



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 February 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
29 -Connect! for Families 9-10 am "It's Not Fair!" -Adult Forum -Annual meeting	30	31	1 <i>Feb</i> Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	2	3 Women's group 7 pm	4 ASDIC
5 -Adult Forum - Connect! for Families 9-10 am Soul Stories -Food collection	6	7	8 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	9 Council	10	11 -ASDIC -Before the Flood; climate change 4-11 pm
12 -Adult Forum -Sunday School -Music recital 2 pm -Inquirers class	13 Transition Team Mtg	14	15 -Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm -Faith Life Meeting 6:15 pm	16	17 Men's group 6:30 pm	18 ASDIC
19 -Adult Forum -Sunday School -Retreat reg due -Inquirers class	20	21	22 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	23	24	25 ASDIC <i>Mardi Gras</i> 7-11 pm
26-Adult Forum - Connect! for Families 9-10 am "New Games" -Food collection	27	28	1 <i>March</i> Ash Wednesday	2	3 * Loaves & Fishes	4 ASDIC
5-Adult Forum - Connect! for Families 9-10 am -Food collection	6	7	8 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	9 Council	10	11 ASDIC
12 -Adult Forum -Sunday School	13	14	15 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	16	17 (men's group changed to March 24) <i>Leaders Retreat</i>	18 ASDIC <i>Leaders Retreat</i>

* Loaves & Fishes first Thursday of the odd numbered months

Women's Affinity Group

welcoming all women and those who identify as women or along a feminine spectrum

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

We will meet at the home of Pastor. You can park on Spring Street in front of the apartment building. Call her cell phone, when you arrive and she will let you in. The building is accessible with a ramp outside and an elevator inside.



First Sundays Food Collection - February 5 alert

Foods and funds collected are donated to the Neighborhood House Free Food Store (formerly "Foodshelf") at the Wellstone Center. Over 2,500 pounds of food are distributed daily, serving nearly 10,000 households each year. 50% of those served are children and 90% live on incomes below the national poverty guideline. Food collection in our church community is emphasized each first Sunday, when we ourselves, are fed by Eucharist that we may have strength to feed others. The food collection grocery cart, however, is always available in the narthex.



Connect ! Connecting Faith and Life

Children - Families - All - Welcome

Sunday, January 29, 9:00-10:00 a.m. Storytime for Solidarity

Anna Jennerjohn, Josh Welter and Tom Murphy will lead us in making our own tambourines, and then circling up for stories, songs and sharing. Tom will be leading us with his trusty guitar

Sunday, February 5, 9:00-10:00 a.m. "It's Not Fair!"

ALL are welcome to join us for activity and conversation about the golden rule - Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. When have you noticed that something wasn't fair? How do you feel when you win and someone doesn't? What does Jesus teach us about being fair? Brought to you by Faith Life and the Anti-Racism Teams.

Sunday, February 26, 9:00-10:00 a.m. "Can we do it?"

Join us for "new" games, led by Sandy Dodson. (It's a surprise.)

Council Corner

The Council met for its first meeting in 2017 on January 12 led by moderator Jerome Graf. Items discussed included:



- Remind all members and friends of CPUC about the Emergency Community Relief Fund which the pastor can use to assist people in the community with pressing needs or in crisis. Contributions can be made to the fund using the church envelopes marked as “Communion”, or, you can make out a check and write “Emergency Community Relief” on the memo line. This donation is tax deductible, just like all donations to the church. We hope people will be generous to this fund in 2017. The Council approved other special offerings to be taken during the year as well.
- The church paid its final installment under our agreement with Sundial Solar at the end of 2016. All of the proceeds of the energy the solar panels generate will be credited to Cherokee Park United now. At the present time, we are producing more electric energy than we are using. This helps our budget expenses as well as the environment. A “win-win” situation for sure!
- A new challenge to our earth-friendly policies is the decision by the City of St. Paul to suspend recycling collection from non-profit organizations like churches. The reason is that recycling is paid for by residential taxes and churches were basically getting recycling service for free. Until we figure out a way to handle our recycling, please consider taking some of the church’s recycling home to add to your household recycling. Thank you!
- Members welcomed Maria McNamara and Mike Bates who began terms on Council with this meeting. Members volunteered for many special roles for 2017 at the meeting. We especially thank Mike Bates and Mary Murphy who will be covering the duties of Clerk of Council this year.

Council leadership remains grateful for the prayers and participation of the CPUC family of faith during this interim period. Please connect with Council members or Pastor Joy with ideas or concerns you want to share as we continue to live out God's will together.

Other Items:

You are invited to **Community Connections and Conversation: Climate Change and Our Response**. (See flyer next page)

Cherokee Park United Church

Presents

Community Connections and Conversation: Climate Change and Our Response



Screening of Leonardo DiCaprio and Fisher Steven's Film
Before The Flood

4 pm to 7 pm, Saturday, February 11

Community welcome! (suggested age 10 and over) Free!

