



COMMUNITY
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



THE CHIMES

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THOUGHTS FROM AN ELDER

When I first signed up to go on the school trip to India and Nepal, I thought that I had a decent idea of what to expect. I had watched documentaries on the areas that we would be traveling to, read books on slums in Mumbai, scrolled through travel blogs, and had countless conversations with my dad and teacher, both of whom had been to India multiple times before. However, no number of attempts to prepare myself could actually make a difference in suppressing the overwhelming culture shock that I felt from the moment that we stepped off of the plane.

Upon arrival, the first things that I noticed was the poverty and state of chaos that seemed to consume everything in the country. Walking down the street, there would be cows in the middle of honking traffic, garbage thrown wherever people pleased, and rats scurrying along the sidewalk. I was so uncomfortable and overwhelmed simply walking in the midst of it that these negative features became all that I was able to see in this place.

This limited perception continued until a group of us took an excursion to visit a local school in a rural Indian community. While there, we distributed the Days For Girls kits (which was one of our major service projects of the trip). To do so, we stood in front of a classroom full of 60 teen girls and had to give an explanation through a teacher who only spoke limited English. After a few minutes of our lesson, I could sense their discomfort towards us as foreigners and the topic we were talking about. I made a point to try and mitigate this by making eye contact with them, smiling and laughing. Within minutes, the girls were reacting differently to our lesson. They were less uncomfortable, and I even received a few smiles in return. Once our lesson was done, a group of girls shyly approached me and slowly began trying to have a conversation with me in their limited English. It was through interacting,

laughing, and taking pictures with these girls that I finally began to get past my intense culture shock and start to connect with people.

Since returning to the US, I have had so many experiences to digest and reflect upon. I gained an immense appreciation for all of the little things taken for granted each day and now understand what people mean when they talk about winning the “genetic lottery” when being born when and where we live. In addition, I learned a lot about the power that a smile can have on people. Even though these concepts were takeaways that I had from traveling to India, they are ones that are still extremely relevant and applicable to everyday life in Grand Rapids. I observed the ability of gratefulness, compassion, and recognizing shared humanity in cultivating happiness and unity while I was abroad and hope never to forget to apply those concepts to the many situations that I will face.

~Makenzie Birkey, Elder

SESSION NOTES

“No one has ever become poor by giving.” ~Anne Frank
As we move into September, I reflect on what we have done at CPC over the past few months.

- The Moveable Feast was restarted this spring after several a several-year hiatus. There are 9 groups of 6 people participating in these fellowship groups sharing a meal at three various times.
- The Interfaith Series has brought members of our church, as well as members of the community, together to learn about other faith traditions and share a meal. So far, we have learned about Islam and Judaism. On Thursday, September 13, we will host Installment Three: *A Course on Miracles*. Stay tuned for more upcoming presentations.
- The Holy Smoke BBQ gathered over 330 people together—our congregation and the community—to share a meal and raise funds for our church.
- Vacation Bible School created Hero Central and had children of all ages coming together to learn about faith, love and sharing.
- Party in the Parking Lot staged a live band in the CPC parking lot featuring family games, popcorn and great music!

We continue our outreach on September 9 for Kick-Off Sunday where we launch our fall activities—Sunday School, Youth Group, Vocal and Bell Choirs and Confirmation. Join us in Fellowship Hall after worship for a lunch of walking tacos!

Sunday School takes place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month after the Chat with Children portion of worship. Please join me in thanking Makenzie Birkey, Jessica Stauffer, Amanda Skaudis, Lisa Tabbert, Darcy Reich and Cathy Shields for stepping forward to help teach Sunday School this year!

What do all these activities mean? To me it says CPC is a **vibrant, welcoming and joyful church**. We are saying to the community, this is who we are as a faith community—*come join us!*

~Barb Meyer, Elder

PASTOR TO PEW

My favorite season is upon us...fall! All of my basic human senses are satisfied this time of the year. I love the feel of cooler temps, the smell of bonfires, the sound of crispy leaves underfoot, the look of changing colors across nature, and the taste of all things pumpkin spice. There's something about fall that invigorates me, my soul is awakened.

My prayer for the church is that we have constant “change of seasons,” opportunities and experiences that enliven our commitment to discipleship. And I pray this as a response to the chaotic world in which we live.

