



Message from

Pastor Tony

Have you heard of Microplane? If you don't cook, or watch cooking shows, you likely don't know the name. On the other hand, if you do cook, you very likely know and love the specialty kitchen tool. They're a niche item that really only gets used for a handful of tasks around the kitchen, but the best of the best is no doubt the Microplane.

It didn't always start out that way. In fact, the Microplane



didn't make any money for the first 3 or more years! The company had a difficult time selling the Microplane.

Then suddenly, they took off. The product didn't change. The design didn't change one bit. The Microplane has remained, pretty much unchanged since it was first brought to market in the early 90s.

So, what happened? What changed to make this once hard-to-sell tool a highly sought kitchen gadget that's used by the world's top chefs and home cooks?

The first thing to know is that the Microplane started, not as a kitchen tool, but a woodworking tool used to lightly shape wood. It's first home was the woodshop, and that's where it would have stayed if it were not for a dissatisfied home cook.

One fateful day, the home cook frustrated with her grater, wandered into her husband's woodshop, found the Microplane, and after a good cleaning, took it to the kitchen to zest some oranges for a cake. As luck would have it the dissatisfied cook was co-owner of a mail order tool

catalogue. She convinced her husband to change the description of the Microplane to include something about being a useful kitchen tool.

That subtle change in the description led to the tool being discovered by cooks through out the country, and that led the company to a choice. Do we embrace what we had envisioned, or do we shift our vision?

Microplane obviously shifted their vision and they've been benefited from the shift. Not every company, faced with a need to shift vision, has been willing to make that shift. Just look at Microsoft and their unwillingness to shift to the mobile platform until it was too late.

The story of Microplane's rise to cooking utensil fame can be an illustration for choices we often face. From time to time, we are faced with a choice to embrace past visions and expectations or to look to God for new vision of the future. It's those times when we find ourselves not just in at a crossroad in life, but when we discover we're already a long way down a new path in life and we don't know where to step next. It's not just, "is God calling us to something new" but "what is my vocation, my purpose" at this phase in life?

Most commonly, we face these *Microplane moments* when we have transitions in life. The death of the loved one. Retirement. Birth of a kid, grandkid, or great grandkid. Moving. New job. We face *Microplane moments* regularly but often we don't know if we should hold fast to the past or move forward. Not only that, but if we were to move forward, how do we determine where and what God might be calling us.

No matter what decision we make, we are always led by God and will be used by God. Sometimes the solutions are informed by our past (Microplane was always a rasp), sometimes they are completely new (Microplane never envisioned they would be in the kitchen industry), sometimes they come to us through other voices (the dissatisfied home cook spoke a word of truth to Microplane), and sometimes it's all three.



The truth is ... I'm not sure how to do this. I really don't know, but I'd like to discover it with you! In January 2020, I will be going to continuing education called *The Soul of Aging*. The goal of the workshop is to help

participants with these transitions and to equip participants to take what they learned and lead others in times of transition; during Microplane moments.

I'm super excited about this continuing education event for my own spirituality and to be able to bring it back to CPC!

To build on that education, we will start a 6-week small group study, put out by the Collegeville Institute which is part of St. John's University, here in MN. The small group study, titled *Called to Life*, is specifically designed to help participants examine where God may be calling them and how to live that out in daily life.

If you ever asked yourself, *What's the meaning of my life? Or, if you "struggle to juggle work, family, and other responsibilities? Maybe, you've wondered where God is leading you next?"* *Called to Life* might help you explore God's calling in your everyday life. Specifically, the program will "explore questions of vocation and calling—how God works in everyday life". It is designed to help participants to deepen their spiritual life, and to connect faith with daily life, work, and relationships.

The study will begin the week of January 13th. We will meet for 1-½ – 2 hours for 6 weeks, which will take us to Ash Wednesday. I'm hoping to get a minimum of 6 people to commit to this study. We'll figure out when we'll meet when we have people signed up!

For more information on this 6-week small group study, please contact pastor Tony or visit collegevilleinstitute.org and search for *Called to Life*.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

At our August meeting, your Session voted to install a Little Free Library next to our bench near the paved trail on Daggett Pine Road. The Gifts and Memorials Committee provided the money to purchase one, and our little free library, which was hand-made of cedar by a woodworker from Missouri, has arrived. Plans are to stain and install it soon, and Tony and Tom will make that happen.



Several of you have indicated that you have books you no longer need that are not quite right for our church library, so this may be your chance to find them a home. We are looking for books for all ages, fiction and non-fiction. So, if you have books you enjoyed reading—or reading to your children or grandchildren—but no longer need, please let Ginny know.

PUB THEOLOGY

Join us on Thursday, December 12, as we continue with Pub Theology, where we meet at **14 Lakes Brewery** at 5:00pm on the second Thursday of each month. 14 Lakes Brewery is located on Route 66 in Crosslake Join us if you can, we'll be talking about faith, life, and beer!



