

Silent night-Holy night

"Silent Night! Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleeps in heavenly peace,
Sleeps in heavenly peace."

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

Cover image from a 1920's
Christmas program
at Cherokee Heights
Presbyterian Church

Newsletter December 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
29 <i>ADVENT</i>	30	1 <i>Dec</i>	2 -Advent Intergeneration Evening 5:30 -Choir 6:45 pm	3	4 <i>Miracle on 34th Street Musical 7 pm</i>	28 Hanging of the greens 10 am <hr/> 5
6 -Families Exploring Spirituality 9-10 am -Immigration Vigil 2:30-3 pm	7	8	9 - Music Ministry 6 pm -Choir 6:45 pm	10 Council 7 pm	11	12
13 -Sunday School -Gifts due Ramsey Family -Fellowship cookies	14 Worship Ministry 7 pm	15	16 Choir 6:45 pm	17	18	19
20 -Children's rehearsal 9 am for Gospel Nativity -Christmas dinner 4pm, caroling 6 pm	21	22	23 Choir 6:45	24 Candlelight worship 5 pm	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26
27	28	29	30 (No choir)	31	1 <i>Jan</i>	2
3 -Families Exploring Spirituality 9-10 am	4	5	6 Choir 6:45 pm	7 ℒoaves & ℑishes*	8 Women's Group	9 Youth bowling & overnight

Save the Dates

ℑardi Gras Celebration, Saturday, February 6

Leaders' retreat, Friday-Saturday, February 26-27

* ℒ & ℑ occurs the first Thursday of odd numbered months

Intergenerational Advent Evening

The Faith Life Ministry is providing an evening in which we can prepare our hearts together for Advent and Christmas. On **Wednesday, December 2**, a pizza supper will start at 5:30 p.m. and activities follow from 6:00-8:00 p.m. There will be a number of crafts to make, carols to practice, and cookies to decorate (and eat). Youth are invited **to bring their instruments** and try some Christmas Carols with Andrew Lipetzky in preparation for our December 20th caroling with instruments at Cerenity Center on the West Side.



Women's Discussion Group

The Women's Group, along with the Caring Ministry, invite all to attend the **Friday, December 4, 7 p.m.** production of *Miracle on 34th Street, The Musical* at Woodbury Merrill Community Arts Center (in East Ridge High School, 4200 Pioneer Drive, Woodbury, MN 55129). Magically transform your holiday season as Kris Kringle takes on the cynics. CPUC

member Jerry Williams is the music director of this fun holiday production. Tickets are (now—post discount deadline) \$15-\$18. www.merrillartscenter.org

Future Women's Group gatherings are scheduled for January 8 (at home of Michele Johnson), February 5, March 4, April 1, and May 6, 2016.

Advent Families Exploring Spirituality

Sunday, December 6, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Looking for ways to celebrate the season that go deeper than sales and Santa? Join us as we become better acquainted with Advent, the Christian church season that teaches us about preparing and purposeful waiting. Heidi VanSchooten and Jen Folkers will be working with families and youth in preparation for youth-led worship on Sunday, December 20.



The Cookie "Not-Exchange"

You are invited to share your favorite holiday cookies at fellowship hour after worship on Sunday, **December 13**. Please bring along and drop off in the kitchen (or give to someone younger to carry them downstairs for you).

Children's Nativity at Worship

Our fifth annual youth-led telling of the Nativity Gospel will take place during worship on Sunday, **December 20**. Preparation will be done during Sunday School classes and at a rehearsal at 9:00 a.m. on December 20 in the sanctuary before worship.

Youth are also invited to share their musical gifts; the service has plenty of opportunity for singing or playing an instrument. Please speak with Jen Folkers or Heidi Van Schooten if this is something your youth is interested in sharing.

Musical talents are also welcome at our annual caroling party. Andrew Lipetzky is organizing youth who are willing to share their musical gifts for this event. It may be possible for youth to prepare something that could be shared both during worship and while caroling.



Decorate Our Tree

The Faith Life and Worship Ministries invite families to bring one or more ornaments to donate to our sanctuary Christmas tree; bring and add anytime between November 29 and December 20. We will save them and have our children help re-trim each year. No family heirlooms please, as these will not be returned; and this would be a great opportunity to talk about the importance of ornaments that express the spirit of Christmas. Homemade ornaments are very welcome!

Help Sponsor a Ramsey County Family in Need

Please remember to bring your gifts (suggested \$20-\$30 toy or clothing for children or \$30-\$50 clothing for adults) to church **by Sunday December 13**. Cash donations are needed as well. A sign-up sheet is available at the Baker St. entrance. Please have a gift receipt with the gift and clearly put the name of the gift recipient on the gift. It is suggested you include a note, "From your friends at Cherokee Park United Church."



