



An Update on our Pastoral Search

We have what we believe is very good news for our congregation. We are working through a process to enter into a contract with Pastor Jan Wiersma to work with us as a Stated Supply Pastor, through a one year contract which can be renewed as many times as she and CPC desire to. In more “normal” times we would be able to all gather together to discuss this but these are far from normal times. So we are asking for your prayers and your input via a phone call, email or text message. In this next week, please feel free to contact any Session member or Personnel Committee

member to share your thoughts on this decision. They are: Gene Kopecky, Kim Nickander, Ronda Marshall, Mary Meyer, Ivy Pillers, Sue Chipman, Dave Copeland, Jane Burgstaler or Mary Alice Richardson. You can find their contact information in the directory or you can call or email the office for contact information.



Spring has sprung!

While we all wait to get back to “normal” or look to getting to a “new normal”... the Lord and the earth are assuring us that things will go on. Plants are popping up around us. Now that we’ve been forced to slow down... perhaps we can “smell the roses”?

As the earth has had a brief respite (have you seen pictures of dolphins in Venice, Italy and the smog-less skyline in L.A.?), we have too! What have you learned? How have you been changed?

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

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CHURCH



Photographer: Joe Ahlquist, Post Bulletin - Used with permission



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Photo shared by Judy Kereakos



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April 14th, we had the pleasure of celebrating Margaret's 100th birthday! A drive-by birthday party and an online get-together were enjoyed by many! Happy Birthday, Margaret!

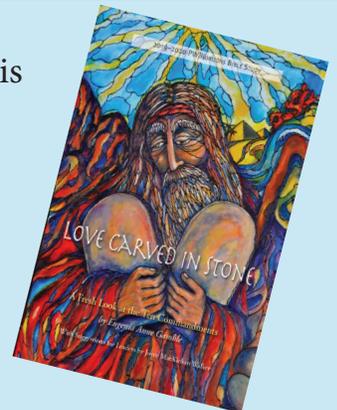
PW Bible Study

The PW Bible Study will meet on Mondays May 4 and May 11 to conclude this year's Bible Study. It will meet online only. Connections can be made by computer or by phone.

<https://meet.google.com/goi-npns-qoj>

+1 405-649-0091 PIN: 970 844 563 #

This is the same platform that we use for worship (just a different number). Hope to "see" you there!



IN TIMES SUCH AS THESE...

A Blessing for Healthcare Workers in a Time of Pandemic

Blessed are the ones who cannot be isolated.

Blessed are the doctors, nurses, chaplains, hospital staff. Blessed are the hands that are raw from scrubbing and sanitizing, the palms that glisten with oil of healing. Blessed are the shoulders that carry the weight of life and death. Blessed are the feet that are aching from standing at bedside and running between rooms. Blessed are the hearts that are frightened and breaking.

Blessed are the mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers, sisters and brothers, Partners and friends who cannot go home. Blessed are the families who become isolated from each other, the ones who sacrifice their own comfort so that we need not be alone in our suffering.

Blessed are the sick and dying, those who bear the image of Christ before us. Blessed are those who believe that when part of the Body suffers, we all suffer.

Blessed are those who look upon his secret work as a gift. Blessed are those who have had enough.

Blessed are those who are overwhelmed. Blessed are those who lack the space to process all that lies ahead.

Blessed are the ones who are found weeping in secret corners of an emergency room so that we might see a strong face to greet our need. Blessed are those who weep openly with us, so that even our tears have companions.

Blessed are you, O God: quietly holding each of us along the way. Come quickly, abide unceasingly. Love us while we see the worst, and give us the help we need to see our way out.

Here we are, frightened by a thing so small it can't be seen under most microscopes. It's not even an animal or a plant. It's a virus, a mere parasite, dependent on our own living cells to replicate. And yet it has shuttered our schools, cancelled our flights, and emptied our churches. It has consumed the attention of our leading scientists, wrenched our politics out of shape, dominated our conversations, and scared the daylights out of us.

