



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 October 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 <i>Oct</i> -Connect! family hour 9-10 am -Food Collection	2	3	4 Choir 6:30 pm	5	6	7 Fall Clean-UP Fix-Up Day 9:30-2:00
8	9	10	11 Choir 6:30 pm	12 Council 7 pm	13 Women's Retreat Fri-Sat	14
15 -Sunday School field trip, after worship -Cropwalk 1 pm	16	17	18 Stained Glass Min 4:30 Choir 6:30 pm	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Choir 6:30 pm	26	27	28
29 Congregational meeting after worship	30	31	1 <i>Nov</i> Choir 6:30 pm	2 Loaves & Fishes	3 Women's Group 7 pm	4
5 Daylight Savings Time Change	6	7	8 Choir 6:30 pm	9 Council 7 pm	10	11
			Choir 6:30 pm	16 Worship Mtg 7 pm		

Future dates:

* **Loaves & Fishes** first Thursday of the odd numbered months



Connect! — connecting our faith with our lives, and with the lives of all in the world and across generations.

Sunday, October 5: Our first intergenerational gathering will take place from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. For children, parents, and every other interested person.

We will also organize a group activity one additional Sunday each month. The first will be:

Sunday, October 15

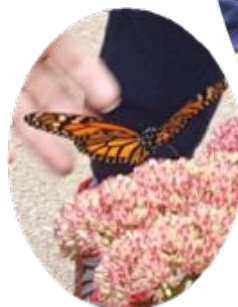
All elementary and Sunday-School age kids and families are invited to a field trip, following the worship service, to Dodge Nature Center in West Saint Paul. The kids will do a short reflection on God's creation and what we're called to do as servants of creation. We'll then play animal bingo as we explore Dodge's 400 acres and try to find as many animals as we can.

The event is designed to be friendly for K-6 grades. However, all kids, families, and adults in the community are invited to come along. There's always something fun to see at Dodge. Please email Andy George if you are planning to attend, or have any questions.

Monarchs!

Kay invited our children to slip outside before worship, to release this Monarch she had sheltered from an egg. Other members and friends, Tom & Mary Murphy, Kathy Farnell, have also been rescuing (from becoming food for other creatures) Monarch eggs found on the undersides of Milkweed leaves.

From Kay: I raise monarch butterflies in great measure out of gratitude to the Holy One, for the gifts of creation. It is my small way to say a prayer of "Wow!", then give a tiny bit back. Celtic Christians teach that, the Holy One becomes known to us through scripture & creation. Scottish poet Kenneth White wrote, "I open the book, and the words fly out of the page". (The book in this poem is creation.)





Women's Affinity Group

Friday, November 3, 7:00 p.m.

There will be no October Women's group as many are attending the women's retreat that month. Meetings resume in November, with the place to be announced in later weekend updates. If you are interested in hosting a monthly meeting in the coming year, (usually the first Friday), please contact Jill Jackson. Thanks for considering this!

Council Corner Notes

From the Council meeting on September 14:



-ASDIC Metamorphosis is now incorporated as a 501 C-3 company. Cherokee Park United will no longer be acting as its fiscal agent. CPUC remains supportive of ASDIC programs.

-The Rev. Glen Herrington-Hall will be installed as pastor at the First Congregational Church in Cannon Falls, MN at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 8, 2017. All are welcome. Karen Shatek will represent the Council at the event.

-The Lay Ministry Team announced the merging of several ministry teams. The Fellowship and Caring Teams will merge. The Justice and Witness and Antiracism Teams will merge. The Music Ministry Team will no longer meet. It is hoped the Music Ministry Team duties will be incorporated into a soon to be formed Personnel Ministry Team.

-The Council acknowledged the receipt of a letter from Josh Welter and Anna Jennerjohn sharing their decision to seek a new church home closer to their neighborhood and with other young families. We will miss them as members, thank them for their service, and wish them well in a new faith community.

-The Wacipi (pow wow) organizers expressed gratitude for the work and service of members in the preparation, serving, and clean up for the closing feast.

-The Council set a congregational meeting for Sunday, October 29 after worship, to elect the Council Class of 2020 and to vote on a Heating System Campaign - a fund-raising drive to replace the church's boiler and hot water heater. Information about the campaign will be available and shared soon.

-Council leadership remains grateful for the prayers and participation of the people of CPUC during this transitional period. Please connect with Council members or Pastor Joy with ideas or feedback you want to share as we work together to discern our church's future.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 29, after worship

The Council needs your votes to replace our heating system and to vote in new council members.

