



## **Cherokee Park United Church**

The Door is Open  
*Welcoming people of all ages, sexual orientations,  
races and ethnic origins*

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

***Newsletter September 2013***

SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 <i>September</i> - Food Shelf  - Faith Action Vigil 2:30 pm	2	3 Youth Parents 7 pm	4 Choir rehearsal resumes 6:45 pm	5 *Loaves & Fishes  Faith Life 7 pm	6 Women's Group 7 pm	7
8 <b>Worship time returns to 10:15 start</b>	9	10 Building Blocks 7 pm Outreach 7pm	11 Choir	12 Council 7 pm	13 Mendota Dakota Wacipi ----	14 -----
15 Start of Adult Forum 9 am & Sunday School 9 am -----	16	17 Ambassadors Mtg 7 pm	18 Choir  Stnd Glss Taskforce 7 pm	19	20	21 Wedding
22 Adult Forum Sunday School	23	24	25 Choir	26 Just & Wit 7 pm	27 Men's Group 6:30 pm	28 Ta-coumba exhibit opens 6 pm
29 Children's music 9:15 <b>Building Blocks Sunday</b>	30	1 <i>October</i>	2 Choir	3	4 Women's Retreat ---	5 -----
6 -Foodshelf -Families Exploring Spirituality 9am	7	8	9 Choir	10	11	12

*Reminder: On September 8, Sunday worship returns to its 10:15 a.m. starting time.*

### *Loaves and Fishes, Thursday, September 5*

Helpers are needed to prepare the meal at St. Matthew's Church from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m., serve from 4:45 - 6:15 p.m., and/or clean up until 7:00 p.m. Contact Michele Johnson at 651-222-5433 or [timmj@comcast.net](mailto:timmj@comcast.net)

## *Women's discussion group*

Monthly meetings will resume on Friday, September 6th at 7p.m. hosted by Jill Jackson at her home at 2148 49th Way E., Inver Grove Heights. Please come prepared to share your favorite "small world" story, an incidence of coincidence, or an experience of being in the right place at the right time. 651-224-9209  
jilljacksonmn@comcast.net

## *Mendota Dakota 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Wacipi*

*Fri-Sun Sept 13-15*

*St. Peter's church grounds, Mendota  
(NW corner of Hwy 110 & Hwy 13)*



CPUC is honored with a special relationship with this American Indian community. Because of the historic trauma perpetuated by churches on the Indian peoples (and continuing injustice), trust is rare and slow to develop. The Mendota Dakota community relationship with CPUC has grown over many years.

We will assist them this year serving/selling food at their tribal food booth (mmmm...fry bread, buffalo burger) and helping with the feast on Sunday at 5:30 p.m. Contact Lon at 651-225-9403 to help. You are also invited to help prepare the food in our own kitchen on Saturday under leadership of Maria McNamara, 651-224-7267

If you'd just like to experience the festivities, we suggest attending the Grand Entry on Saturday or Sunday at 1 p.m., or Saturday at 7 p.m. Watch the dancers in regalia, listen to the drum songs, shop in the craft booths, buy fry bread, eat lunch or supper, bring a lawn chair (but no pets please) and relax, spend time talking to whoever is nearby.

Emcee: Mitch Walking Elk, Arena Director Windy Downwind, Drums Scotty Brown Eyes and Little Thunderbirds, Head Dancers Nick Anderson & Mary So Happy. \$5.00 entry button donation if possible to cover Wacipi expenses.

## *Gathering meals*

Cherokee Park United Church is noted not only for its commitment to social justice, but also for food and fellowship, both at and away from the church building. Stories from scripture reveal that relationship is a great part and result of sharing a meal. The Caring Ministry team continues its practice of scheduling meals shared in our homes. This is a way to welcome newer members and get to know all on a deeper level in an unhurried, casual setting. You are invited to consider being either a host or a guest. Simple meals are the norm, as our emphasis is on getting to know each other. Sign-ups will be taken from September 8-29; meals will be scheduled between October 11-17. Contact: Mike Bates, 651-457-5156 [mjbates@skypoint.com](mailto:mjbates@skypoint.com)





## Who Is Jesus?

Beginning on September 15<sup>th</sup> we will begin an 8-week worship focus inviting reflection on this question. The series of sermons is part of the work of the Stained Glass Jesus Taskforce, which has been charged with inviting a deeper look at the white stained glass Jesus in our sanctuary. The goal is both to build community while enabling us to grow in our understanding about the place of art and our congregational commitment to antiracism.

