




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 September 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
26	27	28 Chairperson potluck & mtg 6 & 7 pm	29 PNC 6:30 pm	30	31	1 <i>SEPT</i>
2 Food Collection	3	4 Outreach 7 pm	5	6 *Loaves & Fishes	7 Mdewankanton WACIPI	8 Wacipi food prep 
9 Wacipi	10 Wacipi food clean-up	11 PNC 6:30 pm	12	13 Council 6 pm	14	15
16 Start time changes to 10:15 a.m. Covenanting Sunday	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Blessing of the Rainbow Flag	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Collection for Liddles	1 <i>OCT</i>	2	3	4	5	6
7 Food Collection	8	9	10	11 Council 6 pm	12	13

Planning Ahead: October 26-27, Women's Retreat

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

Worship assignments can
be found in this google doc.
<http://tiny.cc/cpuchelpers>

Newsletter article deadline is the 20th of the month;
please submit articles or ideas to
kellystrebig@comcast.net
-editor Susan Strebig
-pre-publishing fact editors Phyllis Clark, Mary Murphy
-collate/mail teams Phyllis & Cal Clark, & Kathy
Bergthold.



Loaves & Fishes

September 6, 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 - 5:00 p.m.), and/or clean up (4:40-6:30 p.m.). Contact Michele at

michelerj@comcast.net or 651-497-4753.

19th Annual Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Wacipi

September 7-9, Friday-Sunday

We are gathering volunteers to help with our annual support of this wacipi (pow wow). Our primary commitment is the provision of food for 250 people at the closing feast on Sunday evening, which is a major undertaking so many hands are needed to prep and cook and socialize!

We will begin food prep Saturday, September 8 in our kitchen at 9:00 a.m. and finish in early afternoon. (If you can cut up a carrot, you are qualified!) We also will need people Sunday after worship for last minute food prep, then again at 3:30 to help to transport food over to the site, people to serve at 5:00, and help to bring things back to the church afterwards. Clean-up is needed on Monday morning in the kitchen. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Karen Shatek and Maria McNamara have sign-up sheets and are happy to answer any questions.



Women's Affinity Group

Resumes!

Join us Friday, **September 14** at 7 p.m. at the home of Lynne Bates (7256 Bancroft Way, Inver Grove Heights, 651 457-5156). The group usually meets on the first Friday of the month, but Pow Wow preparations will have many people busy that weekend. Light refreshments will be served and a lively discussion shared.

Drone "Globe View" of

Annual Worship/Picnic in the Park

Covenanting Sunday ~ A Celebration of Service and Connections

On September 16, Cherokee Park United takes time to mark the end of one and the beginning of another program year (September to June). In worship we celebrate and affirm the covenants people make to serve on ministry teams or in special roles. Historically held the Sunday after Labor Day, in recent years we've moved the date a week later to accommodate the time and energy needed for preparations for the Mendota Mdewakanton Pow Wow feast.

The Lay Ministry Team helps design Covenanting Sunday service which includes a litany of appreciation for all people ending their time with a team or in a role and announcing and blessing the members committing to serve in volunteer capacities for the year to come. We usually hear from a member or two about why Cherokee Park United is their church home. Then we celebrate with some food, as we almost always do! This year we're planning an enhanced fellowship hour with bagels and spreads, some deli meat and cheese, coffee cake, fruit, and juices. Please join us for this day celebrating our relationships and work in faith together.

Adult Forum Resumes September 16

The Adult Forum will start meeting again on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.; all who are high school age or older are welcome to attend. People gather in the Parent's Room close to the Manomin Avenue entry. Come on the 16th and you can help decide our focus for the sessions this fall. Last year we studied various books of the Bible, read *Waking up White*, and viewed the video on LGBTQ+ history in Minnesota entitled *OutNorth*. Please join us and bring your ideas!

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

Members, elected August 12 and listed below, have three meetings this month, working on step two on the schedule shown on the chart in Fellowship Hall. Their efforts are guided by Gale Robb and Rick Wagner, representing both our denominations.