Let's Eat, Again!

Our sharing of conversations and snacks after every Sunday worship is one of our treasured traditions. There is always conversation, but we need everyone's help to insure there are always snacks. There is no one person directing this effort, but Mary Bren has set up a great DIY schedule binder found on the round table in Fellowship Hall. You can sign up for just setting the tables, or bringing the food, or cleaning up, or all of the above, on any given Sunday. One of our energetic young couples has volunteered to do all the Sundays in November! But you can make a much smaller commitment, by joining someone else who has volunteered for just one section. Currently there is need for help on October 22 and 29, and then December 10 and beyond. Just a half hour or hour's help will make this work. Please take a look at the book.



Warm Hearts, Warm Spirits, Warm Bodies!

Although we have recently had 80+ degree weather, our Property Management Ministry (PMM) is preparing for this winter and winters beyond. You will be hearing details on heating systems in the next few weeks, to better understand the need to replace our boiler. Most of us do not have homes heated with a furnace from 1972, but our church does. We hope it will last through this winter, but do not want to take a further risk. Here are a few facts to help get the picture.

- If our present boiler or pipes fail during the winter, it could cost double to replace, compared to the estimates we have received.
 - PMM has consulted with 13 different heating contractors over the past year; estimates range from \$50,000 to \$250,000.
 - Our present system is inefficient; we currently use 50% more gas than necessary, wasting about \$1600 per year.
 - We could save even more in expenses as a new system could include separate zones so we would not have to heat the upper level if we are only occupying the lower level.
 - We are paying an average of \$1200 per year on repairs on the old system.
 - If we keep the same system, or purchase a new system of the same type (steam) we will incur an \$11,000 expense in steam trap updates.
 - With our current system, we need to do a \$13,000 chimney repair.
 - Replacing the old large (steam) boiler with two smaller boilers (hot water) insures that if one boiler fails, we still have some heat in the building
 - A plan would include a new tankless water heater, which uses less energy.
- More information will be forthcoming in early October - if you have not received it by the 15th, please contact Jill Jackson.



Sacred Space Ministry

The image of Jesus in our sanctuary window has been the subject of many conversations, sermons, adult forums, book studies, children & family events, and fellowship hour discussions since 2011. As a church whose mission statement proclaims it is “inclusive, multicultural, anti-racist”, it is a concern to have a historically inaccurate representation of Jesus, particularly a white-skinned, red-haired Jesus, as the central image in our sanctuary.



Thus a new collaborative effort is being undertaken to respond to the directive given by congregational vote on September 28, 2014 to “explore alternatives to the current stained glass window”. In our first meeting, September 13, 2017, this group realized that while we want to address alternatives that are intentionally welcoming to people of all races and ethnicities, we also want to make sure all of our spaces visually reflect other values in our mission statement: (e.g.) an inclusive welcome of members of the LBGTQ community; people of all ages, babies to the elderly; people who have differing abilities. In addition, we would like to visually reflect our deep commitment to caring for creation.

Because we are attempting to take a broader view, we have chosen a new name: *Sacred Space Ministry*. We collectively represent a variety of ministry teams, to help us benefit from a wide range of perspectives and ideas: Anti-racism, Justice & Witness, Outreach, Worship, Property Management, Faith Life.

It is important that everyone in the congregation know that they have a way to both share input and to have a way to be kept up to date, about this work. As we invite artists to propose alternatives, it would be helpful for everyone in our congregation to answer the question “How do you want people to feel when they come into the sanctuary?” You can provide your answers by emailing sacredspace@cherokeeparkunited.org or by going to <http://cherokeeparkunited.org/sacredspace>. We welcome ideas, comments and suggestions you may want to share through the same channels.

Together, we can more fully live into our mission to “celebrate the dignity and joyful diversity of all God’s creation”!

Pastor Joy Smith, Phyllis Andrews, Tomie Evans, Maria McNamara, Kay Myhrman-Toso, Okogyeamon, Sandy Settivig, Jim Shatek, Joy Sorensen-Navarre, Susan Strebbig, Winnie Williams

If you are new to Cherokee or simply want more of the history and ongoing details of this endeavor, please keep reading!

(Sacred Space Ministry, continued)

Whatever happened to the Stained Glass Jesus Taskforce?

Well, other things happened, i.e. Pastor Tim retired, we formed a transitional pastor search committee, then formed a transition committee. And congregational life moved at a slower pace. So the window focus was tabled for a time. Now, we resume.

