



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 June 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
28 (last) Adult Forum	29 Memorial Day	30	31 (last) Choir rehearsal/potluck Choir resumes Sept 6	1 <i>June</i>	2	3
4 -Food Collection Anniversary Celeb Fellowship Dinner	5	6 Outreach Mtg 7 pm	7	8 Council 7 pm	9	10 Habitat Rain Garden Build 9 am - 4 pm
11 Worship time changes to 9:30 am	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Pride Parade	26	27	28	29	30	1 <i>July</i>
2 -Food Collection	3	4	5	6 <i>Loaves & Fishes</i>	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Worship In the Park						

Future dates: Mendota Mdewakanton Tribal Community Wacipi Sept 8-10
 Fall Clean-Up Day, Saturday, October 7.
 Women's Retreat, Fri-Sat, October 13-14



Last Choir Rehearsal

The last choir rehearsal is a potluck gathering at the home of Andy and Sara George on Wednesday, May 31.

Sunday, June 4, Anniversary Worship and Dinner

This year we celebrate the 49th anniversary of the merger of St. John's UCC and Cherokee Heights Presbyterian Church; at this service we also traditionally recognize membership anniversaries and graduations. This year Diane Spicer completes fifty years of membership at CPUC.

We continue our celebration after worship with a great meal, organized by the Property Management Ministry. Your help is needed to divide up the duties into manageable amounts to make this event enjoyable by all. Please consider how you might contribute an hour or less and sign up or call Susan if you can help.

Saturday: Set tables, create flower centerpieces (have peonies, lilacs, flowers to share?)

Sunday: 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, run dishwasher, clean-up. Roast beef and mashed potatoes is the main event, along with cake to celebrate also, our high school and college graduates. There will be a suggested free will offering.



Our Graduates

Congratulations to these young women who celebrate special milestones: Leah Williams graduated from Luther College and will continue her studies in medicine at the U of M, Nona Guerue graduated from Inver Hills and is continuing her education at Metro State University studying Early Childhood Education, and Nora Murphy graduated from Great River School and moves on to St. Paul College to study Dietetics or Exercise Science.

The Outreach Ministry Team will meet on Tuesday, June 6 at 7 p.m. at the home of Jill Jackson.

Worship Start Time Changes to 9:30 a.m. starting Sunday, **June 11**

Women's and Men's Groups are "off" for the Summer

The Women's Affinity Group will resume in September. People willing to host a monthly meeting (usually the first Friday at 7 p.m.) can contact Jill Jackson to sign up for the 2017-2018 program year. Thanks for considering this!



Habitat Gardening Day

Saturday, June 10

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Justice & Witness Ministry is organizing this event, which will take place at a St. Paul location. No skills or tools are needed (although you may bring your own if desired). Older children are welcome to help, bring your own lunch. It is customary for Habitat to ask the volunteer organization to also support this effort with collect donations; any donations can be given to Michele Johnson, checks made out to Habitat for Humanity, at any time between now and June 10

Pride Parade

Sunday, June 25, 11:00 a.m.

Our congregation participates in the (Ashely Rukes) Pride Parade and Festival in Loring Park in Minneapolis, joining with other UCC churches to support our LGBT sisters and brothers. We will pass along details as we get them. A group will probably leave from church (perhaps a bit early!) that morning. Please watch June bulletins or contact Jill Jackson with questions.

The Annual Women's Retreat

will be held at the ARC Retreat Center on Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14. A team is needed to plan and advertise the retreat this summer. Please contact Jill Jackson by June 25 if you are willing to attend a couple of planning meetings in July.

Moving into the Next Phase of the Pastoral Transition

It's been a year now since Pastor Tim's retirement. In that year the Transition Team has:

- Assisted Pastor Joy with learning about our community and undertaking the logistical tasks of the church.
- Led a series of "Conversations with Joy" to allow all members to talk about their joys and concerns in the community. The team held a meeting with the congregation to review the information collected.
- Gathered feedback from members about worship, committee operation, decision-making, and leadership of the church.
- Facilitated the March Leaders' Retreat with a focus on analyzing the history of the church, and identifying patterns of conduct and issues that need to be addressed.

With these things in mind, the Transition Team proposed a set of Transition Tasks for the Church to tackle for the remainder of the Transition period. These are designed to help us determine what we want our future to be, so that when we do call a new pastor, we know what qualities and experience will help us best fulfill the mission God is calling us to perform. The CPUC Council approved this plan on 4/20/17:

- Reaffirm our relationship with the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church, USA.
- Reaffirm our commitment to Anti-Racism.
- Identify the Needs of the Community and What We're Called to Do.
- Facilitate a Conversation About Who We Want to Be.
- Write a Mission Statement.
- Define Decision Making Structure of the Church.
- Restructure Committees (Ministry Teams).
- Determine Financial Priorities / Long Term Plan.
- Create a Personnel Ministry.
- Reevaluate our Growth Plan.
- Resolve the Stained Glass Window Question.
- Reaffirm and Support our Music Program.



