



## **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 July 2018***

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>1 JULY</b> Food Collection	2	3	4 Blessing of Independence	5 Loaves & Fishes	6	7
<b>8</b>	9	10	11	12 Council 6 pm	13	14
<b>15</b> Congregational Meeting to vote on PNC	16	17	18	19	20	21
<b>22</b> Worship at Cherokee Park	23	24	25	26	27	28
<b>29</b>	30	31	1 <b>AUG</b>	2	3	4
<b>5</b> Food Collection	6	7 National Night Out	9	10 Council 6 pm	11	12

**Planning Ahead:** September 16, Covenanting Sunday  
October 26-27, Women's Retreat

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

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

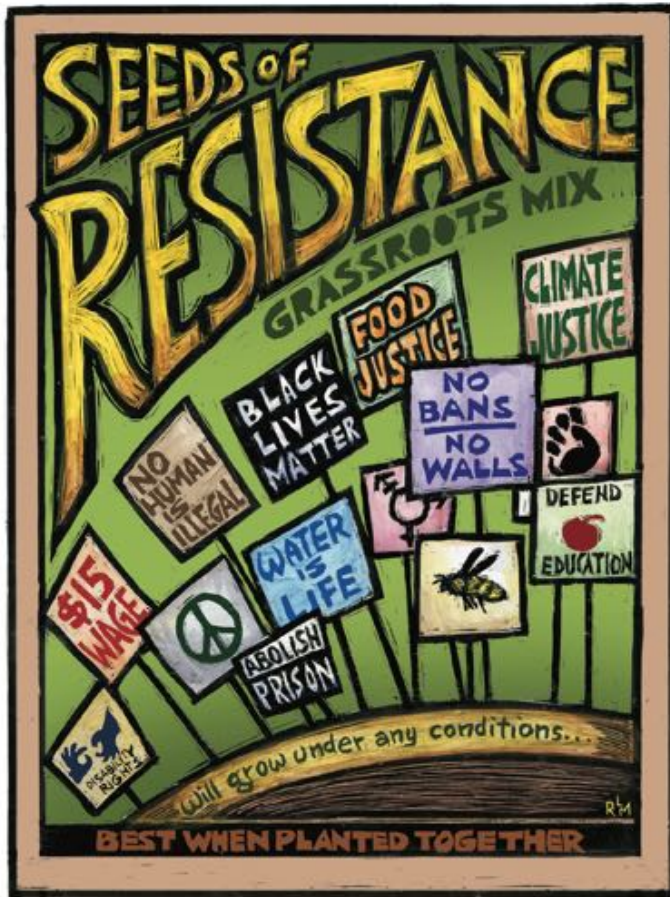
The newsletter team also consists of: pre-publishing fact editors Phyllis Clark and Mary Murphy, collate/mail teams Phyllis & Cal Clark, & Kathy Bergthold.

Reminder - Summer Worship Start Time Changed to 9:30 a.m.



### **Loaves & Fishes – July 5, Thursday, 3:30-6:45 p.m.**

Join us at St. Matthew’s Church for our semi-monthly commitment to provide a tasty, 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.) Contact Michele Johnson.[Loaves & Fishes occurs the first Thursday of the odd numbered months.]



### **Survey Coming Your Way**

Seeds of Resistance (formerly known as the Anti-racism Team) is formulating a survey to be sent to members and friends of Cherokee Park United. Results will be used in a number of ways, including informing this ministry on what efforts might be most needed and productive, helping the Sacred Space Task Force focus, and to complete forms needed by the Pastor Nominating Committee.

