

COMMUNITY CALL

Pastor: Rev. Catherine Bishop; **Office Administrator:** Mary Gross; **Ministers:** The People of God
702 Sheyenne St., West Fargo, ND 58078; 701-282-4135; Pastor cell: 712-490-8333; E-mail: office@cpcwf.org; Web: www.cpcwf.org

SPECIAL CPC ANNOUNCEMENT

Per Session, our Sunday worship service will continue as an online worship service and groups of 10 or more people will not be allowed to use the church. This will remain in effect through Wednesday, May 20, 2020.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This newsletter was published on Tuesday, April 28, 2020.

Watch for updates regarding CPC's meeting policy, additional online activities, and calendar items in your personal email, on the Community Presbyterian Church of West Fargo Facebook page, and on the CPC website at www.cpcwf.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

May 17 Last Day
of Sunday School
Teacher Appreciation Day
Senior Recognition



NEW TIMES



With the ending of Sunday School and arrival of Summer comes a change of timing for Community Presbyterian Church. Beginning on May 24th, worship services will be held on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

PONDERINGS FROM PASTOR CATHIE



May God's grace and peace be with you, my friends. It seems so long since we have been together.

I miss you all!

In pondering the past month, it feels surreal. I come to work, and Mary is here on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Most of the time, we just see each other, no one comes in for gatherings like Bible Study or Card making. Thursday is really quiet when I am by myself all day! We have learned to prepare the bulletins a little differently so people who don't have a hymnal or Bible in reach can at least have the words to the songs and scriptures in the order of worship. We have adapted the worship service to fit better with the online format.

Andrew Thostenson, Kevin Galt, and
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Chad Nelson have been troopers as they have been working many hours to bring our worship services to you and others in the clearest way possible. I am so grateful for this congregation, for their willingness to care about Community Presbyterian Church. There are so many people that do big things and little things that in the long run, make a big difference for all of us. We have Deacons and others checking in on members via phone, text, email, and using social media to connect with one another. If you haven't been contacted and would like to be, please call the church phone (701-282-4135).

After more than a month where we have changed our living patterns, many of us are ready to escape or at least get to spend time with our friends and loved ones. Now they are talking about opening the economy, which we were waiting for, and we find it a little scary to think about going out in crowds again. I don't know the right answer as to "when" the right time is to begin going out in the community and to get to spend time together whether it is to attend Sunday School and Worship in the sanctuary, or out to shop, or attend a ballgame.

I do know I will appreciate the time that comes allowing me to visit people at their home or when they are hospitalized. It felt so wrong not to be able to be with our people who were hospitalized or those who live in a facility that doesn't allow people during the time of the coronavirus.

In the meantime, it will be important for all of us to keep the health and safety in mind for anyone we visit or spend time with. In the long run, it isn't what we want that matters, it is being disciples of Jesus, reaching out to others in ways appropriate for those being visited. Sometimes the best thing we can do is



be aware of the situations around us. In our prayers, we can continue to be grateful for the health we do have and be cognizant of those who are vulnerable to the coronavirus or other illnesses. We can pray for those who are deathly ill, those who have mild cases, and those who do not even know they are a carrier of the virus.

When we ask, "What shall we do?" It is a good time to pick up our Bibles and devotionals to focus on our relationship with God. When we are afraid or filled with worry, we act as if we are in charge and think we have to find our own answers. We need to let go. The scripture from John 20:19-31 reminds us that the most important message Jesus had for his disciples was, "Peace be with you."

May Grace and Peace be with you,
Pastor Cathie

MAY SCRIPTURES FOR WORSHIP



- May 3: Communion
Psalm 23
Acts 2:42-47
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-11
- May 10: Psalm 31:1-5, 9-10, and 13-16
Acts 7:55-60; 1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14
- May 17: Psalm 66:8-20
Acts 17:22-31
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21
- May 24: Pulpit Supply TBD
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
Acts 1:6-14
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11
John 17:1-11
- May 31: **Pentecost**
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Acts 2:1-21
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 7:37-39

APRIL CLERK'S CORNER



The regular meeting of Session was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Elders present were Lee Dobrinz, Laurie Elhard, Melissa Engebretson, Melanie Hansen, Bob Kozojed, Carrie Leopold, Mike Misheski, Adam Montgomery, and Chad Nelson. Moderator - Cathie Bishop, Clerk of Session - Becky DeJong, and Treasurer - Carolyn Meester were present.

The meeting was opened with devotions by Adam Montgomery.

Consent Agenda:

- a. approval of the minutes of March 18, 2020 and the minutes of the interim meeting on March 31, 2020
- b. next Session meeting - Wednesday, May 20, 2020
- c. Pay half of the church softball league dues - \$350.00 - if there is league this summer
- d. Summer worship will begin at 9:30 starting Memorial Day (May 24) through Labor Day (Sept. 6) with Rally Sunday to be September 13, 2020.

