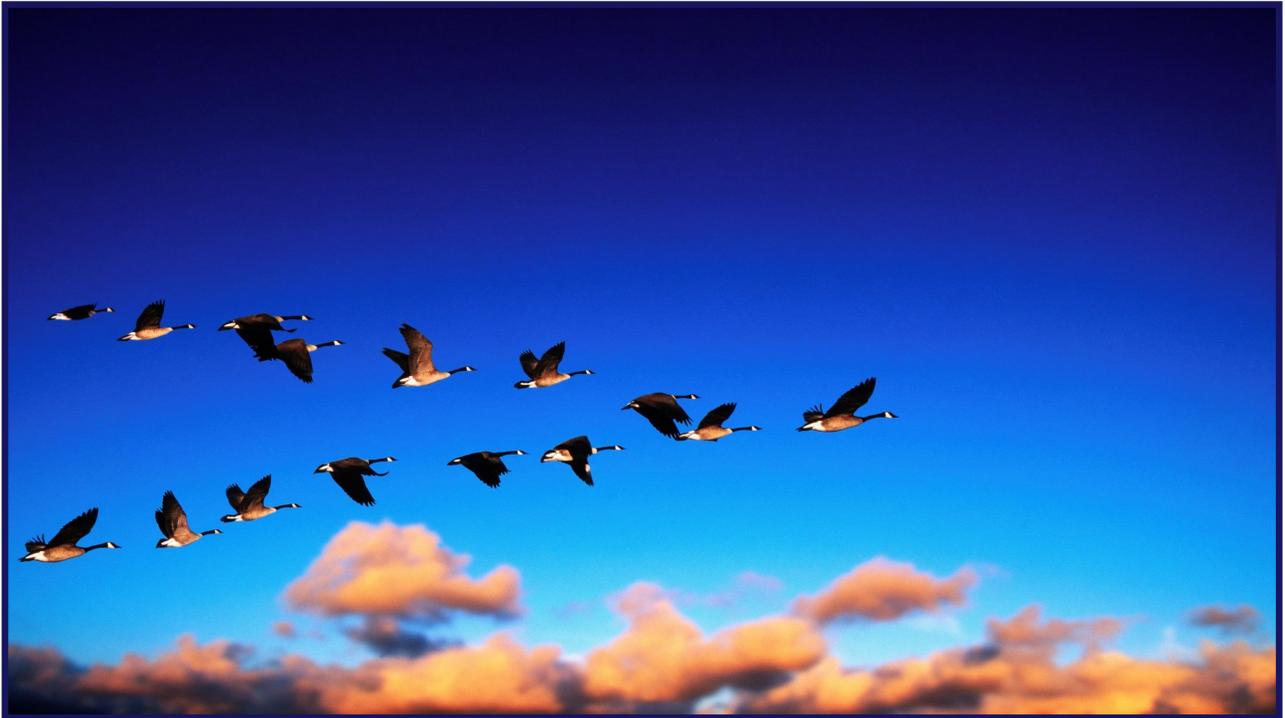




*"An inclusive community, celebrating God's unconditional love
through engaging worship and faithful service"*



September 26, 2021

Baptism of Edith Lisbeth Stokes
"How Can We Better Share the Load?"

The Love of God Gathers Us

Gathering Music

You are invited to greet those around you or sit quietly.

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

“Come, Be Baptized”

G.A. Smith

Sharon Neuenfeldt, *Worship Accompanist*

Words of Welcome

Pastor Clare Gromoll

*****Call to Worship**

Carol Dusbabek

In worship, we gather to express our unity with God and with each other. Our community spans the centuries, bound together by a covenant whose signature is baptism. We have inherited this covenant of baptism from our Christian ancestors, along with their faith and their faithfulness. In our worship today, we renew our commitment to live in this covenant. And we draw together a wider community of loved ones, including those who bore witness at our baptisms. As faithful people have done for years, let us worship God.