You are asked to put yourself in the shoes of some people unlike you, and rate how we might be doing in different categories of our words, actions, appearances. And there is always the option to say DK (don't know.) Thank you in advance for sharing your time to think through

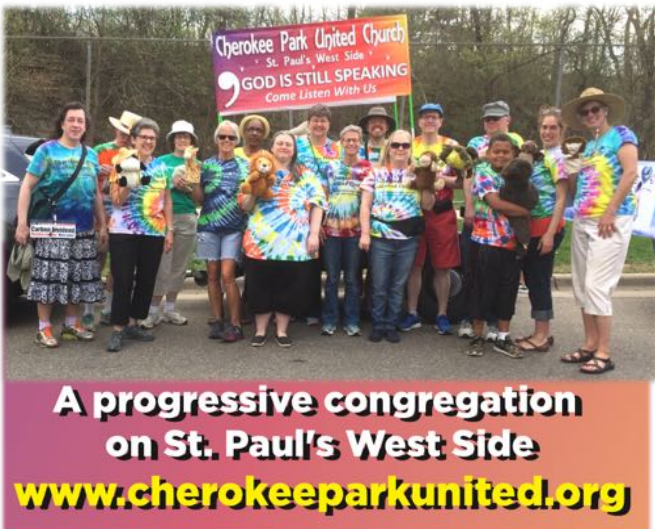
these questions. The last study was conducted in 2011 and focused only on race, so this helps focus on many more “isms” that need our resistance.

A Minneapolis social justice artist, Ricardo Levins Morales, has created this poster entitled “Seeds of Resistance” which wonderfully illustrates the focus of this ministry. A framed copy is hanging at the back of the worship space.

## Come to Church on National Night Out!

Cherokee Park United will host National Night Out on Baker Street on Tuesday, August 7 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The event is open to all but people who live in the area close to church will receive invitations. We will again invite St. Paul police units and/or fire fighters to stop by. The goal is to connect people and build safe neighborhoods, and to show them what a welcoming and caring church we are! Ice cream treats, fruit and beverages will be offered at no cost.

The Outreach Team needs CPUC members to assist with the activities we'd like to offer – face-painting, cornhole toss, a cakewalk, and a table where people can register to vote! **You can also help by donating a cake or other wrapped baked good; please bring to church on Sunday, August 5 or the evening of the event!** We also need folks willing and able to distribute invitations to neighborhood houses between July 22 and August 1. If you are able to help with set-up, serving, or clean-up that's welcome, too. Sign-up sheets will be at church in mid-July. Thanks for considering this, especially if it means missing an event near your home. Contact Jill Jackson.



## Rainbow News

In addition to marching in the annual Pride parade this year, the Outreach Ministry also placed an ad in the (early June) *Lavender* magazine, inviting people to check out our website if interested in a progressive, inclusive church. Maybe we'll see a few more visitors, we hope!

~~*Lavender* is a biweekly award-winning print and online magazine published in Minneapolis for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. Each issue

highlights current trends and happenings in cuisine, nightlife, news, travel, and style. It is distributed free of charge in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul and in some other cities throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

[www.lavendermagazine.com](http://www.lavendermagazine.com)

## *Annual Worship and Picnic in the Park*

**Sunday, July 22, 9:30 a.m.**

Join us at the pavilion in Cherokee Park for outdoor worship followed by a potluck lunch. BYO food and beverage. Plates and utensils provided, and the grill will be hot if you wish to use it. (No nursery care provided this day, and unfortunately the playground is currently under construction.)



### *Happy Baby Day!*

Sarah and Sebastian welcomed their daughter Rita Sage on June 2! Some of us on the “meal train” were already able to hold this little bundle of joy. We look forward to hearing baby’s singing at worship.

### *More Congratulations*

Our best wishes and prayers are sent to Madison, daughter of Roger and Rebecca, our nursery director. Some of us have been here long enough to remember a very young Madison in Sunday School classes and Nativity presentations – now – college-bound!



Graduating June 3rd, 2018

Future Plans: Attending the  
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities  
Majoring in Genetics, Cell Biology, & Development

## *Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the UCC*

On June 8-10, Karen Shatek, Jim Shatek, Andy George, and Pastor Joy represented CPUC at this annual meeting at St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN.

