

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 May 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
24 -Adult Forum -Children's music 9:15-9:45 -Fellowship hour vegetarian potluck	25	26	27 Choir 6:45 pm	28	29	30 Spring Clean-Up Fix-Up 9:30-2:30
1 <i>May</i> -Families Exploring Spirituality 9 am -Cinco de Mayo at Fellowship -Faith Action Vigil 2:30 pm	2	3	4 Choir 6:45 pm	5 Loaves & Fishes 3-7 pm	6 Women's Group 7 pm	7 <i>Cinco de Mayo parade</i>
8 -Adult Forum -Sunday School	9	10	11 Choir 6:45 pm	12	13	14 Youth "go batty"
15 -Adult Forum -Sunday School	16	17 Outreach Ministry 7 pm	18 Choir 6:45 pm	19	20 Men's Group 6:30 pm	21
22 -Adult Forum -Children's Music 9:15-9:45	23	24	25 Choir 6:45 pm	26	27	28
29	30	31	1 (last) Choir 6:45 pm	2	3	4
5 <i>June</i> Anniversary Dinner following worship	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 <i>change to</i> 9:30 a.m. worship	13	14	15	16	17	18 Habitat for Humanity

Spring Clean-up/Fix-Up Day

Saturday, April 30, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Join the Property Management Ministry for a few hours or half day to keep our church building and grounds safe, kept up, and attractive. If you can help, please contact Susan Strebig



Cinco de Mayo!

We will start to celebrate this special day on Sunday, May 1 (Uno de Mayo). The Outreach Ministry will host a fellowship hour with Mexican pastries and a piñata for the children.



On **Saturday, May 7** you are invited to march with CPUC in the **CINCO DE MAYO PARADE**. Parade units will be gathering at 75 W Plato Blvd. at the former Gross Givens building. Participants are encouraged to arrive by 9:45 a.m.; the parade begins at 10:00.

We will be utilizing our new Cherokee Park United float, designed by Maria McNamara and Sandy Settevig, who we thank for sharing their time and talents. Our new float reflects the work, worship and welcome of our congregation.

Marchers are encouraged to wear Cherokee Park United t-shirts. You can find them for sale in the Marketplace in the social hall. We also ask marchers to bring a hand puppet to use and wave during the parade; there will be puppets available to borrow that day. This is a wonderful opportunity for CPUC to be visible and to express our support for the West Side neighborhood. The parade and all the festivities are a lot of fun. Please join us! Bienvenido!

Faith Action Vigil

May 1, 2:30-3 p.m.

This monthly vigil at the Ramsey County Adult Detention Center, 425 Grove St., St. Paul is held to support immigrant detainees and their families and to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform. Contact Joanne Sylvander for more information.

Caring for the Birds

Sunday, May 1, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Faith Life Ministry welcomes West Side photographer and environmental advocate Monica Bryand back to CPUC in May for *Families Exploring Spirituality*. Monica's photography exhibit started in late April; she now joins us for a family-friendly session in fellowship hall before worship. Come learn about Monica's important work, and about our local birds and what we can do to care for them. All adults welcome - no Adult Forum this week.



Loaves and Fishes

Thursday, May 5

Join us at St. Matthew's Church to provide a hot meal for those in need. Help is needed to prepare (3:30 - 5:00 p.m.), serve (4:45 - 6:15 p.m.), and/or clean up until 7 p.m. (at the latest). Young people are welcome to help. Come for all our part of the service. If you plan to help, please contact Jane Carlstrom.



Women's Group

Friday, May 6, 7:00 p.m.

The Women's Discussion Group will be hosted by Phyllis Andrews at her townhome association clubhouse. We will share some simple snacks, conversation, and COLOR! Please bring your favorite coloring book and pencils, etc, if you wish. Supplies will be available at the meeting, too. We will take a few minutes to preview next

year's meetings and talk about organizing the fall Women's Retreat scheduled October 7 and 8.

Adult Forum - Sunday May 8 - Philippine Refugees

Our speaker from our partner churches in Southeast Mindanao will share their story of indigenous people who have taken sanctuary with churches after fleeing their homes and lands lost to militarized "land grabs" as multinational mining interests have seized control. Come and listen and honor their struggle and resistance.

