



## ***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 2018***

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				28 Saturday Spring Clean-Up 9:30 am - 2:30 pm		
<b>29</b> Core values discussions after worship	30	1 <b>MAY</b>	2 Choir 6:30 pm	3 Loaves & Fishes **	4 Women's Group 7 pm	5
<b>6</b> -Food Collection	7	8	9 Choir 6:30 pm	10 Council 6 pm	11	12
<b>13</b>	14	15 Outreach 7 pm	16 Choir 6:30 pm	17	18 Men's Group 6:30 pm	19
<b>20</b> -Confirmation -PNC talk after worship (see page 8)	21	22 Ministry chairs/leaders potluck meeting 6 pm	23 Choir 6:30 pm	24	25	27
<b>27</b>	28	29	30 Choir 6:30 pm	31	1 <b>JUNE</b>	2
<b>3</b> -Food Collection <i>-Anniversary Dinner</i>	4	5	6 Choir 6:30 pm	7 Council 6 pm	8	9

**\*\*Loaves & Fishes** first Thursday of the odd numbered months

Assignments for worship greeters,  
liturgists, nursery helpers, and communion  
servers can be found in this google doc.  
<http://tiny.cc/cpuchelpers>



### ***Loaves & Fishes – May 3, Thursday, 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, serve (3:45 - 5 p.m.), and/or clean up (4:40-6:30 p.m.). Please contact this month's organizer, Maria McNamara.

### ***Women's Affinity Group***

**May 4, Friday, 7 p.m.**

Our gathering this month (last meeting until next September) meets at the home of Maria McNamara. Light refreshments will be served and a lively discussion shared. We will take a few minutes to share ideas for the Women's Retreat planned for October 26-27 at the Benedictine Center in Maplewood. Come with your ideas!



The April ***Mystery Destination*** was an enjoyable visit to attend the Spring art sale of Amy Gabriel (a piece of her photography shown above, now hangs in the Parent Room); she was surprised and delighted when twelve of us showed up in support and friendship. We ended the trip with great food at Groundswell, a locally owned eatery.



### ***Get Ready to Celebrate Cinco de Mayo!***

On Saturday, **May 5**, the Cinco de Mayo Parade marches south on Wabasha and Cesar Chavez Street in a colorful, spirit-filled procession. Come march with us! Wear your new CPUC t-shirt if you have one. With our float and hand puppets we'll meet lots of new friends. If you have a puppet to bring, please do so, and we'll also bring some to borrow. Parade units gather at 75 W. Plato Blvd, (former Gross Givens building). Parking adjacent to the parade route on surface streets and walking to Plato Blvd is encouraged. Please arrive by 9:45 a.m. The parade begins at 10 a.m. and is usually over by noon. Plan to stay for the food, festivities, and fun after the parade.

Following worship on **May 6**, the Outreach Ministry team will host a special Fellowship Hour in honor of Cinco de Mayo. There will be Mexican pastries and a piñata for the children. For more information on these events check with Jill at 651-224-9209 or [jilljacksonmn@comcast.net](mailto:jilljacksonmn@comcast.net). Bienvenido!

The *Outreach* Ministry Team will meet on Tuesday, **May 15** at 7 p.m. at the home of Jill Jackson.

### *Ministry Team Chairpersons Potluck Dinner & Meeting*



The Lay Ministry is hosting its semi-annual potluck dinner and planning meeting on Tuesday, **May 22** at 6 p.m. at the church. Beverages and desserts will be provided. Please let anyone on the Lay Ministry Team know if you will be late (meeting starts at 7 p.m.) or sending a person other than the chair-person to represent your team.

Please bring along your ministry program plans through August, and any changes to your “purpose statement” or to the events you plan or roles you oversee. We will be using our CPUC Google calendar to post events and reserve spaces. Please bring along your smartphone, pad, or laptop if you would like Winnie Williams to help you learn how to use the Google calendar on your own devices.

We'll also share results of team canvasses for the 2018-2019 program year, our team “purpose” statements, and plans for events through August.

Chairpersons are requested to report who on your team has agreed to stay on for 2018-2019 and if you are requesting any additional numbers of people for your ministry; this includes the chairperson – our ideal goal is to have the same chair no longer than three consecutive years.

Lay Ministry members are Mike Bates, Jan Howe, Karolyn Gilbertson, and Jill Jackson.