Substantive matters discussed included:

- The conference provided local churches with information about a possible upcoming change to federal tax law regarding Pastor compensation guidelines. Presently, pastors do not pay income tax on their housing allowance (which is roughly half of what we paid Pastor Tim and about half of what we pay Pastor Joy). There's a federal court decision under appeal that would eliminate that exemption. If that ruling were to become law in the next few years, then it would mean that pastors across America would need to pay more in taxes. The conference promised to keep us informed, and to provide informational resources to local congregations if that change does become law.
- Amendments approved to the UCC constitution to:
  - Allow U.S. churches to employ clergy from the United Church of Canada, and vice versa. This will be very helpful to congregations along the border who have trouble filling vacancies.
  - Reorganize the governance of the national office of the U.C.C. to eliminate dedicated officers for particular ministries and allow the national board to determine the correct number and roles of officers as needed.

(Amendments must be approved by enough conferences around the country before taking effect.)

- Resolutions approved to:
  - Call for state and national legislation on gun violence (including universal background checks, gun-free school zones, and classifying gun violence as a public health crisis). A group of UCC youth attended the March for our Lives, and spoke, movingly, to the conference about our duty to protect children from violence.
  - Call for new renewable energy standards in MN to take the next step by supporting legislation to require 50% of Minnesota's energy to come from renewable resources by 2030, and 100% by 2050..

Many great break-out sessions were offered on topics including becoming a more immigrant-supportive congregation, tips for growing your congregation, and becoming a reparative conference/congregation around racial justice. The conference was an informative, fun, and uplifting way to get together. We saw many friends of CPUC there, including:

(cont'd next page)

- Reverend Glen Harrington-Hall was there, and bleary-eyed, having just returned from a mission trip to the Philippines so he could attend Barb's retirement party the evening before.
- Reverend Pamela Cook led a thought-provoking Bible study on the Book of Esther. We talked about how the ancient text can inform us as we examine the contemporary issues of toxic masculinity, LGBTIQ rights, and the "Me Too" movement.
- Renee Pfenning runs point for the conference's disaster recovery efforts. The UCC specializes in working with communities impacted by natural disasters in the years after other organizations have moved on, but the people are still in need. Go to [www.ucc.org/disaster](http://www.ucc.org/disaster) for more info, or email Renee at [rpfenning@msn.com](mailto:rpfenning@msn.com).

Our closing worship was particularly touching because our offering for that day was dedicated to the ministry of Monica and Tom Liddle in East Timor. Tom is another former intern of ours. Reverend Shari Presteman, MN Conference Minister, spoke about flying to the other side of the world so that she could pay a visit to Monica's clinic. Monica is the only trained medical professional for hundreds of miles, and only has four different kinds of medicines to hand out, and not enough of even those four. Pastor Tom held a church service for the faithful in the backyard of one of his parishioners. Pastor Shari described it as one of the most moving services she's ever attended. CPUC proudly collects a special offering each year in support of the Liddles' ministry of God's love and grace.



## *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. There are still two dates open July. (None needed July 22 as we potluck in the park.)

*Reminder to edit carefully:*

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

## *Relentless Organized Conversation* – a report from Tomie

On June 22, 2018 the full voting body of the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s 223rd General Assembly overwhelmingly approved (81%), two carbon pricing overtures developed and championed by Presbyterians' Bill Bray and Ron Spross from Texas and Minnesotan Tomie Evans. Tomie is particularly grateful for the coaching from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area's Peter Soulen, and support from Cherokee Park United Church. Tomie, Bill, and Ron are also all members of Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) and their Presbytery faith action team. ([CCLUSA.org](http://CCLUSA.org))

Noting the denomination's "moral mandate for humanity to shift to a sustainable energy regime in ways that are both just and compassionate", and "to implement strategies and actions...that offer a realistic prospect for changing the behaviors that are at the root of the issue", this action directs its mission agencies to both engage directly and to support the invitation to its more than 9,000 congregations, and its 1.5 million members to join with neighbors and other organizations for respectful engagement with government officials as advocates for carbon pricing. When Tomie described PC(USA)'s advocacy strength for **relentless organized conversation** to the Environmental Issues committee, that had worked late into the evening yesterday they all laughed - those connections help.