Moderator's report

- Articles turned in by March 19 for April 2020 newsletter.
- About this time, life began to get interesting for all of us.
- Saturday, March 21, 2020, officiated at family funeral for Michelle Jenner at West Funeral Home.
- Monday, March 23, 2020, officiated at family funeral for Esther Hemm at West Funeral Home and her burial at Sunset Gardens.
- Wednesday, March 25, online Zoom meeting with Worship Committee.
- Thursday, March 26, 2020, helped prepare and serve dinner at Churches United.
- Friday, March 27, 2020, helped prepare and serve dinner at Churches United.

- Saturday, March 28, 2020, attended Zoom Presbytery of the Northern Plains meeting.
- Sunday, March 29, 2020, served sack lunches at Salvation Army.
- Monday, March 30, 2020 - CPC parking lot bus Blood Drive. Linda Bishop coordinated.
- Wednesday, April 1, 2020, attended Zoom Christian Education Committee meeting.
- Friday, April 3, 2020, attended Zoom meeting with Synod regarding Sheltering in Place and Financial Implications and Opportunities.
- Monday, April 13, 2020, moderated Zoom meeting with Mendenhall Session.
- Wednesday, April 15, 2020, moderated Zoom Session meeting.
- Worship Services including service and sermon prep and delivery:
 - >Sunday, March 22, 2020 - first CPC online service
 - >Sunday, March 29, 2020 - 2nd CPC online service
 - >Sunday, April 5, 2020 - 3rd CPC online service, including virtual communion
 - >Thursday, April 9, 2020 - 4th CPC online service for Maundy Thursday with virtual communion
 - >Friday, April 10, 2020 - 5th CPC online service for Good Friday
 - >Sunday, April 12, 2020 - 6th CPC online service for Easter with virtual communion.

Clerk's report -

9 served communion on Sunday, April 5, 2020.

Per Session, the Sunday worship service will remain online only and groups of 10 or more people will not be allowed to use the church. This will remain in effect through Wednesday, May 20, 2020.

Discussion was held regarding the quality and set-up of the online worship service. Upgrading our internet and phone

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system are being investigated.

The financial report was read, discussed and received.

BINGO!!! B-4 you know it we will be playing Bingo together via Zoom! Watch for the announcements.

Christian Education: The Christian Education Committee met on April 1. We discussed the last day of Sunday school, Senior Sunday, and Teacher Appreciation Day. We would like to have them all on Sunday May 17th. – Melanie Hansen

Deacons: Communication with members is being continued through phone calls, e-mails, and cards. Signs have been put on windows to cheer up the people inside!

Personnel: Pastor Cathie will be gone on Sunday, May 24, due to continuing education. Pulpit supply will be needed.

Stewardship: The Stewardship Committee met with the Personnel Committee to discuss the Payroll Protection Program application. The form was completed by Carolyn Meester and submitted to Alerus bank. The requested total was \$20,000+. – Mike Misheski

Trustees: Our snow removal company contacts us during every snow fall. There is no specific amount of snow received to determine whether they plow the parking lot. The lots are plowed at the discretion of the Trustees. The Trustees shovel the entry sidewalks to the church. Due to Covid-19 it was decided not to plow after the 5-6" of snow on April 2nd. – Bob Kozojed

Worship: We were able to meet as a whole committee at the end of March. Most of our conversations were focused on these new virtual services. We talked about services during holy week, adding music, adding the kids bulletin to the end of the service bulletin, and virtual communion. The outdoor service is something we would like to do again, but we are waiting to see how things

play out before we bring a date to Session. – Melissa Engebretson

No reports: Mission, Nominating, Service and Fellowship committees.

Meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Cathie at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky DeJong

MAY DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 5-2 Tom Kassman
- 5-3 Gloria Ruhnke
Dwight Steffen
- 5-6 Steve Hanna
Marty Matzke
- 5-8 Jane Leben
- 5-9 Carolyn Meester
Cheryl Montgomery
- 5-10 Scott Hansen
Zachary Hansen
- 5-13 Larry Dobrinz
- 5-17 Edsel Kercher
- 5-20 Greg Sterup
- 5-22 Olivia Dobrinz
Amy Leopold
- 5-23 Melissa Eiter
- 5-25 Barb Grossman
Mary Jo Moorhead
Mia Strand
Terrance Strand
- 5-26 Reed Montgomery
- 5-27 Vickie Meyer
- 5-29 Zarissa Hansen
- 5-30 Thomas Meyer

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5-3-14 – Dustin and Stephani Krueger
- 5-24-03 - Tim and Carly Hager
- 5-20-17 – Tim and Grace Chandler

SENIOR SUNDAY



On Sunday, May 17, we will recognize graduating high school senior Cami Birrenkott. If you know of other graduating seniors affiliated with Community Presbyterian Church, please contact Melanie Hansen as soon as possible.





