



Signs of Spring—Magnolia Blossoms and Art Fest

Cherokee Park United Church

A Progressive Congregation
Theological Elbow Room
Global Music
Community Connected
Kid Friendly

*Welcoming people of all ages, sexual orientations,
races and ethnic origins*

Newsletter June 2013

Three R's Book Exchange - Earn Earth Points

The Justice and Witness Ministry invites you to keep the momentum of *Mission 4/1 Earth* going by participating in a Three R's Book Exchange for young and old.

Reduce - Sort through your personal books for those no longer needed.

Reuse - Bring to CPUC May 19 - June 16; browse, but take back less.

Recycle - Remaining books will be donated. Contact Joanne if you know of a place that needs books.

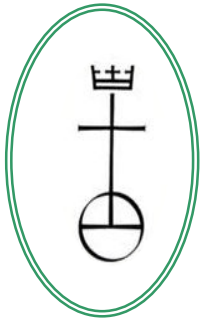
What Are We Reading?

In the February newsletter you were issued an invitation to recommend books, and in March the Women's Group also shared book opinions. Here are recommendations to ponder.

- ~The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the age of colorblindness by Michelle Alexander - Kelly S; A "must read"
- ~Casual Vacancy by J.K.Rowling - Mary M
- ~Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson - Karen H; set in England, about relationships and proper appearances
- ~Day After Night by Anita Diamont, 2009, - Karen H; first chapter fairly disturbing, story set in an Israeli internment camp, about seeing things differently
- ~The Book Thief, by Zusak, 2007 - Karen H (teens & adults)
- ~The Kite Runner, A Thousand Splendid Suns, The Red Tent - recommended by many
- ~Breathing Lessons by Anne Tyler, 1988 - Mary M
- ~Everybody Needs a Rock (children's book)-Phyllis A
- ~Native Wisdom for White Minds; Phyllis A
- ~Women's Book of Courage, Heart Steps, authors like Sue Patton Thoele and Julia Cameron - Jill J; books for meditation
- ~Eyewitness to Power by David Gergen, Jill J: political & presidential commentary plus great MPR programs with David
- ~A Passage to India by E.F. Forster, 1924 - Bundy T; historical fiction
- ~The Sparrow by Mary Doria Russell- Bundy T; theological sci-fi
- ~Author Elizabeth Berg - Lynn B
- ~Author Anne Tyler - Mary M
- ~An Interrupted Life: Diaries of Etty Hillesum 1941-43 by J.G. Gaarlandt - English translation published by Jonathon Cafe Ltd. 1983- Joanne S
- ~Laughing in a Waterfall: A Mother's Memoir by Marianne Dietzel, 2010 - Joanne S; grief and loss
- ~Half the Sky: turning oppression etc, by Nicholas Kristof, 2009 - Joanne S
- ~She Would Draw Flowers by Kirsten Savitri Bergh, 1997 - Joanne S; grief and loss for youth
- ~The Lacuna by Barbara Kingsolver; historical fiction involving Diego Rivera
- ~A New Earth by Eckhart Tolle, 2005 - Susan S; answer to all unhappiness (warning) but only read one chapter a month to allow time to sink in

Too many
doggone
books?





Happy Anniversary to Us

On June 2 we celebrate 45 years of the merger of St. John's United Church of Christ and Cherokee Presbyterian Church. We also celebrate milestones in membership, including Anita Russo for 50 years of membership and Curt Fleming for 25 years. And we will honor our new high school graduates, Kristin Butler and Tommy Murphy. As usual, the Property



Management Ministry will provide a wonderful lunch after worship. Chef Shatek's tantalizing roast beef (plus a vegetarian option) is again on the menu.

Landscaping Beautification Continues

On June 1 we will continue these efforts started last year to make our site as welcoming as possible, and inspire all to appreciate the beauty of God's creations. Join us between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Lunch is provided.



A Farewell Message

Dear Friends at Cherokee Park,

Thank you for a wonderful internship! I have enjoyed working and ministering with each one of you! My last day will be Sunday, June 2. I will continue to work the summer away as an infant teacher in Saint Louis Park, and will go on to my final semester in seminary, graduating this coming December. And after that, who knows where the Spirit will lead! This internship has sparked my passion for local church ministry. I have enjoyed all aspects—but it's our common narrative that fuels my passion for ministry. We all have a story tell, and I am grateful for the stories you have shared with me. We find strength in ourselves when we own our narratives and join in with others in owning theirs. I've watched this church stand with many groups of people and press voice against oppression and against wrongful authority. That is God's love right there—right there in action. What a year!