For details on each of these tasks, please see the transition page on the church website, <http://cherokeeparkunited.org/pastoral-transition/>. We'll be updating this page throughout the transition period.

Some of these tasks have already begun. Pastor Joy is inviting representatives of the PCUSA and UCC to come to the church so they can preach and lead some discussions this summer. The Transition Team is reaching out to the Anti-Racism Team to discuss working together. A stained glass taskforce has been identified and will begin meeting in the near future.

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This summer you will be invited to participate in a survey about your strengths and interests. That information will be compiled and shared as part of our conversation on who we are and who we want to be. We anticipate having that church-wide conversation this autumn as we examine and update our Mission Statement.

Our team is looking to complete, or at least have all of these tasks well underway, within the next 12 months. In June of this year, we will renew Pastor Joy's contract for another 12 months. When we reach June of 2018, we'll know whether we need to renew her contract again, and for how long. When we began the Transition Period, both the UCC and PCUSA advised that it would likely take at least two years to complete.

The Transition Team feels like our congregation has made significant progress and we look forward to the remainder of this journey. It's an exciting time to be part of Cherokee Park United Church.

If you have questions about the Transition, or if you feel the Spirit calling you to help with a particular task, please contact Pastor Joy, or one of the Transition Team members: Karen Shatek, Jackie Rico, or Andy George (chair).

Casting a New Light

Dear, Friends,

It has been a while since I have written to you in the newsletter. Time has passed by quickly. It does not seem like a year, when we met for the first time. I continue to believe our time together is the work of the Spirit. Though some days, it may seem more the opposite!

Many changes have happened since June 2016. Some of them are obvious, and others not so much. Some of them are helpful – others not so much. Many of the changes are not over yet – that might be good news – or not so much.

Why am I here? My first purpose and for most is be a pastor to CPUC; to provide a sacred place for you to meet God anew. The other part is to refresh your sense of purpose and witness; to seek with you, to find where God is calling CPUC. That is how I understand my own call to ministry and always curious to see what is next!

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However, I do recognize that you did not call me to be your pastor. The council and transition team did that for you. So to consider me your pastor probably seems artificial. Especially after a pastor, who knew many of you so well. This is how the interim/transition process is set up. Not just in the PCUSA but the UCC too. We will use a survey to gather information about your individual gifts, skills, vision. We will find out the needs of the community around you. We will refresh the mission statement. Then a new Church Information form can be completed. A pastor nominating committee voted on by you, will collect resumes, and bring to you their nomination for a new settled pastor. You will make the final decision. You might be frustrated with what seems like bureaucracy – believe me the searching pastor feels the same way! But in the end the process can work. And it is definitely a faith thing.

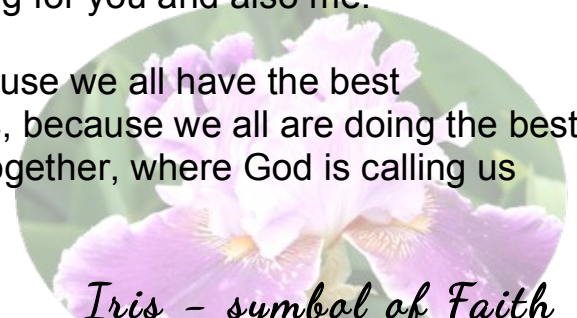
Right now, our important job, together, is to explore, challenge, and celebrate CPUC's ministry. The only reason I accepted this call, because I am convinced, more churches like you are needed today. I said that in my interview and Ministry information Form.

You provide a unique and authentic message of welcome. You engage social justice and give voice to those who may not have that privilege. I believe passionately, what God is calling you to do. When I read news, tweets and FaceBook, and talk to people, I often think, in many ways, the world has lost its way. And then how thankful I am for this church. Though CPUC cannot fix it – we can at least cast a light. That is how I understand my responsibility to you. I want us to cast a light to see our church, the world, in a new way. I say “we” because it is true. Whether I am a member or not – we are all in this faith community stuff together. You are Chuck's and my community of faith for awhile. We are so glad to be here.

Andy George, who courageously, chairs the transition team; along with Karen Shatek, Jackie Rico, and Barb Herrington-Hall have worked hard to develop ways to help shake things up a little, comfort the loss of Tim, and provide new pathways to “witness justice”. I am navigating the best I can, the many administrative duties Tim did to keep things running smoothly, preach something meaningful on Sundays and help you envision a new place. I assure you; however, things cannot and will not be the same, simply because Tim shaped and carried the ministry here for 35 years. And the world has changed and is changing rapidly – we need new skills and vision. Ministry is not static. And must be changing all the time, for any church to grow and prosper. You bet this work is challenging for you and also me.

My advice? Trust each other; try to trust me, because we all have the best intentions. Talk and communicate with gentleness, because we all are doing the best we can. Finally, cast a new light so we can see, together, where God is calling us next. And do the best you can.