### *Sharing Our Time and Talents*

It's time for all to consider the gifts and interests you want to share at Cherokee Park United Church!\_ For those currently serving on ministry teams or in special roles, please inform your team of your willingness to serve again in the 2018-2019 program year or your desire to end your service to the team this September. In May, the Lay Ministry Team will be asking everyone to complete a survey about your current gifts and interests for service. It is the Lay Ministry Team's purpose to encourage the sharing of talents and to match people with ministry opportunities at CPUC. Thank you for prayerfully considering your participation in the coming year.





## *Men's Group*

**May 18, Friday, 6:30 p.m.**

The men's group will meet at the home of Jim Shatek. (April meeting at Stefan's home pictured)



## *New Members!*

Sarah Russ and Sebastian Ellefson have joined our church family! Here are a few notes of introduction from them.



Sarah was raised in Tofte, MN, on the shore of Lake Superior. She went to Macalester college, and lived for several years in Nashville, TN. She is an ESL teacher and has worked with both children and adult learners. She is currently working on her Masters in ESL at Hamline University. Sarah loves camping, the outdoors, and her cockatiel of 20+ years named Tropic.

Sebastian grew up in the Twin Cities. He attended the University of Chicago and has lived in Chicago for over 10 years. He also has a law degree from the University of Minnesota. He works for a startup he helped found called BallotReady, which creates free online nonpartisan voter guides. Check it out this fall in Minnesota, at [www.ballotready.org](http://www.ballotready.org) Sebastian enjoys word games, board games, and scavenger hunts.

Sarah and Sebastian live only 3 blocks from church, sometimes cook, and have a baby due on May 26.

## *Thank You for Helping the CPUC Community Blood Drive!*

It was a snowy spring weekend,  
but you persevered.

The blood drive went on,  
despite weather fears!

Perhaps you gave blood,  
or gave it a try.

Perhaps you made treats,  
so many, oh my!

Perhaps you welcomed donors,  
or cleaned up the room.

Your attitude so positive,  
no room for gloom!

Thank you for helping in numerous ways.

You made a life-giving difference on a wintry day!



We donated 11 pints of much needed blood, made some new friends, and have lots of snow-filled stories. Thanks for your support!

Jill Jackson and the Outreach Ministry Team

## *West Siders for Strong Schools Events*

Thanks to Sebastian Ellefson for  
hosting our table at the last event.

[info@westsidestrongschools.com](mailto:info@westsidestrongschools.com)



## *Adult Forum Discusses OutNorth Film*

The Adult Forum will watch and discuss TPT's video telling the history of GLBTQ people in Minnesota over the past 50 years. All are welcome on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Parents' Room through May 20.



## *New CPUC tie-dye t-shirts*

Our new rainbow-themed t-shirts are now available; many members came together to learn this craft and fashion their own shirts (and socks and more). Winnie Williams brought the screened shirts, supplies, and expert Sue Rutford to lead us in this creative project, washed and dried the shirts at home, and then hung the shirts on the church pews the next day. Many thanks to Winnie and the Outreach Ministry for all their efforts.



## Notes From Pastor Joy

The process for selecting your next pastor is led by a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), a group of 5-7 members. They will meet regularly, usually once a week. Their first task is to complete the Church Profile from the MN UCC Conference and Ministry Information Form from the Presbyterian Church, USA. This is the most important step because it determines the kind of pastor who is the best fit and thus shapes the search. The PNC will be provided information that has been done by the transition team and congregation, which has been the purpose of our work. Other tasks include: advertising, receiving and sorting profiles, interviews, possibly travel to hear preaching, finally by consensus, bring the candidate to the congregation to vote. The work of the PNC is confidential and will not be shared with the congregation. The PNC is not the Transition Team but may ask them for input and may ask Pastor Joy also for input.



On **May 20<sup>th</sup>** following the worship service, Gale Robb (Twin Cities Presbytery) and Rick Wagner (UCC Conference) will hold an information session for everyone who would like to learn more about the PNC. This does not mean you will serve on the committee, but this helps all to understand how it works and what is required. Remember, this is not a sign up like for fellowship hour – you must be nominated – and the council will put together a slate of appropriate nominees. There are certain qualities required (points from Rick Wagner and Gale Robb):

- Current active membership through attendance, financial support and participation (not someone who used to be active and maybe they'll come back if they're on the PNC!)
- Respected by the congregation – seen as spiritually mature
- Positive attitude
- Willing and able to make this responsibility a high priority (snow birds generally aren't good unless they're willing to Skype in for every meeting)
- Capacity to approach the task with openness rather than an agenda
- Able to work as part of a team and to be absolutely confidential
- Reflects the diversity of the congregation
- Capacity to listen and come to consensus

You have already started a new chapter in the life of CPUC. The transition team has worked tirelessly and will continue even as the Pastor Nominating does its work. I encourage us to work together as we go forward. Anytime you have questions, please contact me.

