



CPUC in June —  
flowers in bloom.



## **Cherokee Park United Church**

*Welcoming people of all ages, sexual orientations,  
races, and ethnic origins*

A Progressive Congregation  
Theological Elbow Room  
Global Music  
Community Connected  
Kid Friendly

***Newsletter June 2014***

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 <b>June</b> -Anniversary Dinner -Foodshelf - Faith Action Vigil 2:30 pm	2	3 Lay Ministry 7 pm	4 (NO choir rehearsals until September 3)	5 Art Ministry eval mtg 7 pm	6 Women's group?	7 Spring Clean-Up 9:00-2:30
8 <b>Summer worship starts at 9:30 a.m.</b>	9	10	11	12 Council 7 pm	13	14
15	16	17 Stained Glass Respectful Conversations 6-9:30	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 - Pride Parade 11 am	30	1 <b>July</b>	2	3 Loaves & Fishes	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
						19
						26 -Lay Ministry 6:30 pm
27 Worship & potluck at Cherokee Park		29 Justice & Witness 7 pm	30 Faith Life 7 pm			

\* Loaves & Fishes ministry occurs the first Thursday of odd numbered months  
Council meetings resume in August.  
Men's group will resume in September.  
Choir practice will resume in September.

## *Spring Clean-Up*

Our annual Spring Clean Up/Fix It Day will happen on **Saturday, June 7**, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Please come and help as many hours as you can. There will be both indoor and outdoor tasks from which to pick, such as washing off the hall chairs, clearing cobwebs, and cleaning the kitchen counters, and some



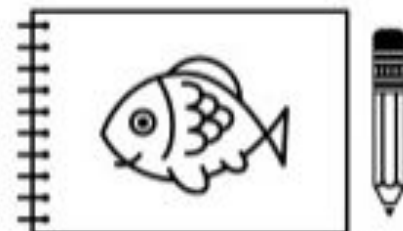
landscape clean-up. If you are inexperienced and would like to learn a bit more about our beautiful plants, you can team up with someone else and just sweep dried stems and leaves etc. into trash bags. No skills are necessary.

The Property Management Ministry organizes this day to help keep our church home welcoming and inviting, inside and out. A sign-up sheet will be available at church or you can contact Susan, the “recruit wrangler.” If you are unavailable on this day and still would like to help one or more times over the summer, especially with tidying up the flowering plants, please let Susan know.

## *Loaves and Fishes and Notebooks and Markers*

We will be serving supper to people in need on the usual **first Thursday in July**. But in addition, we would like to help those families prepare for school by providing an assortment of school supplies.

If you cannot help prepare or serve food, this is one way you can still participate. We can use any type of school supplies such as notebooks, markers, crayons, and pencils. There is a collection box in Fellowship Hall, or just give to anyone at church and they will be happy to run it downstairs for you.



In future months we will target other needs also. In September we plan to offer a collection of gently used or new warm clothing such as coats, hats, mittens, and gloves, so please keep those in mind too. For more information please contact Michele Rehm Johnson.

## *Blessings to Our Graduates*

On the first Sunday in June we honor members of our congregation who graduate from high school. This year we pray that many blessings and wonderful experiences will be ahead for Rachel Graf and Nora Martin.

## *Sunday, June 1 Anniversary Dinner*

Join us after worship to celebrate the 46th anniversary of the merger of St. John’s UCC and Cherokee Presbyterian Church. Chef Jim Shatek and the Property Management Ministry are preparing their annual delicious roast beef dinner (plus vegetarian option).

## *UCC Spring Youth Event*

Five youth attended the conference at Pilgrim Point from May 9-11, accompanied by Pastor Tim. The theme "Faith in Action" was a focus on "doing - thinking - dreaming" to change the world through putting faith into action.



## *Gay Pride Parade Sunday, June 29*

**Two representatives** are being sought by the CPUC Outreach Ministry to represent us as part of the UCC delegation at the parade in Minneapolis. Early in March, past participants were notified that the parade would no longer be available to sign-up on a first-come basis, but instead, all groups who wished to participate would have to submit a theme to be evaluated with all other applicants.

The UCC application was accepted based on the theme, "It's Just Love," highlighting the work towards the next steps in achieving full LGBT equality throughout America. The float will be decorated in pink with a map showing the strides already taken to establish full LGBT equality in America. Participants will wear pink shirts with the same logo on the front. The float will carry a live band performing selections of mainly 60's-era folk, light rock, and spiritual music. Marchers will follow handing out stickers that

say, "It's Just Love," and carry signs representing each Open and Affirming UCC, highlighting the year that church became ONA.