Gina DeNardo Graf, Sandy Dodson,
Sebastian Ellefson, Karolyn Gilbertson,
Maria McNamara, Tom Murphy, Kelly Strebig

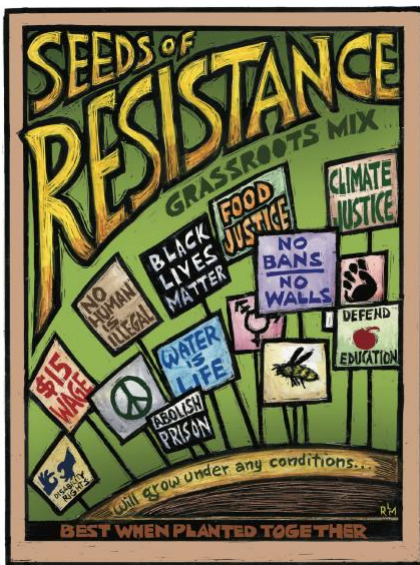
WHAT PROGRESS ARE WE MAKING IN THE SEARCH FOR A NEW PASTOR?

- 1**  **We need to appoint a Search Committee** Sebastian Ellefson
- 2**  **We need a description of our congregation**
- 3**  **The Search Committee will consider all potential candidates**
- 4**  **The Search Committee will select possible candidates**
- 5**  **The Search Committee will interview these candidates**
- 6**  **One candidate will be recommended to us**
- 7**  **We will vote on the recommended candidate**
- 8**  **We will join in worship to install our new pastor**

September 16, Sunday, 3-5 p.m.: Don Christensen (former Building Blocks tutor) from Macalester Plymouth UCC invites us to a gathering and conversation with Tyler & Rochelle Holm, missionaries to Malawi. Please RSVP to office@macalester-plymouth.org by September 10.

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.



In many questions 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.

(shown poster entitled "Seeds of Resistance" created by Ricardo Levins Morales)

Women's Retreat – see sign-up form inside last page

"God, Grant me...serenity"

That's the first step: **to ask.**
So that's what we'll do at the Women's Retreat. We'll ask...

"What is serenity?"

"How or where can I /we get some?"

"What's my/our part in finding it?"

Joanne Sylvander
Retreat Facilitator





Spiritual Practice and Transition

From Pastor Joy

I have been thinking about spiritual practice during transition. It is helpful to acknowledge that transition and change are different. Often change and transition can become one and the same. But they're not.

Change can be a result of transition and transition may be connected with change. Change is like - rearranging the chairs, adding a new program, getting married, having a new baby. Transition is what happens in between making the decision and the event itself. A prime example for CPUC is this time in between the retirement of your pastor and identifying a new one. Sometimes, we are in such a hurry to make the change. Healthy transition is more important than the change itself. My personal experience is when I allow myself to intentionally "be in" transition, I experience creative spiritual growth. Spirituality is connecting with something other than ourselves; some call it Spirit, Holy One, Grace, Christ, God, you probably have other expressions.

We move from place to place by going through a series of between: between the outside and the inside, between the lobby and the apartment, between a room and the exit. Rarely can we go anywhere without going through a transition space, or time. In the Christian monastic tradition, the practice of *statio* acknowledges the importance of times between times.

In her book about Benedictine spirituality, *Wisdom Distilled from the Daily*, Joan Chittister explains "the practice of *statio* is meant to center us and make us conscious of what we're about to do and make us present to God who is present to us. *Statio* is the desire to do consciously what I might otherwise do mechanically. *Statio* is the virtue of presence."