Taskforce History: Council's attention to the inadequacy of the stained glass window has been going on since 2011, prompted by previous congregational surveys. The original request to the council was to colorize the skin tones on the Jesus figure to achieve a more accurate cultural identity, which was not approved. They requested that the "Anti-Racism ministry develop options to address the need of creating more inclusive and welcoming representations of the Sacred." Some work around this was undertaken by a sub-committee, the Becoming Beloved Community (BBC). Later, a taskforce was formed in May of 2013, organized by the council, with assistance from the Anti-Racism Team to select members. This taskforce, in turn, organized, in cooperation with other ministries, eight months of extensive and informative conversations and presentations around the impact of public art in general, and in particular, our only religious piece of sanctuary art, the Stained Glass Jesus.

Congregational Window Discussions: Efforts of the taskforce, from September 2013 through April of 2014, included:

- *eight Sundays of sermons* based on various images of Jesus, what they mean or portray to us, and what scholars and theologians tell us about the human Jesus.
- *wall projections during Sunday worship*, of culturally diverse pictures of Jesus (which continues to this day)
- inclusion of "white racial frame" summary to be included in *council member teachings*
- *Adult Forum* study of the book *Zealot...* which affirms the radical and transformative nature of Jesus of Nazareth, Life and Mission
- *Adult Forum study on the Accra Confession* providing connections between economic justice and racial justice
- *two Sunday children's and family sessions* by Faith Life and Anti-racism ministries on who Jesus is for them, what Jesus's life was like, what Jesus ate, where our individual ancestors are from & where Jesus was from, what Jesus probably looked like.
- a Sunday service time for people to *write, in cinquain form* (or not) what emotions the window evokes for them (Both positive and negative words resulted.) These were shared in the newsletter.
- inclusion of *children's stories* in worship that intentionally reflect diversity
- a November *Fellowship Hour* devoted to a conversational "check-in" around the window.

(Sacred Space Ministry, continued)

-two *Adult Forum Sunday hours* in February presented by the United Theological Seminary Director of the Program of Arts, Faith, & Culture, on the influence of art on faith formation.

-a three-hour Saturday morning *forum on "Respectful Conversations"* in April, facilitated by the Minnesota Council of Churches, which gave people a safe place for extensive sharing of ideas and feelings about the window.

-advance notices of these efforts and resulting reports included in every monthly *newsletter*.

Congregational Meeting Motion: Minutes of the September 28, 2014 minutes state that a motion was approved to "explore alternatives to the current stained glass window..." and that any future motion on it was "to be decided by consensus at a future congregational meeting." it further defined consensus as: "a method of deliberation in decision-making where all members have the opportunity to express their opinions about the subject matter before a motion is made. From this discussion, the motion to be brought to a vote is shaped in such a way that all members feel the issues of importance to them regarding the subject matter are taken into account in shaping the motion." Council then, in 2015 decided to create a taskforce to look at options.

Taskforce Meeting September 13, 2017: The present taskforce members were approved by the council to resume this conversation and move forward. The meeting resulted in the agreement that the discussion of alternatives to the window were about much more than just one window. *The issue is about what our sanctuary says about welcoming all, and how important it is to have our surroundings reflect who we are.*

A situation possibly illustrative of this that at least three different LGBT people visited us this summer at different times, and never came back. The person who knew they were coming, guesses that it is not because we lack in personal welcome - we do that fairly well. But possibly because people can go to other churches and find a rainbow flag or indications, and other comforting visuals of welcome to minorities, women, children, etc. (The Outreach Ministry is currently working on this issue also.)

It was also pointed out to one of our members, by visitors, that although we might project multicultural images during worship, those images are not present when our sanctuary and building are hosting other events, i.e. the art exhibits, so during those times, we do not visually express any openness, much less invitation, to diversity.

Artists Invitation to Submit Ideas: The next step to finding alternatives will be to offer various artists an opportunity to look at our sanctuary and offer ideas of how to make it welcoming to all. We place no restrictions on medium - this could involve

(Sacred Space Ministry, continued)

sculpture, wall art, window change, anything. But we will need to guide them as to what we want accomplished through this change. Your ideas will help with this.

