



COMMUNITY
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

THE CHIMES

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DECEMBER 2018

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THOUGHTS FROM AN ELDER

Welcome to Advent!

At last month’s Session meeting, our education moment was about Calvin & Hobbes. You remember (probably) that charming and hilarious comic from the 80’s and 90’s? It turns out that Calvin (the little boy) was named for John Calvin, of the Protestant Reformation and Hobbes (Calvin’s stuffed tiger/best friend) was named for philosopher Thomas Hobbes. (Now that I think about it, our educational moment might have been about the Reformation, and we took a detour! No matter.)

I thought that Calvin & Hobbes were a fitting subject for an Advent rumination. After all, their relationship was entirely based on faith. Nobody but Calvin believed that Hobbes was a living, feeling being, capable of so much love and worthy of so much trust. Calvin suffered for his loyalty to his “imaginary” best friend, and yet the rewards he reaped for his belief far outweighed the suffering. Hobbes was by Calvin’s side at all times; when he was struggling with homework, when he was trying to decide whether or not to hit Susie (!) with a snowball, and to comfort and reassure him when it was revealed that there were no Christmas presents under the tree for Hobbes. One might imagine that Calvin would have left his family, his neighborhood, his life, in order to witness the creation (or “birth”) of that stuffed tiger; to witness the first moments of something that would change his life in such amazing ways.

If these ideas are a bit too fantastical, I’m sure you will forgive me. Advent, the beginning of the Christmas season, tends to make me a bit giddy. It brings out the child in me, a child that believes in magic, and in possibility.

Susie Saxhaug Loeffler, Elder

Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,-Matthew 1:23

Did you know that not a single biblical writer accredited any words to Joseph? In Matthew’s gospel, Joseph is engaged to Mary, but she became pregnant and this startled Joseph. It is said that he “was a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace.” So, Joseph planned to dismiss her quietly, not make a big scene. But that night, an angel appears in Joseph’s dream, and tells him not to be afraid, but to marry her and raise her child because the baby she is carrying will save people from their sins. And when Joseph woke up, he said not a word, he simply did as the angel commanded in his dreams; he took Mary as his wife.

Talk about silent star of the show! Talk about being courageous! Yet, we don’t get to hear from him. Did he struggle with this decision? Did he question the authority of the angel? Did he worry? Did he doubt? We don’t know. And this Christmas, I’m oddly settled with this.

There is so much in our world today – so much to fret about and keep us awake at night. Here we are in the midst of our biggest season of the year. We are cutting down Christmas trees, pulling out all the decorations, making our shopping lists, planning our baking strategy, and getting ready for parties. I can’t help but wonder if we do it all out of obligation, “Okay, I just have to get this bow tied perfectly and then I can go do something fun,” or if we are truly present in each moment – taking it for what it is, an opportunity to welcome new life in our midst.

I’m left to imagine that Joseph was intrigued by the announcement, that the one he loves will bear a son who will be named Emmanuel, which means, “God is with us.” I choose to imagine that excited Joseph, to know that God would be present in the world. I’m sure it did worry him a bit that he was being asked to raise this divine child, but Joseph stands as an example to us all – sometimes we need to get out of the way and allow Christmas to happen. Our world is in great need of the infant Jesus. How might we respond?

*Peace and Love,
Pastor Kim*

Special Prayers

- Those with health challenges: Kevin, Tom, Mary Jo, Bill, Pat, Syd, Rick, Kathy
- Those recovering from surgery
- Those with cancer and other illness
- Families faced with mental illness, depression, addiction, and sorrow
- For victims and volunteers of the California fires
- For those that are particularly challenged with winter and holiday festivities
- For our Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly
- For our military personnel and their families
- For those navigating the aging process with their parents and loved ones
- For Cathy and Juan, our Mission Coworkers in the Philippines

Nursing Homes/Assisted Living

Brookstone Manor: Lois Krook and Joan McLaughlin

Brookstone Manor Memory Care: Marianne Wilson

Grand Village/Lodge: Virginia Saxhaug, Dorothy Zobel and Doris Buxengard

Pleasant Seasons: Dorine Seamans and Bev Stanley

River Grand: Susie Hickman, Elaine Martin and Joyce Spawn

Diamond Willow: Betty Felosi and Tudy Motschenbacher

Majestic Pines: Betty Akre, Bev Baker, Gayle Chesness, George & Vi Korol, and Joyce Micheletti.