*****Opening Hymn “I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry”**

#351

see next page

Acknowledging Our Humanness and God’s Grace

*****Prayer of Longing**

Pastor Clare Gromoll

God of spirit and flesh, God of water and soil, we reach toward you. We thank you for your love poured out; we sense your Spirit shining in the sunlight, sailing on the autumn breeze, and singing in the soul of each one gathered here. Recreate us in your image as we encounter you today. May our lives ignite a love to light the world where despair drips dreary on drowning dreams, and where heavy hearts shiver in lonely cold. Let your presence pressing through us infuse the world with love. Amen.

prayerful silence

*****Sitting or standing**

*****Assurance of Grace & Invitation to Pass the Peace**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you! **All: And also with you!**

Proclaiming God's Love

A Time with Young People

Pastor Clare invites children forward to gather with her (socially distanced)



Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Edith Lisbeth Stokes

Welcoming forward the Baptismal Family

BJ and Claire Stokes, *parents*

Paul and Julie Walthour, *grandparents*

Thomas and Hayley Walthour, *uncle and aunt*
(attending virtually)

Bill and Betsy Stokes, *grandparents*

Shaun Stokes, *uncle*

Trevor Stokes and Kelsey Wallace,
uncle and fiancé

Questions of the Baptismal Family

Questions of the Gathered Community

Do you, members and friends of People's Congregational Church, promise to nurture Edith's faith by your loving actions? Will you continue to welcome her into the joys of God's world? Will you affirm Edith in her journey of faith as she follows the way of Jesus with all her heart, mind and strength?

*If so, please say, 'we do and we will!' **All: We do and we will!***

Prayer over the Baptismal Waters

poured by Betsy Stokes

Edith's baptismal waters come from family cabins in Wisconsin & Minnesota.

***I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry #351

Unison

D7 G D G D G D

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
 2 When you found the won - der of the Word, I was
 3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too
 4 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

G D G D7 G D

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you
 there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you

G D G C D7 G

were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.
 liv - ing God, to whom you now be - long.
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold. *St. 4, end*

G/B C G

I was there when you were but a child, with a
 Should you find some-one to share your time and you
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you

Am D G G/B C

faith to suit you well; I'll be there in case you
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
 shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have

G A7 D *to beginning*

wan - der off and find where de - mons dwell.
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

*** Sitting or standing

Naming the Child

The Act of Baptism

Unison Dedication

Edith, your life has been given to you, to your family and to all of us as a gift from God. We dedicate you and rededicate ourselves to God. We promise to do our best to become channels of God's love for you, to teach you the ways of Jesus, our Friend and Savior, and to empower you through the Holy Spirit. May the light of God's loving concern never cease to shine upon you and through you. Amen

Reading

"Wild Geese"

by Mary Oliver

Julie "Grammie" Walthour

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
For a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body love what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting —
over and over announcing your place in the family of things.

A Prayer for Edith and Her Community

Presentation of Gifts from People's Congregational Church

*The Stokes and Walthour families thank you for your presence here today,
celebrating God's love embodied through Edith's life
and in the community surrounding her.*

Please linger afterward for refreshments as we share in this joyous occasion!

Blessing One Another

**Children and Baptismal Family: God be with you
All: And also with you**

Children may follow leaders to Children's Activity or remain in worship.

Scriptures: Numbers 11: 4-16, 24-29 *The Inclusive Bible*
Mark 9:38-48 *The Inclusive Bible* Carol Dusbabek

Morning Message "How Can We Better Share the Load?"

Responding To God's Love

Choral Anthem "Lord I Want to Be a Christian" *arr. Lloyd Larson*

**Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more holy.
Lord, I want to be more loving.
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.**

Prayers of the People

*You are invited to speak a brief prayer for yourself, another, or a part of the world.
Please project your joy or concern so we can hear it.*

Pastor Clare will follow your prayer with, "God, in your love..."

One: God, in your love,

All: Hear our prayer

Lord's Prayer

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope
and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever.
Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

Carol Dusbabek

Offertory

"Little one Born to Bring"

Patterson

*****Doxology**

see last page

*****Prayer of Dedication**

God of glory, when we participate in baptism, we dedicate our lives to you and pledge to become your voice of love in the world. Hold us close in our baptismal vows as we bring ourselves, our time, and our possessions to you. May they be gifts of your love in a world in which your tender voice of love is often drowned out by voices of violence, hatred and oppression. Use us and all we have to your glory. Amen.

Going Forth to Share God's Love

*****Singing**

“Happy Birthday”

..Happy birthday dear Betsy, Nat & Eleanora

*****Benediction**

*****Sung Response**

Irish Blessing

Sung twice

**May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
The rain fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
Till we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of God's hand**

Postlude

“God Be With You”

T. Dorsey

***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow #94 UMCH

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise

Harmony

God, all crea-tures here be - low: Al - le - lu - ia!

