

# COMMUNITY PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ROCHESTER, MN



**Lent 2020 -**

## **Seeking a Single Peace**

People of Community Presbyterian Church - thank you for inviting me back to worship with you during Lent. Your worship leaders and I agreed on the theme of seeking peace within and peace in the world to bring us together and guide our journey.

As I look about in these disturbing times, I sometimes feel as though inward peace can only be achieved by

maintaining a safe distance from viral memes, radio news, and newspaper headlines. (I don't possess a TV, so feel no threat from that quarter!) And yet, I find I cannot separate my privilege and responsibility as a citizen of the world from my privilege and responsibility as a child of God. Any peace I clutch at internally seems not very reliable if it can be easily unbalanced by news that upsets me. This world is my home, God's gift to me and to all who share it.

A story I read some time ago came to mind: "A father was caring for his young son on a morning when he needed to complete some important paperwork. The child was tired of his toys and wanted something new to play with. The father, worried about finishing his work on time, found a magazine article that included a detailed picture of the earth. He tore the picture into little pieces and gave it to the boy as a puzzle, hoping it would take his son a long time to reassemble the scraps. The boy, however, walked into his father's office a short time later and announced he had finished the puzzle. "But you just started it!" his father said. The boy explained that there was a picture of a person on the other side of the page, and, "When you put the person together, you put the world together, too!"

Lent is a time to put ourselves back together, keeping in mind that our own internal peace is vital to peace in the world. But peace pursued for purely private satisfaction can be neither real nor lasting. Peace within ourselves can and ultimately must translate into peace with God, peace with our neighbor, peace within our world. The inward journey can inform and inspire the outward journey, and the reverse is also true: what we see happening around us shapes our spiritual path, as well. We undertake this quest for a single peace not as isolated individuals but as the gathered people of God.

Etty Hillesum, a young Jewish woman who died at Auschwitz, has inspired generations beyond her own with her devotion to this connection between inner and outer peace: "Ultimately, we have just one moral duty: to reclaim large areas of peace in ourselves, more and more peace, and to reflect it toward others. And the more peace there is in us, the more peace there will also be in our troubled world."

My hope is that as we follow Jesus in his own inner and outer walk, moving steadily and inevitably toward the culmination of his life's work on earth, we can learn from him and from one another how to bring our insides and our outsides together in a single peace.

Please see forthcoming announcements for more details of this ongoing community quest. - Pastor Jan Wiersma



MARCH 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

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**

*In February, Community Presbyterian Church made the E-Merge, the e-newsletter published by the Presbytery. Included with the following article were the pictures that are located on page 4.*

## ***A Matthew 25 Story Happy Birthday***

*In March of 2019, the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area declared itself a Matthew 25 presbytery, accepting **an invitation from the Presbyterian Mission Agency** to “actively engage in the world around us.”*

*Then the righteous will answer him,  
‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food,  
or thirsty and gave you something to drink?  
And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you,  
or naked and gave you clothing?  
And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’  
And the king will answer them,  
‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these  
who are members of my family, you did it to me.’*



**EMerge will periodically feature stories of PTCA congregations living out the call of Matthew 25, in their own ways and abilities, and in their own words. Today: Community Presbyterian Church in Rochester, Minnesota.**

Physical hunger, at least in the moment, can be addressed with foodstuffs—cans and bottles and packages that supply nutrition and bulk and sustenance. But what about the other hungers we know. Like the simple hunger to be noticed for who we are, and to be able to do the same for others when doing that may be a budget luxury.

This week, the Presbyterian Women’s group at Community Presbyterian in Rochester packed more than food for the Channel One foodbank they support. (Though they did that, too. All those cans of soup? Part of Community’s Souper Bowl Sunday effort.) They packed birthday bags for Channel One yesterday, that included cake mixes, frosting, candles, balloons and small toys. It’s a simple task, but one that carries outsized importance. Thanks to this group of women for living out a commitment to Matthew 25.