**September 15** - The sermon series begins with an invitation for each of us to reflect on the window

**cinquain** –pronounced “sin-cane,” is a form of poetry which consists of five very short lines which tell a small story. This is one of three types of cinquain, in which all words build on the first.

Line 1: A noun - the subject

Line 2: Two adjectives - description

Line 3: Three “ing” words - action

Line 4: Four words - a phrase

Line 5: Synonym - another word for the noun

through the use of a simple poetry form called a cinquain.

The congregation will be invited

to use this short form to describe what they see. Sometimes our familiarity can keep us from seeing what is there. Imagine you are encountering this image for the first time, like Nathaniel encountering Jesus. Four or five members will be invited in advance to write and read their poetry. An open invitation will be given to the congregation to share what they have written.

**September 22** - Pastor Tim Johnson will share his own journey with Jesus from a child into adulthood and today. The journey includes an influential painting from his childhood in his hometown church. It is a painting by Warner Sallman, the Swedish, Minnesota-born artist who painted the popular head of Jesus image. The particular painting from Pastor Tim’s home church is an image of Jesus hovering over the disciples as he ascends into the heavens. Tim will reflect on the way this image influenced his own understanding of Jesus and how that understanding has changed.

**September 29 - October 6, October 13 and October 20** - Each Sunday will be dedicated to a central image of Jesus and paired with one of the Gospels. A diversity of scholars and theologians will be drawn upon in presenting an overall portrait of Jesus.

*(Who is Jesus?, continued)*

The major themes for each Sunday are drawn from the work of Jesus scholar, Marcus Borg, and can be found in his book "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time". Copies of the book will be made available. The themes include the following: Mark – healer & liberator, Matthew – wisdom teacher, Luke – social prophet and movement founder, John – mystic. Each Sunday will be paired with an image reflecting Jesus as a person of color and which captures the theme of that Sunday.

**October 27** - The theme is "Seeing Jesus Again and Again and Again." An image of Jesus reflecting the perspective of a community of color will be projected on the sanctuary wall. We will return to cinquain poetry as a vehicle for engaging our own personal reflections.

**Fellowship Hour Conversation** - Books reflecting a diversity of images of Jesus will be placed on the fellowship hall table so that friends and members can engage them at their leisure during fellowship time.

**Adult Forum** - Beginning on Sunday, September 15, at 9:00 a.m., "Zealot/The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth" by Reza Aslan will be the focus of discussion. From the jacket, "Zealot yields a fresh perspective on one of the greatest stories ever told even as it affirms the radical and transformative nature of Jesus of Nazareth, Life and Mission. The result is thought-provoking, elegantly written biography with the pulse of a fast paced novel: a singularly brilliant portrait of a man, time and the birth of a religion." Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

**Who Is Jesus - Sunday School and "Families Exploring Spirituality."** Each second and third Sunday, children and youth will be invited to consider their own portrait of who Jesus is for them. On Sunday, November 3, the 9:00 a.m. "Families Exploring Spirituality" will have the question "Who Jesus Is" as its focus. This session will be led by members of the Stained Glass Jesus Taskforce and members of Faith Life Ministry.

**More To Come** - The timetable remains open for continued reflection and discussion about the stained glass Jesus, art and our congregational commitment to antiracism. The Taskforce welcomes your input and ideas for continued discussion and reflection. When the time is ready, the taskforce will provide a summary to the Council with possible actions steps about the window and art in the life of Cherokee Park United Church, remaining open to wherever the Spirit leads. If you have any questions, please speak with members of the Council or Taskforce members: Phyllis Andrews, Okogyeamon Perkins, Jerome Graf, Chris Smith, Joy Sorensen Navarre, Tom Liddle-2013/14 Pastoral Intern, and Pastor Tim.

