



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 May 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1 <i>May</i> Women's Group 7pm	2 <i>Cinco de Mayo Parade</i>
3 -Families Exploring Spirituality 9 am -(no adult forum) -Food Shelf - <i>Pinata & pastries</i> -Faith Action Vigil 2:30-3 pm	4	5 Antiracism Team 6:30 pm	6 Choir 6:45 pm	7 -Loaves & Fishes -Building Blocks Dinner	8	9
10 -Adult forum -Sunday School	11	12 Fellowship Ministry 7pm	13 Choir 6:45	14 Council	15	16 Youth Carnival Fundraiser 5:30-8:30 pm
17 -Adult forum (final) -Sunday School (final)	18	19 Outreach	20 Choir 6:45	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Choir 6:45	28 Justice & Witness	29	30 <i>NEW Spring Clean-Up and Rain Garden Planting</i>
31	1 <i>June</i>	2	3 Choir 6:45	4	5	6 Ann Dinner set-up
7 -Food Shelf -Anniversary Dinner	8	9	10 Choir 6:45	11	12	13
14 Worship start time changes to 9:30 a.m.						

Women's Discussion Group

Friday, May 1, 7:00 p.m.

This month we will meet at church; please bring a game if you'd like and a small snack to share. We will have a fun night with games and fellowship. And try to invite someone that has not come before.



Annual Cinco de Mayo Parade

Saturday, May 2



Join us as we march in the parade to express our support for the West Side neighborhood. Gather by **9:30 a.m.** at the Gross Givens Manufacturing parking lot at 75 West Plato Boulevard. The parade begins at 10:00 a.m. We will be utilizing our Building Blocks float. Bring hand puppets (will also be available) and if possible, wear a Cherokee Park United Church T-shirt (available in Fellowship Hall Market.)

Families Exploring Spirituality ~ Food, Glorious Food!

Sunday, May 3, 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Families are invited to come together this hour for a focus on care for Mother Earth, led by Kay Myhrman-Toso and Winnie Williams.

Come celebrate Earth Day as we have fun exploring ways we can help care for God's creation and the food we grow and eat. Expect stories, games, an art project and perhaps some digging in the dirt!

We are **Buzzing** with excitement, hoping you'll make plans to **Bee** there!



67th Consecutive First Sunday Vigil

Sunday, May 3, 2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Cherokee Park United Church, as a part of the **Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM)**, will take a turn hosting this monthly vigil at the Ramsey County Detention Center. For over five years, ICOM has organized this opportunity for friends to come together to pray for the immigrant, the oppressed and all who are imprisoned, whether justly or unjustly, and because of the unjust failure of our congress to pass humane and comprehensive immigration reform. We also pray for the corrections and detention officers, employers and their families that they, and we, treat each other with good will, respect and human dignity. For more information contact Joanne Sylvander.

Loaves & Fishes

Thursday, May 7



Join us at St. Matthew's Church for our semi-monthly commitment to provide a tasty hot meal for those in need. Help for an hour or more to prepare (3:30 p.m.), serve (4:45 p.m.), and/or clean up (6:00 p.m.) Young people are welcome to volunteer. If you cannot help this time but are interested, please remember that we serve the first Thursday of the odd numbered months, so you can give yourself a calendar reminder in advance for May, July, September, or November. The contact is Michele Johnson.

Spring Clean-Up and Rain Garden Planting

Saturday, May 30

Due to time and space crunches, our clean-up/fix-up day was postponed from April to May 30, the same day as the new rain garden planting. We will get as much clean up done as possible, with the rain garden being the top priority. Anyone who likes to play in the dirt is welcome to help placing the small sedge plants (no heavy lifting this time). Our usual kitchen deep clean and various smaller clean ups will occur also.



The Neighborhood-Wide Carnival for Everyone or Spring Fling 2015

Saturday May 16, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The Confirmation Youth of CPUC continue their efforts to raise funds for their trip to [Atlanta](#) in June. You may have seen them in previous fund-raisers flipping pancakes, serving spaghetti, or calling Bingo. This carnival will include games, contests, raffles, door prizes, food and fun for all ages. We encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors. Tickets are 25 cents each or 40 for \$10.00 and will be on sale on Sundays. Advance ticket sales will help us predict attendance but tickets will also be available at the door.