We don't want to get sick. And we don't want to die.

We are afraid, O God. Afraid of a microorganism. Afraid of each other.

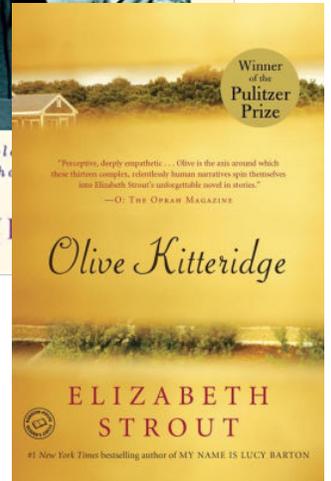
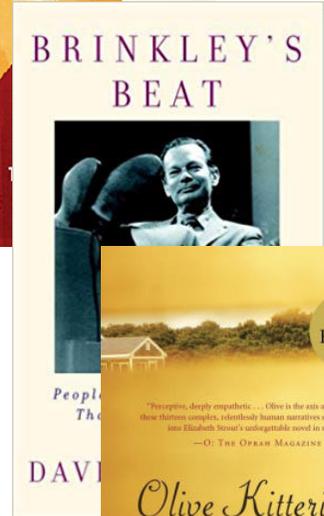
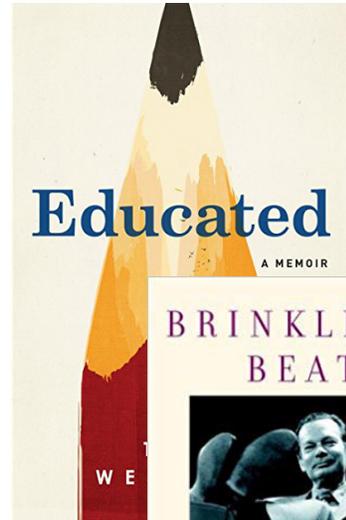
Great and quiet source of peace, quiet our fears. We are wary, uncertain, strung tight. Quiet our fears. We have no idea what the future will bring, but we do know you will be in our future to hold us there. We cannot quiet ourselves, O God. We cannot comfort ourselves, cannot heal ourselves, cannot help ourselves. All we can do is wash our hands and keep our distance. Our rocket science is no good to us for this threat.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP – WHAT’S IN OUR FUTURE?

Our last meeting was held in February when we discussed Susan Page’s biography of Barbara Bush, The Matriarch. We have been unable to meet since then, so have missed the discussions of Educated by Tara Westover in March, and will, in all probability, be unable to meet in April for Brinkley’s Beat, a memoir by David Brinkley. The selection for our May meeting is Olive Kitteridge, by Elizabeth Strout. It has been suggested that we might meet during the summer to pick up Educated and Brinkley’s Beat, and have Olive Kitteridge be the first book in our 2020-2021 year in September. We are open to suggestions. How do you feel about meeting in the summer? We have not made any specific selections for our next year and would appreciate your suggestions. Please contact Marg Nelson or Gwen Riggins with titles we should consider.



CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY WISHES

May birthdays are listed in the paper copy of the newsletter. One can be picked up at church next time you're there!



AROUND THE COMMUNITY



ISAIAH

Faith in Democracy

Faith leaders from across Minnesota met virtually on Thursday, April 16, with Attorney General Keith Ellison. This interfaith grassroots gathering was organized by ISAIAH (isaiahmn.org) to strengthen connections between faith communities within Minnesota and those in our government most eager to hear from voices threatened by the current pandemic. Together, helping the most vulnerable is possible and necessary.

The Attorney General, who is grieving the death from COVID-19 of his own mother in Detroit, expressed his sadness that even though his mother was a devout Catholic, not even a priest was permitted to be present at her burial. Despite - and perhaps because of - his own loss, AG Ellison was adamant about the commitment of his office and the entire state government to helping Minnesotans weather the pandemic.