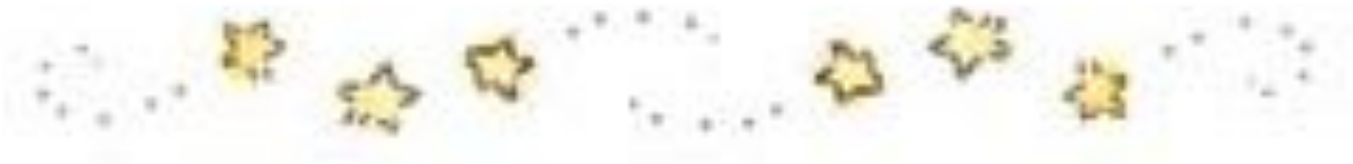
Blessings for this journey, Pastor Joy



Follow Your Ministry Star

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 are some ways that are currently looking for your enthusiastic involvement. If you need advice in finding your niche, please contact Diane Spicer, Lay Ministry. 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: 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 a Sunday School class twice a month.

Fellowship: Help host a fellowship hour after a 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 reshelv a few hymnals.

Supporting Our Friends, the Liddle Family, in East Timor

On Sunday May 21 we saw photos of Tom and Monica Liddle who are missionaries working in East Timor. They had worked there previously in 2009, and returned, with their children Hannah and Simon in 2016 for a four-year commitment through Global Ministries of the UCC. Tom had returned to finish up his MDiv degree, and served at CPUC as a pastoral intern and also worked with the Stained Glass Taskforce, the Faith Life Ministry, and taught Sunday School for the older children. Read more on their blog at

<http://timorsite.wordpress.com>

Our Council had made a financial commitment to support the Liddles and a collection was taken to fund this commitment. Your donations are always welcome; as usual, you can make out a check to CPUC with "Liddles" on the notation line.



CPUC Members' Energy Consumption Reduction

The April newsletter gave a synopsis of a report from Enerchange, a company that spent many hours inside and outside our building, did their engineering computations, and then gave us a list of all the places/ways we might save on energy consumption (and money). The most simple technique, which we started in the May issue, is to "*engage the congregation to reduce the consumption of energy on a continuing basis*"; we covered the many lights that need to be turned off in the building. However, we may need more reminding as on Wednesday, May 3, we found no one in the building and all the sanctuary lights still on!

Further requests are: **If you turn up the thermostat, please also turn it down** when you leave. (But church office stays at 68° as copier requires a steady temperature.) This is more of a fall-winter-spring problem. Another cold weather, but also an important security issue is to **close outside doors firmly**. The main front double doors do not automatically close tightly so the whole building may be unintentionally unlocked for days.

Council Corner May Meeting Highlights

With great joy, Okogyeamon shared the news that ASDIC (Antiracism Study Dialog Circles) Metamorphosis is now incorporated in the State of Minnesota. CPUC will continue working with ASDIC Metamorphosis' finances until the 501C-3 paperwork is completed. Congratulations to Okogyeamon and all ASDIC supporters

The Council accepted a detailed report from the Property Management Team making a recommendation for replacement of the church's boiler heater and water heater. The Council requested the Finance Ministry Team to look at associated and ongoing expenses pertaining to such a replacement and to address a possible capital campaign to cover costs. The Finance Team will report back to the Council in the near future.

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 strive to live out God's will together.



Loaves and Fishes

Thursday, July 6, 3:30-6:45 p.m.

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 (3:45 - 5:00 p.m.), serve, and clean up (4:40-6:30 p.m.). Young people are welcome to volunteer. Contact Michele.

A Message from Barb Herrington-Hall

Dear Friends, I have decided that I must leave Cherokee Park and be attending full time down in Cannon Falls. I strongly feel my place is there with Glen. I had originally thought I could stay at Cherokee and do the "half and half" thing but I quickly realized that was unworkable. I don't regret this decision but I am feeling sad about it. You all are the best and I have been proud to be with you all and have had a lot of good times. I will miss you all, especially my fellow Building Blocks "church ladies", all adult-ed people, and transition team members. It's been wonderful and we'll be back. Take care of yourselves and each other Much love always and all ways,

Barb



Neighborhood House Foodshelf Correction from Last Newsletter



If people want to donate money to the free Food Market, they can write a check to CPUC and note "Foodshelf" on the memo line. If the check is made directly to Neighborhood House, they will have to take or mail it there. Any money made out to the church and noted for them will be sent to them.

And if you have any fresh garden produce to donate, they welcome that also, but you need to take it to the Wellstone Food Market yourself.

Speaking of Gardens

Flower lovers, celebrate! Winnie Williams has many flower perennials in her gardens she could share if anyone is interested. There are Daisy 'Becky', Rudbeckia Goldsturm, Ligularia Desdemona, yellow iris, ferns, lilies of the valley, violets, phlox in various shades of pink (self-seeded from David and Starfire), cup plant, false evening primrose, variegated solomon's seal, possibly small annabelle hydrangeas and more. If possible bring some containers or pots to carry things home; and if you are willing to help dig what you might want, all the better.



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
change to summer hours start time on **June 11**
(10:15 a.m. Sept-June 4)

Rev. Joy Smith - Interim Pastor

Abe Hunter - Director of Music Ministry

*Grace is God in Motion.
God is the noun. Grace is the verb.*

Tomie Evans