You all have been incredibly giving and encouraging to me in my journey, and I thank each of you for making me feel so welcomed and included in the wonderful ministry work you all do. I am excited to return to my home congregation, Saint Anthony Park UCC, but look forward to hearing about what new and exciting things continue to happen at Cherokee Park United Church!

Peace,

Laura Beth Gatzke

April Intergenerational Evening

At this event, organized by our intern Laura Gatzke, we received our passports to social justice and traveled to Kenya, South Africa, and El Salvador through our friends who recently visited there. We saw native items, made Kenyan neck pieces, and heard personal stories through questions asked by interviewers Jaime and Frances on station CPUC- FM. Tune in this Fall for our next adventure.



The Great Spring



Clean-Up



IT'S TIME TO SHOW YOUR PRIDE!

This year's Pride Festival and Parade are being held Saturday June 29 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday June 30 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Loring Park in Minneapolis.

It has been our custom to send a team of marchers to join the Parade on Sunday, when we walk with other churches in the MN Conference UCC.

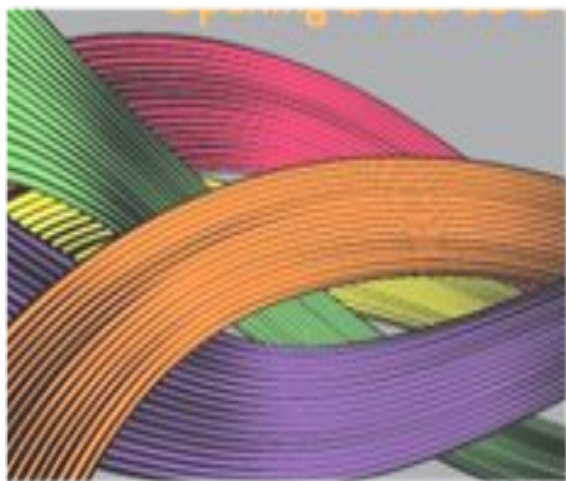


We will leave together from Cherokee Park Church in time to join the group. Our morning worship will include a blessing, and we will work together to see that everyone gets to the starting point and gets back to the Church.

We are encouraged to wear our CPUC shirts or purple, and we'll carry our CPUC banner. Singers and drummers are most welcome to help keep up our spirits for the .8 mile parade route which ends at the Festival grounds.

You are also encouraged to participate by signing up to host a few hours at the MN UCC booth in the Festival grounds of Loring Park. Shifts of two to four hours are available all day Saturday and Sunday. This is a great way to participate, meet people and tell others about our great congregation. If interested, please contact Joanne Sylvander or Pastor Tim Johnson.

Out in Gospel – Opening a Sacred Door – Friday, June 21



United Theological Seminary presents a two-part event that supports and nurtures LGBTIQ gospel musicians in their relationship to the church. This event brings artists, theologians, church leaders and interested members of the public together for the difficult but liberating conversation.

1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Program: panel (Victor Anderson, Valerie Bridgeman, Yvette Flunder, Carolyn Pressler), workshops and closing worship at the seminary, 3000 5th St NW, New Brighton 55112.

7:30-9:00 p.m. Community gospel music concert (Ray Boltz, Yvette Flunder, Rizi Timane, The

Steeles) at Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church, 217 Mackubin St, St. Paul 55102.
Free — Open to the Public

MISSION 4/1 EARTH

How did we do in our Prayers for the Earth?

Our tally is 428 earth care hours, 59 letters or emails of advocacy and 14 trees planted — a great contribution in praying with our hands and feet.



Minnesota Conference UCC – 51st Annual Meeting

Amy Gabriel, Sarah Hankins and Pastor Tim are this year's delegates to the conference on June 7-9 at the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph. The theme of the Conference is "Behold I Am Doing A New Thing." The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Felix Carrion who has directed and organized the "God is still speaking" national messaging, marketing and identity campaign and programs. Rev. Kaji Spellman, who is dedicated to social justice and societal change, will be the guest preacher. You can learn more about Felix and Kaji at www.uccmn.org/annualmeeting.

On Friday evening, we will honor Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Karen Smith Sellers' service to our conference as she retires from her position. Bible study on Saturday will be led by Rev. Anthony B. Robinson, a consultant with the Center for Progressive Renewal, a contributor to Stillspeaking Daily Devotional.

Bundy Trinz and Maria McNamara will lead a Saturday afternoon workshop based on our experience with the Boycott Blues puppet show, inviting congregations to explore creative ways to engage antiracism. **Pastor Tim** will offer a workshop on Celtic Spirituality based on his 2012 sabbatical. **Rev. Mike Owens** will be the guest preacher at Cherokee Park United on Sunday, June 9.

