



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 January 2013

Our weeks ahead -----

		1 <i>Jan</i>	2 Choir 6:45 pm	3 Loaves & Fishes J & W mtg Tim's-7 pm	4 Women's group 7 pm	5
6 Foodshelf Collection Ramsey Co Detention Center Vigil 2:30 pm	7	8 Finance	9 Choir 6:45 pm Faith Life 7pm	10 Council 7 pm	11	12
13 <i>Sunday School</i>	14	15 Caring Ministry	16 Choir 6:45 pm	17 Outreach Min	18 Men's Group 6:30 pm	19 Dakota38 movie at CPUC
20 <i>Sunday School</i> MLK Sunday Potluck Meal	21 MLK breakfast Faith United Methodist 7 am	22 Joint Chairs	23 Choir 6:45 pm	24 CPUC Ambassador meeting 7:30 pm	25	26 Habitat work day 8:30-4 pm
27 Congregational Meeting	28	29	30 Choir 6:45 pm	31	1 <i>Feb</i>	2

UCC Global Mission Workers Preach January 6

Tom and Monica Liddle, recently back from assignment in East Timor, will preach during morning worship and lead the 9:00 Adult Forum. They are members of Peace United Church of Christ, Duluth. Tom has served with the Protestant Church of East Timor (IPTL) as an English teacher and facilitator in their program for strengthening congregations and continuing education of pastors. He is presently a Master of Divinity student at Luther Theological Seminary. Monica Liddle works as a Naturopathic Doctor in Immanuel Clinic Lospalos, which is run by the FUSONA, the relief and development wing of the IPTL. Her appointment was supported by "One Great Hour of Sharing." East Timor is the eastern half of the Island of Timor in Eastern Indonesia, lying north of Australia across the Timor Sea. It gained its independence in 2002 after nearly 30 years of occupation by Indonesia (1972-1999) and four centuries of occupation by the Portuguese. (See continuation on last page.)



Dakota 38 Documentary Saturday, January 19

This 1 ¼ hour video will be shown at Cherokee Park United Church followed by a discussion, including reflections by members of Cherokee Park United Church who traveled to Morton on December 22 to provide a meal and support for participants in this year's ride, commemorating the 38 Dakota who were executed in Mankato, Minnesota on December 26, 1862. This was the largest mass execution in U.S. history, and was ordered by President Lincoln. *Dakota 38* tells the story of Jim Miller, a Vietnam veteran and spiritual leader, who finally came to believe that a dream in which he witnessed the 38 Dakota being hanged, was a message from the Creator. Unable to ignore the calling, Miller determined that he must live his dream and ride his horse east from Lower Brule, S.D. to Mankato, MN, where the execution took place. Miller was compelled to honor his ancestors and at the same time heal himself. As if in validation of the message, descendants of the Dakota 38 learned of his plan to retrace the 330-mile route and joined him on a journey through blizzards and incredible physical hardships.

The ride begins at Crow Creek Reservation, SD where most of the Minnesota Dakota were sent in exile after the war, and concludes at Mankato, entering at 10 a.m. December 26, the date and hour of the hanging. This stirring documentary reflects on the dark history, the hardships of the journey and the reconciliation and healing taking place.

*History Center Play
Reading January
12, 2 p.m.*

38: *The Dakota-U.S. War*, will be presented by the History Theatre at the History Center. Tickets are \$10 and includes free admission to the exhibit any time in January. Following the 1862 mass execution of 38 Dakota warriors, the Dakota people were exiled from their



ancestral tribal lands; an exile that is still legislatively in force today. This new play explores the events leading up to the Dakota-U.S. War – invasions of indigenous sacred lands, cultural genocide, and starvation – through the court trials of the 38 Dakota warriors who were prosecuted as war criminals and executed by the United States government. Drawing on articles, letters, and diaries, this provocative new play personifies the famous, infamous, and nameless people who were caught up in this tragic moment in our country's history. It is a story that has been waiting one hundred fifty years to be told. To reserve tickets go to <http://www.historytheatre.com/2012-2013/raw-stages/38-the-dakota-us-war>.