Men's Group

Friday, May 20, 6:30 p.m.

Join us for our monthly get together; we will meet at the home of Jim Shatek.



Let's Go Batty!

Saturday May 14, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

The Lipetzky family has invited all 4th -12th graders to their home and Very Big Yard in Lake Elmo.

We will build bat houses to encourage these mosquito-eating critters to make their home in our neighborhoods. There will also be games and a cookout. Families are invited. Carpooling will be arranged as needed. Contact Meg or Andrew.

Habitat for Humanity Landscaping Project

Saturday, June 18

The Justice and Witness Ministry invites you to help with the planting at a Habitat home in North Minneapolis, including putting in a rain garden. Adults and children 14 and older are welcome to participate. Volunteers are encouraged to arrive by 8:15 a.m. and we will work until the project is completed or until 4:00 p.m.

Contacts: Winnie Williams and Jane Carlstrom

BYOC (Clippers)

Part of the landscape crew could not resist trying a selfie - a fun way to end a weeding and raking session. We will be tending the flowers and shrubs every three weeks; if you can join us (no experience necessary) please let us know. We will also have extra clippers available. Contact: Susan

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 copyeditor Sara Strebog Pedersen, collate/mail teams Phyllis & Cal Clark, Stefan Sylvander & Kathy Bergthold.



Pastor Tim's Farewell at Cherokee Park United

The weekend of April 9 and 10 was a true celebration of the long and fruitful ministry of Pastor Tim Johnson. Over 175 people came to honor him at the "Just Desserts" open house on Saturday, which included a program highlighting Pastor Tim's service and opportunities for attendees to share their gratitude for his ministry. The day was proclaimed Rev. Dr. Tim Johnson Day by Ramsey County Commissioner Rafael Ortega. The desserts were delicious, too!

On Sunday, Pastor Tim presided over an emotional but lovely worship service. Present were representatives of the MN Conference of the UCC (Rev. Steve Boorsma) and the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area (Rev. Denise Dunbar-Perkins). They shared a liturgy releasing Pastor Tim from his ministry at Cherokee Park United. Pastor Tim received several gifts from the congregation, including gift certificates to Bluefin Bay Resort (a favorite of Tim and Michele's) and Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality, and a generous check (and guide book) for Pastor Tim to use possibly purchasing a new kayak or canoe. A vase engraved with his name and his dates of service at Cherokee was also given. Worship was followed by a congregational potluck and a long Minnesota-style farewell.

The Transition Team wishes to thank everyone who participated and made these celebrations so memorable and meaningful. From the food and flowers, to the photos and music, and the displays by each ministry team - everyone's effort added up to a wonderful gift for our longtime pastor. We sent Pastor Tim off to retirement with much appreciation and affection.

A Message from Pastor Tim

Words are unable to adequately express my gratitude for the kindness, love and generosity shown to Michele and me in celebrating my retirement. I know many were involved and if I try to individually single folks out, I am bound to miss people. I simply cannot imagine anything that would have made the weekend any richer or more wonderful than it was.

I am so glad the focus included a celebration of the shared ministry at Cherokee. It is the generous way in which all of you share time, talent and resources that make Cherokee Park United what it is

Michele and I were deeply touched by your generosity throughout the weekend and the wonderful gifts I received on Sunday are a tremendous send off into this new phase of life.

I am proud to have been the pastor of this inspiring congregation. You remain in my thoughts and prayers, and I will continue to treasure yours.

Love and Blessings,

Tim



“Last Supper” with leadership at pastor’s home

Servant/leader prepares the meal



Pastor Tim listens as members share their “Top 35” facts about him.





During the Transition

Glen Herrington-Hall will provide pastoral care to members and friends; he can be reached at home or by calling the church office, 651-227-4275; he will check the church office phone at least twice a day, as well as keep track of and distribute emails sent to the church.

Joanne and Stefan Sylvander will schedule use of the church building. If you want to use the building for something that is not already scheduled and on the calendar, please call.

