




Cherokee Park United Church

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

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

Newsletter February 2013

A look at our weeks ahead ~~

					1 Feb Women's Group 7 pm	2
3 <i>Families Exploring Spirituality</i> 9-10 am Food Shelf Collection Ramsey Co Detention Ctr Faith Action Vigils 1 pm and 2:30 pm	4	5	6 Choir 6:45 pm	7 Council 7:00 pm	8	9 Ruby! at Steppingstone Theater 3 pm
10 <i>Sunday School</i>	11	12	13 Choir 6:45 pm	14 	15 Mens' Group 6:30 pm	16 Art Show Renato Lombardi 6:30-9 pm
17 <i>Sunday School</i>	18	19	20 Choir 6:45 pm	21	22 Leader's retreat	23 Leader's retreat
24 <i>Children's Music</i> 9:15-9:45 am	25	26	2 Choir 6:45 pm	28	1 March	2
3 <i>Families Exploring Spirituality</i> 9-10 am	4	5	6 Choir 6:45 pm	7	8	9

Host or Co-Host a Sunday Fellowship Hour this month

Need inspiration? It's Black History, Canned Food, Great American Pie, Avocado & Banana, Sweet Potato, and National Grapefruit Month. More on page 9.

Children and Youth Sunday School

First Sundays - Families Exploring Spirituality - The Faith Life Ministry is providing a creative opportunity for parents, grandparents, and children to learn about our Christian faith together. The first, on February 3, will be focused on understanding Communion, where it came from, why we do it, what it can mean. This will be led by Sandy Dodson and Susan Strebig from 9-10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Children must be accompanied by an adult, and this will also be an opportunity for parents to get to know one another. (Coffee pot will be on!)

Second and Third Sundays - Sunday School Classes - For now there will be two age groups (grades K-3) focused on Bible stories and (grades 4-7) focused on Scripture lessons with a connection to justice ministries of the church.

Fourth Sundays - Making Music in Church - Jen Folkers and Andy Barnett will be introducing children and youth to music that will be part of the morning worship service that day. Music time will be from 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to bring your child/ren at 9:00 a.m. Pastor Tim will be there to welcome them and be with them until the time begins. At 9:45 they will be invited to find a game in the Kid's Corner. We welcome parent volunteers to help with this time before worship begins.

Intergenerational Events - Approximately once a month we will continue having a Wednesday evening intergenerational event from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. beginning with pizza. On February 27th our gathering will focus on the story of Ruby Bridges, a 6-year old who was on the front line of the civil rights struggle. There is an opportunity to experience this story beforehand at the Steppingstone Theatre Saturday, February 9th at 3 p.m. ~ we have discounted tickets available. The story will be retold on the 27th as a review and for those unable to attend the play ***Ruby!***



Children Leading Adults

And sometimes we can let the children lead us. Just when you think fellowship hour kitchen duty is tiring, this young man will step up and start rinsing, loading, and unloading the dishwasher like a pro. If you don't remember to pre-heat the water, he will gently remind you. He also has a younger brother he is training in. Way to go, Eli!

Ruby! ~~~ Saturday February 9, 3 p.m.

25 tickets have been reserved for adults and children from CPUC to attend this play at Stepping Stone Theatre. Sign up at church by Sunday, January 27 for the (discounted) tickets, \$7.50 each.

In 1960, the front lines of the struggle for Civil Rights ran right up to the front steps of an elementary school in New Orleans. Imagine you're a six-year-old ready to start first grade, and suddenly you're in all the papers, and it seems that half the world wants to stop you from going to school. It would take all the courage you can muster just to get out of bed. But little Ruby faces the danger and goes to school day after day. The true story of her struggle is as inspirational today as it was 50 years ago. There is also a "Pay What You Can" performance, February 2, 3 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Antiracism Team of Cherokee Park United Church.



Women's Discussion Group

The women's group meets on first Fridays. All women are invited to the home of Renee Pfenning, 1922 Christensen Ave. WSP on Friday, February 1 at 7 p.m. 651-292-8760

Men's Discussion Group

The men's Men's Group meets on third Fridays. All men are invited to the home of Jim Shatek at 1890 Stryker Av., WSP on Friday February 15th at 6:30 p.m. 651-453-1370



After more than 30 losses in other states, Minnesota became the first state to vote that we should not use our constitution to limit the freedom to marry for same-sex couples. Victories in Maine, Maryland, and Washington demonstrate that more and more people across the country as well as Minnesota believe in this right. Join us at the state capitol on Valentine's Day at 3:00 pm. to show our legislators that it is time to change state law to reflect our shared belief that no one should be told that it is illegal to marry the person they love. For more information or to RSVP, please visit

www.mnunited.org/events/freedom-to-marry-day

Getting to Know You

As families and individuals come to join our worship community, we invite them to share a bit about themselves. Members who joined in November were featured in last month's newsletter and continued in this one. If you have joined us prior to our starting this column, we also welcome you to submit a paragraph or two about yourself.