Loaves and Fishes

On Thursday, January 3, CPUC will again participate in Loaves and Fishes, a church-based program for feeding the hungry. Our serving site is at St. Matthew's Catholic Church. We need volunteers to help prepare the meal from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m., serve from 4:45 - 6:15 p.m., and/or clean up until we're done, usually by 7:00 p.m. depending on how many of us are there. Young people are welcome to serve as volunteers. This is a great way to begin the year in service with family and friends in our Westside Community. Contact Michele Rehm Johnson at 651-222-5433 if you are able to help. timmj@comcast.net

Women's Discussion Group

All women are invited for snacks and discussion, Friday, January 4, at 7 p. m. at the home of Robin Jackson, 1375 Oakdale Ave., West St. Paul. Please RSVP to Robin at rc2849@yahoo.com. The topic will be, "What is your most major accomplishment in life so far?"

Men's Discussion Group

All men are invited Friday, January 18, to the home of Dave Hoppe, 1009 Hall Av WSP, 651-451-0090, starting with a light meal at 6:30 p.m.

Foodshelf Sunday - January 6

Foods and funds collected are donated to the Neighborhood House Food Shelf at the Wellstone Center, which distributes over 2,500 pounds of food daily, serving nearly 10,000 households each year. 50% of those served are children and 90% live on incomes below the national poverty guideline. <http://tinyurl.com/c9nlo28>

Faith Action Vigil - Sunday January 6, 2:30-3 p.m.

This monthly vigil at the Ramsey County Adult Detention Center, 425 Grove St., St. Paul is held to support immigrant detainees and their families and to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform. Contact Joanne Sylvander for more information.

Faith Life Ministry

This ministry meets Wednesday January 9th at 7 p.m. at home of Susan Strebig, 261 Wentworth Ave E. W. St. Paul.

MLK Community Breakfast - Monday, January 21, 7 a.m.

Each year the General Mills Foundation and UNCF present an annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Breakfast at the Minneapolis Convention Center, celebrating the life and legacy of the man and movement that not only changed civil rights laws for all Americans but set in motion the drive for human rights reform world-wide.

The Saint Paul Area Council of Churches hosts multiple Community Breakfasts, which include a live broadcast of the main event. Our area breakfast is at Faith United Methodist Church, 1530 Oakdale Ave, WSP.

The broadcast theme this year is: "Education: The Fierce Urgency of Now," keynoted by Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund. Edelman has advocated for disadvantaged Americans her entire professional life and is in a unique position to inspire the audience to action.

Pre-register (required) by January 16 at <http://tinyurl.com/bvaedos>



Habitat for Humanity ~ Saturday, January 26

Start the year, hands-on, making a difference in our community. Work of all types will be available to suit a range of abilities. Put on your work gloves and get down to the business of rehabbing a home near Central Corridor transit stops in St. Paul. We need 10-12 volunteers who can work from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please contact Andy Barnett, 651-222-0930, if you are interested.

Other ways to be involved:

- Provide child-care for others who are working at the house.

- Make a donation to this project.

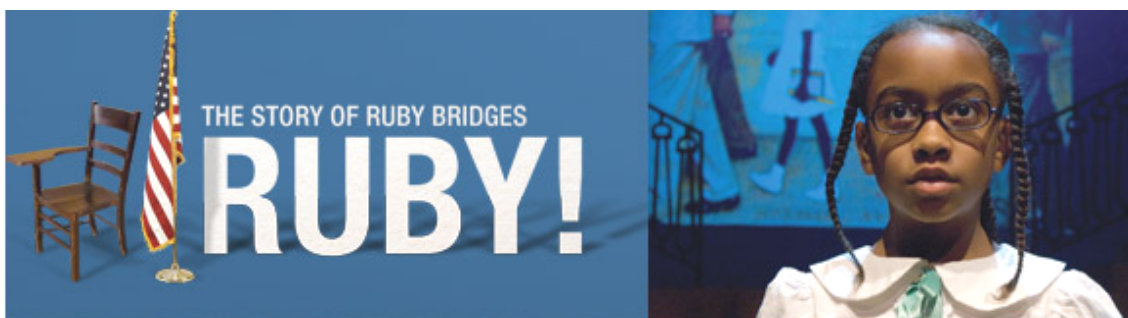
Donations can be given at any time made payable to CPUC with Habitat for Humanity in the memo. Gift cards are available if you'd like to donate to honor someone on a special occasion.