Oak Hill Assisted Living: Jan Shock

Keystone Bluffs (Duluth): Verla Stabe

Please let us know if you have News to Share by calling the Church Office at 326-8515 or e-mailing us at office@communitypresbyterianchurch.com

Thanks!

Dear CPC-

Thank you for all you did to make the Fighting for Fox benefit a big success. Thank you for your caring, your support and for your prayers.

~Richard Fox

... _____ ...

CPC,

We would like to take this time to thank you for participating in the Itasca Community Connect event this year. The quality and quantity of the quilts this year were better than ever! If you could have seen the faces of some of the people that were lucky enough to receive a quilt, you would know that this is truly a gift from heart to heart. All the time, effort and love that you put into each of these masterpieces is truly appreciated. Your help and thoughtfulness make this even so much better for those who need these services. We look forward to working with you again next year to make this event even better.

~Libby Peterson & Kay Mueller

Itasca Community Connect

... _____ ...

Dear Members of the Peace & Social Justice Committee;

Thanks so much for your kindness and generous concern for the kids who come into the Ground Floor Youth Center. Thanks for providing Sloppy Joes, chips, apples and carrots. We had around 50 hungry teens there that night and things went really well. Your help in this way means so very much to me and I can't express in words my gratitude.

Thanks for the outreach of love to these troubled young people. You surely represent the love of Christ to these kids! Thanks for all that you mean to Caralee & me.

~ Duane Geisler

... _____ ...

Dear CPC-

In our region, winters can bring unexpected expenses to already struggling individuals and families. Increased expenses like; heating bills, vehicle repairs due to cold weather and illnesses can create a temporary need for help. Having to choose between keeping your children warm or having food in the house is no choice any parent wants to make. Thanks to your generous gift of \$196.50 to Second Harvest North Central Food Bank, we are able to lessen that burden on struggling individuals and families.

By supporting Second Harvest, you are helping to ensure that within north central Minnesota hungry children, working families, disabled people and the elderly have enough food to put on their tables when times are tough. Through our Food Distribution Program, Second Harvest Food Shelf, Child Hunger Programs, Nutrition Assistance for Seniors Program (NAPS) and SNAP Outreach we are able to provide over 3.5 million meals a year to those in need. You are a valued partner in our fight against hunger. Thank you for your generosity.

~Sue Estee, Executive Director Second Harvest

... _____ ...

Dear Pastor Kim and CPC:

Thank you so much for letting us use the Fellowship Hall and kitchen for our Rotary Youth Exchange gathering. The kids had a great time baking and delivering cookies to Grace House and area nursing homes. Thank you!

Sam Evans and Rotary Youth Exchange

What's Happening in Worship?

- December 2:** Communion, Hanging of the Greens
December 9: Music Sunday
December 16: Christmas Pageant
December 23: Hearing the Birth Story
December 24: Christmas Eve at 4:30 & 10pm
December 30: Carol Sing

Worship with us at Community Presbyterian SUNDAY AT 10 A.M.

Can't make it to church?

Watch the service on Tuesday evenings at 5 P.M.
Or Wednesday morning at 9 A.M. on ICTV. Or
anytime on our website

www.communitypresbyterianchurch.com

Weekly Choir Rehearsal Schedule

- 3:30 PM: Tintinnabulators
4:15 PM: Holy Tollers
5 PM: Praise Band
6:15 PM: Jubilee Ringers
6:30 PM: Chancel Choir

Need Hearing Assistance?

The church has a number of hearing assistance devices available for use. If you would like to try one during worship, contact an usher and they will be happy to assist.