Advent Devotional Booklet

Deepen your Advent experience with a copy of the devotional booklet, *Wonder*, from the UCC Stillspeaking Writers Group. They will be available in the main Baker St. entrance by November 29, the first Sunday in Advent. Suggested donation is \$5.00.

Presbyterian and UCC Christmas Joy Offering

On our Advent wreath, the third candle is pink, the “joy” candle, which represents our joy that the promise of Christmas grows closer. Each year a joy offering is taken during



Advent and the money collected is designated as assistance for retired church workers who have encountered special needs and are on limited incomes. The Presbyterian offering is also used to support educational scholarships for youth and racial ethnic schools affiliated with the PC (USA). The envelope in your bulletin may be used for your contribution to these special offerings, and may be returned any time in December.

Annual Christmas Dinner and Caroling

Sunday, December 20, 4:00 dinner, 6:00 caroling

Join us for our annual turkey dinner (sign-up sheet will be available for extra foods needed), followed by caroling at Health East Care Center (off Humboldt Av.). The evening ends with dessert at the home of Pastor Tim and Michele. You may join us for dinner, caroling, or hopefully, all. Give Pastor Tim a call if you should need a ride. This is a great evening for people of all ages. Children are welcome.



Leaders' Rest

Sunday School for children/youth and Adult Forum will not meet on Sunday December 27; both will resume on January 3.

The Toddler That Would Be King

On Sunday, January 3 starting at 9:00 a.m., Sandy Dodson will lead our monthly Families Exploring Spirituality series with a focus on Epiphany.

CPUC Greeters for 2016

It is time to create the schedule of greeters for the coming year. Greeters play an important role by often being the first faces of welcome for members, friends, visitors, and newcomers when they come to worship. If you are currently on the greeter schedule and are willing to stay on you don't need to do anything. If you'd like to be assigned as a new greeter or wish to be removed from the list, please contact Jill Jackson by December 13; please indicate if there are dates you are not available or if you can only help in the summer.

CPUC Members Talk the Talk AND Walk the (Crop) Walk

Helma Rogers, young at 91, was accompanied by friends from Cherokee Park United Church to participate in this year's CropWalk on October 11, sponsored by Church World Service and the St. Paul Area Council of Churches. Thanks to you, over \$970 was raised to provide on-the-ground emergency relief as well as long-term sustainable development. Twenty-five percent of donations support hunger relief programs in St. Paul.



Youth News



Confirmation

After a year of preparation, six youth were confirmed into Cherokee Park United Church. Their journey of faith was shepherded by Pastor Tim, along with relatives, friends, and even strangers who they encountered. Their thoughts and spiritual leanings were shared personally with the council and in written form with the congregation. We thank these energetic young people for their honesty, enthusiasm, and courage.

Date	Event	Organizers
Dec 20	Christmas Dinner/Caroling & instrumental	Duncan, Nathan, Curt Fleming
Jan 9	Bowling & Overnight at Mike/Lynne Bates	
Jan 22	Spaghetti/Bingo fundraiser	Andy Barnett & youth
Feb 14	Play	Sandy Dodson
Mar 5	Skiing	Julie Olmstead/Fred Hess
April 3	Fellowship Fundraiser	Nate/Ingrid Fleming
April 16	Feed My Starving Children Service	Sasha Aslanian
May	UCC youth retreat	Sandy Dodson/Andy Barnett



News from the Finance Ministry

Cherokee Park United Church has a new treasurer and a new way to pay bills. Phyllis Clark, who has had past experience with the Finance Ministry, will continue to use that knowledge in her new role as Treasurer. Her main job is to pay the bills for the church as they are received, the task previously done by Doug Dempsey-Hess, our out-going treasurer.

One of the new methods of payment that Phyllis will be using is “Bill Pay — a check writing service provided free of charge by BankCherokee—where our church does its banking. When an invoice or request for reimbursement is received, Phyllis will enter the information into the online system and, in turn, the bank will pay it electronically when possible or else write a check and mail it to the vendor. This will save us the cost of postage as well as provide a smoother, easier, faster method of payment.

When you are requesting a reimbursement, put your current address on the request so that the check will be sent to the correct address. If no address is entered on the request voucher, it may delay payment. You may also submit requests for reimbursement/payment via email. Reimbursement checks will typically be sent from the bank in 7-10 days. If you need any type of payment sooner, please contact Phyllis or Lynne Bates. They will get a hand-written check to you as soon as feasible.

2016 Pledges

Members and friends were mailed a letter about the 2016 budget and a pledge form for the coming year.

Thank you to everyone who has turned in a pledge, and if you have

doing so will be of great assistance to the Finance Ministry as they firm up a proposed budget. If you have lost your pledge card, please contact Karen Shatek.



