



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 February 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
2 February -Adult Forum <i>Crossan video</i> -Families Exploring Spirituality 9am <i>womanist theology</i> -Foodshelf -Annual meeting - Faith Action Vigil 2:30 pm	3	4 Building Blocks 7 pm	5 Choir rehearsal 6:45 pm	6	7 Women's Group 7 pm	8
9 -Adult Forum <i>Arts and Faith</i> -Sunday School	10	11	12 Choir rehearsal	13 Council	14	15
16 -Adult Forum <i>Arts and Faith</i> -Sunday School -Chasing Ice 4 pm	17	18	19 Choir 6:45	20	21 -Leader's retreat	22 -Leader's retreat
23-Adult Forum <i>Crossan video</i> -Children's Making <i>Music in Church</i> 9:15-9:45	24	25	26 Choir 6:45	27	28 Men's group 6:30 pm	1 March NEW DATE Parent/ teacher enrichment 9-12 noon
2 -Families Exploring Spirituality 9am <i>Grief & Loss</i> -Adult Forum <i>Crossan video</i> -Foodshelf - Faith Action Vigil 2:30 pm	3	4	5 Choir 6:45	6 Loaves and Fishes*	7	8
9 1st Sunday of Lent	10	11	12 Choir 6:45	13	14	15

* the first Thursday of odd numbered months

Mdewakanton Dakota Honoring of Ancestors

You are invited to join the Mendota Mdewakanton Community on Saturday, February 1, for a ceremony at Fort Snelling, followed by a potluck at the DuPois House in Mendota.

The sacred fire will be lit at 11:00 a.m. and the ceremony will start at 12:00 noon. (Dress warmly.) The ceremony is held in remembrance and honor of their ancestors, thirty-eight Dakota patriots, who were lynched by the U.S. military on December 26, 1862, in the largest mass execution in United States history. On November 7, 1862, a group of about 1,700 Dakota, primarily women and children, were forcibly marched from the Lower Sioux Agency to a concentration camp at Fort Snelling.



The potluck will take place from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. at the DuPuis House located at 1357 Sibley Memorial Hwy (across from Lucky's 13).

Fort Snelling State Park directions: use the entrance off Highway 5 at Post Road near the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. Drive down into the park, go inside the building to get your pass (some are free thanks to the DNR and the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community

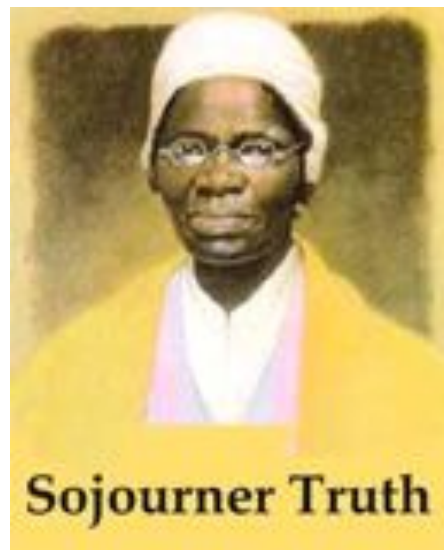
and when they run out the charge is about \$7.00.)

Women should wear skirts. Please bring some tobacco for an offering. Pidamaya from the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community. 651-452-4141

Families Exploring Spirituality - Womanist Theology

Sunday, February 2, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

In recognition of Black History Month, parents and children are invited to join us to explore womanist theology through the life of Sojourner Truth and other African descended women. Womanist theology, (differing from feminist theology), is reflection, or God-talk, that places the religious and moral perspectives of black women at the center of its method. It views issues of class, race, gender, sexuality and other forms of oppression as theological problems. Womanist theology emerged in the late 20th Century and takes its name from Alice Walker's four-part definition in her book, *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens: Womanist Prose* (1983). Families are invited to bring a favorite book, poem, cd, or other work by and/or about an African descended woman.



Annual Meeting Sunday, February 2

Immediately following worship, we will have the approval of reports, approval of the 2014 budget and election of members to the Lay Ministry Team. Dialogue will continue in Fellowship Hall with an opportunity for the congregation to name and celebrate the ways we have been shaped, changed and continue living into our mission. Nursery will be provided.

