



## ***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 August 2018***

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1 AUG	2	3	4
5 -Food Collection -Lay Min Mtg after worship	6 Seeds of Resistance 6 pm	7 National Night Out	8	9 Council 6 pm	10	11
12 Cong. Meeting after worship	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Chairperson potluck & mtg 6 & 7 pm	29	30	31	1 SEPT
2 Food Collection	3	4	5	6 *Loaves & Fishes	7	8 ASDIC**
9	10	11	12	13 Council 6 pm	14	15 ASDIC**

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

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

\*\*ASDIC Circles, September 8 - November 17 (not Nov 3), 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Deadline for newsletter articles is the 20th of the month; please submit articles, ideas or feedback to editor Susan Strebige at [kellystrebige@comcast.net](mailto:kellystrebige@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.

## *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; people who live in the area close to church will receive personal invitations. We will again invite St. Paul police units and fire fighters to stop by. The goal is to connect people and build safe neighborhoods, and also show them what a welcoming and caring church we are! Ice cream treats, fruit and beverages will be offered at no cost. If it rains we'll hold the event downstairs in the Social Hall.



The Outreach Team needs CPUC members to assist with the activities we'd like to offer – face-painting, corn-hole toss, and a cakewalk. **Please bring a cake or other wrapped baked goods to church on August 5 or the evening of the event!** (We may re-package your donation so we have enough appropriately-sized choices for players!) There also will be a table where people can register to vote. If you are able to help with set-up, serving, or clean-up that's welcome, too. Find sign-up sheets at church or contact Jill. Thanks for considering this, especially if it means missing an event near your home. Please join us – and bring a friend!

## *Calling All Ministry Team Chairs*

The Lay Ministry Team invites you to a **potluck dinner and meeting** of ministry team chair-persons on **Tuesday, August 28**, at 6 p.m. at church. Beverages and desserts will be provided. Please let anyone on the Lay Ministry Team know if you will be late or sending a person other than the chair-person to represent your team.



We'll be sharing the lists of Ministry Team and Special Role participants for 2018-2019, handing out ministry team descriptions for updating, and reviewing chairing "best practices." Please come prepared to tell of events already planned for fall or winter. Lay Ministry members: Mike Bates, Jan Howe, Karolyn Gilbertson, Pastor Joy, Jill Jackson



## August 12 Fellowship Hour

There will be a 1st Birthday Party Celebration in the Fellowship Hall for Parker, who was born on August 11, 2017 and loves his friends at Cherokee Park United Church!. There will be cupcakes!

## Getting Ready for the Women's Retreat

The annual Women's Affinity Group Retreat is scheduled for **October 26 and 27** at The Benedictine Center\* in Maplewood. The topic we'll explore is "Serenity". Joanne Sylvander will facilitate the retreat. Registration materials will be available in September. Mark your calendars now for this enjoyable time away!

\* "As soon as anyone knocks, the porter of the monastery replies, 'Thanks be to God' or 'Your blessing, please.' Then the porter provides a prompt answer with the warmth of love." (RB 66:3-4) Embodying this vision of hospitality, the Benedictine Center is a threshold between St. Paul's Monastery and the wider world. Staff member serve as Benedict's porter, ready to welcome each guest with all the gentleness that comes from God. [From Benedictine Center website]



## Statement of Faith

Upon the occasion of her 26<sup>th</sup> birthday, Nona spoke to the congregation with grace and gratitude. We are blessed to be part of the village that has nurtured and appreciated her these past years. She is one of our treasured princesses!

Part of her celebration involved lunch and a movie with several members, some of which were more than 50 years older than her! To help preserve the earth for Nona and her generation, all said to the waitress, "No straw, please."

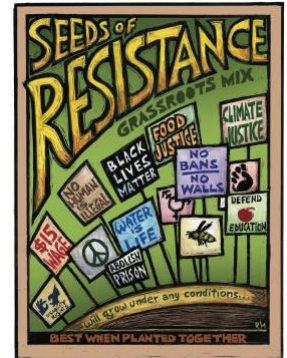


## Survey Coming Your Way

Seeds of Resistance will be sending a survey 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.) 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 the above 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.



## We Are Family

In last month's issue we covered much of the great progress made at the 223rd General Assembly (for those of us not raised in the Presbyterian tradition, the annual national Presbyterian convention) related to climate change, with our own Tomie Evans taking an extensive leadership role.

