



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 March 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
26 -Adult Forum - <i>Connect!</i> for Families 9-10 am -Food collection	27	28	1 <i>March</i> Ash Wednesday service 6:45 pm	2 Loaves & Fishes	3 Women's Group 7 pm	4 ASDIC
5 -Food Collection - <i>Connect!</i> families -Adult Forum	6	7	8 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	9 Council 7 pm	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>
19 -Adult Forum -Sunday School	20	21	22 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	23	24 -Sleight of Mouth 5:30 pm -Men's Group 6:30 pm	25 -ASDIC -Sleight of Mouth 9 am
26 -Adult Forum - <i>Connect!</i> families	27	28	29 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	30	31	1 <i>April</i> ASDIC
2 -Adult Forum - <i>Connect!</i> Families -Food Collection	3	4	5 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	6	7 Women's Group 7 pm	8 ASDIC (last)
9 -Adult Forum -Sunday School <i>Palm Sunday</i>	10	11	12 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	13 Maundy Thursday service	14	15
16 <i>Easter Sunday</i> (no Sunday School) Brunch 8:30 Worship 10:15	17	18	19 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	20	21 ----- 28-29 St. Paul Art Crawl	22 ----- 28-29 St. Paul Art Crawl
23 Sunday School						

from Pastor Jay

When We Are Real ~ Thoughts about Lent

My Spiritual Director recently said to me, “To recognize the signs of God, pay attention to your stirrings. Look closely when you feel the swell of joy within, or the tightness as your throat closes up in sorrow. Live in that moment, poke around in its corners, and feel the texture of its walls. Sit with it for awhile, long enough to sense the presence of God sitting with you.” We all get consumed with the craziness of life; to really slow down and to look inward requires intentional discipline. For Christians, Lent is a time to do exactly that. Forty Days of Lent begins Ash Wednesday, March 1.



Lent has traditionally been a time of looking inward, a time of self-evaluation and self-examination in order to identify one’s “sins” and go through a process of repentance and renewal. Some Christians fast during Lent, others “give up” something that is particularly delightful to them, even if not sinful. For some it’s giving up sweets or red meat, for others cigarettes or alcohol, habits which might be picked up again when Easter rolls around.

Lately, I know people who focus less on giving up and more about taking on. For example, we might choose to go to church more often, or serve in a food pantry, or practice meditation. Here is a possible Lenten practice: Below are six (and one for Easter) Lenten themes. Over the next 40 days/6 weeks - use one as your mantra. You might try to journal, reflect, pray, or meditate with it. Once a week or more make a quiet time and reflect on: (1st week) stillness, (2nd week) examination, (3rd) attention, (4th) prayer, (5th) suffering, (6th) hope, and finally New Life. It does not need to be a long length of time. As you work through the Lenten days, keep in mind:

- Live attentively. The Buddhists call this mindfulness. All it means is to be aware of life. Hear the silence of the snow (or rain!) Feel the cracks in the earth. Look into one another’s eyes. Pay attention to every single moment and that moment alone. Feel it. Take it into your bones. Let it transform you.
- Learn to let go. Start to simplify your life. Simplify your possessions, your thoughts, your desires, your expectations. When you can let go, your arms are open and ready to receive all the good things God longs to give you.
- Develop intimacy with God.

Lent does not need to be a time of guilt and shame (which I have never known to be helpful or to bring us closer to God.) Instead, find the place and pay attention to your stirrings—in that place of deep stillness where the hunger of our souls and the heart of God meet. Come and join us at the Ash Wednesday service to begin the 40 days to Easter Sunday. On such a journey, we need one another.

Ash Wednesday - March 1

A simple soup supper will be provided at 6:00 p.m. followed by the service held in the upper large meeting room at 6:45 p.m. (no choir practice that Wednesday).

Loaves and Fishes

Thursday, March 2, 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.



Women's Affinity Group

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

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

We will meet at the home of Karolyn Gilbertson. Light refreshments will be served and a lively discussion shared.

Men's Group

March 24, 6:30 p.m.

We will meet one week later than usual to avoid conflict with the Leadership Retreat. The March meeting will be at the home of Tom Murphy; the April meeting will be at the home of Mike Bates, and the May meeting at home of Jim Shatek.

Prayers of the People

You may have noticed changes in our response to these prayers. The worship ministry changed "Lord" to "Holy One" to encourage seeing the world as all being equal, instead of a few having power over many. During Lent we will use the petition and response "This is my prayer." and "Your prayer is now our prayer." Your feelings or comments on this or other matter of our worship together is welcomed by any member of the worship ministry and Pastor Joy.