Sandy & Jaime Dodson - Sandy and Jamie come to us from Mayflower UCC in south Minneapolis. Sandy was ordained there on Earth Day 1995. She served as the Pilgrim Point Director for 6 years. Sandy has also served as Christian Education Minister among various congregations, including progressive Catholic, Presbyterian as well as UCC communities. She and Glen Herrington-Hall worked together in New Brighton! Sandy is the Spiritual Care Coordinator at Southview Acres Care Center.

Jaime is a fourth grader at Moreland Elementary and enjoys basketball, swimming, music, and animals. She loves people and life as many of you have already experienced. A black kitten and a 14 year-old Siamese cat were adopted over Christmas break. Zipper and Elli now join Eddie the orange tabby. The Dodson's love their cats!

They are excited to become more a part of CPUC as the months and years unfold. Sandy is the new Faith Life chair and Jaime is thrilled to acolyte and do projects.

The Communion Cloth

New members joining this church may notice the colorful altar cloth that appears at the first Sunday of the month communion service during worship. This is a wonderful piece of history which will be shared at the *Family Exploring Spirituality* Sunday School offering on February 3. In 1999 members were invited to submit pieces of material that were meaningful to their families. Quilting squares were cut from these 83 pieces, and assembled to represent our coming together as one through God's welcome and love. Pieces celebrated ethnic heritages, military service, life-changing experiences of travels, hobbies, and deceased loved ones. They included pieces of baby blankets, a wedding gown made over for a daughter-in-law, needlework done by great-grandmothers, and a beloved pet's blanket (now laundered). The explanations and sample pieces are all found in a blue 3 ring binder on the shelf in fellowship hall to the left of the stage.



Cherokee Park United Church presents

Introspective
collected works by Renato Lombardi




February 16th-March 24th

Opening Reception Saturday, February 16th 6:30-9:30 pm

Walking tour with artist at 7:00 pm

371 West Baker Street, St. Paul, MN 55107

 Cherokee Park
United Church
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Three Musical Events for Cold February Days & Nights

- ~Tuesday, February 5, 7:30 p.m. United Theological Seminary, *Readings and Reflections on Love* featuring Greta Oglesby, celebrates romantic love, love of family, earth, God, pets, and more. \$15/Students/Seniors: \$10 [Register Online](#)
- ~Friday, February 8, 7:30 p.m. , Hennepin Av United Methodist, *The Gospel According to Jazz* featuring ordained recording artist Kirk Whalum, FREE fundraiser for United.
- ~Saturday, February 9, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., *Sacred Harp* (aka *Shape Note* singing) The Celtic Junction, 836 North Prior, St. Paul, non-denominational hymns and gospel songs, written with shaped note heads, sung in four parts, a cappella. Join in the singing or just listen. Songbooks available for use at the singing; potluck lunch and child care also available during the day.

<http://mnfasola.org/> or contact Glen Herrington-Hall for any of the above.



Cherokee Park United Church Annual Leader's Retreat *Celtic Christianity: Its Significance for Today*

Friday & Saturday, February 22 & 23 ~ ARC Ecumenical Retreat Center

Focus: We will explore the question: "How might Celtic Christianity more fully inform and be an inspiration for our life together as a community of faith at Cherokee Park United Church and in our own personal spiritual journeys?" On Friday evening Pastor Tim will again share the Celtic journey he and Michele took this past summer to Ireland and Scotland. The cross in the chancel of Cherokee Park United Church is a Celtic cross made by former members. The Scottish Presbyterian Church was the source for modern day renewal in Celtic Christian traditions. Building on these connections we will look in greater depth at core values and beliefs found in the Celtic tradition asking questions about their relevance for worship, ministry and a life of prayer and service at Cherokee Park United. Pastor Tim will share excerpts from many of the readings he did while on sabbatical as a starting point for conversation.

Each participant will receive a copy of *Celtic Benediction* by John Phillip Newell, one of the foremost experts on Celtic spirituality. This collection of newly written daily prayers draws on the rich stream of devotion flowing deep in the Celtic tradition.

Location: The ARC Retreat Center is a wonderful old lodge in a beautiful wooded setting in Stanchfield, near Cambridge, Minnesota. It is known for superb vegetarian cooking! Linens are provided.



Fellowship and relaxation: There will be time for hiking on the grounds and casual relaxation alone or with others.

Who should attend: Council members, ministry chairs and other leaders, as well as all interested members and friends.