Another topic requiring mention is that of Overtures 11-12 and 11-13 which, for the first time, actively affirm the identity of LGBTQ[IA]+ people and their role in the vitality of the Church. Movement on this issue has been an ongoing effort by "More Light Presbyterians" dating back 44 years, when, at the 1974 General Assembly a pastor held up a sign that read "Is anyone else out there gay?" In 1978 there was a ruling that openly LGBTQ people could be received into church membership but not ordained as church leaders. This year's overtures took the process to equal and complete recognition. (from Office of the General Assembly Communications) Further information focused on the desire to protect and nourish our young people; one bit of research cited was that over 50 percent of people ages 18-24 do not see gender on a binary of male-female, and that 10 percent of people 18-34 do not identify as cisgender (the gender that corresponds with their birth sex.) "More Light" luncheon keynote speaker Jess Cook stated, *"Difference is no longer a burden to carry, but a way to see the myriad ways in which the creation reveals itself."*

## *Council Corner Highlights – July Meeting 2018*

- The council approved the slate of members for the Pastoral Nominating Committee; they are Gina DeNardo, Sandy Dodson, Sebastian Ellefson, Karolyn Gilbertson, Maria McNamara, Tom Murphy, and Kelly Strebis. The council lifted-up the difficulty of choosing the slate from so many willing and well-qualified nominations, described by Andy as a “luxury of riches”. Gratitude was expressed to all nominees. This slate was recommended and affirmed at a congregational meeting on Sunday, July 15.
- The council approved the vision and mission statements, as following:  
**Vision:** Fierce justice, Radical love, Abundant grace  
**Mission:** We are an inclusive faith community, joining our neighbors, boldly living God's love in a world of beauty and brokenness, as Jesus did. The values statements will be reviewed in August.
- The council set Sunday, August 12 after worship as the time for a congregational meeting of Cherokee Park United Church, for the purpose of ratifying a by-law change for the creation of a Personnel Ministry Team. The congregation will also be asked to affirm the vision, mission, and values statements.

The council asks for the prayers of the people. Members are always welcome to attend (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays) or share their ideas or feedback with council members or Pastor Joy as we work together to discern our church's future, in faith and love.

## *Tom's Drone Sights Annual Worship/Picnic in the Park*





## *Thoughts from Pastor Joy*

Congratulations! You have entered into a new phase of “transition”. The last two years of transition work have not always been easy but in spite of it, you have done well. I am constantly impressed with your resilience. Here you are - the place God has called you.

Though the balloons are flying high and the celebration has begun, it is not over. There are tasks ahead. And I have confidence in you to continue to move ahead. I encourage you to pray and send positive energy to your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). They need your trust, support and encouragement. Prayer is not magic but it can *change us* to see more clearly. Below is a prayer you might use to pray for them.

Ever present God, source and ground of all that exists, present and active everywhere in the universe, your gift is life. Today, we give thanks for our Pastor Nominating Committee: Kelly Streb, Tom Murphy, Maria McNamara, Sandy Dodson, Karolyn Gilbertson, Sabastian Ellefson, and Gina DeNardo. We pray for them as they take on an important role to lead us forward. We pray that they will find courage to see new doorways and embrace all kinds of possibilities. May they have an attitude of openness, collegiality, and patience to work together. May they have grace, wisdom and energy to work side by side, unflinchingly as they can, and accurately as they are able. May they be prompted to be expansive in their thinking, confident with hard choices, and belief that the Holy One is in the midst of everything.

Give them rest when they are exhausted, faith when it feels like there is no end to their task, and a sense of humor when they are overwhelmed. Remind them constantly that God is with them. Hold them accountable, gently, that the whole purpose of this search is to find the right person to join us as we make God’s reign visible. Fill them with visioning, daring, and lighting for the ministry ahead. We pray in the ways of Jesus. Amen.

## *Antiracism Study-Dialogue Circle (ASDIC)*

**September 8 - November 17** (no session November 3)

ASDIC Circles meet for ten Saturdays, starting with breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and concluding at 12:30 p.m. They are designed to provide participants with an in-depth experience to better understand the ways race and racism operate in all of our lives, giving greater clarity of thinking, strength of relationship, and effectiveness of action in addressing systemic racism.

More information/registration at [asdicle.org/circle](http://asdicle.org/circle).

**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: 9:30 a.m.**

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

Rev. Joy Smith - Interim Pastor

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

*It's perfectly OK*

*not to be OK.*

Birthday Nona