Meeting of the Congregation

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, December 2 for the purpose of nominating officers, receiving the 2019 budget, approving Pastor Kim's terms of call, and hearing a report on the kitchen project.

A.L.I.C.E Training

The Police Department is holding a Church Safety A.L.I.C.E training (Active Shooter Civilian Response Training) the first week of December and 5 of us are registered to attend. After the training, Trustees and Session will discuss any implementations we need to make at CPC.



Membership at CPC

The Session will be receiving new members at their December 20th Christmas Party! If you are interested in being on the new member list, please see Pastor Kim by December 18 for necessary paperwork and conversation.

December Office Hours

During this time of transition, we are trying new hours for the Church Office:

Monday & Friday: 9am-noon

Tuesday-Thursday: 9am-3pm

You can still make appointments with Pastor Kim anytime as her hours go beyond the hours the office is open to the public.

Church Office & Building Closure

The Church Office and Building will be closed on December 25 & 26, as well as December 31 & January 1.

Christmas Flowers

We will be collecting donations for our flower fund, to purchase poinsettias for our sanctuary. Flowers may be purchased in memory of, or to honor a loved one. Please complete a form located in the church office or in upcoming bulletin inserts and place it in the offering plate or bring to the office. The poinsettias will be picked up on December 7, so they will be in the sanctuary beginning December 9.

DEACONS' DOINGS

December is a busy month for the dedicated Deacons of CPC. Not



Deacon Ministry

only are they the ones who set up, organize and oversee the Gingerbread tree, they also transport the gifts that are collected to Zion Lutheran for distribution. Thanks to the generosity of all of you, there will be multiple trips!

Mid month the Deacons will put together Christmas goodie bags for our members in assisted living homes and deliver them. Goodie bags are filled with edibles including fruit, granola bars and homemade bread all donated by the Deacons.

If you want to join this compassionate group, now or in the future, march right over and talk to Lay Pastor Mary!

Gingerbread Christmas Tree



The Gingerbread Christmas Tree is in the welcoming area for you to choose a gingerbread man. Be sure to add an extra child's gift to your shopping list and return the unwrapped gift along with the tag you chose attached. Gifts are needed for children ages 1-12 with a suggested amount of \$15-\$20. All gifts will be collected no later than **December 14**, so shop early! May the spirit of giving brighten not only a child's Christmas this year, but yours as well!

YOUTH NEWS

Christmas Pageant

Our CE Director, Vangie, wrote a Christmas Pageant for our children this year! They will perform on Sunday, December 16 during worship. Please have all children 3 years of age and older in room 103 at 9am that morning!



Christmas Pageant

Sunday School

Sunday School is for ages 3 through those in 4th grade and meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday. Children will be dismissed from worship after the Chat with Children. The group will rotate among three stations, one week doing art, Bible stories, and music.

Youth Updates and News!

November was a busy month for youth group, though we only met on two Wednesdays. The month started off with apple and pumpkin pie making from scratch. Helping us out were Bill



Marshall, Dave Marshall and Sue Erzar. A big thank you to all of them for volunteering their time and baking skills :) We served up the delicious treats, rounded out by Betty Roskos' delicious lemon meringue pies, at

church on November 11th to help celebrate and welcome Mary Shideler as our Lay Pastor. Later that week, we held a youth lock-in. A total of 13 youth, from 5th to 9th grade, participated in various parts of the lock-in. Bingo was played, silly Minute to Win It games competed in, marble runs were created from paper, popsicle sticks, paperclips and tape. An ice cream sundae bar and other snacks kept the kids fueled up. The night ended (well, for some of us) with a viewing of the movie Home Alone. It is rumored that some managed to see morning and a stint of volunteering at the food shelf before they closed their eyes. I couldn't have asked for better young people. The respect shown to our church space, to each other and to the adult volunteers was heartening. And speaking of the volunteers... There were so many offers of help I actually had to turn people away. Some of you gave money, got prizes or brought donations. Some brave souls helped throughout the evening (Debbie Meyer, Heather Whirley, Kate Sonder, and Doug Pennertz), setting up, cleaning up or serving food. Doug stayed on overnight as a chaperone. Morning brought a new crew to make, serve and clean-up breakfast (Barb and Chuck Meyer, and Debby Kee), and our transportation crew (Jeff Poenix, Lisa Tabbert, Kate Sonder) got us to the food shelf and back.

PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Christmas Bountiful Harvest Sale

Once again, the Peace & Social Justice Committee will sponsor the Christmas Bountiful Harvest Sale. This sale gives us a chance to donate special homemade items and also to buy quality Christmas presents for our family and friends.

The sale will be held **December 9** downstairs in the Fellowship Hall right after the service. You might consider donating baked goods, knitted hats or mittens, holiday decorations, quilts, holiday plants and boughs, children’s toys, jewelry, or antiques. Please bring your items for sale downstairs to the fellowship Hall before the service. They will be priced by the committee and be made ready for sale after the service.



Christmas is Coming!

Christmas time’s a’coming and we are all of good cheer. Now is the time to think of those in need who may be struggling to put Christmas dinner on the



table. In the month of December, if you are able, please bring boxed potatoes, stuffing, sweet potatoes, cranberries, pie fillings, pickles, olives,



etc. and put in the grocery cart in the lobby. If we all bring just one item we can make a big difference and let people know we care. Thank you from the Peace & Social Justice Committee. “Merry Christmas to all!”

STEWARDSHIP

Pledge Cards 2019!

Thank you for all your pledges! To date, our pledge total for 2019 is \$266,000. If you haven’t sent in your pledge card, there is still time to do so. Thank you for all your support!

THANK YOU to all of you!!!! My work is brighter, easier and more rewarding because of you!

We will round out November with some time for discussion and making of felt ornaments to decorate the church for the holidays.

Take a peek at the December calendar on the youth bulletin board downstairs to see what we are up to next month.

~~Betsy

ADULT EDUCATION NEWS

Bible Study

Bible Study meets every **Tuesday at 9:15 A.M.** in the Parlor. We study the text for the upcoming Sunday, so come join us!



Upcoming scriptures include:

December 2: Jeremiah 33:14-16

December 16: Christmas Pageant

December 23: Zephaniah 3:14-20

December 24: Luke 2:1-20

December 30: Luke 2:41-52

WORSHIP TASK FORCE

The Worship Task Force is looking for additional people to join their group! This group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. They oversee many aspects of worship services including choirs, lectors and banners. They also coordinate building decorations throughout the church year. Contact the church office or Darcy Reich if you would like to participate in the activities of this group.



Cut & Sew Project Group

*“Hem your blessings with thankfulness
so they won’t unravel.”*

Because of the Christmas holiday, the quilting group will be meeting only on **Wednesday, December 5th at 9 A.M.** Please join us for fun and fellowship!



Cut & Sew Project Group #2

Cut & Sew Project Group 2 will put up decorations in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 on December 5th. If there is time, we will stuff animal pads.

The Book Circle

The Book Circle will meet **Monday, December 10th at 2:30 P.M.** by the fireplace. The book for this month is *The Prayer Box*, by Lisa Wingate.



When Iola Anne Poole, an old-timer on Hatteras Island, passes away in her bed at ninety-one, the struggling young mother in her rental cottage, Tandi Jo Reese, finds herself charged with the task of cleaning out Iola's rambling Victorian house.

Running from a messy, dangerous past, Tandi never expects to find more than a temporary hiding place within Iola's walls, but everything changes with the discovery of eighty-one carefully decorated prayer boxes, one for each year, spanning from Iola's youth to her last days. Hidden in the boxes is the story of a lifetime, written on random bits of paper--the hopes and wishes, fears and thoughts of an unassuming but complex woman passing through the seasons of an extraordinary, unsung life filled with journeys of faith, observations on love, and one final lesson that could change everything.

January's book selection is "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" by Betty Smith.

Happy Holidays one and all!