Where your treasure is,
there your heart will be
also. *Matthew 6:19-21*

yet to turn yours in,

We are eager to remain both spiritually and fiscally strong in this time of anticipating and planning for Pastoral change. Both will be vital in finding the leadership that will help us continue to grow as a community of faith. For those who are able, extra gifts during December are greatly appreciated.

Tax-savings: Donating appreciated stock or mutual funds directly to the church merits the full charitable deduction without paying capital gains tax on the appreciation.

Several of our members take advantage of this tax strategy thereby stretching their giving dollars. See Lynne Bates or Ingrid Fleming if you would like more information.

Missionaries Supported

The church council has made a three-year pledge to support Tom and Monica Liddle in their ministry in East Timor. They first experienced life there in March 2003 for nine weeks of volunteer work, during which Monica delivered babies in an out-of-hospital setting in a developing country, and Tom used his carpentry skills to make improvements to the clinic buildings. At the time this tiny half-island nation in Southeast Asia was just beginning recovery from a 24-year struggle for independence from Indonesian rule. Monica and Tom returned to East Timor as Global Ministries' short-term volunteers in 2008. The Protestant Church of East Timor (IPTL) was in need of a doctor for its outpatient clinic in Lospalos, and made a request for someone from Global Ministries. Within six months of the call, they sold their house and cars, Monica closed a successful practice in naturopathic medicine and midwifery, Tom quit his carpentry job, and they moved from Duluth to Timor with their five year-old daughter, Hannah. Six months later their son Simon was born in Lospalos.

For the next three years they accompanied their partner church in its pastoral and health ministries. Tom worked with local pastors on outreach to rural congregations, re-roofed and mosquito-proofed the clinic, and ran the household. In the clinic Monica saw on average 60 patients each day, and together with a staff of five Timorese women started programs in nutrition, maternity, and outreach to rural communities while teaching the staff administrative and basic medical skills.

Since their return to St. Paul in 2012, Tom has earned his Master of Divinity degree and he is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Tom did his pastoral internship at Cherokee Park United Church. Monica has been working at Health Foundations Family Health and Birth Center, providing out-of-hospital maternity services. In January, IPTL asked Global Ministries to send them back to continue their pastoral and health ministries with them. With your support, we will meet this call.

The new funding model of Common Global Ministries requires that a significant amount of money to support missionary appointments is raised before missionaries can begin their service. That's where we in the MN Conference have a unique opportunity. The Board of Directors of the Minnesota Conference has recently voted to commit \$50,000 to the Liddles' global mission appointment.

The Board has also issued a challenge to the congregations and individuals of the Minnesota Conference to support this mission, pledging a dollar for dollar match up to an additional \$50,000 that the wider Conference raises



Tickets will be available in December for the Mardi Gras Celebration 2016!
Please check weekly church bulletins for details.
Consider buying tickets as Christmas "stocking-stuffers" for your dear ones!
Get your tickets early...they will go fast for this festive event!



Second Annual

Mardi Gras Celebration

Saturday, February 6, 7:00-11:00 p.m.

Full spread of Cajun, Creole & Brazilian food.
Serving begins 7:15 p.m.
Live Dixieland music along with Brazilian Mardi Gras and Carnival music.
Dancing, Door Prizes, Stage Humor.
Make a mask at the event.

\$17/person; \$30/couple

Fun for All – Adults – Couples Night Out!

Cherokee Park United Church

371 W. Baker Street, St. Paul MN 55107
Information: Okogyeamon 612- 558 - 0452



Costumes are welcome & encouraged.



Winter Parking

Johnson Funeral Home graciously allows us to use their parking lot; this is especially helpful in the winter when the streets become 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.

Roses of Remembrance for Christmas Eve

Christmas is a season that provides wonderful opportunities for families and friends to be together sharing in love and fellowship. Christmas is also a time when many of us are painfully aware of those from whom we are separated by death or distance. During Advent, scripture, song, and symbols of the season remind us of the promise that we are united in God's love through both our joys and sorrows.



Roses will be available to place on the altar in remembrance. If you would like to remember someone in this way, please fill out the form below and place it in the box in the church entrance by the Sunday before Christmas

Suggested donation is \$4.00/rose. Names of those being remembered will be printed in the bulletin if you so indicate below; after the service please take your roses home with you.

Roses Reservation

Person(s) requesting remembrance rose(s)

_____ How many roses would you like? _____

Whom do you wish to remember? _____

Would you like their name(s) included in a list prepared for Christmas Eve? _____



Christmas Day ~ Peace and Blessings
wherever you may be celebrating.

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

Rebecca Knott - Nursery Supervisor

Andrew Gbaa - Custodian

*Not all of us make it to the manger on time,
and some of us take a little longer
to have an epiphany.*

*Emily Heath,
writer for Still Speaking Devotional
and friend of Laura Gatzke*