The *Transition Team* (Glen, Joanne, Karolyn Kleingartner, Jill Jackson) are scheduling preachers for the Sundays until the Interim Minister begins. Preaching this month will be: May 1 - Glen, May 8 - Joanne, May 15 - Michael Owens, May 22 - Kathryn Price, May 29 - Michael.

Glen will send the weekly emails with announcements, details of special events, and Sunday highlights. He will also be producing the Sunday bulletin and announcements each week.

Interim Pastor (Joyful) Welcome

Our Church Council has approved the Reverend Joy Smith as our Interim Pastor. Her first official day with us will be Monday, June 20, and her first Sunday in the pulpit will be June 26. Pastor Joy comes to us from the Presbyterian tradition and for the past eight years has been the pastor of the (Presbyterian) Church of the Apostles in Burnsville.

Joy is a great preacher with a gift for pastoral care. She has experience leading multiple churches through a variety of difficult situations and transitions. Joy is dedicated to proclaiming the social justice mission of the church and is excited to come to a community that seeks to right the wrongs done to the Earth, and to proclaim Christ's message of justice for the poor and oppressed. In her personal life, Joy is a runner and dog lover. Her husband, Chuck is a Dean at Minneapolis Community Technical College. They have a daughter, Katie who will enter the PhD program for Political Science at the University of Wisconsin, and a son, Hunter, who will graduate from Evergreen College in Washington this June with a degree in Creative Writing and Media. You will find a message from Pastor Joy in the June newsletter.



Anna Larson Ordained

We congratulate Anna on this final step in her call to serve. She sends her greetings and thanks and shares some of her memories of the day. Thank you to Tomie for traveling the far distance to represent our congregation on that special day.

“I was so pleased to have Tomie there from Cherokee Park United and he did a wonderful job of sharing the care and insights and even a bit of humor with us all. Joanne's card was shared, about the wonderful clown shoes, which eventually became the right size for my walking feet! Please relay my appreciation for everyone who shared their wishes. The Guatemalan stole is gorgeous and green is my favorite symbolic color! I will think of you though, Rev. Tim Johnson, the most, when I wear it and think of the Celtic Spirit that we share....The local priest presented me with a traveling communion set (I did opt to accept his offer since I didn't have one, and it seemed particularly meaningful to have a Catholic priest order me a traveling communion set!) on behalf of three area clergy. The two local priests received communion from me, a woman, and non-Catholic! Father John Cox was actually the first to offer a blessing on Maundy Thursday at St. Ann's where I joined them for a foot-washing ceremony and he had me surrounded as they sang, "Spirit of the Living God, Fall afresh on Anna....Cherokee Park and Rev. Dr. Timothy Johnson would have been proud and pleased with the day.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for being a part of my life, and this blessed day. Thank you, God, for accepting our roughness, smoothing us and shining light through us!

May you know how loved you are,
"Rev." Anna



Thank You From the Youth Group

Ingrid reports that the Youth Fund netted \$250 from the recent pancake breakfast, ensuring that all youth events will be free to anyone wishing to attend. She sends a big thanks to Audrey, Jaime, Ava, Duncan, Oliver & Eli for their hard work, and to adult helpers Andrew, Meg, Sandy & Curt. It was a true team effort.

Little Free Library Books Needed



Our *Little Free Library* needs replenishing so it may be time for you to clear out any books you don't really need anymore and share them with others. There is a blue plastic bin under the coat rack near the Parent Room for any books you might want to donate, especially children's books. Or if you are walking past it, feel free to add your books in.

The library was purchased in 2014 by the St. Paul Mennonite Fellowship who also worship at CPUC on Sundays. Our Property Management Ministry installed it near the octagonal picnic bench where all are welcome to rest and read. You may have seen others at several nearby homes and schools. This provides a fun and creative way for children and adults to pick out and take home books, and sometimes donate others in their place.

Our Members Elsewhere

If you are visiting the Science Museum of Minnesota, you may see a familiar face — not leading the music, or explaining the solar electric system of CPUC — but helping children understand some new exciting concept about our physical world, or teaching about dinosaurs or pirates! Tom Murphy started as a Metropolitan State University intern, four years ago, and never left.