As I write this and look outside, I am very much in the Christmas mode... the pines are dusted with a powdery snow, our tree is lit and decorated, the birds are constantly at the feeders and temperatures are bitterly cold!! The perfect time to find that perfect book, a warm, cozy spot, and take a break from the busiest time of the year. We have such an incredible variety of Christmas reading, from the Biblical aspect, from the Santa aspect, from the historical side, from compassion, understanding, joy, comfort, total enjoyment and love. There truly is a book, DVD, or audio book for everyone that will touch you, or affect you. As we have so many titles this month... I invite you to browse and find that item that is made just for you!

Too many of us are swept away with all the commercialism, the gifts, the meals, the visits, the trips, the planning that by the time we actually reach December 25th, we have lost the true meaning of Christmas. Please take time to reflect, regroup, and take a break. Enjoy some simple pleasures: a cross country ski afternoon, breathing in the crisp air and the smell of pines; sipping hot cider by the fire; reading stories to a grandchild; cuddling up under a cozy blanket and just reflecting on the year gone by; talking to a friend, who may need someone to listen; watching the birds empty that feeder again; taking in all the natural beauty that is ours free of charge; spending time with loved ones; and making memories for a life time.

Our CPC library is such a focal point and all of you make this happen. Thank you for the many lovely books that have recently been donated and our inventory keeps growing. We are so fortunate that we do have a congregation that loves to READ, READ, READ!!!

Thank you to the fabulous five: Becky Loomis, Norma Eppinga, Donna Waech, Julie Wright and Biz Peterson, who always say, "YES!" when I ask them to fill in for me while we wander the winter away in warmer places. You truly are angels.

Enjoy this holiday season.

Wishing you all...

Peace, Joy, Love, Good Health and Happiness.

Your CPC Librarian, ~Juliet

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Please let us know if we have missed your special day or if there is a mistake. We wish each of you a very *Happy Birthday!*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Dec 1 Sarah Hagley
Mathias McKnight
Lee Thies</p> <p>Dec 2 Carol Rasmussen
Bev Baker</p> <p>Dec 4 Jaimie Tibbets
Terre Webb</p> <p>Dec 6 Christa Berg</p> <p>Dec 7 Annika Berg-Viren</p>
<p>Marianne Wilson
Julie Wright</p> <p>Dec 8 Carol Brandon
Ariana Padidar</p> <p>Dec 9 Viola Korol</p> <p>Dec 10 Todd Vogelgesang</p> <p>Dec 12 Graham Gerling
Susan Lynch
Aaron Rodenberg
Chip Wagner</p> <p>Dec 15 Ayla Gerling
Katie Marshall
Donald L. Wilson</p> | <p>Dec 16 James F. Marshall</p> <p>Dec 17 John Hawkinson
George Korol</p> <p>Dec 18 Michael Roy
Terrence Staley
Debbie Vergin</p> <p>Dec 19 Scot Kangas-Olson
Emily Loeffler</p> <p>Dec 20 Brenda Johnson</p>
<p>James Wilkins</p> <p>Dec 21 Jaden Hoeft</p> <p>Dec 23 Jessica Kujala
Leo Lick
Marianne Loscheider</p> <p>Dec 24 Dorothy Zobel</p> <p>Dec 25 Elizabeth Whirley</p> <p>Dec 28 Gianna Goligoski
Shirley Johnson
Evo Miltich</p> <p>Dec 29 Shirley E. Johnson</p> <p>Dec 30 James Mostoller</p> |
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CONNECTIONS

Rotary Shoe Drive

Do you have shoes you no longer need or wear? Has your child outgrown their shoes? Those unwanted shoes can do more than collect dust on the closet floor...donate them to the



Second Annual Grand Rapids Rotary Club Shoe Drive!

The Grand Rapids Rotary Club is collecting shoes and Funds2Orgs will distribute them to small business owners in Central America, South America and Africa. Just place your gently used shoes and boots into the collection bin located in the Lower Gathering Area. Thank you for helping!



Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year with much
love and appreciation!
from
Pastor Kim,
Lay Pastor Mary,
Vangie,
Betsy,
Darcy,
Janice, and
Mary Jo

CHRISTMAS JOY!