The PNC is intense, lots of work, and can be a joyful experience. Please pray earnestly and listen closely if this might be a place you are called to serve. The transition and Pastor Search takes a lot of trust. Remember we are all in this together in the name of Jesus who calls us.



## *May this be a prayer of commitment*

Spirit of Mercy, Beauty of Life, enlighten the eyes of our hearts.

Awaken us to your light, to see with grace and to shine with grace,  
to see with gratitude the beauty that unfolds, to see with trust your immense love,  
to see with hope the hope that rises, to see with humility the mercy that rains,  
to see fearlessly the suffering in this world, and the power of redemption,  
to see all people as our kin, all living beings as our flesh, to see heaven emerging in  
each moment, in peace, before us.

May we see, by the light in your eyes: the light of your peace;  
and with the eyes of your heart: the look of your compassion.

Awaken us to this day, the eyes of our hearts enlightened for the journey ahead.

## *Blessing*

May God's grace flow freely in our life together.

May Christ's love take us on a journey of compassion.

And may God's Spirit grant us courage to act with love. Amen.

## *Congratulations to our newlyweds*

Meliza and Dean



## *Easter*

### *Breakfast*

as usual,  
a feast for the  
eyes and  
tummy



## *Council Corner Highlights – April Meeting 2018*

❖ We enjoyed an informal visit with Sebastian Ellefson and Sarah Russ Ellefson before the business part of the meeting. We look forward to them joining Cherokee Park United at worship soon.

❖ Cherokee Park United Church will be represented at the Minnesota Conference of the UCC Annual Meeting this June by Pastor Joy Smith, Andy George, and Karen Shatek.

The Council remains grateful for the prayers and participation of the people of CPUC during this transitional period. You may connect council members (below) or Pastor Joy with ideas or feedback you want to share. Take-home lists of contact information are found on the clipboard in back of church.

Andy George, Jill Jackson, Diane Spicer, Jerry Williams, Mike Bates, Mary Murphy, Maria McNamara, Karen Shatek, Tomie Evans, Jerome Graf (moderator), Susan Strebig

## *Westminster Town Hall Forum*

All are invited at noon or 7 p.m., eight to ten times a year, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nicollet Mall and 12th Street in downtown Minneapolis. Enjoy Minnesota's best musicians a half hour before the presentation and stay afterward for food and conversation. No ticket or RSVP required.



- *A Candid Look at Today's Headlines* – Steve Schmidt, Founder of the Center for political Communication at University of Delaware, former adviser to George W. Bush and senior campaign strategist for John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign - **Tuesday, May 1, Noon**
- *Mandela's Way: Lessons for an Uncertain Age* – Richard Stengel, former managing editor of Time. Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy in the Obama administration, co-writer of Nelson Mandela's book *The Long Walk to Freedom*, **Tuesday, May 22, 7 pm**

Also at Westminster:

**Windows into Palestine:** *Encountering the Heart of a People through Art*, **May 17,18,19** Thur, Fri, Sat.

Films, music, food, cooking demo, spice & crafts market.

[windowsintopalestine.org](http://windowsintopalestine.org)





## *Reading Glasses to Borrow*

I'm in church and just realized I forgot my glasses. Loaners are found on the Manomin nametag board, the desk in Fellowship Hall, and in the piano bench. (Sort of like a scavenger hunt!)



Deadline for articles is the 20th of the month; please submit articles, ideas or feedback to editor Susan Strebig at 651-457-1404 or [kellystrebig@comcast.net](mailto:kellystrebig@comcast.net)

The newsletter team also consists of: fact editors Phyllis Clark, Mary Murphy; collate/mail teams Phyllis & Cal Clark (spring, summer, fall) , Stefan Sylvander & Kathy Bergthold (winter).

## *Food (not just) for Thought*

Please consider organizing set-up, snacks, **and/or** cleanup for fellowship hour any Sunday. The sign-up binder is located on a table in Fellowship Hall.

You will also find a sign-up sheet soon to help with a task at the annual anniversary dinner which will occur on June 3. Just helping for a short time with one area of prep or clean-up makes this wonderful dinner possible for all.





## **Cherokee Park United Church**

United Church of Christ/Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Open & Affirming, Multicultural, Antiracist

371 W. Baker Street

St. Paul, MN 55107

Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.

Rev. Joy Smith - Interim Pastor

651-227-4275

[cpuc@usfamily.net](mailto:cpuc@usfamily.net)

[cherokeeparkunited.org](http://cherokeeparkunited.org)