Campaign for Earned Sick and Safe Time

Monday, June 6, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Cherokee Park United Church is hosting a gathering on May 9 of Saint Paul faith leaders who have been leading this campaign for workers in Saint Paul. Currently, more than 72,000 Saint Paul workers do not have access to paid sick time to care for themselves or their family members when they are ill, and the workers who need paid sick time most are those least likely to have it. Together, we will share our connection to this issue through our faith and stories; we will be briefed on campaign strategy, and we will prepare ourselves for a powerful public meeting with our city councilmember about this issue.

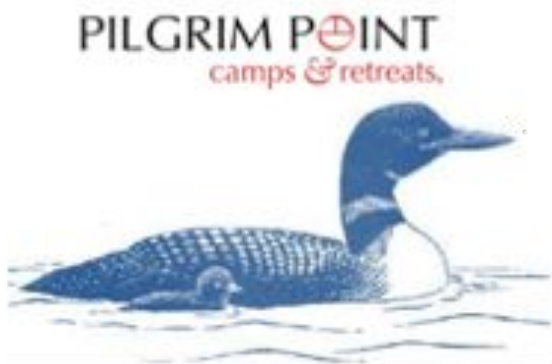


A public meeting will follow on June 6, also hosted by Cherokee Park United Church. These events are organized by ISAIAH, acting out of a fundamental set of values of dignity, inclusion, equity, and redemption. They seek to work together with our state leaders to put the truth of God's love back at the center of society.

Pilgrim Point Camp

The MN Conference UCC campground on Lake Ida near Alexandria, MN, offers a wide range of summer camp experiences for children, youth, young adults, adults, and families of all configurations. Taize Mediation Retreat, mission weeks, OWL (Our Whole Lives, the Sexuality Education program which we have offered here at CPUC) Facilitator Training, a Women's Retreat, a family camp for families with a member on the autism spectrum, and volunteer opportunities at Pilgrim Point are

possibilities this summer at this beautiful camp setting. Glen Herrington-Hall has the information on all these options.



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.

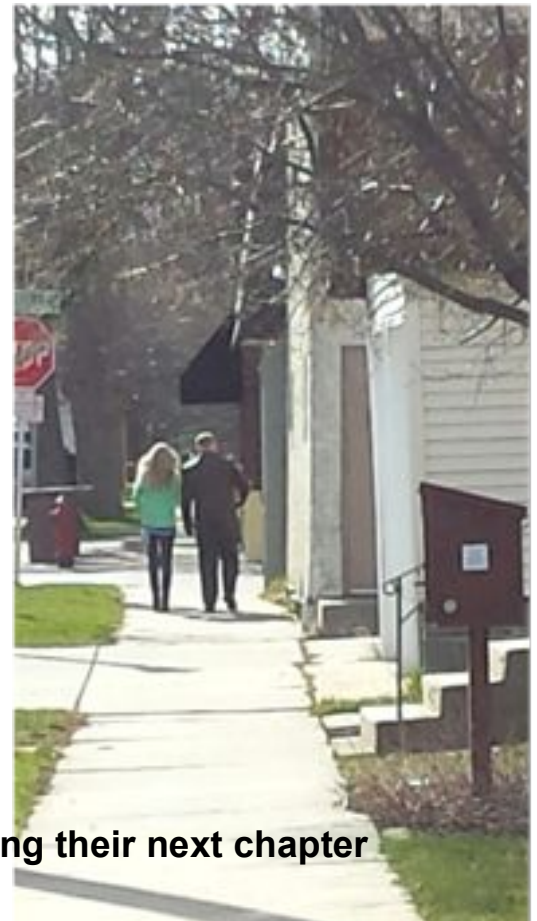
(Summer worship hours start June 12 - 9:30 a.m.)

Rev. Glen Harrington-Hall, Pastoral Care

Abe Hunter, Director of Music Ministries

Rebecca Knott - Nursery Supervisor

Andrew Gbaa - Custodian



Pastor Tim and Michele, starting their next chapter