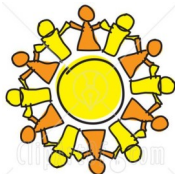
CPC SWAG FOR SALE

Shirts (for babies, children, and adults), coffee mugs, key chains, decals, coasters, buttons, water bottles, and more are being sold so that you can get your share of CPC swag.

Whenever we wear/use these items, wherever we are through our mission and outreach projects, we will be identified by a quotation of Micah 6:8 and the Community Presbyterian Church name.

To get your own CPC swag, go to <https://churchfundraiser.itemorder.com/sale>. Proceeds from the sales go directly to the Mission Fund of West Fargo's Community Presbyterian Church.

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER



Sharing our needs and concerns in prayer with our church family brings us closer to one another and lightens our load. At CPC we have a few ways we can share in prayer:

- ◆ For a public prayer concern to be prayed for by the congregation on Sunday morning, make a CPC Facebook post.
- ◆ For a confidential request to be shared only with the pastor, contact the church office (701-282-4135 or office@cpcwf.org) or Pastor Cathie.
- ◆ For a confidential request to be prayed over by a devoted group of pray-ers within CPC, contact Gayle Thostenson (atgtet@far.midco.net or 492-0630).

Want to share the burdens of others by praying for their needs, contact Gayle and she'll add you to the CPC email prayer chain. When someone asks for prayer, you'll receive a blind-copied request in your personal email box.

MAY/JUNE MISSION FOCUS



The May and June mission focus is the Bdecan Church, a Dakota Presbytery church located south of Tokio, ND on the Spirit Lake Reservation. "Bdecan" (pronounced Bah-DAY Chan) means "Wood Lake" in the Dakota language. Bdecan Presbyterian Church is the only Indian Presbyterian Church in the State of North Dakota. It was founded as a mission church in 1879 and formally organized in 1881.

Joe Obermeyer was hired in the spring of 2013 as the Youth and Outreach Coordinator. He provides programming for the children and youth year round. He also coordinates volunteers from outside the church during the summer months.

The church provides for 50-70 families of the community monthly via its food pantry. In addition they distribute clothing, shoes, furniture, and household items. Many of these items are donated by people throughout the Northern Plains Presbytery.

The mission of the Bdecan Presbyterian Church of Tokio, North Dakota on the Spirit Lake Dakota Nation is to grow as Christ's witness in their community and



reservation worshipping God through prayer, helping each other, fellowship, and Sunday morning worship. While keeping Christ's love at their center and supporting each one's spiritual journey, they move towards eternal life as one body to fulfill God's will on earth. (adopted by the

Bdecan Session November 1, 2009)

For more information about the Bdecan church, you can go to its website at <https://www.bdecanpresbyterianchurch.org/>



A LETTER TO CPC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Members and Friends of
Community Presbyterian
Church of West Fargo,

As you know, we have been working to reduce our mortgage balance with a goal of paying it off by the end of the year. The current Coronavirus pandemic has created unusual times for everyone, including the possibility of not being able to completely pay off our mortgage.

Our prayers go out to the suffering.

With people being laid off, businesses closing temporarily, employees working from home and schooling moved from classrooms to online classes at home, churches moving to online worship services only, and all the new customs we are adapting to, we wondered if this was the time to talk about money. Since your church is a sanctuary in so many important ways, the decision was to talk about finances with you.

How can I make a difference?

People who have received or will receive stimulus dollars are not all in need of the additional resources. The news has reported about people who said they did not need the payment and were wondering what they would do with what they received. If you are wondering what to do with your extra dollars, we request you consider a contribution to Community Presbyterian Church to continue our process of paying off the mortgage. Your gift would be greatly appreciated.

I want to help. Whom should I contact?

If you have questions, please contact Mike Misheski, Carolyn Meester, or Andrew Thostenson. Even if your stimulus check has not reached you at this time, please contact Mike, Andrew, or Carolyn and make a commitment.

Thank you for your prayerful considera-

tion regarding a contribution towards the payoff of the CPC mortgage.

Grace and Peace,

Mike Misheski, Carolyn Meester,
and Andrew Thostenson
Stewardship Committee

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER THURSDAY, MAY 7



Join our nation in praying for our community, state, and nation. National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 7, 2020. It will be broadcast, streamed, and posted in many ways including at nationaldayofprayer.org. In addition, it will be live streamed Thursday, May 7th, 6:00-7:00 p.m. on Fargo Calvary Methodist Church's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/calvaryfargo>

The National Day of Prayer is a vital part of our heritage. Since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, the call to prayer has continued through our history, including President Lincoln's proclamation of a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer" in 1863. In 1952, a joint resolution by Congress, signed by President Truman, declared an annual national day of prayer. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May. Each year, the president signs a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day. Last year, all 50 state governors plus the governors of several U.S. territories signed similar proclamations.