The first volunteers from each congregation may carry their home church sign, but additional marchers will be asked to help represent other churches that do not have a member present. If you are interested please contact

Pastor Tim, ASAP. Our marchers will share in a blessing during the early part of the Sunday worship so that they may immediately leave and join the UCC delegation.

## *Immigration Reform*

At a recent Sunday Adult Forum, members and friends of Cherokee Park heard firsthand accounts of experiences of immigrating and living in the U.S. These stories help us to realize the implications of immigration reform, including the movement to emancipate undocumented immigrants from detention and deportation and to create a path to citizenship with human-rights protection.



## *A Message From Your Seminary Intern*

Dear Friends at CPUC,

Thank you all for the positive experience I had as your pastoral intern this year! Cherokee Park was an excellent learning congregation for me. Over the years your congregation has hosted numerous interns, many of whom are now serving the church around Minnesota and other places. So this is very much a ministry – a gift you have given to the wider church! On behalf of the wider church, thank you for your patience, generosity and welcome.

Like many of you, I was attracted to CPUC because of the model of ministry, commitment to social justice, anti-racism, and care of creation. This is a strong aspect of CPUC and one that will no doubt influence my own ministry in years to come. And during my time with you I also learned a lot about designing creative, expansive worship that has real integrity with Christian tradition and also leaves room for diverse understandings of that tradition.

My time with the youth of the church was definitely a highlight. Working with them invites us to both challenge tradition and embrace its richness. And I also learned much from my work with the Stained Glass Jesus Taskforce and Faith Life ministries. Both experiences gave me a combination of practical and pastoral insights.

Another delight of my time with you was simply getting to know you. I loved chatting with folks at coffee hour and hearing your stories while serving at Loaves and Fishes. Lastly, a special word of gratitude to pastor Tim. Tim gave generously of his time and experience. He met with me every week and we shared many rich conversations, struggles and joys. Thank you Tim, for the opportunities, support, feedback and encouragement.

See you around!

Tom Liddle

## *Was Lost and Now Am Found*

Lost and found items have been accumulating on the shelf above the coat rack. We will be donating anything not picked up but still useful on a quarterly basis. The next donation day will be July 1. Please check this space/box if you are missing a great water bottle, to-go coffee mug, a very pretty diaper changing station pack, gloves, underpants (kidding). There are also many items of clothing such as jackets, hoodies, and shirts on hangers downstairs across from the restrooms.

## *Faith Life Ministry Thanks*

Thank you to those who have devoted time to lead our children, including Jacki Rico, Jerome Graf and Nora Murphy for leading the K-3rd graders the first half of the year, and Sandy Dodson for the second half; Tom Liddle and Andy George who lead the 4th-7th graders; Jen Folkers and Andy Barnett for their monthly children's music experiences; Rebecca Knott who provided faith lessons along with child care for the very young children; and thank you also to Eric Jacobsen who led our Adult Forum. We are so blessed to be a church that welcomes and encourages all to cooperate as one "team" and where so many are willing to take on a role as "faith coach."



## *Minnesota Conference UCC*

**STRANGERS NO MORE** (EPHESIANS 2:19) is the theme of the 52<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting to be held June 13 -15 at the College of St. Benedict. Pastor Tim, Andy Barnett and Herbert Perkins will be attending as our delegates. Joanne Sylvander will be present as a member of the UCC Immigration Justice Taskforce. Kathryn Price also plans to attend part of the Conference. Rev. Michael Owens will be the guest preacher at Cherokee Park United Church.

This year Rev. Shari Prestemon will be welcomed as our new Conference Minister. The theme recognizes our connectedness with all God's people and invites us to consider ways of welcoming those who may seem distant, whether global partners or the 'stranger' in our own community.

Keynote speaker will be the Rev. James Moos, Executive Director of Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ, who will speak on Saturday morning and offer a workshop. Representatives from our global partner organization, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, will preach on Sunday morning. Special music and worship planning will be provided by Dr. Patrick Evans, lecturer, practitioner, and clinician in the field of global/sacred music. Bible study on Saturday and Sunday mornings will be led by Dr. Carolyn Pressler, Old Testament professor at the United Theological Seminary.

Cherokee Park United Church will be presenting a resolution to the conference delegates entitled "Dismantling Racism and Creating Diversity in the Minnesota Conference." The resolution originates from Cherokee Park United Church with the support of the Antiracism Team and the Church Council. Co-sponsors of the resolution include Peace UCC in Rochester and Peace UCC in Duluth.

## *Respectful Conversations on the Stained Glass Jesus*

If you had missed the April gathering or wish to participate again, you are invited Tuesday, June 17, 6 – 9:30 to share in this conversation. **We will begin with a full meal and child-care will be provided** for any who request it. Conversations will occur around the tables in Fellowship Hall, with facilitators trained by the primary Minnesota Council facilitator, so that everyone has the opportunity to both speak and be heard. Please RSVP by signing up at church or contact Phyllis Andrews.

