

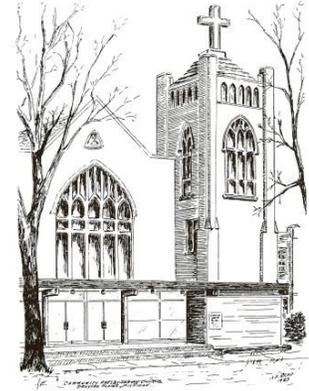
The Community Presbyterian Church

Informer

January 2021

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New Year Resolutions

In 2020, I made a resolution to eat less fast food. Little did I know that I would meet that resolution for the most unexpected reason. Once the pandemic lockdown began in March, I worked from home, which meant less commuting and less fast food stops. My spouse and I decided to try different home meal kits, which allowed us to cook at home with variety and minimal shopping.

What 2020 taught me, however, was how unexpected life can be, and how resolutions might be better if we take them each day as they come. Instead of an overarching resolution for the entire year, I intend to be more flexible as 2021 arrives. Maybe some days I'll aim to journal more or have longer time in devotions and scripture. Maybe next Lent I'll decide to go meatless. But most importantly, each day I will strive to love my family and neighbors as best as I can with my words and actions. I've decided to limit any expectations I have for 2021 and my own response to it. Instead, my resolution is to appreciate every day as a gift from God. --
Pastor Jasmine

[Ring out, wild bells]

[Alfred Lord Tennyson](#) - 1809-1892

*Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.*

*Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.*

January Informer

*Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.*

*Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.*

*Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.*

*Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.*

*Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.*

*Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.*

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**Previous Pastor’s
Pondering**

As I write this last article, I am overwhelmed by the love you shared with me on my last Sunday with you! The outpouring of love will certainly “inspire all my living” and will be long remembered. I am grateful for all that came to the “drive-through” good-bye. I loved seeing your faces and greeting you in-person. Thank you also for all that have sent cards, emails or left voice messages!

I am so excited for CPC as they now continue their journey with Pastor Jasmine. I will keep you all in my prayers. I do want to remind you that since my pastoral service with CPC is completed, that means I will be unavailable for any pastoral duties. You have a very capable and skilled new pastor – so you are in good hands! I trust you will embrace Pastor Jasmine just as you embraced me. If I am facebook friends with you, I will endeavor to refrain from any social media interaction as well. It is not that I no longer care for you, in fact quite the opposite is true - I care so much for you, the church and your relationship your new pastor that I will honor boundaries so that you may establish a good rapport with her!

God’s Blessings be upon each of you and the church in the new year and in the years to come. It has been my honor to service at CPC!

Love,
Pastor Beth

Membership

January Birthdays

Ruth Schluchter	1 st
Vernita Lock (90)	4 th
Leslie Pedersen	6 th
Andrew Pocięcha	10 th
Joshua Ostrom (7)	11 th
Gail Ferguson	12 th
Linda McAllister	14 th
Jenny Sansom	17 th
Debbie Kendrick	18 th
Sandy Maguire	18 th
Liam O’Dea (16)	21 st
Tom Antram	24 th
Noah Stinson	24 th
Nina Johnson (14)	26 th
Cam McCaffrey	26 th
Sarah Downes	30 th
Nancy McKervey	30 th

Please notify the office of any mistakes or omissions in the birthday and anniversary list.

Worship & Music

Volunteers Needed

Have you been watching the worship services on You Tube this year? If so, you know that we have been blessed. Think what it would be like if we did not have this option. Pastor Beth, Mike Erkfritz and Robin Erkfritz have been the dedicated crew making this happen for most of the year. Well, Pastor will not be available and Mike and Robin need others to step up to help in 2021.