A Two-Part Adult Forum on the Arts

February 9 & 16, 9 - 10 a.m.
with Rev. Dr. Cindi Beth Johnson

The Arts and the Life of Faith

On February 9, we will look at how the arts are integral to a life of faith and the work of the church, where the arts are present, and where they can be expanded. We will also talk about how to make the arts more accessible and integral by reflecting on how they invite us into a different language and a deeper understanding.



Art Matters: Reflecting our Values

On February 16, the focus will be the significant influence of art on faith formation. Churches often focus on art that features a limited view of the world. However, the church's task is to seek art that engages and broadens our understanding of inclusivity and diversity. Churches need to be intentional in surrounding themselves with art that broadens our view and provides a more just perspective of what can be. In this workshop we will consider the importance of art that draws us beyond the familiar and better mirrors our values.

This forum is organized by the CPUC Stained Glass Jesus taskforce, with support from the Antiracism Team as another resource for reflection and discussion on the stained glass windows and art at CPUC.



Rev. Dr. Cindi Beth Johnson is the Director of the Program in Arts, Faith & Culture at United Theological Seminary, appointed in 1996. She is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her teaching and ministry includes church and the arts, evangelism through the arts, arts and congregational renewal, and visual arts and spirituality. *"I feel passionate about the power of the arts to transform and renew congregational life. The seminary plays an integral role in equipping church leaders with the skills necessary to make this happen."* Cindi Beth Johnson

Building Blocks Ministry

The team will meet Tuesday, February 4, at 7 p.m. in the parents' room; please use the Manomin entrance and contact Joanne Sylvander if you are unable to attend.

Neighborhood House food shelf - first Sundays collection

In tough times, it is not only food that gets harder and harder to afford. For many families, personal care items are also very important. Recent news articles point out how important it is for teens (and pre-teens and post-teens) to have shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste. When purchasing items for the food shelf this month, please think about adding some of those personal care extras.



Pancake brunch

The Antiracism Team will hold a fundraiser brunch on Sunday, February 9, following worship. Proceeds will help fund the work of the Antiracism Team, which in 2014 has included sponsorship of *The Glory of Minnesota?* with Jim Bear Jacobs and a Two Part Adult Forum on the Arts. Please join us for a time of fellowship and support for this important work.

Climate change and care for the earth focus February 16

Cherokee Park United Church will participate in this national preach-in on climate, organized by Interfaith Power & Light, whose mission is to be “faithful stewards of Creation by responding to global warming through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.” Following worship there will be resources available in Fellowship Hall with more information and options for taking action.

Interfaith Power and Light operates in 39 states, represents over 14,000 congregations, and began in 1998 as Episcopal Power & Light, later joining other faith partners to become California Power & Light, which “developed a successful organizational model that engaged hundreds of congregations, educated thousands of people of faith about the moral and ethical mandate to address global warming...” Minnesota’s Interfaith Power and Light began as a network called CCC (Congregation’s Concerned for Creation), which got its start following a creation and faith conference held in June of 2004, co-sponsored by Cherokee Park United Church with Pastor Tim and other organizers holding regular meetings at CPUC. Dr. Chris Smith, a member of Cherokee Park United Church, was one of the key-note speakers.

Women's discussion group

All women are invited for light refreshments and a lively discussion on Friday, February 7, 7 p.m., at the home of Lynn Bates.

Men's group

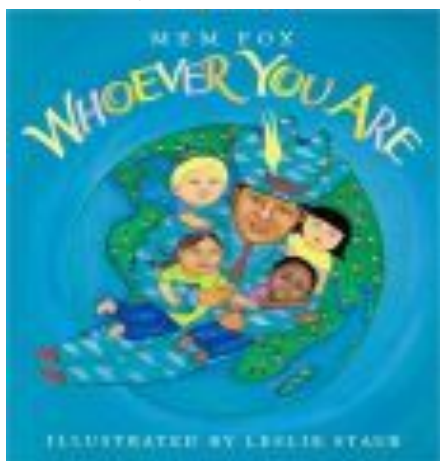
All men are invited to meet on February 28, 6:30 p.m., at the home of Wayne Bjorlie for a light meal followed by discussion.

