



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 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WE D	THUR	FRI	SAT
30	31	1 <i>August</i> National Night Out at CPUC	2	3	4	5
6 -Food Collection <i>SSC**</i>	7	8	9	10 Council 7 pm	11 Host youth group overnight	12
13 <i>SSC**</i>	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 <i>SSC**</i>	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Worship Mtg 7 pm	30	31	1 <i>September</i> Women's group 7 pm	2
3 -Food Collection	4	5	6	7 * Loaves & Fishes	8 Mdewankanton Wacipi	9 Wacipi food prep
10 Wacipi food prep Serve feast	11	12	13	14 Council 7 pm	15	6
17 Covenanting Sunday	18	19	20	21	22	23

****SSC** - Summer Sunday Conversations - 10:45 a.m. - noon: Defining who we want to be in the coming years

Future dates: Fall Clean-Up Day, Saturday, October 7.

Women's Retreat, Fri-Sat, October 13-14

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

Cover photo: by Tom Murphy and Phantom quad copter (drone)
For a video of the copter's journey, complete with aerial view of the St. Paul skyline and ending with an insect's view of the cement sidewalk, view You tube at: <https://youtu.be/7sifq1rkHpo>



Women's Group

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

The Women's Affinity Group will meet at the home of Jill Jackson. Light refreshments will be served and a lively discussion shared. We look forward to another year of building relationships and sharing our lives with each other. If you are interested in hosting a monthly meeting (usually the first Friday at 7:00 p.m.) please contact Jill. Thanks for considering this!



Come to Church on National Night Out!

Cherokee Park United will host National Night Out on Baker Street in front of the church on Tuesday, August 1, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. If you are able to distribute invitations to houses sometime in mid-July, or help with set-up, serving, or clean-up please let us know. And join us for ice cream, balloons, face-painting, meeting the neighbors! Contact Joanne Sylvander, Jill Jackson .

Got a Minute or Two? Let's Talk!

Joanne Sylvander and the Transition Team would like to invite you for some **Summer Sunday Conversations**. After a year of transition, it's a good time to pause and listen to one another as we prepare for the challenges of discovering and defining who we want to be in the coming years. We will gather on the following Sundays from 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 Noon (during Fellowship Hour). You can attend one or all of them. Everyone is invited! Bring someone with you! Join us on August 6, August 13 and August 20.

18th Annual Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Wacipi

Friday–Sunday, September 8–10

We are gathering volunteers to help with our annual support of this wacipi (pow wow). Our primary commitment is the provision of food for 250 people at the closing feast on Sunday evening, which is a major undertaking so many hands are needed to prep and cook and socialize!

We will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 9 in our kitchen, and finish in early afternoon. We also will need people

Sunday after church until 4 p.m., then help to transport food over to the site, people to serve, and folks to bring things back to the church afterwards. Clean up is on Monday morning in the kitchen. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Karen Shatek and Joanne Sylvander will have sign up sheets with times and dates and are happy to answer any questions. Please see us after church!



Follow Up on my Observations this Year

Traditions: One of my observations prompted the question – Can you let go of projects, ministries, even traditions when there is a lack of interest, volunteers, or past their sell-by date? Some of your traditions need to stay. My concern is when we hold on to those projects so tightly, it will lessen the impact of what you are doing and energy for something new. In addition, it can hinder the possibility to see or hear the new thing the Spirit is calling you to do. I want to be clear, I am not talking about changing values, theology, commitment to justice – without those, we don't get to call ourselves a church. But anything other than – will need to be held lightly, and sometimes not at all.



On Sunday, July 16, following worship, Joanne led us in “Summer Conversations”. In small groups, we answered two questions.

1) What is one thing we do at CPUC that you don't want to go away?

2) What is the one thing we do at CPUC that you can let go of?

I tried to summarize the responses, and expect I missed some. I hope you will send them to me – and for those not able to join us, this is an opportunity to share your thoughts.

Keep:

Acceptance and welcome to all those who come through the doors, diversity!, theological “elbow room”, social justice, social gospel, open and affirming, ministry not just about individuals but also involvement in the city, community and world, worship and liturgy that speak to racism & social justice, LGBTQ gender non-conformity, music!, global and familiar hymns, the choir, a sense of community & Fellowship hour, ASDIC, Bible study, trying out new ideas.

Let Go:

Too many committees, doing too much, individual pet projects, long time outreach-mission projects, the “White Jesus” stained glass window, a 50's sense of church i.e. traditional way of doing Sunday school & committees, worship in the sanctuary, certain hymns, dividing events by gender (women's group, men's group), watering the grass, the boiler, summer worship picnic, a second year of transition time.

You are doing a fantastic job navigating this new territory of change. This is hard work. I get it; the transition will make you happy, sad, frustrated, angry, relieved, anxious, energized and even apathetic. Although the work is not done yet, you are right where you ought to be at this time. So far so good! Hang in there – all is well.