CCL's Carbon Fee and Dividend \* is specifically noted as a just and effective method.

While the General Assembly did not support the overtures directing the Foundation and Pension to a blanket divestment, they did direct their Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) agency to continue engagement with fossil fuel companies, grow their leverage by working with organizations such as group of fund managers called Climate Action 100+, and develop criteria for specific divestment recommendations.

\*Carbon Fee and Dividend refers to a proposal to reduce carbon emissions and the ensuing climate change and global warming by charging a carbon fee (\$15 per ton of CO2 equivalent emissions) on all fossil fuels and other greenhouse gases at the point where they first enter the economy, collected by the Treasury Department, and then 100% of the net rebated **monthly** to America households (adults plus equivalent of up to one adult for children). This rebate can cover the purchase of energy efficient products or services which are initially more costly.







## *Notes From Pastor Joy*

Recently Attorney General Jeff Sessions used a line from the Apostle Paul, to defend the Trump administration's policy to separate thousands of parents and children during immigration investigations. But in this letter to the Romans (13), Paul actually undermines Session's policy rather than supports it. He was writing a letter to condemn the practices of Rome and demanded that the non-Jewish community welcome them back to Rome. Previously, many of the Jewish people who had been forced to leave Rome

began to return, since the city was safe again after the death of Roman Emperor Claudius. Paul wrote the letter because he was worried that things would go badly when these Jewish Christians tried to integrate back in with the non-Jewish Christians in Rome. **Paul was not concerned about breaking the Roman law but how the two communities were to live together.** Paul is very clear about one thing (Romans 14) - that those who remained in Rome should not judge that they were any better or different from these Jewish migrants. That is why Paul famously says that "all" – Romans and Jews – "have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Paul's letter emphasizes the similarities between immigrants and non-immigrants, not any differences between them. In fact, just a few lines after requiring respect for the government, Paul sums up his point by encouraging the audience to: "Love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law."

The command to love a foreigner and to let them freely gather food that belongs to you puts us a long, long way from Sessions' arguments about obeying governments to ensure safety for Americans. The logic of Paul's words might have sounded helpful to Sessions in isolation, but the letter they come from undermines nearly everything Sessions wants them to support.

## *Monarch Watch*

Kathy Farnell, as well as Mary Murphy (hand pictured), and Kay Myhrman-Toso, bring branches of milkweed inside their homes if they find a Monarch egg or caterpillar attached. This is to prevent them from being eaten by birds and to allow them to mature into



butterflies. Kathy also places some in a glass case at **Café Amore** at 879 Smith Ave. so you can watch them develop from caterpillar to chrysalis to emerging butterfly. Stop in and take a look and bring a child or friend. And support a local West Side business.

## *Council Corner Highlights – June Meeting 2018*

- Kathryn Price, a CPUC member and United Theological Seminary graduate, updated the Council on her life and faith journey. Kathryn feels strongly called to chaplaincy work and the Council happily agreed to recommend her to the MN Conference UCC for ordination. We look forward to walking the next steps in the ordination process with her.
- The Council identified characteristics desired in members of the Pastoral Nominating Committee at CPUC and next will select members for this group. There will be a congregational meeting to approve the proposed slate on Sunday, July 15.
- The Council approved the contract for Pastor Joy brought by the Transition Team. The contract runs from July 1, 2018 to January 1, 2019.
- Our policy regarding serving alcohol, previously just an understanding, was formalized in writing. The church's policy is to prohibit the serving or consuming of alcohol on the premises unless an exception is approved by the Council upon specific request. At meetings held off church premises, alcohol may be served if deemed appropriate by the participants. Sensitivity and support of people in recovery should be given priority.