This spiritual mindfulness can help reframe the many transition times and places we experience every day. Instead of regarding them as wasted periods, unavoidable delays, or inconveniences, we can see them as "divine invitations" to stop, to re-center ourselves, and to become more aware of God's presence in the world around us. We can use transitions as opportunities to contemplate the things that matter to us, to give thanks for all the gifts from the Creator, and to prepare to connect with our loved ones. This kind of refreshing pause or mini-Sabbath does not have to be complicated or long. Just consciously choose to stop, close your eyes, and relax your body. Take a deep breath and as you exhale, let go of any anxieties. Shrug your shoulders or shake out your hands. Rest in the moment and know that this special moment which will never come again. Savor it and give thanks to God. (cont'd next page)

Here are some suggestions:

- Pause outside your door as you leave for work, errands or school. Say quietly to yourself: "This is a day the Lord has made. I will watch for God's presence in my life today. I will stay open to the grace of God."
- Just before you leave your car, train, or bus, say a silent prayer 'for all those you have passed on your journey, that they may know health, happiness, peace, and well-being'. This statio practice may be repeated as you leave a restaurant or a store after shopping.
- On the elevator to your office, focus on the beginning of your workday. Say a prayer asking that your work be blessed and of service to your employer and the world at large. Think about the people you will meet during the day and give thanks for their support and creativity. If you are in conflict with a co-worker, ask that you may be forgiving and forgiven.
- Before entering a doctor or dentist's office for an appointment, or the gym for your workout, thank your body for being such a faithful trooper.

Returning home, pause before entering your house or apartment. Be conscious of the moment's importance that you are moving from the outside world into the space of your home. Leave stresses and problems of the day, any unfinished business, on your doorstep. (You can always pick them up again the next morning.) If you share your home with others, remember what you are bringing to them — the fruits of your labor, perhaps, but most important, your loving presence. Use this refreshing pause to prepare for a blessed reunion with them.

If you can, I encourage you to embrace this time of transition and renew your spirit.

Around the West Side

We are starting this program year with a new mission statement which refers to joining with our "neighbors." Although we usually interpret this in a wide sense, we are also especially mindful of the needs and gifts of those close by.



Members often meet at Café Amore or at Capitol View Café, supporting our local businesses; we have a new source of good food now, in **Home Street Home** at the corner of George and Ohio. With the impact of the closing of the Smith Av. Bridge, it is especially important to keep these businesses in mind.

Our former pastor, **Tim Johnson**, still contributes his thoughts in writing to local newspapers. The August issue of *The Community Reporter* features his insight entitled, "Driving While White."

Council Corner Highlights – August Meeting 2018

The Council approved:

- ~a change to the Cherokee Park United Church Bylaws to add a **Personnel Ministry Team**, to be recommended to the congregation for approval at a congregational meeting on August 12. The Personnel Ministry Team is made up of Deborah Morse, chair, Kristyn Aasen, Jerome Graf, and Jerry Williams. One of the team's first tasks will be to begin the search for a part-time Music Director.
- ~the **baptism** of Rita Sage Ellefson during worship on September 16.
- ~the **Values Statements** that speak to the Vision and Mission Statements adopted by the Council and congregation in July, to be recommended to the congregation for approval at the congregational meeting on August 12.
- ~a suggestion from the Seeds of Resistance Ministry Team that the opportunity for **creative expression through worship** services be shared with all ministry teams. The Seeds group received good feedback on the service they designed for our annual outdoor worship and would like other teams (or combinations of teams) to have the same opportunity they had, as often as one time per month. Teams interested in creating a service, or part of a service, are encouraged to speak to Pastor Joy.

Your prayers are requested during this transitional period. Members are always welcome to attend meetings (6-9 p.m. on 2nd 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.



Special Collection September 30



Our friends, Tom and Monica Liddle, worked in Timor-Leste (formerly East Timor) in 2009, and returned, with their children Hannah and Simon in 2016 for a four-year commitment through Global Ministries of the UCC. Tom interned at CPUC when he returned to the USA to finish up his MDiv degree, and also worked with the Stained Glass Taskforce, Faith Life Ministry, and taught Sunday School. They are back in the Midwest in August and September, with visits to congregations being coordinated by Rev. Glen Herrington-Hall. Our Council has made a financial commitment to support the Liddles. Your donations are always welcome; checks can be made out to CPUC with

"Liddles" on the notation line. Read more on their blog at

<http://timorsite.wordpress.com>

Cherokee Park United Church Vision, Mission, Values

August 12, 2018

Fierce Justice
Radical Love
Abundant Grace

*We are an inclusive faith community
joining our neighbors, boldly living
God's love in a world of beauty and
brokenness, as Jesus did.*

Extravagant welcome...