*Light soup supper follows the video; Discussion and sharing
of resources after meal*



371 Baker St. W. On St. Paul's West Side

For information call 651 227-4275 or email cpuc@usfamily.net



Music Recital- cancelled

The Outreach Ministry Team is sorry to report the recital with Abe Hunter and Humberto Borboa Beltran scheduled for February 12 is canceled because of travel problems for Humberto. We hope to reschedule these talented people for a recital at Cherokee Park United later this year.

Thanks you for your understanding.

Men's Group Future Meetings

Friday, February 17, 6:30 p.m.

We will meet at the home of Stefan Sylvander. The March meeting, at home of Tom Murphy, is moved forward one week, to March 24 because of the leader's retreat; The April meeting is at the home of Mike Bates, and the May meeting at home of Jim Shatek.

Second Sleight of Mouth Workshop

Friday-Saturday, March 24-25

At a time when racially biased statement-making is sometimes celebrated as honest truth-telling or the antidote to political correctness, we may find ourselves increasingly confronted by statements that ring untrue, or blatantly racist, in the course of our day. In Sleight of Mouth, we'll practice turning these moments—which are too-often silence-inducing—into opportunities to break a racially biased statement down to its component parts. We'll practice engaging the statement-makers in investigating and challenging their own deeply held, even unrecognized, beliefs.



The workshop consists of two half-days; Friday, 5:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. [Register here.](#)

Grant Awarded

Congratulations to the Faith Life Ministry for acquiring a \$600 Ashley Foundation Endowment of the Minnesota UCC Conference grant to further our mission of solidarity with all people. Josh Welter followed up on a lead from Pastor Joy that resulted in this grant, which will provide for supporting materials such as children's books and honorariums for guest musicians/leaders/ speakers from outside our congregation.

The January event will be the first of the "Storytime for Solidarity" multicultural and intergenerational gatherings organized by Anna Jennerjohn and Josh Welter.



The Green Bowl

You may have admired this bowl used each Sunday by Pastor Joy as part of our forgiveness ritual during worship. In the past it had resided on a shelf in the back of the sanctuary. It was given to us by Brian Stienstra, who was a member with us from 2005 to 2010. Brian had long felt the call to ministry; this sense of call began in the Episcopal Church, where he was ordained as a deacon. However, the Episcopalian Church at that time was unwilling to ordain LGBTQ members as priests. This was a painful experience of exclusion for Brian. He found his way to United Theological Seminary in order to explore further his sense of call into ordained ministry, knowing it would not be among Episcopalians.



He became aware of Cherokee Park United Church through one of the activities of the Outreach Ministry and immediately felt a sense of welcome and a spiritual home at Cherokee. This in turn led him to explore ordination through the United Church of Christ.

Brian had battled cancer before he moved to Minnesota, and was on track for ordination when his cancer returned. One clinical pastoral education class away from completing his degree, his health forced him to withdraw. United Theological Seminary took up his case and with unanimous consent of the board they approved him for graduation. Between Brian's past background in hospital administration in San Francisco and all he had experienced as a cancer patient, the board thought he'd completed this course - and then some! He was awarded his diploma by the president of UTS during a Sunday morning worship at Cherokee Park United, just a few months before he died.

Apparently Brian had a nice collection of art pieces; the bowl came from San Francisco with him and was probably a favorite because of its baptismal potential, which was central to his sense of call. We hope he would be delighted with the use it is now given. Brian also had gifted us with two original Salvador Dalí prints.

Rev. Tim Johnson, pastor at the time, inherited from Brian the black robe Tim often wore during worship, and many stoles, which Brian wanted passed along to future ministers who were committed to working for social justice, particularly LGBTQ inclusion. Three were given to seminary grads on behalf of CPUC, one being a CPUC intern, Laura Gatzke, who, from a young age, has risked losing friends and employment as a faithful advocate for the GLBTQ community.



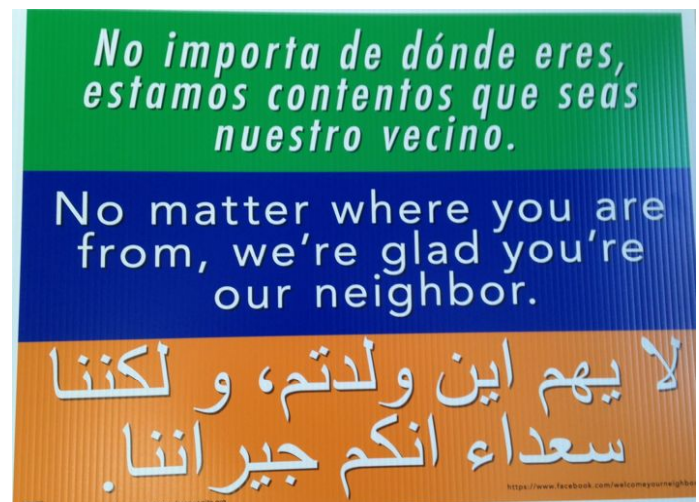
Community Study Dialogue Circle

Saturdays, February 4 through April 8

This bi-annual 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. ASDIC Circles are open to everyone and scholarships are available. Each week participants gather to create a safe place for risk-taking, community formation, and acting with care and confidence. Contact us at asdicle@gmail.com or 612-558-0452 [Register here.](#)

All Are Welcome

These signs, along with metal standards to install on your lawn, are available in the Parents' Room for a suggested donation, thanks to the St. Paul Mennonite Fellowship that meets there on Sunday evenings.