The Council asks for the prayers and participation of the people of CPUC during this transitional period. Council normally meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month. Please connect with Council members or Pastor Joy with ideas or feedback.

### *CPUC B & B for Vermont Youth*

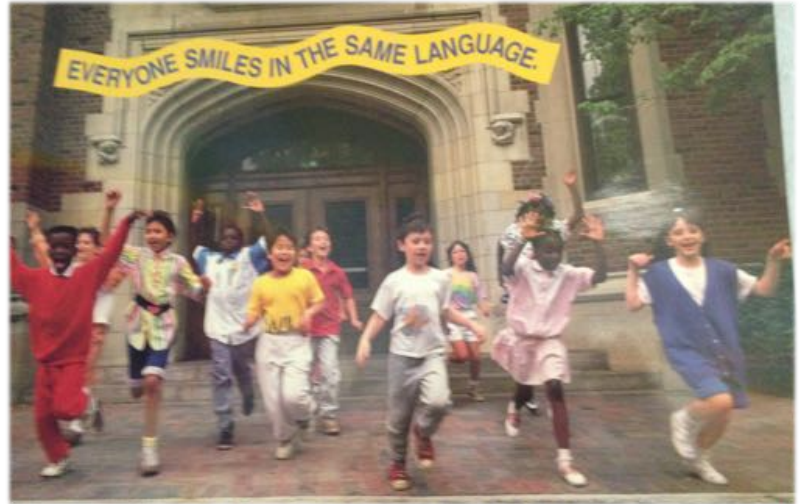
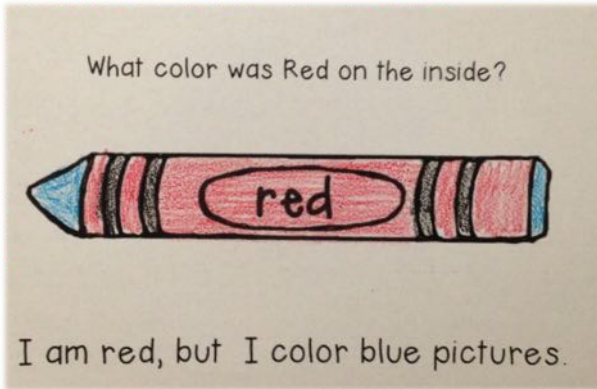
A Vermont youth group of five teens and two adults, headed for service work at the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in SD, will use Fellowship Hall as their overnight dorm on June 29. This is their fourth visit here - you may remember baking welcoming cookies for them in previous years. (Actually they provide their own breakfast, but cookies is always a popular food group.) <http://www.guilfordchurch.org>



### *Cycles for Change Bike-a-Thon*

CPUC cyclists supporting WSCO: Joy, Sim, Isaac, Jen and son Sebastian (not pictured).

## Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Miss Rebecca's Nursery Class



Check out the nursery bulletin boards for great lessons!

### Phrases to Remember and Use

Why? 500 million plastic straws are used every day in America, enough to circle the Earth twice!

“Water, no straw please.”

“I don't need a bag, thank you.”

Why? Because, nearly two million single-use plastic bags are distributed worldwide every minute.

Almost every piece of plastic that was ever made (9.1 Billion Tons since the 1950's) **still exists.** (From the Tomie Evans EarthCare - opedia)

### Loaves and Fishes – in need of “loaves” and “fishes”

The Easter Sunday Communion envelope is usually designated as our annual funding source but we forgot to remind everyone this year. So anything you can give to help this ministry is most appreciated. Designate “L & F” on your check or envelope in the plate, anytime. We feed about 100 people six times a year spending about \$180 each time.



**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

**Summer Worship: starting June 10, 9:30 a.m.**

(Fall, Winter, Spring - 10:15 a.m.)

Rev. Joy Smith - Interim Pastor

651-227-4275

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

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

The function of freedom is to free someone else.

Toni Morrison