In early 2012, nearly one third of our congregation was involved in some way in this project. It is truly a family affair.



Join Us at 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. This is a world premiere of the Stepping Stone original by Christina Ham, "The Story of Ruby Bridges, Ruby!" with music by Gary Rue. 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, Feb. 2, 3 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Antiracism Team of Cherokee Park United Church.



Mission Trip to San Salvador

Bundy Trinz and Porfirio Martinez have embarked on a trip to El Salvador this month to help fulfill a five-year dream of the people of Ostuma to have someone listen to the stories of their cultural oppression and massacre of their people. (This is the area for which past fund-raisers were held to purchase a Molino corn mill to promote self-sufficiency and safety among the young people of the area.) This story-telling and translating will be captured on video and brought back to share. The Ostuma community will also be presented with a Celtic Cross and the letter below.

Dear brothers and sisters,

We greet you warmly in Christ's love. May this letter and gift, carried by Pastor Porfirio Martinez and our sister Bundy Trinz find you and your families healthy and happy.

Our Cherokee Park United Church has about one hundred families. Our oldest member is 88 years old. Our youngest baby was born this summer. For the past 3 years in March we celebrated the Life and Resurrection of Archbishop Oscar Romero. You may enjoy seeing photos of our congregation.

In our sanctuary we have a Celtic cross. To us it represents the living presence of the crucified Christ uniting us as brothers and sisters and with all creation. We offer this gift of a Celtic cross as a symbol of our growing friendship, love and care.

Walking by faith, by the Spirit, and with the contribution of Pastor Porfirio Martinez, we've created a small base community, which we call "Communities Building Hope" (CCE). Through prayer, reflection and joint action, we seek dignity and justice for undocumented immigrants in Minnesota.

Our churches are separated by many miles. However our lives are intertwined by God's spirit, our histories and our common responsibilities.

Our histories are intertwined. We remember the history of the oppression of God's people in El Salvador between the 1970s and 1992. Our hearts grieve when we learn your stories of the massacres in El Carrizal and San Antonio. With you we bear the pain of the horrific acts of violence that took the lives of your mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons and daughters.

Our U.S. Government sent millions of dollars every year to support the intervention of terror against your families and neighbors. Our government deceived us and hid from us the reality in El Salvador. We grieve that we did not do enough to stop the oppression, killings and torture. We know that both the people and the land of El Salvador have suffered greatly. We wish to learn your stories of resistance and survival.

Our common responsibility is intertwined. We admire your efforts to organize cooperative projects to create a future for the young people. We feel blessed to participate in solidarity with you on the purchase of chickens, a calf and a Molino.

We raise the money by selling tamales and pupusas that our dear sisters Transito Martinez and Irene Gonzales make. Many church members also make jewelry and other items to sell in the community. Many people give generously.

We welcome the opportunity to deepen our relationship in mutuality and solidarity. We look forward to seeing and hearing your histories and learning about your current projects, hopes and dreams. If you would like, we would be willing to use the video and photographs to share your stories with others.

We thank God for sustaining our lives and giving us the hope of freedom and justice for all.



Sincerely,

Members and friends of Cherokee Park United Church and Communities Building Hope

Returning to Faith

By Pastor Tim Johnson

The days are short. The nights are long. “Is it really only 5 p.m.?” I asked. “I thought it was at least 7 p.m.”. At this time of the year it is easy to forget that little by little the days are getting longer. Each day looks remarkably like the day before, with no perceptible change. Yet, change is happening.

Without a memory of the warming days of Spring, it is easy to conclude we are living in a perpetual state of winter. It is the memory of trees budding, flowers blossoming, grass greening and birds returning that not only provide patience with these long dark days of the Northland, but also enable us to appreciate what they have to offer.

Winter encourages the long view. It is a time for dreaming and planning. Spring has its long waited chores. Summer is full of embracing each moment of warmth and outdoor freedom as if it will never return. Winter slows us down and in the darkness encourages contemplation and reflection.