"Fasting and prayer are religious exercises; the enjoining them an act of discipline. Every religious society has a right to determine for itself the time for these exercises, and the objects proper for them, according to their own particular tenets; and right can never be safer than in their hands, where the Constitution has deposited it."

—Thomas Jefferson, 1808



**YEAR-TO-DATE
GIVING UPDATE**

3-31-2020

General Operating budget
2020: \$153,000.00
Weekly needed to meet
budget: \$2,943.45

Actual giving to date \$28,210.24
Actual expenses to date \$34,964.56
Net income to date **-\$ 6,754.32**

This does not include the mortgage payment of \$3,146.54. There are funds in the building fund account to cover the mortgage payment through July.

Per Capita amount for 2020 is \$47.00 for each confirmed member. The unpaid balance at the end of the year is paid out of the church general fund. Please mark on your check or envelope "Per Capita."

All we have is a gift from God, all we have belongs to God, and all we have is to be used to serve God and enjoy God.

WE APPRECIATE YOU!

Come, my young friends, and listen to me, and I will teach you to honor the Lord.

Psalm 34:11



Sunday, May 17, is Teacher Appreciation Day. The Christian Education Committee would like to thank the following individuals for teaching Sunday School or leading the young and old of Community Presbyterian Church:

- Melissa Engebretson
- Dawn Larson
- Amy Grossman-Tomsich
- Melanie Hansen
- Zarissa Hansen
- Zaryn Hansen
- Patty Smith
- Elizabeth Strand
- Andrew Thostenson
- Gayle Thostenson

For every lesson they prepared, the love of God has been shared.

**SYNOD SCHOOL 2020:
WHAT SHALL
WE TELL THEM?**

July 26-31, 2020
Buena Vista University
Storm Lake, Iowa



"We will tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of God, and God's might, and the wonders that God has done."
Psalm 78:4

What does this look like when we can't assume people know our language and history as a Church?

The changing context around us raises questions about how to be faithful in this time and age, in a world that is changing constantly. How do we talk about God? Where, when, why and how do we tell our stories? What stories do we tell?

Discover Synod School!

www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool
800-328-1880, ext. 207

COVID-19 Update: We are carefully monitoring recommendations from the Center for Disease Control regarding the coronavirus. We will make a decision in mid-June about whether or not to proceed with Synod School if pandemic recommendations for social distancing are still in place. If Synod School is cancelled, all monies will be refunded.



**RETURNING SNOWBIRDS
REMINDER**

You told us when you were ready to fly to warmer climates, and you haven't missed a CPC mailing. Now, as you plan to return to your northern home, please don't forget to let us in on your plans. Please inform our church office (282-4135 or office@cpcwf.org) when you will return home so you won't miss any CPC post.

**June's Community Call
deadline will be
Thursday, May 21**

Pre-authorized debits customer authorization form

I authorize Community Presbyterian Church and the financial institution listed below to initiate electronic debit entries, (and if necessary, credit entries and adjustments for any debit entries in error) to my:

checking account savings account for \$_____

*(This authority will remain in effect until I have cancelled it in writing.)
(Changes can be easily made)*

*Please select from the following options to make contributions:

<u>MONTHLY</u> 1 st _____ OR 16 th _____	<u>TWICE A MONTH</u> 1 st AND 16 th _____
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Please print the following:

Name _____

Address _____

Financial Institution: _____ Branch: _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Bank Routing Number (9 digits):

Account Number:

Please return to:
 Office
 Community Presbyterian Church
 702 Sheyenne St.
 West Fargo, ND 58078
 (A confirmation will be sent to you)

Forms accepted at any time

Annual Income	Approximate Weekly Commitment Proportionate to Income						
	15%	10%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%
100,000	288.00	192.00	135.00	115.00	96.00	77.00	58.00
75,000	216.00	144.00	100.00	87.00	72.00	58.00	43.00
60,000	173.00	153.00	80.00	69.00	58.00	46.00	35.00
50,000	144.00	96.00	67.00	58.00	48.00	38.00	29.00
45,000	130.00	87.00	61.00	52.00	43.00	35.00	26.00
40,000	115.00	77.00	54.00	46.00	38.00	31.00	23.00
35,000	101.00	67.00	47.00	40.00	34.00	27.00	20.00
30,000	87.00	58.00	40.00	35.00	29.00	23.00	17.00
25,000	72.00	48.00	34.00	29.00	24.00	19.00	14.00
20,000	58.00	38.00	27.00	23.00	19.00	15.00	12.00
15,000	43.00	29.00	20.00	17.00	14.00	12.00	9.00