



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 August 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1 <i>Aug</i>
2 -Worship at park & potluck picnic -Faith Action Vigil 2:30-3 pm	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Nursery Cleaning 6:30 pm	11	12	13 Council 7 pm	14	15
16	17	18 Outreach 7 pm	19	20 All chairs potluck/mtg 6/7 pm	21	22
23 Pancake Brunch Antiracism Team fundraiser	24	25	26 Women & children 6 pm	27	28 ASDIC Sleight of Mouth workshop	29 ASDIC Sleight of Mouth workshop
30	31	1 <i>Sept</i>	2	3 ☪ Loaves & ☉ Fishes *	4	5
6 -Faith Action Vigil 2:30-3 pm	7	8	9	10	11 Mendota Wacipi	12 Wacipi Food Prep
13 10:15 Worship -Mendota Wacipi Feast 5 pm	14	15	16	17 PMM 7 pm	18	19
20 Sunday School & Adult Forum resume						

* ☪ & ☉ first Thursday of the odd numbered months

Save the Date - Women's retreat Oct. 9-10, "Unraveling Our Gifts"

Sunday, August 2, Worship and Picnic at Cherokee Park

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



Nursery Cleaning Evening

Monday, August 10, 6:30 p.m.

Volunteers of any age are needed for a two-hour clean-up. Help keep the environment safe and beautiful for our youngest members by wiping down chairs and running the Legos through the dishwasher. If you can help please contact Sandy at sandyddsn@gmail.com



All Ministry Chairs Potluck and Meeting

Thursday, August 20, 6 p.m. potluck, 7 p.m. meeting

All chairpeople (or their representatives) are invited to the home of Pastor Tim for an opportunity to share information on events planned for the coming year and to build a calendar together. It will be also an opportunity to review the important role of ministry chairs. Tim will have something on the grill and others are asked to fill out the menu with an item to share.

Women's Group

Women and children are invited to a potluck picnic at the home of Sarah Wovcha on Wednesday, August 26 at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a ready-to-heat or ready-to-eat dish to share. Sarah will have plates, serving dishes, spoons, etc. Please contact Renee Pfenning with any questions. 651-292-8760

Addressing Racist Remarks: Sleight of Mouth Techniques

Friday August 28, 6:30-9:30 p.m. and Saturday August 29 8:30 a.m.-12 noon

Learn a delightful way to loosen boundaries that individuals have built up around issues of “race” and explore additional techniques for responding to racially-insensitive remarks.

Messages about ourselves and others, received and internalized, form a cognitive map and become solidified into a *certainty*. This defines and limits our horizons of thinking and feeling. Racism, the messages of the *White Racial Frame*, for many people is an issue of *certainty*. How do we loosen racialized certainties so that people are able to entertain challenging antiracist perspectives and alternative ways of seeing and knowing? We will learn and practice *Sleight of Mouth* techniques as a tool for unbinding racial certainty, to deflect and re-channel hostile or defensive speech, and deepen reflective, critical thinking.

This will be held at Cherokee United Church (accessible building from Manomin street door) and facilitated by ASDIC Metamorphosis. Registration is \$35 (\$40 after August 21) and scholarships are available. Checks can be made payable to “ASDIC, c/o Cherokee Park United Church, Fiscal Agent.” Registration forms are located at the Baker St. church entrance. www.asdic-circle.org

A (re)Introduction - Tom / Tomie

On Covenanting Sunday in September I plan to tell my story of meeting "The Girl Inside" a few years ago and realizing I am transgender. This awareness and acceptance started to immediately bring gifts of healing, a new spiritual life, a much happier life, and led me to be introduced to Cherokee Park United. And life is a little more complicated. You might see more of Tomie (by way of appearance) than before and I am looking forward to our Worship in the Park Sunday.

And because at this time Tomie is only shared with close friends, including all of Cherokee Park, I do appreciate being left out of your Facebook posts and other online sharing. (This note is in the private email newsletter only, not online.) I am happy to answer to Tomie or Tom; I'm not picky about pronouns but skipping them seems best, and the rest we can make up as we go. Thank you, those just now hearing my story, and all who have been more aware of all of me these past couple years. Thank you all very much for your acceptance and love and kindness. - Tomie

Pancake Brunch - August 23

The Antiracism Team will be hosting a fundraising pancake brunch after worship to help fund the closing feast they provide for the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community as support to their annual Pow Wow. See next article.