It was just a couple of winters ago that city planners asked if they might hold a community meeting in our church basement to invite input and discussion around plans for a bike trail running through Cherokee Park. Maps were spread out on tables. Planners pointed out various features, inviting feedback. Similar meetings have been held for the Great River Passage, changes to Fort Road, and other developments.

In the midst of winter, with its barely noticeable changes, it is easy to feel like nothing will ever improve. The things that discourage us or frustrate us today will discourage us and frustrate us tomorrow.

Yet, this fall the bike trails were laid and paved. In mid-December fences were installed in places that ran close to embankments. Before any of that took place, there was a long stretch of time where it appeared nothing was happening.

Winter invites our patience. It encourages the long view. I suspect the Hebrew prophets, the one Christians claim as Christ, and all the visionaries of hope filled religious traditions are, at their core, winter people. They have the capacity to remember Spring when it seems like nothing is changing. They put their trust in the often barely discernible workings of a spirit that goes beyond what any single person can accomplish. Even when it appears that the darkness will remain, they offer a memory of what love and justice look like when it is put into practice.

The days are short. The nights are long. It is an opportunity to take the long view, which is the gift of faith.

Getting to Know You

Our newest members were invited to submit a bit of information about themselves, that we might more easily become acquainted. Two families are highlighted in this issue - hopefully more to follow.

Anna Jennerjohn and Josh Welter moved to Minnesota three years ago after beginning their married life together in their home state of Iowa (Go Cyclones!), followed by a two-year adventure in Tampico, Mexico. Anna is currently a Reading Specialist at Academia Cesar Chavez, a charter school on St. Paul's east side where she also runs the school's Gifted and Talented program. Josh teaches freshman and senior English at the St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists in downtown St. Paul. Outside of the classroom, Anna enjoys dancing (flamenco and west African) and reading. Josh enjoys running, biking, swimming and writing. Both enjoy traveling together. These hobbies recently became less of a priority when Josh and Anna welcomed Caleb Sol into their family a year ago. Sol was baptized into the Cherokee Park family on December 16, his birthday. Josh and Anna would like to thank the Cherokee Park congregation for the warm welcome extended to them and to so many others.

Renee Pfenning ~ I have been "UCC" since about 1988, and my church journey had twists and turns until Wayne and I started going to First Congregational Church near the U of M campus in 2004. We started looking for a closer church, and one where we felt comfortable. I attended United Theological Seminary briefly but decided that ordained ministry was not my call. It was a great learning and discerning experience for me and I have no regrets. I just told myself I would do "workplace ministry" -- be nice to people, call others out for inappropriate jokes/comments, be a listening ear. It generally worked but I did find calling out one's workplace superiors is a bit risky, even if it needed.

Wayne and I have been together since 2003, but we have known each other since 1953... sort of. We were in the same second grade class. Our story is another class-reunion story. Wayne is my champion, cheerleader, and heavy lifter. When I volunteer to do something, he is often a part of the offer, and does so with out complaint. I am blessed to have him in my life. I have two sons, living in Los Angeles and Portland.

I spent my career as a technical writer, a business analyst, and lastly a contingency analyst, helping business groups write plans for how they would do business in case of an interruption from weather, computer failure, etc. While many of my jobs were fun and interesting, none were meaningful or added any value. I am making up for it now with my volunteer commitments -- Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, DARTS, Saint Paul Interfaith Network and, of course, CPUC.

All Ministry Chairperson Meeting

All chairpersons are invited to meeting at the home of Pastor Tim on Tuesday, January 22, 6 p.m. We will begin with a potluck meal. Pastor Tim will have something on the grill. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. The meeting is an opportunity for Ministry Chairs to share upcoming plans and events and explore ways we can better support one another in the life of the church. Chair people unable to make the meeting are requested to invite someone from their respective ministry to be present as a representative.

Spring Art Exhibit

This year's first featured artist will be Renato Lombardi. His exhibit opens on Saturday, February 16, with a reception from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Renato is a musician & visual artist from Argentina and has been living in the U.S. for the last twenty years. Presently he lives on the West Side of St. Paul with his spouse Angela and two children. The arts and music have surrounded and influenced Renato throughout his life. He seeks to convey his vision through different artistic languages and is excited about these times of renewal and possibility. It is Renato's hope that his work lingers with you long after the first exposure.