*(Image: Copyright 1999, artist Janet McKenzie [www.janetmckenzie.com](http://www.janetmckenzie.com) )*

## ***BUILDING BLOCKS is on the MOO-VE!***

After being housed for twenty-five years here at Cherokee Park United, Building Blocks Tutorial (including our mascot BB) is moving to the new Riverview School. It will become part of a collaborative after-school program (known as the Hub) sponsored by the Saint Paul Schools, Sprockets (the city's out-of-school network), and the City of Saint Paul.

Building Blocks plans to retain its mission to provide free, volunteer-based, one-to one tutoring to primary grade students from West Side Schools. The move to Riverview is one required by the St. Paul Public Schools if Building Blocks is to continue providing tutoring for SPPS children. Although initially it appeared that such a move would severely compromise the core values of Building Blocks, SPPS has made several commitments to Building Blocks that hopefully will enable the program to remain a strong partner, offering support to children, families and teachers. These commitments include dedicated teaching room and storage space for Building Blocks, transportation of children and tutors to CPUC for special meals and events, and the needed tutoring time. Please keep the program in your prayers at this time of transition.



On Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, we will again celebrate the ministry of Building Blocks during morning worship. The fellowship hour that follows will be hosted by the Building Blocks Ministry Team.

**As of now, Building Blocks begins on October 8<sup>th</sup>.** As in past, we welcome CPUC people to serve as tutors or substitutes with the program. Tutoring will take place at Riverview School (located at 160 Isabel St. E.) on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.** The program follows the school calendar and ends in early May. We hope to serve 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students from Riverview and Cherokee Heights Schools. Please invite friends and neighbors to consider volunteering as tutors, as well!

The active support of members and friends of Cherokee Park United Church remains vital as Building Blocks hosts the family events in the fall and spring. There will also be special learning incentives days when children and tutors will be transported to CPUC. The Building Blocks Ministry Team will be looking for volunteers to help with these events and special days. Team members include Lynne Bates, Jackie Rico, Diane Spicer, Joanne Sylvander, and Barb and Glen Herrington-Hall.

Another way you can support Building Blocks is with your charitable contributions. If you regularly give to the United Way, please check to see if you can designate any of your dollars to the program at the time you pledge. By using the "Donor Choice" program of United Way you can send some of your charitable dollars to Building Blocks. Donor's choice can be reached at 612 340-7696 or [DonorChoice@unitedwaytwincities.org](mailto:DonorChoice@unitedwaytwincities.org).

*(Building Blocks, continued)*

Another donation option is GiveMN.org. This is an on-line donation site for non-profit organizations. To participate, go to the GiveMN.org website, click on *donate* and enter *Building Blocks Tutorial* in the search window. The search will allow you click on the program and review the Program Page. Select your *level of giving* and click on *donate*. It's as easy as that!

The site is open for donations everyday but on Give to the Max Day in November there are extra incentives to its organizations. Making a check out to "Building Blocks Tutorial" and sending it to the Cherokee Park United is another way to help us continue.

Program Director Jill Jackson will continue to work out of her office at CPUC. Please contact her with any interest or questions you might have about serving in this wonderful program. 651 228-1378 (office) 651 224-9209 (home) [buildingblocks@usfamily.net](mailto:buildingblocks@usfamily.net)

Building Blocks welcomes your support and continuing prayers as it starts this "moo-ving" year of special friends learning together.

*Is God calling you  
to be an ambassador  
for Cherokee Park United Church?*



Ambassadors are people who welcome and support visitors and newcomers (people who have attended a few times) at worship services and fellowship hours. They agree to special training and responsibilities around welcoming folks new to the church. The purpose of this group is to extend the peace and hospitality of Christ while helping newcomers gain information and establish relationships with the faith community. A gathering of current and new ambassadors is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17, 6 p.m. at the home of Pastor Tim and Michele. We will begin with a potluck meal followed by conversation about the role of ambassadors. A sign-up sheet can be found in the Baker St. entrance.

