, CD, e-formats. Imagines the life story of Christina Olson, the subject of Andrew Wyeth’s painting “Christina’s World”.

What We Will Become: a Mother, a Son, and a Journey of Transformation by Mimi Lemay. 2019, 1 regular print, no other formats at RPL. “A mother’s memoir of her transgender child’s odyssey and her journey outside the boundaries of the faith and culture that shaped her.”

No Ocean Too Wide by Carrie Turansky 2019 Fiction, 354 pages, RPL has 2 copies; several regular and large print copies are also available through SELCO. Between 1869 and 1939 more than 100,000 British children were taken to Canada as British Home Children without the knowledge or permission of their parents. Laura McCallister learned that her 3 younger siblings were among those children and was determined to find them and return them to their family.

Love Does by Bob Goff 2012 224 pages Non-fiction, 2 copies at RPL, 1 copy in Stewartville. “As a college student he spent 16 days in the Pacific Ocean with five guys and a crate of canned meat. As a father he took his kids on a world tour to eat ice cream with heads of state...what fuels his impact? Love. But it’s not the kind of love that stops at thoughts and feelings. Bob’s love takes action. Bob believes Love Does”. From p 4 of book cover.

Community Presbyterian Church
3705 Fairway Place NW
Rochester, MN 55901

**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 – 10:30am

<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#