“Respectful Conversations” is a thoughtful model for community conversation developed by the Minnesota Council of Churches, with the support of a Bush Foundation Grant. This model was initially developed to help facilitate healthy conversations leading up to the vote on the state marriage amendment. It is not the intention of this model to influence a particular outcome, but rather to create safe spaces for people to talk with those with differing viewpoints in order to create empathy and understanding while maintaining and even enhancing relationships. The model is very valuable in situations where people potentially have strongly-held views that differ. People who have participated in the process have reported better listening skills, more interest in other people’s opinions, and better relationships as lasting results of the conversation.

The Stained Glass Jesus Taskforce has been given the charge of addressing our



Jesus window by looking at art as a medium for explicit and implicit values, how the white racial frame functions in art, how class functions in art, whether this stained glass window reflects the present values, theology, mission and vision of Cherokee Park United Church. The taskforce has been given the twin responsibility of facilitating discussion that builds community while growing in our understanding and commitment to antiracism.



## *Women's Discussion Group*

Tentative plans are to attend a Como Park concert on Sunday, June 22 (Stefan Sylvander is playing with the St. Anthony Park Civic Orchestra) and possibly gather at a home in July. Emails will be sent when plans finalize.



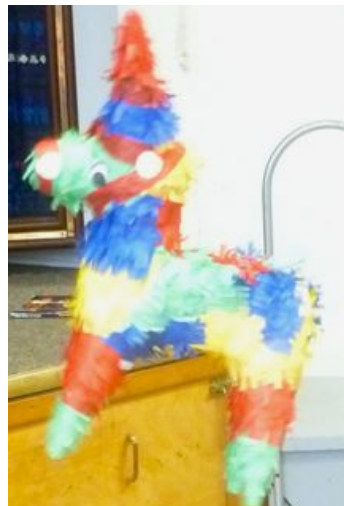
## *An Eggstra Special Easter Experience*

This is what happens between the Easter brunch and worship.



## *It's All a Blur*

The annual Cinco de Mayo children's piñata felt many "love taps" before succumbing and offering its tummy of candies.



## *Cherokee West Art Fest*

Cherokee Park United Church enjoyed many positive comments from participants in this year's Art Fest, which this year also joined the St. Paul Art Crawl. Among the featured artists was Cherokee's own Bundy Trinz. Bundy will have a solo art show with an exhibit opening on August 8<sup>th</sup> and continuing on August 9<sup>th</sup> as part of the Smith Avenue Art Festival.



## *2014 Art Fest and Cabaret* (more pictures next issue)



## *Little Free Library Coming This Summer*



Members of the St. Paul Mennonite Fellowship, which also worships here on Sundays, have invited us to join together to plan and install a *Little Free Library*. Tentative plans are to locate it by the hexagonal picnic bench area, on the southwest corner of the church property. You may have seen others at several nearby homes and at Moreland School. This provides a fun and creative way for children and adults to pick out and take home books, and sometimes donate others in their place.

There will be a collection box in the hall by the Parent Room for any books you might want to donate, especially children's books.

## *Cherokee Park Pavilion Outdoor Worship – Sunday, July 27*

The Caring Ministries team will again host our annual outdoor worship followed by a picnic and games. Worship starts at 9:30 a.m., followed by a potluck; the beverages will be provided. In case of bad weather, we will worship and picnic at the church. Contact: Mike Bates.



Deadline for newsletter articles is the 22nd of the prior month. Please contact editor Susan Strebog at [kellystrebog@comcast.net](mailto:kellystrebog@comcast.net) or 651-457-1404.

The newsletter team also consists of: pre-publishing fact editors Pastor Tim Johnson & Phyllis Clark, copyeditor Sara Strebog Pedersen, collate/mail team Phyllis and Cal Clark; winter team, Kathy Bergthold & Stefan Sylvander .

## **Cherokee Park United Church**

United Church of Christ/Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Open & Affirming, Multicultural, Antiracist

651-227-4275

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cherokeeparkunited.org

371 W. Baker Street

St. Paul, MN 55107

Sunday Worship - 10:15 a.m.

**Summer: starting June 8, 9:30 a.m.**

Dr. Timothy M. Johnson - Pastor

Ione Boettcher Butler - Organist/Choral Director

Jill Jackson - Building Blocks Tutorial Director

Rebecca Knott - Nursery Supervisor

Andrew Gbaa - Custodian

*There are more words in the world  
than no and yes.*

Barbara Kingsolver, *The Poisonwood Bible*