*Do you have a Matthew 25 story? Send pictures and text to Jeff Japinga, executive presbyter, at [ep@ptcaweb.org](mailto:ep@ptcaweb.org).*

## FROM THE PRESBYTERY - CONTINUED



Check  
out the  
article on  
page 3!



## CELEBRATIONS

**BIRTHDAY WISHES**

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

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

**Christian Education for Children and Youth**  
**Sundays, 10:45 am**

- March 1 • One Voice, One Choice • Matthew 4:1-11
- March 8 • Blessed to Be a Blessing • John 3:1-17
- March 15 • The Well of Living Water • John 4:5-42
- March 22 • I Am Because We Are • John 9:1-41
- March 29 • Conversations that Unbind Us • John 11:1-45



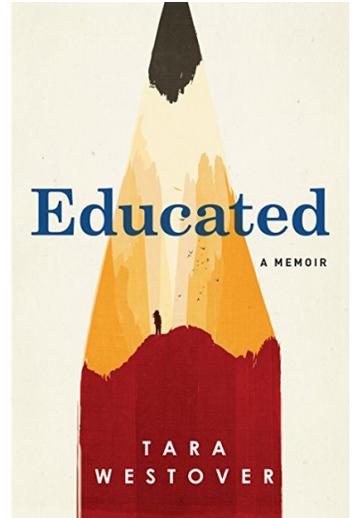
*Confirmation meets at 6 pm on  
Wednesday, March 4 and  
Wednesday, March 18  
this month.*

*Watch for youth volunteering in worship!  
They are doing a great job!*

**BOOK DISCUSSION  
GROUP**



Our next book, Educated, by Tara Westover takes us to the opposite end of the social scale from Matriarch. Tara grew up in a family of brothers, believing only in the Bible as Survivalists in Idaho do, and believing that the end of the world is near-- as Y2K was considered to be. In fact her dad's teaching was "Never trust a doctor" and "Don't have anything to do with



the school system." By reading this book, the reader can get an education himself about an unusual way of life; Many chapters give detailed accounts of Tara's growing up. Educated has been on the Best Seller List recently and you should be able to borrow a copy from the library or a friend, Our discussion will be March 22nd,

The book discussion group will meet on Sunday, March 22 at 10:45 am in the library. All are welcome!

# WORSHIP AND MUSIC



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

- a liturgist
- worship assistants (2-3)
- a greeter

**WORSHIP  
VOLUNTEER  
opportunities**



Once a month, we need 4 (ordained) communion assistants. Please look at your schedule and sign up to help! Sign up in the narthex or by e-mailing/calling the office!

## JUBELLATION HANDBELL CHOIR LENT, 2020

**“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”**  
**Arranged by Lloyd Larson**  
**Handbells, Chimes and Piano**



**WEDNESDAY SETUP TIME: 5:45 p.m.**

**WEDNESDAY REHEARSAL TIME: 6:15 p.m.-7:00 p.m.**

**DATE:**

**SETUP CREW: Arrives at 5:45 p.m.**

Wed., March 4

Dave, Abby

Wed., March 11

Bruce F, JudyK

Wed., March 18

Peter and Ronda

Sun., March 22, 8:30 a.m. Carole & volunteers

**ALL RINGERS ASSIST WITH PUTTING THE EQUIPMENT AWAY AFTER EACH REHEARSAL**

**Rehearsals**

**Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18**

**Providing Special Music**

**Sunday, March 22, rehearsal at 8:45 a.m. (Setup at 8:30 a.m.)**



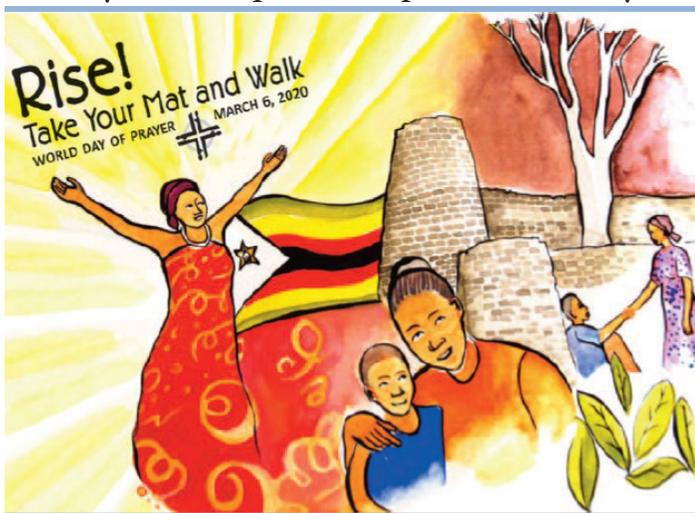
# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

