



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 April 2019

From Sandy's chaplain Care Notes:

God doesn't ask us to ignore or deny deep pain. God wants us to acknowledge it, and then to face it and ride it out. The only path to healing is by first feeling the hurt and then expressing it. This can take time. (it does take time!) Some of the pain may never go away completely. But it does get better in time.

We do not suffer alone - God suffers with each of us. God holds us as a community. Sometimes we lose sight of the support and love that is around us. Sometimes it feels like God is distant or even absent, but if we quiet our spirit, we can begin to sense God's presence again. God is with us, Emmanuel.

Order a Plant for the Easter Memorial Garden

This year, instead of trudging out in rain (or snow) to purchase and then trudging out again to bring flowers/plants for the Easter Memorial Garden, you can just order them and they will magically appear!

The Worship Ministry Team invites you to complete the form below and submit it with your cash or check (payable to CPUC with memo line note "Easter Memorial Garden") by April 14, Palm Sunday. Each plant will cost \$15. You may place orders in the Easter Garden Order box in Fellowship Hall on Sundays or give it to Mary Murphy any time.

A variety of colorful plants and flowers will be purchased. You are welcome, then, to take your plant(s) home after Easter Sunday worship. Thank you for trying this new way to "grow" our garden!

Easter Plant Order Form

Person(s) ordering plant(s) _____

Number of plants ordered (\$15/ per plant) _____

Total cash or check made out to CPUC _____

Whom do you wish to remember? _____

Would you like their name(s) included in a list prepared for Easter? _____



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1 APRIL	2	3	4	5 Women's Group 7 m	6
7 Food Collection Neighbors	8	9	10	11 Council 6:30 pm	12	13
14 Palm Sunday	15	16	17	18 Maundy Thursday service 7 pm	19	20
21 EASTER brunch 8:45-9:30 worship 10:15	22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26 Men's Group 6:30 pm	27
28	29	30	1 MAY	2 Loaves & Fishes	3	4 C d M parade
5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9 Council 6:30 pm	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18

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



Women's Affinity Group

April 5, Friday, 7:00 p.m.

Join us for an evening of socializing and sharing of deeper thoughts, if you so wish. Our topic is the ministry of Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber, founder of House for all Sinners and Saints in Denver. If you wish to know about her in advance you can find her books in the local library, or check her out on one of many episodes on Youtube; and if you have a quote or idea of hers you would like to share or explore together, please bring along.

We will meet at the home of Susan Strebig.

Men's Group

Friday, April 26 Friday (third, not second), 6:30 p.m.

Join us at the home of Jim Shatek.



Council Meeting Notes

- ♥ Council will be conferring next month with the Finance committee on taking a closer look at our budget and projected income. Rick Wagner, UCC Associate Conference Minister who was present at this meeting, has offered to help the congregation or a new pastor to explore best practices in maintaining financial stability by gearing stewardship to our vision.
- ♥ A loss control document was received from Grinnell Mutual, our new insurance carrier, with request for a few extra precautions/changes to be made
- ♥ A new candidate for the music director position was interviewed and will conduct a sample choir rehearsal and direct and accompany a worship service on March 24
- ♥ The annual church anniversary observation will take place June 2 with recognition of this year's high school graduates, pins for those observing membership anniversaries, anniversary cake (no dinner this year as it has been decided to do this just on the five-year anniversaries), coordinated by Worship, Faith Life, and Property Management.
- ♥ A conversation was held around whether the council will follow the UCC or Presbyterian guidelines regarding previous pastor and family participation while a new pastor is being settled. The council decision will be shared with the congregation after an upcoming worship service.

Lent/Easter

April 14, Sunday, 10:15 a.m. Palm/Passion Sunday

April 18, Thursday, 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

April 21, Sunday, 8:45-9:30 a.m. Potluck brunch (please sign up to bring an egg bake, muffins/sweet rolls/ breads, or fresh fruit).

The nursery will be staffed as usual on Easter Sunday.

Worship at 10:15 a.m. A Day of Resurrection! Easter Morning!

Come share in the joy and promise of a new day.



About Pastor Denise

As an outcome from her work in hospital chaplaincy, Pastor Denise is skilled in spiritually supporting and counseling people and their families through the many forms of grief that occur either through physical death or losses that occur from diminished bodily/mental function along with the impact on relationships. The premise of her work is this: When we engage the issue of loss, there needs to be an acknowledgment and validation of the impact of the pain it causes. There is then an opening to speak into how one can reframe life's unexpected and/or negative situations and experience transformation of the spirit.

She believes that addressing these losses as spiritual issues can not only help a person develop new or expanded coping skills, but it can be an avenue to other types of support from one's self-defined community.