I recently watched one of the many tributes to Senator John McCain and it made me think, “I wonder what it's like to die knowing that the country for which you dedicated your life's work is in turmoil?” A sobering thought, yes, but think about that. John McCain's ability to make friends across party lines, and to press forward with a bipartisan attitude of “country over party,” is what made him such a beloved figure in our nation's history. Why it is that both Democrats and Republicans respect John McCain's leadership? And why is it that he requested two opponents who defeated him to give eulogies at his memorial? *Why?* Well, I think it's because humans actually crave this ability to be bigger than their egos.

All the infighting and refusal to work together brings a tension we don't really want to live in. It hardens our hearts and closes our eyes. It causes us to retreat when we should be reaching out. And so I think it's time for a change of season. It's time to awaken our senses and feel empowered to live anew.

As disciples of Christ, we have the ability to be leaders of such change. The Christ we follow literally gave his life to break down the barriers that divide us. There will always be differences,

that's a given. Our differences are also the beauty of God's creation because it would be awfully boring if we were all the same. We were intended to be a diverse humanity, but we were not intended to burn all the bridges that allow us to live and grow as one people. So, whatever it takes, my friends, allow your souls to wake up to the beauty that surrounds us and be a leader in sharing that beauty with the world.

~Pastor Kim

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

Special Prayers

- Sue Erzar on the death of her mother, Elinor Johnson
- Those with health challenges: Bryon, Kevin, Rick, Emily, Biz, Kristi, Deloris
- Families faced with mental illness, depression, addiction, and sorrow
- For our children and teachers preparing for the start of a new school year
- For victims and volunteers of our natural disasters
- For peace in our world
- 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: Carole Erickson and 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

Times Are Changing!

The Personnel Committee and Session are excited to announce a new direction for staffing needs at CPC! We have decided to table the Associate Pastor direction and have instead created three part-time positions to fulfill those needs. Betsy Whirley is our new Youth Director, and we are in the process of conversations with both a Christian Education Director and a Commissioned Lay Pastor. We are excited about what these positions will afford our youth and outreach. If you are interested in these positions, or have any questions, please contact Pastor Kim or any member of Personnel or Session. We hope to announce new staff by November!

Happy Birthday!

Kevin Jones turns 90 on September 10! Happy Birthday, Kevin! Cards can be sent to Kevin at: 613 NW 1st Ave. Unit 113A

Thanks!

Dear CPC,

Thank you for helping me go to Clearwater Forest. I had lots of fun and enjoyed seeing some friends from last year.

From, Zane

... _____ ...

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued support. Your kindness and generosity are much needed and appreciated.

Many thanks,

~Mandie Aalto

Advocates for Family Peace

... _____ ...



Pastor Kim & CPC,

Thanks for all the help and prayers. We will miss you all and think of you often.

Rich is doing okay, but is in a memory care unit. So far it has been good and everyone is friendly, food not bad, too. I'm doing okay, learning how to get around Hastings and Cannon Falls.

We are coming to G. R. at the end of August to clean out the house. My two daughters and son are helping me.

Thanks again,

Love, Nancy and Rich Kreitling

... ..

Dear Friends,

Thank you for building community with us! Your generosity literally helps to provide Itasca County families with a home that brings stability to their lives. In addition to Habitat home being "green" and well-built, they are very affordable, making home ownership a reality for them.

Your gift of \$400 will help pay for upcoming projects and builds.... Don't forget to shop with us or donate your gently used household items or building materials as all proceeds from our ReStore go right back into helping us fund our two construction programs. Thank you for sharing in our vision of a worlds where... "Everyone needs a place to call home."

With Humble Gratitude,

~Peter Lavalier, Interim Executive Director

... ..

Dear Church Council and Congregation,

On behalf of the staff, board of directors and, most importantly, the guests of Grace House of Itasca County, thank you for your continued generous support of this organization. Your gift [of \$400] will allow us to continue providing safe, temporary shelter and meals to people who are experiencing homelessness while they look for housing and employment.

Sincerely,

~Ronald L. Oleheiser, Executive Director

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 9A.M. on ICTV. Or anytime on our website www.communitypresbyterianchurch.com

What's Happening in Worship?

- September 2: Baptism; Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23
September 9: Kick-Off Sunday; Mark 7:24-37
September 16: Mark 8:27-38
September 23: Mark 9:30-37
September 30: Mark 9:38-50

Love to Sing? Join Chancel Choir!