- 1 Shari Ochs
- 1 Mary Clement
- 2 Danny Lund
- 10 Amy Bloch
- 13 Beryl Roe



MONSTER SALE 2020

It's a GO! Thanks to Tom McCormack and Amy Bloch who have agreed to take the helm, the Monster Sale is "on" for 2020. The date is yet to be determined, most likely in the summer. We wanted to let you know so you can start thinking about ways you can get involved and ways to help out. Start saving your very special treasures that you no longer need! If you want to help



POINTSETTIAS for CHRISTMAS

The Worship Committee has ordered 15 Poinsettias for the Church. They will be delivered on December 16. If any member would like to purchase one in honor of a family, member, friend or just for Christmas, the cost will be \$8.75 each and they will be able to take them home after Christmas Eve service. Please put



Poinsettia in the memo section of your check and see Arleen Steele to order.



Sunday, December 15 2019 at 10:00 am

On Sunday, December 15, we will have Karen Skarolid and Ruth Ann Veith from the Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity joining us during the service. They will be giving a presentation to the congregation of the work that Habitat is doing in our area and if this is something our church would be able to become involved with! Please join us!



DEACON'S REPORT

The Moment for Mission part of our Sunday worship will feature representatives from the three non-profits we have selected to support. Each will be given a donation of \$400.00. This is in addition to several other charities we support. The three are: The Shop, a teen center in Brainerd which supplies a dinner meal, companionship and training in computers and bike repair. Habitat for Humanity, which has a Restore which accepts donations of home furnishings and building supplies. See Joan or Dewey Krueger, Habitat volunteers, for more information. The Women's Shelter, located in Brainerd, also.

We thank Mary Lu Dietz and Audrey Eiler whose terms are ending. And we are pleased to have Jack Becker and Becky Bury joining us. As we close after a year of wonderful changes and accomplishments for our church, we wish you a blessed holiday and a joyous New Year. The December Deacon of the month is Patricia Tweed, whose number is (218) 820-3690.

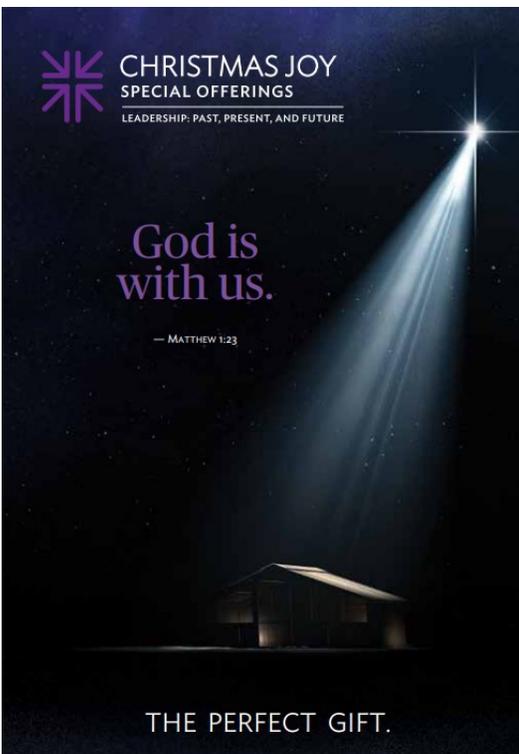
CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

The December Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday, December 18. The fellowship committee will provide turkey and ham. Appetizers and social hour will begin at 4:00pm and the meal will be served at 5:00pm. A sign up sheet to bring side dishes is on the table in the Narthex.



ADVENT CALENDAR at Crosslake Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 1	10:00am	First Sunday of Advent	<i>God's Promised Day Can't Wait (Hope)</i>
Thurs, December 5	2:00pm	Golden Horizons Party	Deacons invite you to join them.
Sunday, December 8	10:00am	Second Sunday of Advent	<i>Repentance Can't Wait (Peace)</i>
Sunday, December 15	10:00am	Third Sunday of Advent	<i>Delight Can't Wait (Joy)</i>
Weds, December 18	4:00pm	Christmas Potluck	Appetizers at 4:00 pm, Meal at 5:00pm
Sunday, December 22	10:00am	Fourth Sunday of Advent	<i>Courage Can't Wait (Love)</i>
Tuesday, December 24	4:00pm	Christmas Eve Service	
Sunday, December 29	10:00am	Worship Service	<i>What Can't Wait</i>



PRESBYTERIAN MISSION CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

The Presbyterian Mission Christmas Joy Offering will be held at CPC on Sunday, December 8th. This year the special offering will be given to support past and present church leaders and preparing the way for future leaders! 50% of the gifts to Christmas Joy will assist current and retired church workers and their families who are in financial need while 50% of your gifts will make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MARIE FISCHER



A Memorial Service was held at CPC on Saturday, November 23 for long time member Marie Fischer, who passed away on Saturday, November 16 2019 at the University of Minnesota Hospital. Marie was born at home in Oak Lawn Township to Margaret and George McKay on July 5, 1942. A graduate of Washington High School, Brainerd and the University of Minnesota, Marie began her career as a University of Minnesota Extension Home Agent in International Falls, MN.