CPUC Snow Gnome?



Hello Joe, Goodbye Snow

We have hired a new snow removal person, Joseph who lives only a few blocks away and also does snow removal for Joy & Lon. Kelly interviewed numbers of contractors and was most impressed by Joe and we hope to have him and his family join us for worship or fellowship sometime; meanwhile, if you see him out shoveling, stop and welcome him.

Lent and Easter

Plans will be announced soon in a future midweek email update.

Christmas Figurines

If you loaned us your Nativity figurines and have not yet taken them home, you will find them on a cart in the Sunday School supply room to the right of the stage.



Interesting Tasks for Interesting People

Compiling the annual ministry reports brought to light the situation that various ministries still could greatly use extra help at various times, so as not to burn out their members. Many tasks can be done without ever attending a meeting, (if they are boring to you), or other tasks may be accomplished during meetings, if you just love those!

Party-On Mardi Gras: Help needed the day before, Fri. Feb. 24 to decorate and set up Fellowship Hall, and Sat. Feb. 25 eve to help with table-clearing, dish-washing/kitchen clean-up. Okogyeamon

Family Connect!: Twice a month from 9-10 a.m., usually first and last Sundays, Faith Life offers time for all to connect faith and life; do you have a topic of 15 minutes to share? Ministry members will help work out supporting crafts etc. Josh Welter

Ice-Choppers: Take out your frustrations by chopping. If you see melting water accumulating at our handicurb, bring your ice chopper and free the street drain located halfway between the wide boulevard sidewalk and hydrant. Kelly Strebig

Worship: Pass offering plates - Kathy Bergthold

Greet and hand out worship bulletins - Jill Jackson

Book organizing and labeling: Help organize the books in our little library in Fellowship Hall; we already have a plan for marking book and shelf categories using colored tape. (No complicated Dewey Decimal System.) This could be a one-time task taking several hours that can be spread out over a period of time or maybe even some done at home. Susan Strebig

Children's worship bags: Help 1-4 times a year to take items out of the worship activity bags and replace with new markers, crayons, color sheets and books appropriate for the season. Takes 1-2 hours. Susan Strebig

Finance Ministry: If you enjoy working with numbers or writing reports, or if you enjoy the challenge of monitoring and balancing a budget, this might be for you. Lynne Bates

Third Annual

MARDI GRAS & ASDIC Fundraiser

Saturday, February 25, 7-11pm

Join us for a feast of Cajun, Creole, and Brazilian food, DJ and line dancing, mask-making, games for kids, and good company as we raise the funds to form a 501(c)(3).

\$12/ticket ✦ \$20/2 tickets

Cherokee Park United Church
371 Baker Street West, Saint Paul MN 55107
Information: Okogyeamon, 612-558-0452

✦ WEAR YOUR TUESDAY BEST ✦

Cherokee Park United Church Annual Leader's Retreat

March 17-18: 6:00 p.m. Friday to 4:30 p.m. Saturday
ARC Ecumenical Retreat Center, Stanchfield, MN

Location: The ARC Retreat Center is a wonderful old lodge in a beautiful wooded setting near Cambridge, Minnesota, known for its superb vegetarian cooking! Linens are provided. There will be time for hiking on the grounds, fellowship and just relaxing.



Who should attend: Council members, ministry chairs and other leaders, as well as all interested members and friends. The focus of our time together will be our future hopes and dreams and how we transition there.

The registration of \$120 per person includes over-night accommodations, dinner Friday night, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Full or partial scholarships are available through Pastor Joy. Those wishing to car pool should be at the church by 4:00 p.m. on Friday.

Registrations need to be turned in to Karen Shatek by Sunday, February 19.



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 Yes, I would like to attend the Leader's Retreat on March 17 & 18.

Enclosed is my \$20.00 deposit.

Yes, I plan to car pool.

No, I will drive on my own.

Do you have special dietary needs or restrictions? _____

Please specify: Vegetarian, gluten-free, allergies, etc.)

Email _____ (requested by the ARC)

Name _____

Please return to Karen Shatek by Sunday, February 19.

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 - Transitional Pastor

Abe Hunter - Director of Music Ministry

*This Is precisely the time when artists go to work,
There is not time for despair, no place for self-pity,
no need for silence, no room for fear.
We speak, we write, (we make art) we do language.
That is how civilizations heal.*

-- Toni Morrison