We invite all singers to share your voice with Chancel Choir beginning Wednesday, September 5 at 6:30 PM in the Choir Room. You will enjoy great friendship with choir members while learning excellent

worship music. Chancel Choir is scheduled to sing twice a month and rehearsals are every Wednesday 6:30-7:30 PM. Come join in the Song. ~Mary Jo Jess (218) 326-3578

Weekly Choir Rehearsal Schedule

- 3 PM: MS Youth
3:30 PM: Tintinnabulators
4:15 PM: Holy Tollers
5 PM: Praise Band
5:45 PM: Jubilee Ringers
6:30 PM: Chancel Choir

*Our bells are still out for refurbishing, stay tuned to find out exactly when bell choirs will be starting!

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.



Educational Moment

Why do Presbyterians only recognize two sacraments?

A sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA) is a tangible expression of Christ's redeeming work. We uphold Baptism and Communion as signs/symbols of our relationship with Christ; this is something in which everyone is entitled. Baptism and Communion are the two practices in which Jesus participated, and told us to do as well.



The water of Baptism is a symbol of the life we receive as we follow the practices of Christ; that we are one with him and we are cleansed/purified in that endeavor.

The bread and wine of Communion is again, a symbol of new life. Just as we need water to live, we need food; and the food that nourishes our soul is the body and blood of Jesus Christ.



EDUCATION NEWS

Sunday School

Kick-Off Sunday is September 9! Sunday School is for ages 3 through those in 4th grade and will meet 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. See you at Sunday School on September 9!

High School Youth Group

Join Pastor Kim for lunch on **Sunday, September 23** after worship! Our Youth Director, Betsy, will join us so we can get to know her.

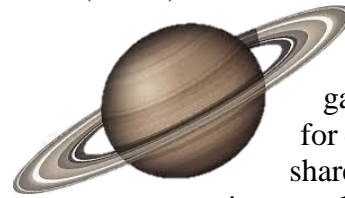
Middle School Youth Group

Middle School Youth Group begins on **September 12 from 3-4:15 PM**. Look for a welcome letter and September calendar of events in the next week!



Wonders of the Heavens

Community Presbyterian Church in association with the Range Astronomy Club will present a night of telescope and constellation viewing on Friday, September 21 at Vangie Mattfield's home. The moon, Mars, and Saturn will be visible. There will be



a bonfire and potluck starting at 6 PM., and yard games to play while we wait for dark. Please bring a dish to share, a lawn chair or blanket

to sit on, and binoculars if you wish. In case of excessive clouds or rain the event will be held on Saturday, September 22. Come and see the Lord's handiwork through telescopes and binoculars!

Directions: 12 miles on River Road turn right onto County Road 439 then go about 1 ½ miles across the bridge to second driveway on the left number 26943 turquoise mailbox.

INTERFAITH SERIES

★
COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
703 N Pokegama Ave, Grand Rapids, MN

WE ARE ONE

Installation Three: The Course on Miracles
FREE and open to the public!
Thursday, September 13th, 2018
5:30p Potluck Dinner — 6:00p Presentation
Pat Bujold — Presenter
Moderated by Rev. Kimbrel Johnson

Building Peace and Understanding through Dialogue

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!

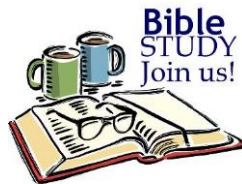
Upcoming scriptures include:

September 4: Mark 7:24-37

September 11: Mark 8:27-38

September 18: Mark 9:30-37

September 25: Mark 9:38-50



Food Shelf for September



Many senior adults living on a small fixed income face a monthly choice between buying enough food and paying for basic expenses like medication, housing and utilities. Purchasing food, especially nutritious food, is often last on their list. All too often, seniors in need find themselves staring into an empty pantry towards the end of each month with nowhere to turn for help. Hunger and malnutrition places these senior adults at high risk for a variety of health problems including diabetes, heart disease, and depression. In September, please join the Peace & Social Justice Committee by bringing in any pop-top canned or dry goods, such as canned veggies, fruit, meat, soups, boxed dinners, pasta, sauces, mixes, juice, dried fruits, powdered milk, shelf-stable dinners, flour, sugar, etc., to help out Itasca County's growing senior population.

STEWARDSHIP

Pledge Cards 2019!

If you have not yet received your pledge card for 2019, please call the church office immediately. To maintain CPC's level of ministry in 2019, we need a total income of roughly \$400,000. This will allow us to hire our new staff for Christian Education and outreach, and will sustain our current ministries, as well as pay our monthly mortgage. Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to help us reach our goal, and return your pledge cards in time for our fall kick-off on September 9! Join us for walking tacos in the fellowship hall after worship as we celebrate a new year of life at CPC.