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Look for Christmas Joy offering envelopes in the pews starting December 9th!



COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERS

Minister.....	All Members
Pastor.....	The Rev. Kimbrel Johnson
Pastors Emeriti.....	The Rev. Dick Massaro & The Rev. Peter Nord
Commissioned Lay Pastor.....	Mary Shideler
Office Coordinator.....	Vacant
Music Staff.....	Darcy Reich, Janice Burch, & Mary Jo Jess
Director of Christian Education	Vangie Mattfield
Director of Youth	Betsy Whirley
Financial Secretary.....	Kelly Peterson
Church Treasurer.....	Brian Peterson

CPC Values

As you enter Community Presbyterian Church, you are...

Invited to Experience Spirituality

We Observe, Nurture, Celebrate, and Seek a Deeper Understanding of God’s Presence in Our Lives.

Invited to Experience Participation

Our Members are encouraged and led to be Active, Growing, Vibrant, and Engaged in Body, Mind and Spirit.

Invited to Experience Relationship

We share and enjoy extravagant hospitality, and witness God’s love and grace as we interact and rely upon one another through life’s journey.

Invited to Experience Respect

Every Person has Value; We strive to welcome and embrace the unique gifts of all God’s beloved children.

Invited to Experience Celebration

We are a joy-filled community, where play and laughter have a place in how we glorify God and create loving relationships with one another.

“Our” Community; a living, evolving, dynamic Christian Congregation, striving towards mutual respect as we experience a very real God inviting very real people to live in the joy of the Spirit.

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

ELDERS (Moderator- Kimbrel Johnson, Clerk of Session – Barb Meyer)

2018	2019	2020
Duane Geisler	Keith Anderson	Mike Johnson
Jeff Lightfoot	Lenora Evans	Cathy Cleary
Debbie Vergin	Barb Meyer	Susie Loeffler
JoAnn Bakken	Makenzie Birkey	Denny Anderson

DEACONS (Staff – Mary Shideler)

2018	2019	2020
Jane Cook	Dave Marshall	Kay Staley
Sara Lagergren	Kay Merwin	Pat Jorstad
Judy Brown	Janet Anderson	Laurie Bailey
Emily Franken	Kathleen Chesness	Donna Waech
Lori Bertram	Laurie Lightfoot	Chuck Meyer

TRUSTEES (Moderator – Jaci David, Staff – Kimbrel Johnson)

2018	2019	2020
Jaci David	Jim Rodenberg	Doug Pennertz
Doug Johnson	Roger Bertram	Deb Kee
Don Axtell	Jim Rudnick	Tim Massaro

STOCK GIFTS

Community Presbyterian Church has received an increasing number of stock gifts as a way for people to fulfill their annual pledge. This has great advantages for you and your taxes and we are pleased to assist you. You should call and ask for instructions from your broker AND tell us what stock you are transferring to our account. Normally, we will not know the source of the stock gift unless you tell us. We want to make sure we can credit your statements. We also have forms in the office to give your broker.

INVESTING WITH PILP

Did you know that investing any of your CD's (certificates of deposit) or savings with PILP (Presbyterian Investment Loan Program) will help our church lower its interest rate on our building loan? That will bring the church savings of over one hundred thousand dollars over the course of our loan! If you are interested, please contact our PILP representative Suzie Gwinn at 1-800-903-7457, ext. 5969 or suzi.gwinn@pcusa.org

FROM THE TREASURER REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2018

October Income/Expense Report— General Fund	October Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenues—General Fund	\$20,327.92	\$255,075.37	\$258,743.00
Total Expenses—General Fund	\$25,851.76	\$267,537.45	\$283,403.78
Income minus Expenses—General Fund	<u>(\$5,523.84)</u>	<u>(\$12,462.08)</u>	<u>(\$24,660.78)</u>
October Income minus Expenses— Building Fund	<u>(\$3,830.48)</u>	<u>(\$2,508.89)</u>	

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