Cost: \$115 per person, which includes over night accommodations and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Full or partial scholarships available. Contact Pastor Tim

Time and Travel: The retreat will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday with dinner and conclude by 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. Those wishing to car pool should be at the church by 4:00 p.m. on Friday.

Yes, I would like to attend the Leader's Retreat on February 22 & 23. Enclosed is my \$20.00 deposit. **Yes**, I plan to car pool. **No**, I will drive on my own.

Name _____

Please return to Pastor Tim by Sunday, February 10

Returning to Faith

by Pastor Tim

Admittedly it was an interruption to my walk. The goal after all is to get the heart rate up, work up a little sweat and get some needed exercise. But, I found myself standing there for a good ten minutes, just watching as children and parents jumped on saucers, snow tubes and various means of sledding as they rode their way down the hill. It was only fifteen years ago that we were at the same hill with our kids, snow rising up into our faces, the occasional spill and near miss. We even traversed a natural bob sled run; winding it's way through the woods, looking more dangerous than it ever turned out to be. Remembering my mom as she enthusiastically rode down the hill with her grandkids, I couldn't help but wonder if someday I would do the same.

There are places in our lives that have the ability to evoke a strong sense of connection with the land, with each other, with those who have gone before. It is why it is important at times to stop, breathe a little more slowly and let our spirits be filled with the gifts of that moment. Some would call these places sacred because they find through these encounters, more than a memory of days gone by, but a rich awareness that the joy of all those who traversed that place remains. In a very real sense it is as if my mom and all those other grandparents are still jumping on their sleds, grandkids between their legs, heading down the hill. The spirit of life is present on that hill. Those nurtured in a spiritual tradition, might even call that spirit God.

If it is possible to have this type of deep association with a particular place with just a generation or two of experience, one can only imagine what it must be like for those whose experience goes back many, many generations to the point of not knowing when time began. This of course, is the experience of the Dakota people whose homeland is Minnesota, though they were banished from it following the war of 1862.

For the Dakota, Minnesota is filled with sacred places evoking a deep connection with ancestors, the land, the Creator and all of life. The confluence of the Mississippi River and the Minnesota River is literally remembered as their place of origin, a Garden of Eden place, where their life as a people began. All along the rivers in bluffs areas like Pilot Knob, fresh water springs like Cold Spring and many others, the Dakota people carry an awareness that these places are sacred. Among the places now held sacred is the land just below Fort Snelling, where over 1700 Dakota, women, children and elderly were held in a concentration camp, following a forced march in the bitter cold of November 1862. During that winter, lack of food, exposure



(continued)

to the elements, and illness took over 400 lives. Sad memories of tragic loss can also be sacred places, just like the Vietnam Memorial has become for many in Washington D.C.

This past January, Councilman Dave Thune, introduced a resolution entitled “The Year of the Dakota: Remembering, Honoring and Truth-Telling”, using language nearly identical to a resolution adopted by Minneapolis in December 2012. Dr. Chris Mato Nunpa, a Dakota Elder and leader, calls it a historic resolution because for the first time language is used to accurately describe the horrendous treatment of the Dakota, such as genocide, concentration camps, bounties, mass execution and forced removal.

Among the important actions called for by the resolution is directing the Parks and Recreation Department to work in collaboration identifying, naming and interpreting sites that are sacred to the Dakota people. This, of course, is just a beginning in addressing the tragic history of the Dakota and the rest of us who came as immigrants. But, it is significant. We all have our sacred places, even if it is only a generation or two that evokes this awareness. It is in such places that we can breathe more slowly, open our hearts and spirits to something larger than ourselves and experience the connections that make us human. By honoring the sacred sites of the Dakota we also acknowledge that our lives are enriched by those places that have become sacred to us.

Celebrate During Sunday Morning Fellowship Hour

A birthday? An anniversary? A family event? A cultural or religious holiday? Share any of these with your friends at CPUC by hosting or co-hosting Fellowship Hour after worship. If not birthday cake or anniversary bars, February is Black History Month, as well as Canned Food Month, Great American Pie Month, Avocado & Banana Month, Sweet Potato Month, and National Grapefruit Month - or for more inspiration:

- 2 Ground Hog Day
- 3 The Day the Music Died (Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper died in a plane crash in 1959), Super Bowl Sunday (New Orleans LA)
- 10 Chinese New Year
- 11 Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day, Make a Friend Day
- 12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, Plum Pudding Day
- 13 Ash Wednesday
- 14 Valentine's Day
- National Organ Donor Day
- 15 National Gumdrops Day
- 16 Do a Grouch a Favor Day
- 17 Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 18 President's Day
- 19 National Chocolate Mint Day
- 20 Cherry Pie Day
- 24 National Tortilla Chip Day
- 26 National Pistachio Day