Much peace, *Pastor Jay*

Calorie Reduction Plan (bake cookies, then give them away)

We have been asked to share our building and hospitality, for the third year, with a Youth Group from Vermont. They will be on their way to their mission project with the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota. The Rev. Lise Sparrow of the Guilford Community Church UCC leads this Brattleboro Area Interfaith Youth Group as they journey to LaPlante S.D., where they live and work with the natives there through a program called Simply Smiles. The group of perhaps 6 adults and 12 young people will arrive at the airport here Friday afternoon, August 11, get transportation vehicles, and come to CPUC for their evening meal, sleep, and morning breakfast before they leave for South Dakota. Joanne and Stefan will be there as hosts.

We have no obligations other than hospitality of a safe place. It might be extra friendly if we were to have some snacks available to augment the food they are already providing. If you are interested in preparing some cookies or bars for this purpose, you can bring them to the church Sunday, August 6 and label them – **For Vermont Youth** – we will freeze them. Or contact Joanne Sylvander if you would like to bring at a different time.

An interesting note: Guilford Community Church celebrated its 250th anniversary, tying for third oldest church in Vermont.



Transition Team Report

The Transition Team continues to meet monthly discussing tasks underway and will now begin preparing the UCC “Profile” and PCUSA “Ministry Information Form”, the documents that explains who we are and who we feel called to be within the church and world. It is what potential pastor candidates read in their discernment of whether to further explore inquiry regarding CPUC.

We have work to do in order to build strong up-to-date profiles. You have heard or read about many of the opportunities that have happened, are happening and will happen. “Summer Conversations,” connecting with anti-racism leadership, planning informational interviews with neighborhood community organizations, hosting representatives from the UCC and PCUSA, and securing demographic statistics for our area are just a few of the things the Transition Team has organized (or will) that prepare us for writing the documents. Another important task is that a mission statement needs to be drafted.

Contrary to how it sometimes feels sitting in the pew, CPUC behind the scenes transition leadership is building momentum and making progress. Thank you for your participation and support as we travel together into our next ministry adventure!

Transition Team: Andy George, Jackie Rico, Karen Shatek, Sandy Dodson, Pastor Joy

A Letter From Jan to Cherokee Park United Church



Our family moved to the West Side in 1984. We had belonged to Macalester Plymouth Presbyterian church in the Macalester area, so decided to try CPUC, the same UCC and PC USA affiliates.

The first visit was very successful. Mel's dad had owned a moving company on the West Side, and it seemed that all the older people had had several very pleasant moving experiences. And when I say older people, I mean all the congregation except Jill Jackson, Diane Spicer and family.

Throughout the years I enjoyed being involved in almost every activity: council, circle, quilt making, Christmas Boutiques, rummage sales, formation of first Lay Ministry committee, fruit cakes, dinners, soup & salad events, coffee hours, Bible study, etc. Mel was the Jim Shatek of the era – furnace issues, repairs to roof on a very high ladder, shoveling snow, sign painting, creating Building Blocks table dividers and then tutoring, repairing furniture, cooking for Men's Group, etc.

CPUC became our family. This family supported and comforted me in the deaths of my parents, Mel's mother, Mel, and most recently Pepper.

I have always looked forward to Sunday mornings. For the smiles, hugs, greeting, and of course, the message. I need that reminder of what church is all about. No matter who the preacher is, I always come away having received a good jolt of energy to my spirit to carry me through the next week. And I love seeing the reception given to visitors and new people.

We as a family – CPUC – are now in one of the most exciting times of our history together. The future of CPUC is wide open. We have the opportunity to unload gripes, voice complaints, offer ideas, help point us in the direction of tomorrow. Do we want to change something? Add programs? Delete programs? Create new traditions? What do we want to keep?

Sometimes in our family, things get a little testy. We don't argue, and that is what family meetings are for. I love my biological family very much, but I certainly don't agree with everything the rest are doing or saying, but we talk about it and reach agreements and come out of the situation a stronger family than we went into it.

As members of CPUC we have an opportunity we may have only once in a lifetime – that of choosing a path for our church, and a new leader that we hope will be with us for some years.

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We were at Macalester Plymouth when the church was going through the same process. The general congregation was not given the same opportunities as CPUC to express ideas. I didn't know what was going on with the search, and Mel was on the search committee!

I'm really excited to be a part of this transition at CPUC and I look forward to hearing from and working with all of my wonderful family at CPUC.

See you in church! Jan Howe



Follow Your Ministry Star - Part 2

Our congregation benefits greatly, and actually only exists because, our members are willing to volunteer their time and talents in this common effort to make the world a better place. Some of us are politically active, some are in nurturing roles, some are the practical fixers who keep the building from falling down around our ears. (And some people do all of the above, and more.)

Hopefully all can find involvement that uses their talents in an enjoyable way. Below is a continuing list of some ministries that are currently looking for your enthusiastic involvement. If you need advice in finding your niche, please contact Diane Spicer, Lay Ministry, at dispicer@hotmail.com or 612-804-8151. All of the tasks below are **working with or helping others** on the same activity. Help several times on a specific task or join a committee, many of which just meet 3-4 times a year.