Mendota Dakota 16th Annual Wacipi
Friday-Sunday - September 11-13, 2015
St. Peter's church grounds, Mendota
(NW corner of Hwy 110 & Hwy 13)

We will support again this year by helping prepare and serve the feast. Help is needed with food preparation on Saturday, September 12, 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and serving on Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

We did not have enough help last year so please consider joining us in a new and interesting experience. We also will be joined by members of Macalester Plymouth United Church. If you can help, please contact Maria McNamara, 651-224-7267, or Karen Shatek, 651-453-1370.



You can also support our Dakota sisters and brothers by donating chocolate chip cookies, grapes, or oranges, which can be brought to church on Sunday morning.

If you are experiencing the festivities for the first time, 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. \$5.00 entry button donation requested, if possible, to cover Wacipi expenses.

Emcee - Neil McKay, Arena Director - Windy Down Wind, Drums - Scotty Brown Eyes and Little Earth, Head Dancers - Nick Anderson & Mary So Happy, Spiritual advisor-Chis Mato Nunpa

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.

Mitakuye Oyasin (We Are All Related)

Confirmation Youth Mission Trip

The June trip was made by six of our youth, accompanied by Pastor Tim, and hosted by CPUC friends who had moved to Atlanta, Sander and Laurie Biehn, and their children, Ella and Hadrian. A month after returning, the youth were helped by Karolyn Kleingartner to each make their own memory book, including many of these photos.



Their experiences included working at the Andrew P. Stewart Center, a faith-based community center which provides children with after school tutoring, educational experiences, service projects, bible studies, summer camp, wellness resources, a food co-op and more. Our youth joined in their mission with meal preparations and working with the children.

At the Gateway Center, devoted to help people move out of homelessness by providing therapeutic programs and services, our youth made hygiene bags for people who are homeless and applied nail polish.

Later in the week they worked at the food pantry where they had major responsibilities including registering people and taking food orders. They were much appreciated as the pantry was seriously understaffed that day and our group was told they did not know how they would have managed without us.

The week also included visiting the historic MLK sites (his home and the church he pastored) and visiting the amazing Center for Civil and Human Rights.



www.nps.gov/malu/index.htm

www.civilandhumanrights.org/

At the Center for Civil and Human Rights, one incredibly real interactive area has one sit at the “lunch counter”, wearing ear phones, and listening as someone offers words of encouragement, which then shifts to threatening and hateful yelling voices, and then one feels the back of the chair being kicked, going on for almost three minutes. Youth also visited the historic Oakland confederate soldier cemetery with its amazing monuments.



On the more fun side of the trip, they took in an Atlanta Braves baseball game (with some conversation about the justice of appropriating Indian names, with mascots, etc). They also went to Big Stone Mountain, climbed this historic and ancient rock for a grand view of the area and in the evening saw the laser show on the face of the rock.



The week was concluded with accompanying the Biehn family to Sunday worship at Highland-Virginia American Baptist and UCC Church; one of the pastors there helped arrange the volunteer work. The Biehns were with the group on all experiences and were extremely generous hosts for the week.

Confirmation group mission pictures will continue in the September newsletter.





(more) Women's Group News

On Saturday, July 18, despite some of us still having no electric power, 16 women and 10 children gathered at the church to make warm hats and mittens for the Guadalupe Area Project (GAP) and homeless persons. Thirty-eight hats and two pairs of very warm mittens were completed on Saturday and another 70 or so hats were cut and ready to sew or in various stages of progress and taken home to complete so the total is now over 100! The children completed some of the illustrations for a book to tell part of the story. The morning ended with a taco potluck.

Many, many thanks to the cutters, sewers, trimmers, artists and kitchen help; and special thanks to Sandy Settevig who provided the fleece, patterns, instructions, took home hats to complete, and was so patient with all of us.