With gratitude, your 2018 Stewardship Team
Sam & Lenora Evans, Lori Bertram, Bob Pittack,
Lee Jess, Susie Loeffler, and Barb Veit

PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Gardens Overflowing?

Is your garden overflowing with ripe, red tomatoes? Or maybe you have so many zucchinis that even your mother-in-law won't take another one. So, again this year the Peace and Social Justice Committee will sponsor the Bountiful Harvest Program. Bring your extra produce in on Sunday mornings to the Fellowship Hall downstairs and place it on the round table just inside the door. We will then have a basket



for donations which will be given to the Food Shelf. What a kind way to share our plenty with those who are needy. Thanks!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

On Kick-Off Sunday, join us after worship for
Walking Tacos



Cut & Sew Project Group

"I have stitched,—formed friendships, shared secrets, eased burdens, and learnt lessons. For this I can be grateful. This is the journey of a quilter."



The quilting group will be meeting on **Wednesday, September 5 and 19 at 9 A.M.** The quilts that our group has made this past year will be blessed and on display in the sanctuary on Sunday, September 9.

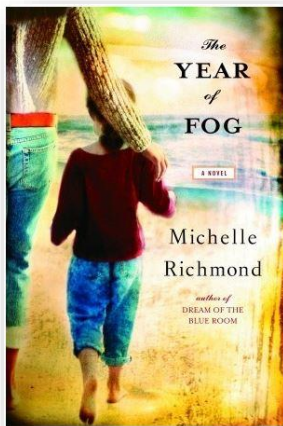
After the blessing, they will be distributed to Grace House, Public Health, and to people in need. Please join us for fun and fellowship.

BUNCO

Our BUNCO group will gather at **9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, September 12**, in the Fellowship Hall. Bring \$2 for the kitchen remodel fund and be ready for lots of fun! *No experience necessary!*

The Book Circle

The Book Circle will meet **Monday, September 10 at 1:30 P.M.** by the fireplace. The book for this month is *A Year of Fog*, by Michelle Richmond.



Life changes in an instant. On a foggy beach. In the seconds when Abby Mason—photographer, fiancée soon-to-be-stepmother—looks into her camera and commits her greatest error. Heartbreaking, uplifting, and beautifully told, here is the riveting tale of a family torn apart, of the search for the truth behind a child's disappearance, and of one woman's unwavering faith in the redemptive

power of love—all made startlingly fresh through Michelle Richmond's incandescent sensitivity and extraordinary insight.

Six-year-old Emma vanished into the thick San Francisco fog. Or into the heaving Pacific. Or somewhere just beyond: to a parking lot, a stranger's van, or a road with traffic flashing by. Devastated by guilt, haunted by her fears about becoming a stepmother, Abby refuses to believe that Emma is dead. And so she searches for clues about what happened that morning—and cannot stop the flood of memories reaching from her own childhood to illuminate that irreversible moment on the beach.

Now, as the days drag into weeks, as the police lose interest and fliers fade on telephone poles, Emma's father finds solace in religion and scientific probability—but Abby can only wander the beaches and city streets, attempting to recover the past and the little girl she lost. With her life at a crossroads, she will leave San Francisco for a country thousands of miles away. And there, by the side of another sea, on a journey that has led her to another man and into a strange subculture of wanderers and surfers, Abby will make the most astounding discovery of all—as the truth of Emma's disappearance unravels with stunning force.

A profoundly original novel of family, loss, and hope—of the choices we make and the choices made for us—The Year of Fog beguiles with the mysteries of time and memory even as it lays bare the deep and wondrous workings of the human heart. The result is a mesmerizing tour de force that will touch anyone who knows what it means to love a child.

LIBRARY NEWS AND VIEWS

Hard to believe September, Labor Day and the beginning of school are just mere days away!

Not sure where summer went but between camping in Grand Marias, over 4th of July...having both daughters and our granddaughters here, a Baptism, all since July 17, and a week in incredibly stunning Iceland! I cannot believe how fast the days are going, and hope each and every one of you enjoyed the fantastic summer days we have had.

So many books have been checked out and it's refreshing to know that despite all our technical devices, the joy of holding a book in hand will never die.