### *Men's group*

All men are invited to the September gathering on Friday the 27th at 6:30 p.m., which will be held at the home of Andy George, 900 Cherokee Av. W. St. Paul.

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

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

## *Children and Youth Sunday School*

Classes begin on Sunday, September 15 at 9:00 a.m. The Faith Life Ministry is pleased to continue the creative rhythm of two Sundays of class, one Sunday of music with Jen and Andy and one Sunday for families together. The nursery is available at 9:30 a.m. or earlier by prior arrangement with Rebecca.

Second and Third Sundays - Sunday School Classes - There are two age groups, (grades K-3) focused on Bible stories and (grades 4-8) focused on Scripture lessons with a connection to justice ministries of the church. Sandy Dodson and Nora Murphy are teaching K - 3, Tom Liddle and associate to be named are teaching 4 - 8. Since there are five Sundays this month, classes will be held on the third Sunday (September 15) and fourth Sunday (September 22). Rebecca Knott continues offering teachings about God's love during the nursery time.

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 "Families Exploring Spirituality" will be October 6 and focused on "Hospitality and Welcome" led by members of the Outreach Team from 9-10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We request that all children and youth 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!)

Last 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.



## *Congregational Meeting*

A congregational meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, September 29.



*The Dempsey and Hess*

*Families*

REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE

AT THE MARRIAGE OF

*Douglas Edward Dempsey*

TO

*Frederick Eugene Hess*

SEPTEMBER TWENTY-FIRST

TWO THOUSAND THIRTEEN

1:30 P.M.

*From Fred and Doug*

Our Cherokee Park United Church family has been supportive and an inspiration to our family and we hope you will be able to join us for this special time in our lives. Please RSVP to the website below so that we can plan accordingly. If you are unable to join us on Saturday for the ceremony, or would prefer a less crowded reception atmosphere, we are also hosting a celebration of our marriage the following day in the fellowship hall immediately after Sunday worship services.

<http://www.theknot.com/wedding/dempsey-and-hess>

Cherokee Park United Church  
Presents  
The Collected Works of



September 28, 2013  
November 24, 2013

### *Fall art exhibit opens*

The Cherokee Park United Church fall art exhibit, featuring the collected works of Ta-coumba Aiken, will open on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Ta-coumba will offer a gallery talk at 6:30 p.m. A St. Paul painter, Ta-coumba is the force behind some of Minnesota's most beloved and acclaimed public artworks, including the Jax/Gillette Children's Hospital mural, the Minneapolis Central Library's tile fireplace, and the north side's Pilot City murals project. A thirteen-foot childhood fall skewed his color perception resulting in a variety of tone and contrasting colors in his work that have become hallmarks of his eye-catching style. He describes his process of coloration and shape building as "spirit

writing," and his usage of repeating imagery as "rhythm patterns." Aiken's intimate creativity and community commitment make him a truly original and irreplaceable Minnesota cultural figure.

Artist website: <http://www.decemberdesigns.com/>

YouTube: <http://www.mnoriginal.org/episode/mn-original-show-220/ta-coumba-aiken/>

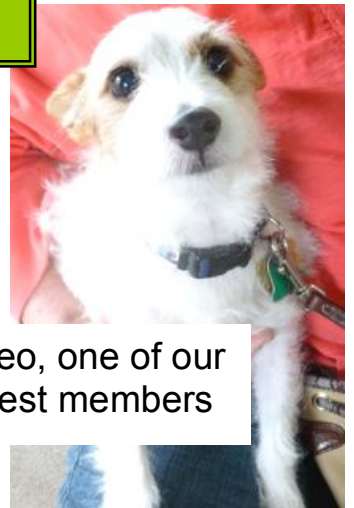


Tom wins the prize for bringing the most toys



*Annual worship in the park and picnic  
Pray, then play.*

Where there are learners, there are teachers.



Romeo, one of our newest members



Solar energy experiment

A Celt in the crowd



**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

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

*Less of me, oh God,  
and more of you.*