Sign up with Glen or Barb Herrington-Hall at 651-641-1832 or glenbarb@comcast.net

PASSPORT to Social Justice

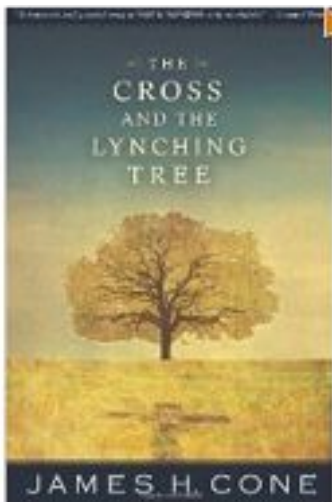
A number of our members have been traveling abroad to learn more about the histories and lives of others on mother Earth. Bundy Trinz traveled several weeks in Nicaragua and El Salvador, Chris Smith and Renee Pfenning spent 20 days in South Africa, and our seminary intern, Laura Gatzke, traveled to Kenya.

We look forward to their sharing of these experiences with us, to better understand God's call to us.



The Adult Forum

In February the Adult Forum, led by Eric Jacobsen, begins discussing *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, by James Cone. From the cover: "Moving deep into the broken heart of our long, often brutally racialized national journey, Cone focuses on the often-denied terrors of lynching and on the need for all of us - especially those who claim to be followers of Jesus - to confront the 'Lynching Tree' both as a reality of American Life and history, and as a paradoxical, possible source of redemptive transformation for a wounded nation." Bill Moyers states, "Once again James Cone demonstrates why he is indispensable as an interpreter of faith, race, and the American experience." Books are available at the church for \$16.



What Else Are We Reading?

As we seem to be a very book-enthusiastic congregation, we will devote some space in the *March newsletter* to share our current book picks. All are invited to send their titles, authors, and a line or two about what they are reading and to whom they might recommend it.

Cherokee Park United Church Newsletter is a monthly publication, offered in print form sent through U.S. mail, in electronic PDF form, and on the church website. Addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses are deleted from website versions.

Deadline for articles is the 22nd of the month, and all efforts are made to have it delivered by the first day of the following month. To submit articles, ideas or feedback, please contact editor Susan Strebog at kellystrebog@comcast.net or 651-457-1404.

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

Change Begins With Us ~ Our Minnesota Legislature is in session.

As people of faith, we exercise our citizenship.

A first step might be to check your district number and your representative and senator; you can do so by going to www.leg.state.mn.us



Then attend the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC)*
Day on the Hill ~ Thursday, February 21, 2013.
Information available at church and at www.jrlc.org.

(Preparation for this experience is available the day before, February 20, 6-8:30 p.m. at Mayflower UCC, 106 Diamond Lake Rd, Mpls. Free, including dinner. [Register Now!](#))

This is a very direct way to gain information, understanding and courage to establish a relationship with your legislators. Whether you are brand new at this or a familiar face at the capital, you'll discover the satisfaction of being an active part of our democracy.

This day begins at RiverCentre in St Paul at 8:30 a.m. and ends at the State Capital. Buses run between these locations from 11:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

You will be fed, inspired and informed about the current situation at the capital, and briefed on the Issues that are a part of the JRLC Goals for 2013.

Registration is online or by mail. Early bird rate through February 1 is - \$30 (\$15 student/low income) or February 2 through February 17 rate is - \$40 (\$25 s/li).

On-line registration ends Tuesday, February 19, at 1:00 pm.

February 18 - 20 and at the door cost is \$45 (\$30 s/li).

If you are interested in more information or have decided to register on your own, please speak with Joanne Sylvander, 651-776-6311 or sylvanderjc@gmail.com or another member of Justice and Witness Ministry Team. If cost is an issue for you, there may be scholarship funds. It would be smart to take advantage of the Early bird rate, but don't let this stop you from participating. Coordinating rides is also encouraged.

*The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition is made up of the Boards of Directors of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas, the Minnesota Catholic Conference, the Minnesota Council of Churches, and the Islamic Center of Minnesota. Specific goals involve areas of agriculture & rural communities, criminal justice, early care & education, eliminating poverty, environmental stewardship & sustainability, health care, housing & healthy neighborhoods, human trafficking, hunger, impartial judiciary, and tax policy.

Cherokee Park United Church

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

Open & Affirming, Multicultural, Antiracist

651-227-4275

cpuc@usfamily.net

cherokeeparkunited.org

[click on Facebook](#)

371 W. Baker Street

St. Paul, MN 55107

Sunday Worship - 10:15 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



Forgive everyone everything.

Dakota38 Memorial Ride mantra, to be engraved in stone
benches around the Dakota Memorial in Mankato MN