Marie married David Fischer in December, 1967. The U.S. Army quickly fulfilled David's promise to Marie of being able to move to a warmer climate, with an assignment to Hawaii. As a "Trailing Expat Spouse", Marie was always open to horizon-expanding adventures which included living seven years in São Paulo, Brazil, five years in Brussels, Belgium and numerous foreign travels. During these overseas assignments, Marie was involved in many volunteer activities from tutoring "English as a Second Language" middle school students at Escola Graduada de São Paulo, to organizing Belgian Beer Tasting Classes at the American Women's Club of Brussels. Marie enjoyed reading and always had a book close at hand, often as part of a book club discussion.

A life-long Presbyterian, Marie served as a Ruling Elder, Clerk of Session and on the Mission to the USA Committee of the Michigan/Ohio Synod of the Covenant, which brought international clergy and lay leaders to the USA to spend time in local Presbyterian churches. After retirement, Marie and David returned to Minnesota in 2002. With her long-standing interest in quilting, Marie quickly became involved in the Camp Knutson Quilt Auction. Marie chaired the Quilt Auction volunteer committee for 15 years; during her tenure, the Auction raised over \$750,000 for the Camp.

Continued...

Marie was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband David; daughter Alise Fischer (Robert Quinlan), Longwood FL; sons Craig Fischer (Vic Ralphs), Henderson, NV; and Eric Fischer (Megan Busby), Newport News, VA.

CAMPAIGNING FOR COMMUNICATION!

In an effort to keep communications through-out the church flowing smoothly and avoiding any gaffs and glitches in how we operate, we are asking that if you have a date for the calendar, or a church event (meeting, gathering, etc.) please let Judy in the office know. She will get it on the calendar and publicize it if needed! This way no one misses anything. Thank you!!

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to join us for our Wednesday morning Advent Gatherings which will begin November 27th and continue the first three Wednesdays of December and January 8. These Gatherings will take the place of our usual Wednesday morning Bible study, and we will meet by the fireplace in the Friendship Hall at 10:00 a.m. You are invited to come join us whenever that works for you.



Each Gathering will be on a different topic—Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Gifts—and will include brief prayers and scripture readings; the lighting of Advent candles; readings from works by Madeleine L'Engle, Robert Fulghum, Theophane the Monk, Sarah Young, and Mark Nepo; and questions for reflection and sharing.

The regular Bible study group will no doubt continue its practice of adjourning to Moonlite Bay for noon lunch, and you are welcome to join us there, too

NO SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION

As the choir will be rehearsing at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings for the near future, there will be no Adult Education on Sunday mornings.

Sun	12/01	9:00am	Choir Rehearsal
		10:00am	Communion Worship
		11:15am	Hanging of the Greens & Breakfast
Mon.	12/02	1:00pm	Northern Trackers
Tues.	12/03	9:30am	Literary Huddle
		7:00pm	Mainstreet AA
Wed.	12/04	10:00am	Bible Study
Thurs	12/05	12:30pm	Deacon's Meeting
		2:00pm	Golden Horizons Party
Sun.	12/08	9:00am	Choir Rehearsal
		10:00am	Worship Service
		11:15am	Fellowship
Tues.	12/10	9:30am	Literary Huddle
		2:00pm	Session Meeting
		7:00pm	Mainstreet AA
Weds.	12/11	10:00am	Bible Study
		1:30pm	Women's Tea
Thurs.	12/12	5:00pm	Pub Theology
Sun.	12/15	9:00am	Choir Rehearsal
		10:00am	Worship Service
		11:15am	Fellowship

MEN'S LUNCH

Thursday, December 19 at 12:00pm
at Pine Peaks in Crosslake

WOMEN'S TEA

Wednesday, December 11 at 1:30pm
at the home of Shari Och's
37162 Blacksmith Place, Crosslake



CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER

Wednesday, December 18 at 4:00pm
with Appetizers and Dinner at 5:00pm

Tues.	12/17	9:30am	Literary Huddle
		7:00pm	Mainstreet AA
Wed.	12/18	10:00am	Bible Study
		4:00pm	Christmas Potluck
Thurs.	12/19	12:00pm	Men's Luncheon
Sun.	12/22	9:00am	Choir Rehearsal
		10:00am	Worship Service
		11:15am	Fellowship
Tues.	12/24	4:00pm	Christmas Eve Service
Sun	12/29	10:00pm	Worship Service
		11:15am	Fellowship

CROSSLAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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