Connect! — connecting our faith with our lives, and with the lives of all in the world and across generations. Our next intergenerational and family experiences will be Sundays, **March 5 & 26**, 9:00-10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please join us!

CPUC members of all ages gathered in solidarity on January 29 to promote fairness through story and song! Facilitators included Anna Jennerjohn, Josh Welter, Joy Sorensen-Navarre, and Tom Murphy on his trusty guitar. Children were at the center of the event; they danced, sang, shook their homemade tambourines, and shared how they might work for fairness in their day-to-day lives. This and future "solidarity" events are being supported through a grant from the Ashley Foundation Endowment of the Minnesota UCC Conference.



Sleight of Mouth Workshop

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. The two half-days sessions are Friday, 5:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

[Register here.](#)





A Message from Reverend Glen

On February 12, after preaching and leading worship at First Congregational UCC in Cannon Falls, the congregation voted unanimously to call me as their pastor. My first official Sunday will be March 5, so I will begin the week before with an Ash Wednesday service, a weekly Bible Study, and First Congregational's turn at leading two services at a local assisted living residence. After ten years out of parish ministry, I find myself back in with all humility and gratitude.

I served three congregations as associate minister over the course of 25 years, before beginning as Director of Admissions at United Theological Seminary 10 years ago; that is when Barbara and I first came to Cherokee Park. After leaving United almost three years ago, I was not sure if and when I would return to parish ministry. I enjoyed being a member of a vital, progressive congregation, and found multiple ways to be engaged in and through CPUC. My wedding ministry, *Rev. Glen @ Your Service*, has been a joyful and growing outlet for my pastoral skills. But since Pastor Tim announced his retirement and we prepared for, welcomed, and have been engaged with Pastor Joy's transitional ministry, I have felt the strong pull of my original call, to again serve a congregation as pastor, preacher, and teacher.

Tom Liddle served at Cannon Falls as their interim, and spoke fondly of their members. Like any congregation beginning a new journey with a new pastor, there are challenges ahead but also great opportunities as we learn to listen and learn from each other with patience and grace, and trust that there is more in store for each of us than we have yet to see or even imagine.

As is the practice in the UCC, I will be transferring my membership to First Congregational. Barbara will stay active here as part of the Transition Team during this interim time, but will be visiting Cannon Falls on occasion. (It's only 45 minutes from our home; we are not moving.) This is a 3/4 time position, so I will continue my wedding service but limit to two per month; it's the marriage preparation that is time-consuming, not the weddings themselves.



Cherokee Park has been a wonderful church home, and I have made good friends here. When my pastoral leadership has been needed, you have been accepting. As I have learned how to be a lay member, you have been patient. I will miss much of what is to come for you in this exciting, important transition time. But I am only stepping away for a handful of years, taking so much of what I have learned from you to help make me a better pastor in another place. Thank you.



Love Bugs

At a recent Children's Time during worship, children received reminders/affirmation of their ability to spread love.

Council Corner

The Council met on February 9; discussion items included:

- Property Management Ministry Team has arranged for trash **and** recycling with Republic Services. The new arrangement is to begin soon so members don't need to take home items to be recycled. Faithful helper Russ Settevig will put the bins out on Baker Street now for weekly pick up. Thank you Team and Russ!
- Worship Ministry Team will host a light supper and Ash Wednesday service on March 1. Look for more information in upcoming bulletins.



The Council accepted Glen Herrington-Hall's resignation from Council and as Worship Ministry chairperson as he shared the news of becoming the Pastor of Cannon Falls UCC church in early March. We wish Glen all the best in his new call. He follows in the footsteps of Tom Liddle, our former intern, who also served that congregation before resuming his ministry in East Timor last summer with his family.

Council leadership remains grateful for the prayers and participation of the people of CPUC 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.

New artworks will be hung in the sanctuary and Parent's Room the week after Easter by artists Alice Savitski and Ellie Leonardsmith; these will be displayed for the annual St. Paul Art Crawl and through about June 4. More information will be posted in the April newsletter.

Save the Date

Justice & Witness Ministry is organizing a Habitat for Humanity gardening event on **June 10**, from about 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at a St. Paul location. Older children will be allowed....more info later.

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 10:15 a.m.

Rev. Joy Smith - Transitional Pastor

Abe Hunter - Director of Music Ministry

*A religion of Sunday (worship)
but of unjust weeks
does not please the Lord....*

Oscar Romero - The Violence of Love