Chasing Ice - 4 p.m. Sunday, February 16

This highly acclaimed, 70-minute documentary, will be shown in Fellowship Hall, by the Justice and Witness Ministry Team. *Chasing Ice*, produced in 2012, follows the efforts of photographer, James Balog, and his *Extreme Ice Survey* to publicize the effects of climate change. The film was directed by Jeff Orlowski and released in the United States on November 16, 2012. There will be discussion following and resources with climate change information and opportunities for taking action will be available.



Storyteller alert



Thank you to Pastor Tim and the Faith Life Ministry for a new child-oriented addition to worship, "Stories for Children of All Ages." Once a month, a story will be read before the passing of the peace; usually related to a reading or sermon, the story can be read by any interested story-reader (maybe you?). The children are invited to the sanctuary steps to see the book and hear the story, and the picture pages are projected on the wall in Power Point for the rest of the congregation.

This month's story "Whoever You Are", pointed out how we may look or live differently from others in our community and around the world, but that God created us with the same heart, love, blood, etc., and that we all experience the same hurts and happiness. You are invited to volunteer your reading talents (just five minutes!). Contact Pastor Tim or a Faith Life member.

Practicing Faith In The Home

Saturday, March 1, 2014

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Cherokee Park United Church

Please register in advance by contacting Susan Strebig.

Child-care is available for those who request it in advance.



This morning of enrichment is designed for parents, grandparents, or anyone who cares about the faith formation of children. Faith formation professionals agree that the most important place for helping children learn about, and grow in faith, is not the church, but in the home. During this workshop we will receive resources to nurture the spiritual lives of children, and explore:

- Spiritual styles and how they are embodied in children
- The role of adults and the congregation as a community of practice, in affirming and nurturing the spiritual lives of children
- A variety of specific spiritual practices that can be used with children to help them notice and name God's presence and activity in their lives and in the world around them and to help them deepen their relationship with God

No registration fee: this workshop is being made possible by a grant from the Ashley Endowment of the Minnesota Conference UCC and support of the Faith Life Ministry.



Presenter: Rev. Rhonda Pittman presently coordinates ministry with children and youth at Open Circle Church of the Brethren in Burnsville. She is working on her Doctor of Ministry at United Theological Seminary, focusing on children's spirituality and more specifically, how spiritual practices can be used to affirm and nurture the innate spiritual capacities of children.

Jim Bear Jacobs speaks at CPUC

On January 23, the Antiracism Team hosted an evening to see and hear descriptions of the artwork adorning our state capitol building. The paintings, beautifully executed, show natives as savages needing saving, white "discoverers" (although the natives already discovered these lands) as saviors, and at best, as equal and happy to sign away their 24 million acres for \$305,000, of which only \$60,000 eventually was actually paid; the rest was taken in payment for food etc. which natives had to purchase at exorbitant prices as their payments had been delayed over a year. Henry Sibley, alone, was paid \$66,000 of this. The question raised is this - is this the shameful picture of our history we wish to show to visitors from other states and countries, and the vision we wish to pass on to our children?



Thank you from Dora

(Note: this new El Salvadorean friend of Bundy and Porfirio, was included as a recipient in a recent CCE fundraiser.)

Santa Maria Ostuma, November 27, 2013

Dear Pastor Tim and Christian Community of Cherokee Park United Church of Christ,

May these simple but sincere words convey thanks from me and my two dear daughters Leana and Ruth Naomi who is the special child with cerebral palsy and severe seizures. We send great and abundant blessings to you and all the kind hearted adults and children that came together for the cause of my needs which are to begin to have a little house where my daughter Ruth and I can live. My daughter Leana is healthy and lives on her own with a 9 year old girl in San Salvador. But my daughter and I are living in a room where we don't have any of the necessary utilities. I must pay \$5 weekly to wash clothes and \$13 to buy gas. Without financial backing life in town is difficult, even more with the economic crisis that the whole world is living with. Here I've never been able to buy Pampers because only one package costs \$11.95. I prefer to buy cloth diapers even though I must be diligent to put enough on her. My daughter had her 23rd birthday the 12th of November. She depends on me. I bath her, change her and feed her. But God is good. God gives me the strength and patience to know how to attend to her. At the same time I must go out to sell from 6 in the morning until 6 in the evening. In wintertime I get rained on. In the summertime I get sunburned because I have only 2 rods and a piece of plastic to cover myself. With the money I have opened a bank account.