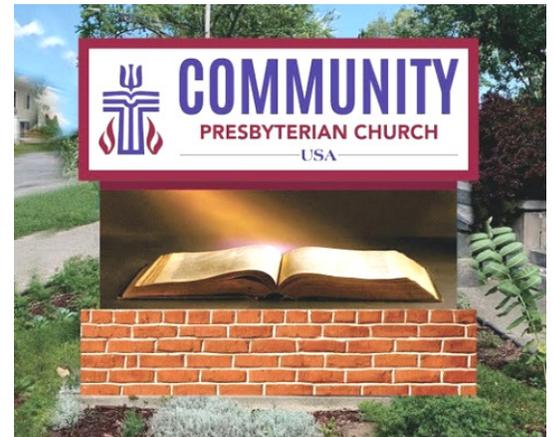
Our plan is to form a team of volunteers to share the responsibilities of compiling the weekly slide show bulletin, man (or woman) the display of the bulletin on Sunday, and run the live streaming to You Tube each Sunday.

If you have knowledge in these areas, great; if you would like to learn, we can teach you.

Your help with this important task would allow the blessing of online services to continue for our congregation and the community (maybe the world) while sharing the time commitment with others. Please call or text Debbie Kendrick at (248)701-6458 if you have questions or are interested in joining this very important team.

Outreach

The Church's Name in Lights



The church will soon have a new electronic sign on Sashabaw. Carol Axford has graciously donated the sign in memory of her late husband Richard. It was one of Richard's desires that the church have an updated sign. This is a wonderful donation that will enlighten the front of the church and hopefully draw attention to the ministries and mission of the church. The sign will feature a lighted top part with the church's name. The middle section will be a programmable led sign which will allow for adding message and pictures. The sign is expected to be installed in late January or early February. Thank you, Carol for this most generous donation!

Notes from the Celebration Garden

~ Winter Wildflowers



The first full month of winter in the Celebration Garden is January. Winter begins just before Christmas, typically on December 21st. January can bring days of snow and days of drab. When the Garden is covered in snow, it looks splendid. The snow can accumulate on flower stalks and creates unusual shapes. The plant stems have seed heads which contain hundreds of seeds. These seeds are important to wildlife in the winter and offer a buffet for resident birds and some long-distanced travelers like boreal finches. With a little practice anyone can identify the plants in the garden by looking at the seed heads still standing and if you are lucky you may see boreal finches.

In the winter, the flowers of the summer have transformed from beautiful blooms into intricate seed heads. Each seed head is unique and has clever adaptations of seed disbursement. Many of the seeds are attached to tufts of pappus, a botanical structure that is light weight and easily floats in a breeze, taking seeds far from the parent plant. If conditions are appropriate, seeds will germinate, and new plants will sprout. It is the ultimate goal of plants to spread seeds.

Several species of milkweeds can be found in the garden. The familiar oval shape of the pods when dried splits open to reveal flattened, light brown seeds attached to pappus that serve as parachutes for the seeds to move with the wind and find new places to grow.

Other seeds are not protected like milkweed seeds. The seed heads of many of the other plants are exposed and appear as tufts on the top of the plant stems. It is amazing when examining these seed heads with a hand lens. There are literally thousands of seeds on one plant. Stiff Goldenrod, one of the plants in the Celebration Garden, have multiple inflorescences, or clusters of flowers per stem, and each inflorescence has hundreds of tiny seeds. While they may seem insignificant, these seeds are extremely important to seed eating birds and are linked to their very existence.



Winter finches depend on standing seed heads in fields. Some finches like the Common Redpoll wander during the winter from the boreal forests of Canada south in search of seeds. These small birds are highly camouflaged and go unnoticed by most of the time unless you are really looking for them. During the winter, these finches move in small flocks looking for seeds. They will visit backyard feeders as they seek unpredictable food sources in fields and forests.

If you ever wonder why the Celebration Garden is left unkempt during the winter, consider how the seed heads feed the birds. Although it may look messy, leaving the Celebration Garden plants standing all winter helps wildlife, which is one of the goals of a wildflower garden. The Celebration Garden is part of a wider network of gardens that assists the survival of some of God's smallest creatures.



Even though it is winter, visit the Celebration Garden and see if you can identify some of the winter wildflowers. Consider how God takes care of creation. Take time to read Luke 12:4-7 in the garden and maybe you will see a winter finch. Happy New Year.

Photo credits: Michigan Flora and the Chicago Botanical Garden

Growing with God



*Community Presbyterian Church (USA)
of Drayton Plains*

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Waterford, Michigan 48329

Place First
Class Stamp
Here

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