He named in particular the crackdown on those who have been price gouging on staple items in scarce supply due to panic buying related to the virus. Anyone charging exorbitant prices will be subject to investigation, he said.

Even more heart-wrenching is the fear of many renters who have already lost jobs and health care, and now, without income, fear losing their homes as well. Although rent may be deferred for the present, as many as 30% of renters will be delinquent as of May 1, with no foreseeable means to pay. Our state government is working to ensure that evictions will not occur when the “stay-at-home” order is lifted, by working to pass a rental assistance program. Utility companies are also threatening to cut off water and power, especially important services while we are all urged to wash hands frequently.

Threats to our more rural communities are looming farm fore-closures, and limited broadband services in some of our most isolated communities. Without sufficient internet access, children are deprived of a means to continue their education via distance learning, and isolated families become even more cut off.

Another issue, and one that is especially pertinent in this election year, is making voting accessible for every Minnesotan, regardless of where they live or how vulnerable they may be. Ellison stressed that election judges and voters absolutely should not be subjected to risk in order to staff polling places or cast their vote. He, and ISAIAH’s leaders, are advocating for early and effective measures to ensure every voter has a mail-in ballot.

In summary, Ellison encouraged clergy and congregations to be sure to contact his office about any of the issues listed, as well as the governor’s office, executive council, and legislators.

1. Price-gouging
2. Evictions (rental assistance)
3. Utilities shut offs
4. Farm foreclosures
5. Broadband in rural areas
6. Voter protection

Contact the Attorney General via this link: <https://www.ag.state.mn.us/office/complaint.asp> or at this phone number: 651-296-3353.

The season of Easter is all about new life. We've lost a lot in the last six weeks—we all can see and feel and experience that—but there have also been all sorts of unexpected opportunities as well. We're learning new ways to be church together - and it may be just the beginning of a new thing. Some of you have even said this time has actually deepened your congregation's sense of and commitment to community, with each other and with your neighbors. To all of you, for all your efforts, for all your faithfulness, thank you. God is at work in this world even when things seem awful.



PLEASE NOTE: THE PRESBYTERY LEADERSHIP TEAM HAS CANCELED THE MAY STATED MEETING, AND WILL DELAY THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY UNTIL AUTUMN.

For [Presbytery] committee chairs and members, this means that terms will not end in May, as would normally be the case; and according to our Manual of Operations, Bylaws and the Book of Order, terms will continue until we are able to have the Annual Meeting and elect new chairs and committee members. Similarly, the current officers will remain in place and serve until new officers are elected and installed.

Please continue our effective efforts at distancing. Our governors in Wisconsin and Minnesota have asked us to continue to stay home, and it remains crucial. We are in this together, and everything we do now in the name of safety and prevention—in this case, staying away from each other—affirms the importance of community. That said, we can also begin at least to consider what first steps toward selective re-opening might be, when that time is right. We will think with you about that over the coming weeks.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) COVID-19 webpage is updated daily with new information for your church and for you.

Realistic Self-Care for experiencing anxiety or depression (pastors, parishioners, children, etc.):

<https://www.virusanxiety.com/>

<https://sojo.net/articles/using-love-commandment-talk-covid-19-kids>

<https://www.allinahealth.org/healthsetgo/thrive/coronavirus-isolation-10-lessons-to-help-kids-cope>

<https://www.tenpercent.com/coronavirussanityguide>

LeaderWise: Social Distancing Doesn't Mean Social Isolation: <https://mailchi.mp/leaderwise.org/social-distancing-doesnt-mean-social-isolation?e=aabb9b4df6>

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 at least through May

<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

Daily Conference Call - 12:00 noon

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

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

PW Bible Study - Mondays 10:00 am (through May 11)

<https://meet.google.com/goi-npns-qoj>

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