Why a Mission Trip to Atlanta?

Former members of Cherokee Park United Church, Laurie, Sander, Ella and Hadrian Biehn live in Atlanta and are enthusiastically welcoming Pastor Tim and the confirmation youth into their home. Some of our youth have used Facebook and other social medial to keep a close friendship with Ella who is the same age. While in Atlanta the youth will

be working at the Stewart Center, a community support agency, like Neighborhood House. They will spend a morning working at Gateway, a program serving the needs of the homeless and part of a day in a foodshelf supported by Virginia-Highland Church, a UCC affiliated congregation where the Biehns now attend. The youth will also visit the historic Martin Luther King Jr. sites and the new Civil Rights Museum. The last two classes of confirmation have included a focus on Cherokee Park United's mission statement and our commitment to being an antiracist congregation. The Biehns will be joining us for the volunteer work, historic visits and are helping organize some fun things to do while in Atlanta. This is a unique opportunity for our confirmation youth and we invite you to keep them in your prayers.



Seeking Valuable Items for Silent Auction or Door Prizes

Do you have valuable items that you could donate to the confirmation youth for silent auction or door prizes? We are not looking for rummage-sale type items but for that valuable item that you no longer need that seems to be too good to send to the Goodwill store. (Rolex watch, fine art, etc. or maybe an old wedding present that you have been meaning to re-gift, but felt guilty about it.) Please contact Curt Fleming.

Building Blocks Awards Dinner

Thursday, May 7, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Though Building Blocks is ending, we have much learning and friendship to celebrate this year. We will hold the final Awards Dinner at Cherokee Park United for students, families, and volunteers and your help is needed to make this special event successful. Please consider preparing and serving food, cleaning up, or driving families (needed at 5:15 and 7:00 p.m.) to and from the event.

If you can help please contact program director Jill Jackson at 651-228-1378 (office) or at buildingblocks@usfamily.net, or contact ministry team chair Joanne Sylvander.

Big Block Party

Sunday May 31, 11:30 a.m.

Our Building Blocks Ministry Team is hosting a "FAREWELL to Building Blocks Tutorial" party, celebrating 27 years of learning and friendship.

We will have good food, entertainment and recognitions of those who have made this Ministry such a success. All are invited: members and friends of Cherokee Park United Church, current and former students and tutors and their families, SPSS school personnel, funders, and neighbors.

Because your presence is part of the decor you are encouraged to wear primary colors and come prepared to join the celebration.

**Thank you for your support and prayers
for twenty-seven years!**



Let's Eat (Again)

It's time for our annual anniversary dinner—always the first Sunday in June. Traditionally, this is organized by the Property Management Ministry, but often the bulk of the work has been done by just a few people. As our attendance increases, and so do our ages, more help is needed to divide up the duties into manageable amounts. Please consider how you might contribute an hour or two to help make this event enjoyable by all.



Roast beef and mashed potatoes is the main event, along with all the fixings and a special dessert surprise at the end. We realized that we have been suggesting the same donation for the past ten or more years, and not meeting expenses, so our suggestion this year is \$10/adult & \$5/child. (But you are just as welcome without donating or donating less.)

Please sign up or call Susan if you can help in any of these areas.

Saturday: Set tables, create fresh flower centerpieces

Sunday: An hour of kitchen help before, during, or after worship to boil some big pots of water, prepare fruit trays, mix up the coleslaw ingredients, mash the 'taters, cut/serve cake & ice cream (Confirmation group particularly requested), run dishwasher, clean-up.

(This is the last Sunday, for the summer, that worship starts at the normal time. Starting June 14, worship starts at 9:30 a.m.)

Helping Others BRIDGE to a Better Life



Bridging, with centers in Bloomington and Roseville, provides household essentials for those in need. This organization started in 1987, with the donation of one baby crib to an Eden Prairie church, which inspired the maintenance man to continue to be a bridge between those who have more than they need, and those who are in need. Now it serves 5,000 families a year, sharing 10 semi-trailer loads a week of household goods.