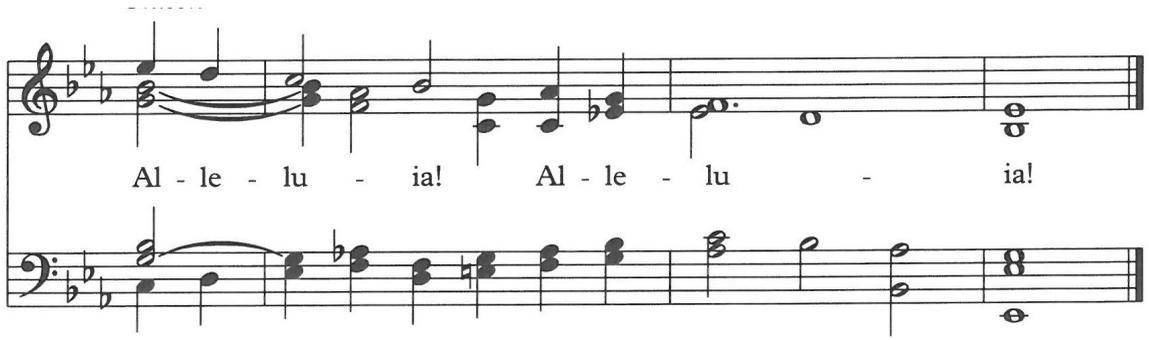
Unison

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God, the source of all our

gifts! Praise Je - sus Christ, whose power up - lifts!

Refrain (Harmony)

Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it! Al - le - lu - ia!



Sharing Lessons From Wild Geese

*Each bird flies slightly above the bird in front of them, reducing wind resistance.

*The geese take turns being the leader, falling back when they get tired. This means they can fly for a long time before they need to rest.

*The V formation makes it easier to keep track of every bird in the group. Flying in formation helps each member to communicate and coordinate with the group more effectively.

*Geese honk to encourage those in front to keep up their speed.

*When a goose gets sick or falls behind, two other geese break away from the flock and stay with it, either until it dies or is strong enough to re-join the group.

~source, Trainingonlinefor4U.com

***Sitting or standing

PRAYER CORNER

Please hold these joys and concerns in your prayers:

- *For the initiative, generosity, and energy of those who recently re-stained our gazebo and renovated our Sunday School room.
- *For the wellbeing of church friends who have not been able to join us in person for worship this summer and early fall. May we reach out to them to share how we miss them.
- *For all who suffer while managing chronic pain, particularly Barb Hilliard and Bob Neuenfeldt.
- *For the family of Santino, a third-grader where Mike Bjork teaches. Santino lost his older brother in a car accident and his family is heartbroken. May the school community be a healing presence for Santino and his family.
- *Cheri & Bob Schwartz are new grandparents! Daisy Sue Schmidt was born on September 8th to Cheri's son Dan and his wife Courtney. Big sister Isla was very excited to welcome her little sister who weighed in at 8 lbs. 1 oz. and was 19-1/4" long with a bit of brown hair.
- *For Cindy & John Siegel's daughter, Jenna, battling a brain tumor. Radiation has been cancelled for now as doctors seek to determine why the tumor is growing so aggressively.
- *For Kathleen, friend to our new friend Mary Ann Litfin, whose Lymphoma tumor is growing despite treatments.
- *We celebrate birthdays with Betsy Stokes (25th), Nat Graf (26th) & Eleanora Favilla (8yrs. old on the 1st). We celebrate with Walt & Paula Richey their anniversary on the 27th.

...and in the wider community

- *For people in our locale dealing with damage from last week's windstorm.
- *For the safeguarding of reproductive rights. May women be considered full humans, empowered to manage their own health and bodies.
- *As COVID-19 infection and death rates rise due to new variants, may we protect one another from the virus.



Children's Books - Free for the Taking!

Children's books filling a small bookshelf under the windows in the Fellowship Hall will be donated to a good cause on Oct. 20. Please browse the shelf anytime before the 20th during church office hours, taking as many as you wish home with you.

While you are in the building, take a look at our Sunday School Room. Claire and Paul Spilseth and Carol Dusbabek have newly renovated it!

People's Church is bustling with team meetings, events and gatherings!

Do you ever wonder...

*When a meeting or event is scheduled?

*When you could schedule a meeting?

*When would be a good time to meet with

Pastor Clare? (Whose office hours are T, W, Th 9 am-3:30 pm)

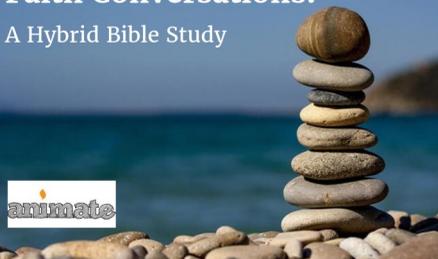
Well, now you have access to view the church calendar on our website.