Be an Ambassador for Cherokee Park United Church

Do you enjoy getting to know new people? Are you comfortable approaching newcomers to introduce yourself? Are you enthusiastic about the ministry and worship life of Cherokee Park United?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you could be an Ambassador! We are recruiting a team of Ambassadors to build relationships with visitors at worship and fellowship hours. They will work in conjunction with the greeters and all members of our family of faith to intentionally welcome and engage newcomers until they are established and connected in the life of the church. If you are interested in volunteering in this unique role, please sign up at church or contact Camille Gunderson at 651-293-1364. A position description is available.

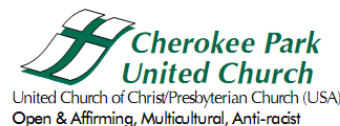
A meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24, 7 p.m. at the church for those interested. Join us as we seek to extend the peace and hospitality of Christ to all who come to worship.

MLK Joint Worship and Potluck

Grace Community UCC will come to Cherokee Park United Church on Sunday, January 20, for our 23rd joint Celebration of Faith, Hope, and Justice. Pastor Oliver White will co-lead the service, which remembers the life and vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Following worship we will join together in our traditional Epiphany Dinner in which everyone is invited to bring an item of a distinctive ethnic origin.

THANK YOU to Outgoing and Incoming Council Members

At the beginning of the new term starting January 6, newly elected members Sara George (second term), Andy Barnett, Fred Hess, and Jill Jackson will be installed. We thank them for being willing to share their time and talents on behalf of our members; the congregation also warmly thanks Jim Shatek and Kay Myhrman-Toso for their dedicated passion and service, as they complete second terms on the Council.



2013 Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your set of offering envelopes from the table in the back corner of the sanctuary. Pledges can still be turned in if you have not done so yet; they are very helpful for the Finance Ministry when deciding on the budget for next year.

(continuation of UCC Global Mission Workers from page 3)

Indonesia was a Portuguese colony from the sixteenth century to 1974. In 1975, it invaded East Timor, killing, over 200,000 Timorese, approximately 1/3 of the population. Another 200,000 Timorese died from violence or famine between 1975 and 1999. In 1999, 96% of the residents of East Timor voted for independence and the United Nations became the interim administration until independence in 2002. The Indonesian military went on a scorched earth rampage, killing or driving out most of the Indonesian Christian clergy and burning many of their churches. Most of their Indonesian congregation-members were also driven out and many of their homes were destroyed. The formation of the Truth-seeking and Reconciliation Commission in 2002-03 has brought some hope for restoration of human rights.

The population of East Timor is predominately Christian, of which 90% are Roman Catholic. Indigenous people have lived on the island for thousands of years. The population of East Timor is estimated at 911,000. Unemployment in some areas is as high as 80%. The economic disparities between those who are well off and the majority who live in abject poverty feed a restlessness that makes nation-building all the more difficult. The nation is vulnerable to the alternating disasters of monsoons and droughts.

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.

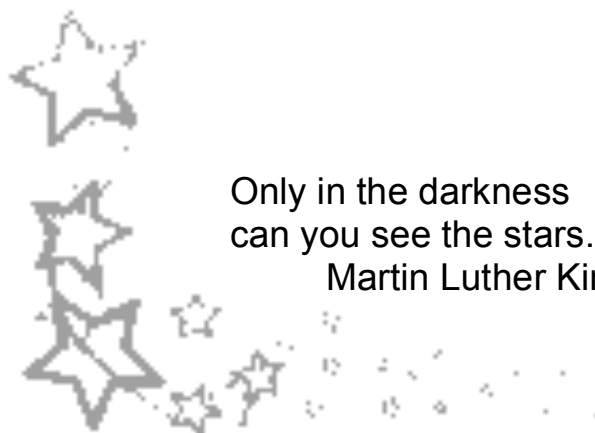
Dr. Timothy M. Johnson - Pastor

Ione Boettcher Butler - Organist/Coral Director

Jill Jackson - Building Blocks Tutorial Director

Rebecca Knott - Nursery Supervisor

Andrew Gbaa - Custodian



Only in the darkness
can you see the stars.

Martin Luther King, Jr.