There are moments in which I worry that I may lose an eye because they couldn't operate on my cataracts. They've also done lab exams and find cholesterol and sugar, but I trust in the Lord Jesus that he can heal me from any bad sickness.

Pastor Tim I will pray with love and fervor that God will bless your church and that every day more Christians will join together to defend the lordship of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the author and finisher of our lives to be able to live with the hope and grace for our salvation in the eternal life.....Never will I forget you. I will remember you from the deepest part of my heart.

Dora Consuelo Lopez Lovato



Cherokee Park United Church annual leaders' retreat

**Inviting all council members, ministry chairs/leaders,
as well as all interested members and friends**

*Practicing Balance: How
Congregations Can Support
Harmony in Work and Life*

Friday-Saturday, February 21- 22
ARC Ecumenical Retreat Center
Stanchfield, MN



The retreat focus, inspired by the book, *“Practicing Balance”*, by Rev. David Edman Gray, tackles the time crunch challenges that threaten so many families. Can we find ways to realize God's calling for our lives, using our time and schedules to draw closer to God?

The retreat site is a wonderful old lodge in a beautiful wooded setting near Cambridge, MN, known for superb vegetarian cooking! Linens are provided. There will be time for fellowship, hiking on the grounds, or just relaxing.

The fee of \$115 per person includes over-night accommodations, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and a copy of *“Practicing Balance.”* Scholarships are available on request for whatever amount is needed. Contact Pastor Tim

Car-poolers should be at the church by 4:00 p.m. on Friday. The retreat begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday with dinner and concludes by 4:30 p.m. on Saturday.

.....
 Yes, I would like to attend the Leader's Retreat on February 21 & 22.

Enclosed is my \$20.00 deposit.

Yes, I plan to car-pool. No, I will drive on my own.

If you have special dietary needs or restrictions please specify: Vegetarian, gluten-free, allergies, etc. _____

Email address _____ (requested by the ARC)

Name _____

Please return to Pastor Tim by Sunday, February 2, 2014

A thank-you from Crop Walk

Dear Andy:

Please accept my belated thanks
for your church's generosity.

The \$1,085 received from Cherokee
Park ~~has~~ For CROP WALK 2013
has already done great things
somewhere in the world.

Merry Christmas, Dave Laible



Winter parking

Johnson Funeral Home graciously allows us to use their parking lot; this is especially helpful in the winter when the streets get more narrow and ice-packed, as snow plows never quite get it cleared away. One driveway fronts on Manomin Av., but it is most conveniently accessed from King St. as then cars are oriented to the parking slots.

Deadline for newsletter articles is the 22nd of the prior month. Please contact editor Susan Strebig.

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 .



The Feel of Light

Paintings by West Side artist, Tom McGregor, now adorn our worship space. His exhibit will remain in the sanctuary through March. At his presentation on opening night, he spoke with Pastor Tim, giving very, very, positive comments regarding CPUC and its mission and commitment to the arts as a pathway to peace and understanding.



Let there be light

Just as our electric needs are being powered by solar panels on the roof, our information post and street number are being lit at night by mini-solar collectors on top. Drive by at night and enjoy more "free" energy from the sun.



Language of prayer

We thank Nona for frequently signing our hymns of praise. Her gestures, as well as the choir's voice, help move the words off the page and into our hearts.

Cherokee Park United Church

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

Open & Affirming, Multicultural, Antiracist

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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



I like you just the way you are.

“Mr. Rogers”

Fred Rogers, ordained Presbyterian minister,
whose congregation became the world