Our new additions for this month are:

Children's Board Books:

Dads Can Do Anything by Martin Thomas: BB THO

Easy Reading:

1. *Skip into Kindergarten* by Julia Cook: E COO
2. *Slipper Has a New Home* by Tess Rixen: E RIX
Stressing how important friendship is to everyone
3. *Hannah's Way* by Linda Glaser: E GLA Duluth
Native Linda Glaser gives us a glimpse into growing up as the only Orthodox Jewish girl, in a small rural Minnesota Community. Hannah's family won't allow her to attend the class picnic. Learn how her classmates respond with unexpected kindness.
4. *The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires: E SPI
What happens when no matter how hard we try, we fail at what we wanted to do most of all.

Juvenile:

Isadora Moon Goes to School by Harriet Muncaster:
 J MUN Isadora Moon will cast a spell on you! Isadora Moon loves sunshine and nighttime. She loves her magic wand and her black tutu! She loves spooky bats and pink rabbit! Isadora is half fairy, half vampire and she's special because she is different! Now Isadora's parents want her to start school but she's not sure if she belongs in a fairy school or a vampire school?

Adult Nonfiction:

1. *Don't Buy Too Many Green Bananas: Living with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease)* by Delores M. Warner: 363.57 WAR This book gives one hope that compassion and faith will steer us to the right path with this devastating disease if we trust in God!
2. *Parkinson's? You're Kidding Me, Right?: One Woman's Unshakeable Belief in Overcoming a Shaky Diagnosis* by Sheryl Jedlinski: 363.63 JED Follow Sheryl's 20-year journey with Parkinson's in a way that empowers readers to face this degenerative neurological disease with dignity, courage and grace.
3. *My Future in America* by Jocelyn Cohen: 920.009 COH Introduces readers to the complex world of Yiddish-speaking immigrants while at the same time elucidating important themes and topics of interest to those in immigration studies, ethnic studies, labor history and literary studies.

Fiction:

Silent Sister by Diane Chamberlain: CHA Enthralling and gripping. Chamberlain has a gift for telling stories about families whose good intentions go awry in difficult circumstances. Her characters are always portrayed with an understanding that sometimes life's most tragic mistakes require heroic strength to survive.

As you ready your children for a new school year, please check under the beds, in closets and drawers, under the TV, in book bags, for books and other materials checked out weeks and weeks and weeks ago, some dating back as far as 2015! Return please as we are missing many books and DVDs.

I have asked for an extra book allowance from the Endowment Committee and haven't heard yet if it was accepted, so please, if you are donating, make sure the book is current, in good shape, and suitable for our library.

Enjoy these last few weeks of play and rest and relaxation and hope the new school year, whether it's preschool, elementary, middle, high school or

college, that you make the most of every minute and find some minutes to READ, READ, READ! Thank you all so much for making our church library the best ever!

The winner of our Reading Challenge will be announced in the Sunday, September 2 church bulletin insert. Good Luck Everyone!

Your CPC Librarian,
 ~Juliet

SEPTEMBER 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!*

Sept 3	Karen Noyce Jeff Taylor	Sept 17	Susan Hoolihan Joan Peterson
Sept 4	Joe Stauffer		Gail Schaar
Sept 6	Nancy Saxhaug Tom Swentkofske Mike Warren Heather Whirley Steve Wright	Sept 19	Austin Morrissey
Sept 7	Michael Bliss Cathy Shields	Sept 21	Joyce Micheletti Glenna Tolrud Jonathon Shields
Sept 8	Marah Evans Jeffri Schrunk	Sept 22	Dave Myers
Sept 9	Audrey Skaudis	Sept 23	Julie Fedje-Johnston Gregory Hawkinson Barb Meyer
Sept 10	Abbey Holbein Kevin Jones Tammy Love	Sept 24	Dianne Corcoran Charlie Lick Bill Marshall
Sept 11	Julie Bliss	Sept 25	Carla Evans Zane Poenix Katie Whirley
Sept 12	Luke Francisco Jeff Lightfoot	Sept 26	Gus Fedje-Johnston Jim Johnson Bob Rossman Dylan Smith
Sept 13	Sonja Hoskins Gerald Stejskal	Sept 28	Gina Pittack
Sept 14	Wendy Green Art Merrill Brandon Stenzel	Sept 30	Lynn Clifton Henry Lick Merton Rima Kristi Vogelgesang
Sept 15	Kimbrel Johnson		
Sept 16	Jordyn Grell		