Stained Glass Taskforce

Cherokee Park United Church's commitment to antiracism work and radical hospitality has evoked conversations about the centrality of the white stained glass Jesus in the sanctuary. The Church Council has approved formation of a taskforce to facilitate conversations that both build community and enable us to grow in our understanding of the place of art and our commitment to antiracism. Following congregational-wide discussions, the taskforce will provide a summary to the Council with possible actions steps, remaining open to wherever the Spirit leads. The taskforce is presently meeting to plan learning opportunities that would begin this fall. Please contact Pastor Tim, members of the Stained Glass Taskforce or members of the Council if you have any questions. Taskforce members include Phyllis Andrews, Okogyeamon Perkins, Jerome Graf, Chris Smith, Joy Sorensen Navarre, Tom Liddle (2013/14 Pastoral Intern) and Pastor Tim.





Free Perennials from (Editor) Susan



My perennial “garden”, which is mainly a way to slow down the weeds encroaching from our bordering county-owned wild space, is overcrowded and needs thinning next week. Anyone who would like free plants is welcome to call and BYOC (containers) and we’ll dig them up—white daisies, white yarrow, ribbon grass, mint, some type of fast growing yellow flowering ground cover, Silver King Artemesia, pink daisy mums.

AND, if you enjoy puttering around, would you like to join a few of us who, when time permits, putter around the landscape at church? We can work in pairs if you’d like, to just pull weeds (not many, as the mulch keeps them down), prune back any unruly flowers and stems. A fun thing to do if you don’t have the energy to mow. Email me!

Celebrate the Gift of Kristina



All are invited to Kristina Butler's senior recital (voice and flute) and graduation party on Sunday, June 16th. The recital will begin at 2:00 p.m. at 701 E 130th St., Burnsville (Presbyterian Church of the Apostles) followed by her graduation party from 3:30-7:00 p.m. at her home, 13000 Lakeview Drive, Burnsville. Kristina is graduating from Burnsville High School and will be attending St. Olaf College in Northfield. Come for the recital, come for the party, or come for both. We'd love to have you help us celebrate!

West Side Farmers Market Opening Day, June 1st



This summer, the West Side Farmers Market will be held every Saturday from 9-12 noon in the Icy Cup Parking Lot on the corner of George and Stryker. Throughout the summer there will be a variety of healthy vegetables and other locally produced items

including berries, vegetables, processed organic chicken and more! Join us for music, face painting and more on our Opening Day Party! One of the booths is run by the West Side Youth Farms Group that uses our kitchen each summer as a hand-on learning lab.

BUILDING BLOCKS TUTORIAL

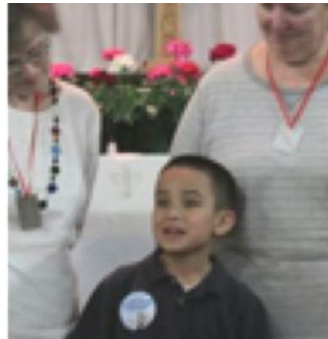
Thank you to all who participated in the Building Blocks Awards Dinner and program on May 9th. Approximately 100 people came to celebrate the learning and friendship the students and volunteer tutors shared this school year. The Building Blocks Ministry Team and other church helpers provided a delicious meal, transportation, and warm welcome for the program's participants. Each child received a lovely gift and award for their work throughout the year. Over 50 volunteer tutors and substitutes, including many Cherokee Park members, were presented with flowers to honor their service, too.

The program plans to continue serving students at the "new" Riverview School in the fall. (Riverview is moving into the refurbished Roosevelt School building over the summer.) Cherokee Park United's dedication to this ministry is remarkable. Please continue praying for the program and its future. Building Blocks will be seeking financial contributions through GiveMN.org next year, too. Please consider donating as you think about your annual giving. Thank you for keeping this life-changing program alive and vital into its 26th year!

Message from Elona Street-Stewart, St. Paul School Board

Well done. Amazing how quickly 25 years swings by – so many backpacks to hang up, so many snow boots to take off, so many books to read, so many smiles and tears to tend to, so many miracles to lift up in thanksgiving... Thank you for all you and the

volunteers have made possible and for Cherokee Park's indomitable mission to make life better. Here is the Good News, yes!



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. (**Summer worship 9:30 a.m.** starts June 9)

Dr. Timothy M. Johnson - Pastor

Ione Boettcher Butler - Organist/Choral Director

Jill Jackson - Building Blocks Tutorial Director

Rebecca Knott - Nursery Supervisor

Andrew Gbaa - Custodian

*Our lives begin to end the day we become
silent about things that matter.*

Dr. M. L. King