Antiracism: Help prepare (Saturday) or serve (Sunday) a meal prepared at CPUC to serve to the Mendota Mdewakanton Tribal Community at their annual wacipi (pow wow; wacipi translates to "they dance") at St. Peter's grounds, Sept. 9-10.

Faith Life: Help fill/re-do the *children's worship activity bags* - four times a year; there are still Lenten items in there - yikes! Help *plan* the year's activities. Lead or help lead a *Sunday School class or family gathering* once (or more) a month on Sunday mornings 9-10 a.m. during the school year. We will work with you to plan and facilitate a session!

Fellowship: Help with one or more duties to host a fellowship hour after Sunday worship.

Finance: Help *review the church finances* and made recommendations to the council.

Property Management: Suggest/work on inexpensive ways to *update our building's "look."* Work with committee to *oversee contracted services* such as new hot water boiler installation, possibly in 2018.

Worship: Help *change sanctuary cloths* or banners and/or plan seasonal worship services. *Serve communion 2-3 times per year* (need to be a member or confirmed teen). If you prefer "behind the scenes" help is needed to take the communion cups/plate after worship to *clean and store*; and also help to *tidy up the pews* from leftover worship papers and a few goldfish crackers and resshelf a few hymnals.

Pride Parade...getting there by feet, wheels, or paws



June Loaves and Fishes Crew



All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir...

Peter, Paul and Mary, and Rev. Sandy

...some sing low, some sing higher,
some sing out loud on the
telephone wire,
and some just clap their
hands, or paws,
or anything they got now.



Worship Ministry Meeting

We will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the church on Tuesday, August 29. Please let Jill know if you are unable to come.

Deadline for articles is the 20th of the month; please submit articles, ideas or feedback to editor Susan Strebog at kellystrebog@comcast.net or 651-457-1404.

The newsletter team also consists of: pre-publishing fact editors Phyllis Clark and Mary Murphy, collate/mail teams Phyllis & Cal Clark, Stefan Sylvander & Kathy Bergthold. Thanks to Tom Murphy and Stefan Sylvander for their many photo contributions.

Member Spotlight

Tomie Evans is leading a workshop for Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church's Mission Celebration 2017 - Concerns of God's Heart - being held at **Oak Grove PC**



in Bloomington on Saturday, October 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. The workshop is entitled "Creation Care at Scale: Optimism and Love to safely shift the world to a low-carbon economy." This is one of five workshops on the topic of creation care/climate action. Churches such as ours, with a heart for environmental justice and welfare, are also invited to



set up a display to highlight environmental action.

Philip Rickey, a sculptor whose father George Rickey was an internationally-known sculptor, is currently working on his *Life of Christ* installation in South Bend IN. Philip's work can be seen locally at an overlook of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers at the entry to Crosby Farm Park, corner of Gannon and Shepherd Rds.



Sandy Settevig, is studying Danish, which she describes as a sort of "back of the throat" language like French, as opposed to the "sing-songy" sound of Norwegian. She says there is a good test of whether someone has mastered the vowel sounds, if they are asked to say "red pudding with cream." So, ask Sandy for this interesting demonstration. If you don't see her at church, call her on the phone; it will be worth your time to hear. Rødgrød med Fløde!

Annual Women's Retreat

Seeing with new eyes...the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new lands but seeing with new eyes. *Marcel Proust*

This annual event will be held again at the ARC ((**A**ction, **R**eflection, **C**elebration) Retreat Center on Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14. Join us as we explore new ways to imagine our faith and life at Cherokee Park United Church. Pastor Joy will lead us on a journey to visualize our common life in new ways. Come to see the possibilities for our church in transition!



ARC is a wonderful lodge in a wooded setting near Cambridge, Minnesota and it is known for superb vegetarian cooking – and there is no washing dishes! Those wishing to carpool should plan to leave St. Paul by 4:00 pm. on Friday. Linens are provided.

Registration forms are available at church. The cost of the retreat is \$120, with a \$30.00 deposit due by Sunday, September 17. There is limited space, so please register early. If you have any questions, please contact Jill Jackson.

CPUC is Blooming ~ and St. Paul has noticed

We have again been nominated for a St. Paul Blooming Award. Thanks to Winnie Williams, Kay Myhrman-Toso, and Kathy Farnell for doing our spring flower and shrub clean-up, and to Wayne Bjorlie for his weekly lawn mowing and care.



Hard Copy Readers

If you receive this newsletter as a paper copy in the mail, let me know if you would like to continue to receive it in **color** (like the July issue) rather than black and white. It is an extra expense but we may be able to send color copies to those who request it.

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 **9:30 a.m.** June-July-August

(10:15 a.m. Sept-June 4)

Rev. Joy Smith - Interim Pastor

Abe Hunter - Director of Music Ministry



*There are no unsacred places;
there are only sacred places
and desecrated places.
Wendell Berry, Given*