Antiracism Study Dialogue Circles

Saturdays, September 26-December 12, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Cherokee Park United Church is again hosting an ASDIC Metamorphosis Circle. This reflective, interactive dialogue series is designed for those seeking to better understand the ways race and racism operate in our lives. ASDIC Circles enable greater clarity of thinking, strength of relationship, and effectiveness of action in addressing systemic racism. Each week (but no meetings November 14 or 28) participants gather to create a safe place for risk-taking, community formation, and acting with care and confidence. We will study the book *The White Racial Frame*, 2nd edition, 2013, by Joe R. Feagin; please obtain a copy of this book before the Circle begins.

There is a sliding-scale fee structure and all are welcome regardless of financial circumstances. Fees contribute to the cost of food, the ASDIC manual and materials, and stipends to facilitators. There is no profit gained through the hosting of community dialogue circles.

Forms are available at the Baker street church entrance. For more information contact Okogeaman at 651-558-0452, hperkins01@gmail.com or Margery Otto, 952-334-3149, margeryotto@gmail.com.



Westminster Counseling Center

Life can be full, joyous and exciting. But it can also be challenging, draining us of the energy we need to cope and rebound.

The center's experienced pastoral counselors have the perspective to provide you with the support and guidance you need to move forward if you're grieving a loss, battling depression, facing divorce or grappling with other major life issues. The counselors are licensed psychotherapists who are also ordained clergy, welcoming people of all faiths or none at all to seek pastoral counseling in an open and welcoming environment.

A sliding fee scale ensures high-quality counseling to those who could not otherwise afford it, no matter their circumstances. Westminster Counseling Center is affiliated with Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Visit www.westminstermpls.org.

Member News

Sasha Aslanian

Minnesota Public Radio News received a George Foster Peabody Award on May 31 for a documentary reported and produced by Madeleine Baran and Sasha Aslanian. The series, titled “Betrayed by Silence,” was an investigation of clergy sexual abuse in the Twin Cities archdiocese. This award is the highest honor in broadcast media, recognizing distinguished achievement and meritorious public service by TV and radio stations, networks, producing organizations, individuals, and the World Wide Web. MPR News was one of 40 winners honored as the “Best of the Best” in programming in 2014. This documentary series also received an Alfred I. duPont Award from Columbia University, a national Edward R. Murrow Award from RTDNA, an Online News Association award for investigative data journalism, awards from the Religion Newswriters Association, the Midwest Broadcast Journalists Association and two Sigma Delta Chi Awards from the Society for Professional Journalists.



We congratulate Sasha on her award and are pleased she received recognition for her skills in finding facts and informing the public so that accurate conclusions can be drawn and substantive plans made for the future.

Laura Gatzke

Laura’s progress since her time as a seminary intern here in 2012-13 is documented in her blog, “Minister to the Heart.” Through her writing we have followed her to Kenya, as she preached at Saint Anthony Park Home, to the U of M Medical Center, graduation from Luther Seminary with an MDiv, Taize in France, eight weeks interning across South Dakota (she called this “Little Pastor on the Prairie”), and residency as a chaplain at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston.

Laura now just accepted a position at a teen treatment center in S.D. and writes “These are my people, and in a weird way– this feels kind of like church. I see grace in treatment, along with confession, community, and a daily ritual of crying out for help and change. I also see living proof of redemption– a message of, ‘You are not alone in your addiction, you are loved, and you are wholly valued.’ ”



Laura’s blog also contains great photos of her experiences and surroundings; she writes that an advantage to living on the plains is being able to see the whole rainbow, end to end. And yes, she is in a committed relationship with her friend, Greg.

Cherokee Park United Church

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

Open & Affirming, Multicultural, Antiracist

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cherokeeparkunited.org

371 W. Baker Street

St. Paul, MN 55107

Sunday Worship - **summer- 9:30 a.m.**

(starting Sept 13 - 10:15 a.m.)

Dr. Timothy M. Johnson - Pastor

Erik Peregrine - Director of Music

Andy Barnett - Choral Director

Jill Jackson - Director of Building Blocks Tutorial

Rebecca Knott - Nursery Supervisor

Andrew Gbaa - Custodian

*If you really want to make a friend,
go to someone's house and eat with him—
the people who give you their food
give you their heart.*

-Cesar Chavez

*(and thank-you to the **Caring** Ministry
for coordinating our small group, informal meals together.)*