PW put together 33 birthday bags for Channel One at the February meeting. We had a lot of fun putting the bags together with cake mix and frosting, candles, toys and books and many other items, even little caps and gloves to keep away the cold. The bags are given to families who come to Channel One so that the children up to age 7 years can share the joy of their birthday with hosting their own birthday party with all the goodies necessary for a party. (see the picture on page 4)

PW will meet on March 11 at 12:30 pm with Vera Atkinson hosting. Sherrie Wilson will lead PW in a most interesting program based on the book Dinner with a Perfect Stranger. Mark this on your calendars. The dessert will be the best, but the companionship is even better. If you have questions, please call Mary Alice.



## World Day of Prayer

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

2830 18th Ave. NW, Rochester MN 55901

Friday, March 6, 2020

Continental Breakfast: 9:30 am

Program: 10:00-11:00 am

Speaker: Ginger Kirby on Zimbabwe

## Love Carved in Stone A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments

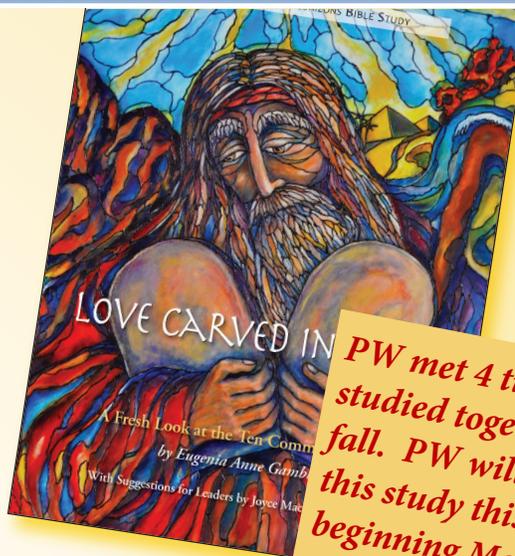
By Eugenia Anne Gamble

With Suggestions for Leaders by Joyce MacKichan Walker

What would it mean to consider the Ten Commandments not as a harsh list of what not to do but, instead, as a "love letter" from a loving God? A fresh embrace of the Ten Commandments (or Words), author Eugenia Gamble suggests, may ultimately contribute to the restoration of ourselves and our communities and the furthering of the gospel in the world. "Moral behavior matters, not simply because immoral actions can anger or disappoint God, but because principled behavior is how love becomes real, both toward God and in community." *Love Carved in Stone* is a Bible study that helps us reframe the way we look at and live in the world.

Why the Ten Words? The author notes that nowhere in the Hebrew text does the word for "commandment" appear. She says, "In the Bible, these utterances are called just what they are: 'words.' I've chosen to use the term 'Ten Words' because it is the biblical form and opens us up to looking at the Ten Commandments in fresh ways."

Each lesson begins with an exploration of one of the Ten Words in its biblical context. From there we consider a moment from Jesus' life that shows us how he lived out that Word. We then consider the Word for our own lives and contexts. We conclude with an invitation to pray with the Word in our circles or study groups and in our personal devotions.