<https://peoplescongregational.org/special-events/>



Faith Conversations:

A Hybrid Bible Study



Faith Conversations: A Hybrid Bible Study

Sept. 29 topic | “Jesus: The Revolution of Love”

We explore biblical texts and faith concepts, applying them to our own lives. We’ve launched Faith Conversations with the *Animate Faith* series. In rich 10-minute videos,

contemporary progressive faith leaders present key concepts of God, religion, Jesus, salvation, cross, Bible, church.

Wednesdays, 11am-noon | join us in-person or via Zoom

find link on our website homepage

Stillwater Area Theological Discussion Group

Topical discussions among people of all faiths & spiritual paths

1st Thursday evenings, bimonthly | 6:30–8 pm | via Zoom for now
Oct. 7, Dec. 2, Feb. 3, Apr. 7, Jun. 2

October 7th | Topic: "Oneness (Unity)"

David Keller, a person of Bahá'í faith and regular participant in this group, will facilitate our discussion.

**How do we build and maintain a unified community?*

**Can we bring people of different backgrounds together and foster higher degrees of unity in thought and action?*

**What spiritual paths, truths or teachings lead us to unity and oneness?*

“Those who are working alone are like ants, but when they are united they will become as eagles. Those who work singly are as drops, but, when united, they will become a vast river carrying the cleansing water of life into the barren desert places of the world. Before the power of its rushing flood, neither misery, nor sorrow, nor any grief will be able to stand. Be united! It is rather dangerous to be an isolated drop. It might be spilled or blown away.”

– Baha'i Writings

Co-hosted by People's Congregational Church, Adult Faith Formation Team
Please find the zoom link on our website: peoplescongregational.org/groups/

This ad was in the Sept. 24th *Stillwater Gazette*, promoting our church and the service of installation.



People's Congregational Church

An inclusive community, celebrating God's unconditional love through engaging worship and faithful service

Do you long for...

- ...a church that explores a progressive understanding of the Christian faith?
 - ...a group of people who truly know and extend care to one another?
 - ... a community where LGBTQ+ persons are welcomed and affirmed?
 - ...intersections of faith with environmental, economic and racial justice?
- You just may find what you're looking for in our vibrant little congregation!

Current Activities

Worship | Sun., 9:30am | at People's Park (adjacent to Barkers Alps)
Faith Conversations: A Hybrid Bible Study | Wed., 11am (in person & Zoom)
People's Book Club | Reading books from diverse genres, topics and authors
Antiracism Collective | Learning together through monthly sacred conversations

Service of Installation | Sunday, Oct. 3, 2:00pm | at People's Park

Join us in celebrating the beginning of Rev. Clare Gromoll's ministry with us!
Ordained in the United Church of Christ and an alumnus of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, Pastor Clare previously worked in outdoor ministry and as a bilingual public-school teacher.
She is mother to two young children.



309 N. 3rd St. | Bayport, MN 55003
651-439-5667

<https://peoplescongregational.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PCCBayport>



Volunteer Sign-Up

We now have a sign-up sheet at our after-worship fellowship table. Please sign up for a date to serve as lay reader, one of two greeters, after-worship fellowship host, or service recorder.



Pastor
installation
SERVICE

Pastor Clare's Service of Installation

Oct. 3, 2021 | 2:00 pm at People's Park

Please plan to attend this joyful milestone event in the life of our congregation. We're inviting friends in the St. Croix Valley and NACCC and UCC networks to join us to celebrate the beginning of Pastor Clare's partnership in ministry with the people of People's Church.

Helpers Needed

Greeters (3 people) – arrive by 1:30pm

Lay Readers (1-2 people)

Tear Down (2 people) – assisting Spilseths (approx. 3:30-4pm)

Sign up by emailing or calling Kimberly at the church office.

Contribute to the Reception

We are still in need of food and beverages for this celebration. Finger foods or hors-d'oeuvre's that can be passed safely would be appreciated. A cake will be provided. Please contact Lori at 612-770-0327 or Jill at 651-343-2255 to bring food and/or help with the reception.

Thank you for all who made today wonderful: Sharon Neuenfeldt, PCC Choir, and Music Director Mike Bjork (beautiful music), Carol Dusbabek (reader), Children's Activity leaders & assistants, Sharon Binger (greeter)
The baptismal family (after-worship fellowship hosts),
and Matt Wulff (service recorder)



People's Congregational Church

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