- ... to humans of all ages, from womb to tomb.
- ... to people of all races and ethnicities.
- ... to female and male, or wherever you find yourself on the spectrum of gender.
- ... to gay and to straight, or however you express your human love for another.
- ... to humans who fit anywhere on the spectrum of physical and mental abilities.
- ... to those whose lives are touched by addiction, or issues of mental health.
- ... to any who have been marginalized by systems and institutions (including the church!)

Theological elbow room...

- ... because it ensures a safe space to be vulnerable and to grapple with our own assumptions.
- ... because curiosity and questions are really good things, and none of us can claim all the answers.
- ... because we believe in dynamic growth and learning, and don't dare put a period where God has placed a comma.

Engaging worship and heartfelt prayer...

- ... with community prayer at the heart of our being together.
- ... with equal room for the feminine face of God in images and language.
- ... by seeking out the quiet *thin places* where the Divine Presence is most closely felt.
- ... with sermons that challenge our hearts and our minds.
- ... with global music, and children dancing in the aisles.
- ... with art and creative activities that express the many faces of God and humanity.
- ... by speaking in terms of *we*, rather than *them*, for no one is an *other* in God's eyes.
- ... by emphasis on God's original blessing, not humanity's original sin.

Children and families of all sorts...

- ... by offering faith formation opportunities that are age-appropriate and grounded in progressive theology.
- ... by covenanting through baptism to love and support parents and all caregivers as they grow the future.
- ... by embracing the whole glorious mess that is modern family life with humor and compassion.

The uncompromising pursuit of justice...

- ... by acknowledging in the historical figure of Jesus all the richness and diversity of the human experience.
- ... by declaring ourselves to be an actively antiracist congregation and challenging ourselves to live out that claim.
- ... by standing up for the LGBTQ+ community and offering full inclusion in church life.
- ... with tender care for our planet and a commitment to environmental justice.
- ... by declaring food, shelter, and health care to be basic human rights and working toward economic justice for all.

Each other...with radical love, just as we are, warts and all.



National Night Out!
Thanks to all at CPUC who supported our efforts this second year. We are also grateful to the squad car and motorcycle police officers who stopped by to visit. Lots of good community connections were made!



Women's Retreat 2018

5:30 p.m. Friday to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, October 26 and 27
New Location! - The Benedictine Center
2675 Benet Road, Maplewood, MN 55109 651 777-7251

The Benedictine Center, part of the St. Paul Monastery, is close-by but worlds away. Join us as we explore the paths to Serenity in our lives. We'll likely run into Paradox and Prayer along the way. We'll share juggling tricks and strategies that we can take home with us. (Asking and knowing are not just for retreats!)

The retreat fee is \$106, or \$79 for Saturday only. All rooms are double occupancy with a few single rooms available at extra cost. Linens are provided. Meals are served buffet style in the Center's cafeteria. See more details at <https://www.benedictinecenter.org>

There is limited space, so please register early. If you need scholarship help, please talk to Karen Shatek or Pastor Joy, and for other questions, please contact Jill Jackson.



Women's Retreat Registration - October 26 & 27

- I will be attending this year's retreat and staying overnight. (fee \$ 106)
- I will be attending this year's retreat but not staying overnight. (fee \$79)
- I am unable to come on Friday but can attend on Saturday. (fee \$71)
- I will make my own travel arrangements.
- I wish to carpool and would like to connect with others who do, too.
- I would like a single room, if available (fee \$ 121)

Please indicate if you have any special dietary restrictions and specify, i.e. vegetarian gluten-free, allergies.

Name _____ Phone(s) _____

Please return this form by Sunday October 14, along with your payment, or \$30 deposit to Karen Shatek or Jill Jackson.

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.

(starting September 16 ~ 10:15 a.m.)

Rev. Joy Smith - Interim Pastor

651-227-4275

cpuc@usfamily.net

cherokeeparkunited.org

*There are some things you learn best in calm,
and some in storm.*

Willa Cather