**PW met 4 times and studied together in the fall. PW will complete this study this spring, beginning Monday, April 13 at 10 am!**



## Volunteers Needed!

**Foster Grandparents** *help build confidence, tutor & mentor students in local schools.*



**Foster Grandparents serve local students in school by tutoring in math or reading and mentoring them one on one.**

**Volunteers must be 55 or older.**

### BENEFITS

- \* Hourly TAX-FREE stipend (if serving 10+ hours/week);
- \* Mileage Reimbursement;
- \* Supplemental Insurance;
- \* Training and Recognition;
- \* New Purpose

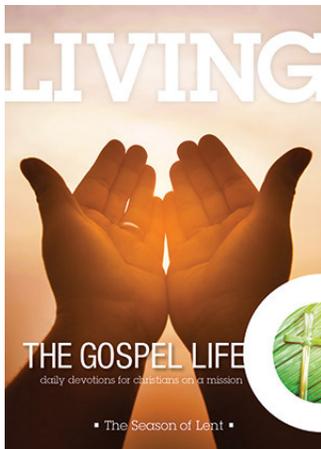
**For more information contact  
Ashley Lushinsky  
507-512-1036**



## LENTEN DEVOTIONS

### Don't forget to pick up your Lenten Devotional Booklet at church!

“We are Christians on a mission, even in the season of Lent! The daily devotions in this booklet highlight the concepts of being sent, demonstrating faith in action and being mission-minded each day of Lent. Suggested activities are associated with preparing our hearts, souls and minds to reflect on the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ and his mission for us.”



*Sisters of Saint Francis*

## Burning our Burdens



**March 9, 6:30pm-8:00pm**

**\$10 preregistered.**

Each of us carry burdens that cause us to live with regrets and undue anxiety. Join us to release that which weighs us down. The evening begins with an introduction by naming and claiming the root of our heaviness. It is followed by a walking reflection in the courtyard to the heart-beat of the earth, writing and burning our burden(s), and feeling release and restoration.

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**Visit [www.rochesterfranciscan.org](http://www.rochesterfranciscan.org)  
or call 507-280-2195 to register.**



Assisi Heights Spirituality Center  
1001 14th Street NW | Rochester, MN 55901-2525  
[www.rochesterfranciscan.org](http://www.rochesterfranciscan.org) | 507-282-7441

# Community Presbyterian's Calendar

March 2020

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p><b>9:30am Worship with Communion</b> 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School</p>	<p>6:00pm Med City Tai Chi Class</p>	<p>6:00pm Brain Injury Support Group 7:00pm Christian Education Committee meeting</p>	<p>6:30am Prayer Group 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:00pm Confirmation 6:15pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>		<p>9:30am World Day of Prayer at Mount Olive</p>	
<p>Daylight Saving Time Begins <b>9:30am Worship</b> 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School</p>	<p>6:00pm Med City Tai Chi Class</p>	<p>6:30pm Building and Grounds Meeting</p>	<p>6:30am Prayer Group 12:00pm Bulletin info due <b>12:30pm PW Monthly Get-Together</b> 6:15pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>			
<p>Noisy Can Sunday <b>9:30am Worship</b> 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School</p>	<p>6:00pm Med City Tai Chi Class</p>	<p>12:00pm Area Presby Clergy Group 5:30pm Finance &amp; Stewardship Meeting</p>	<p>6:30am Prayer Group 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:00pm Confirmation 6:15pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>		<p>12:00pm Newsletter articles due</p>	
<p>Jubellation Plays <b>9:30am Worship</b> 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School <b>10:45am Book Discussion Group</b></p>	<p>6:00pm Med City Tai Chi Class</p>	<p>6:00pm Session Meeting</p>	<p>6:30am Prayer Group 12:00pm Bulletin info due 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>			
<p><b>9:30am Worship</b> 10:30am Fellowship 10:45am Sunday School</p>	<p>6:00pm Med City Tai Chi Class</p>		<p>6:30am Prayer Group 12:00pm Bulletin info due 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>			

*Dates to add to your calendar!*

March 4

Jubellation Handbell Choir begin rehearsals

March 6

World Day of Prayer at Mount Olive

March 8

Daylight Saving Time begins (clocks “spring” ahead)

March 11

PW March Get Together

March 22

Book Discussion Group



Illustrated Ministry LLC

**One Great Hour of Sharing Offering  
Coming April 5!  
Watch for more information!**



*Have you filled out an “In Case of Emergency” card yet? They are available on the table in the narthex.*