We are invited to support this effort by donating items, helping at the center (ages 14+), shopping at their vintage item *Estate Store*, or assembling ready-to-assemble dressers purchased by Bridging. More details at Bridging.org.

*Greetings from San Jose Carrizal-CCE-El Salvador
sent by our CCE brother in El Carrizal, Juan Hernandez, to Porfirio*

Easter Celebration: In December, just last year, Legal Aid and an International Medical Forensic team conducted the judicial exhumation of men, women and children in our community, murdered by agents of the Army, National Guard and Death Squads May 31, 1980. The remains were then transferred to a laboratory in San Salvador, to be analyzed and identified.

On March 25 of the current year they were returned to our community, each in their own box and with their own name. The relatives, friends and community, with pain and hope, celebrated the Passover of our martyrs on March 26 and 27 with prayer vigils, testimonies and cultural events. On the 28th we carried the remains in procession with songs and cheers to the main church of the city of Santa Maria Ostuma. Holy Eucharist was celebrated with the participation of many locals and visitors and friends from elsewhere. Also represented were Legal Aid and the Ministry of Justice.

Our celebration is an act faith in the God of life, love and justice. Therefore our message is love and forgiveness; and denounces all that signifies death from social injustice, and therefore includes our promise to continue building a beloved community and a new society.



Editor's Preference

by Susan Strebis

1958 sketch

After looking through our paper archives for the 100th Anniversary celebration (of the original building) last year, I took on the task of organizing and filing six decades of various reports. I'm sharing a few interesting items and factoids that caught my eye.



Early 1920's ~ The second pastor of then Cherokee Heights Church, Rev William J. Ratz, lived in the "old study" in the back of the church (until he married).

1926 ~ Six Cherokee Heights Sunday School teachers (of which two soon dropped out) were being given a teacher training class by the pastor, using a text book containing histories of the Bible, Church and Sunday School; after the examination they had to take the course over because of poor grades.

1927 ~ The graduates of the program were to receive certificates, and a man from the Evangelical Leadership Training Schools in Faribault sent a letter suggesting "Possibly it would be a good idea that you girls saw to it that there would be some roses and other flowers and greens in the church. Get a bunch of boys and girls to go out on Saturday into the woods and get ferns, etc. That ought to make the whole church very pretty."

1946 ~ St. John's E & R Statistical Report: Communicant membership 140, total Congregational Expenses \$8,960.

1952 ~ Cherokee Heights Church received a letter of gratitude for financial support of a mission building in Deir ez Zor, Syria; regarding the building they stated "we shall confer with local government officials, including the governor of the province, the chief of the security policy, the director of education and the mufti --the highest Muslim leader of the province (who, incidentally, is a very good friend and most cooperative.)" Carl Nelson and family (five children)

Next month: Readers can look forward to excerpts about how long it took the two churches to merge, what the charges were for the fundraising Smorgasbord and Fish Fries, what local bar owner was being legally challenged by the pastor, and photos to identify, of our members, in their younger years.

March & April Events
**Youth Group Spaghetti
& Bingo Fundraiser**



Genocide Awareness Panel



Selma to MN March





Art Exhibit

If you have not yet had time, be sure to explore the artwork now on display, created by Marina Castillo. The works will remain up until June 7.

From Can Do Girls Club

(in North Minneapolis)

Encouraging all children to believe in themselves and be themselves.



Chalk Thoughts

Our children left this note on the church sidewalk one Sunday a few years ago; it was really the second part of Psalm 23:1, but by itself, isn't it a wonderful inspiration?



Deadline for newsletter articles is the 22nd of the prior month. Please contact editor Susan Strebog at kellystrebog@comcast.net or 651-457-1404.

The newsletter team also consists of: pre-publishing fact editor Phyllis Clark, copyeditor Sara Strebog Pedersen, collate/mail team Phyllis and Cal Clark; winter team Kathy Bergthold & Stefan Svlander

Cherokee Park United Church

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

Open & Affirming, Multicultural, Antiracist

651-227-4275

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cherokeeparkunited.org

371 W. Baker Street

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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

*Smile like a monkey
with a new banana.*