Values Reflected in Our Spaces: Page 6 lists ways you can express your opinions to this committee. The same questions of intent were asked at the first meeting, with these suggestions: respect for all cultures, we all are works of God, representative of all of us, Celtic tradition, creation care, we are part of—not separate from —creation, peace/shalom/salaam-all religions, love, you belong here, God is here, anchored by faith - not just Jesus, welcoming all races & sexual identities, historically accurate images, invitation to contemplation, inspire questions - not just answers, who are we?, bringing spirituality into the present rather than just a historical past, uplifting, acknowledging the feminine Divine, inclusion of children as equally important.

Can We Afford Any Changes? This might actually be the first consideration that some members give! Thank you for having patience and interest enough to read this far. The financing question is at the end of this article, as we'd like this to be the last issue, not the first. We realize that our old building has pressing needs in updating. But we do not anticipate plundering the church's coffers. There are some bequeathed funds available to us, and we also have faith that "money follows mission", meaning that enough members and friends of the congregation will find this compelling enough to give additional financial support.

Transition Happenings

- On Sunday, 10/8, Jeff Japinga, Executive Presbyter of the Twin Cities, will be joining us for worship and a Q&A after service. Part of the transition time is exploring what it means to be part of both the United Church of Christ, and the Presbyterian Church. Please plan to come with any questions you've always had about Presbyterianism, but never had the chance to ask.
- During October, we will also launch the Church Planning Inventory. It's an anonymous survey that will ask us about our ministry as a church, our pastoral leadership, and our vision for the future. We want to ensure that each and every member of the church gets a chance to have their views included, so we'll have both online and paper copies of the inventory you can complete. The information we gather from the inventory will be analyzed and shared with the congregation, and will be used to help craft our search for a permanent pastor.
- This fall we will also take part in a Mission Study. This will look more specifically at the needs of our neighbors, as well as our own gifts and talents, and what God is calling us to do in the world. We'll use both the Mission Study and the Inventory to help shape our work as we update the church's Mission Statement for this next chapter in our history.

As always, we welcome your transition-related questions and ideas. Transition Team members: Pastor Joy, Karen Shatek, Jackie Rico, Sandy Dodson, and Andy George

Mendota Mdewankanton Wacipi

Feast blessed by cooks' hands and then blessed again.



Thank You

This youth group that used us as their “hostel” for the second year, sent this thank you note and left a \$100 bill in the kitchen. Thanks to Joanne and Stefan for being their overnight hosts.

Dear Joanne—Just wanted to thank you and the church again for your hospitality. I pray you found things all in order! We are now back and all the kids are in soccer practice ... on Facebook you can find our journal and photos on either the Guilford Community Church or Brattleboro Area Interfaith Youth pages. Prayers and gratitude to you and your congregation.

In Faith, Rev. Lise Sparrow, Guilford Community Church, United Church of Christ



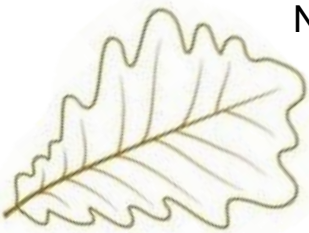
Confirmation Group

This year's confirmation group started off their journey (literally!) with a trip to the Boundary Waters, exploring the beauty of God's place and coming to see the beauty in each other. We support them as they discover their spiritual paths.



REMEMBERING our departed loved ones

From the second week in October through the second week in November, you are invited to add a photo, framed or unframed, or memento of a departed loved one to the shelf display at the back of the sanctuary — a combination of All Saints Day, Dia de los Muertos. There will also be small post-it notes if you'd like to identify the person (or pet), and you may also light a battery-operated tea candle.



Warm Jackets Needed - children's size 10 and up

Tom Murphy, who teaches technology at Guadalupe Alternative School, collects used jackets, coats, hoodies, for his low income students who arrive here from warmer countries and have no idea what a Minnesota winter is! You are invited to help keep them warm and healthy. See collection box near Fellowship Hall entrance.

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

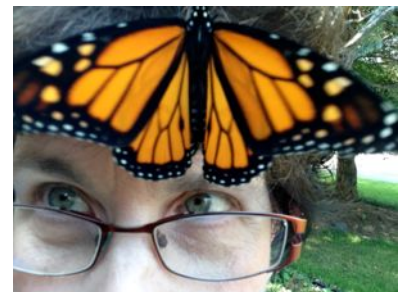
371 W. Baker Street

St. Paul, MN 55107

Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.

Rev. Joy Smith - Interim Pastor

Abe Hunter - Director of Music Ministry



*The fingerprints of the Holy One are everywhere,
even in the flutter of a monarch's wing.*

Kay Myhrman-Toso