This is also translatable to parish ministry in dealing with the many ways people grieve loss and general change in their lives, both as individuals and community. She has facilitated several workshop and retreats on this subject matter in churches, nursing home care centers and community groups.

Council Prayer

by Maria McNamara

God of justice,
fierce and burning,
ignite in us your holy fire.

God of love
most radical mother,
inspire us
to embrace the Other.

God of grace,
in your dear abundance,
may we steep
until rested and fed,

You summon us from our sleep. Amen.

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

Your PNC has been busy, prayerful and excited. There are two finalists who have the qualities and vision that feel like a strong match for Cherokee Park United Church.

The committee has met with one of two candidates. The first step after our Skype interviews is to invite them to visit us and interview in person, introduce them to our church building, and a sliver of our culture and the West Side, and join us for a potluck hosted by the PNC. We have attended a Sunday morning service and listened to the candidate preach. The neutral pulpit Sunday service is part of the final step in the interview process. (A “neutral pulpit” is provided by a host congregation in the area, willing to open their sanctuary and pulpit to a guest preacher that has been invited by a Search Committee seeking to experience the finalist pastor in “action.”)

After the second candidate is offered the same experiences here, the next steps are discerning the leading of the Spirit, unanimously agreeing on the candidate we desire to present to you, the congregation. The PNC will contact the candidate inviting them to be our called pastor, pending a successful congregational vote. The candidate then does their own discernment and relays a yes or no to the PNC.

“Yes!!” leads to the homestretch. The candidate’s present obligations determine a start date, the Council puts together an acceptable employment package, and a weekend meet and greet date is set. The candidate and their family arrive for a weekend visit that includes time to informally gather at the church Saturday and share Sunday worship together. We will hear and feel the “candidating sermon,” our finalist breaking open the Word in tandem with the Great Spirit. Immediately following the service, the candidate and their family will leave the sanctuary while we convene in a special congregational meeting. We will be asked to vote yes or no on calling the candidate to be our next settled pastor.

Trusting that the vote will be a resounding yes, we will then gather together in the Fellowship Hall for an amazing celebration. When and where the pastor and their family move will unfold as our journey continues.

We who comprise the PNC thank you for your prayers, trust and patience.

Gina DeNardo
Karolyn Kleingartner
Kelly Strebig
Maria McNamara
Sandy Dodson
Sebastian Ellefson
Tom Murphy



COME WORSHIP WITH US

*Children and families of all sorts...
Extravagant welcome... Open and affirming...
Theological elbow room...
The uncompromising pursuit of justice...
Engaging worship and heartfelt prayer... Each other...
Where the God of the Rainbow is Still Speaking*

Protecting our church community from exploitation and abuse

Our insurance company has asked us to develop a more comprehensive policy to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation within our congregation, focused on but not limited to protecting our children and youth. **We are putting out a call for members interested in joining a task force to be appointed by the council to work on this important matter.** The task force will report directly to the council. All who are interested in ensuring our church is a safe place for all of us to learn and grow in Christ are welcome. If interested please contact Pastor Denise or Jane Peterson.

One Great Hour of Sharing - then and now

Then: In 1949, as the world struggled to recover from the ravages of a global war, churches across America bore witness to their faith in a united act of generosity that helped relieve human suffering. The first offering, called "One Great Hour" was promoted via a national radio broadcast on the Saturday evening prior to Easter. A host of famous people appeared on the program including President Harry Truman and actors Gregory Peck and Ida Lupino. Truman opened the "One Great Hour" broadcast by urging listeners to "build a new world, a far better world in which the dignity of (all humanity) is respected." The name of the radio program was adopted into the name of the offering the following year, and it became known as "One Great Hour of Sharing." The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) joined other mainline Protestant denominations as well as Anglican and Orthodox communions in this effort.



Now: The offering has continued to be received every year and in the 1960s, the scope was expanded to include both national and international needs. Gifts received in congregations today support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger Program and Self-Development of People ministries as well as UCC programs. One Great Hour of Sharing offering envelopes will be found in your worship bulletins in April, and collected on Palm/Passion Sunday, April 14, (or whenever you wish to give them.)

PRAYER BEFORE MINNESOTA HOUSE CHAMBERS

February 14, 2019

delivered by Pastor Denise

Oh, most wonderful, loving and grounding presence of the universe, who is called by many names and is the one that brings to us a sense of hope, meaning and purpose, I present to you, a gathering of people who come before you today in gratitude for the privilege of attending to the well-being of all who live in this State.

They come with thanks today for this beautiful landscape and chilly place we call home and they ask for deep and focused guidance as they seek to serve these citizens of Minnesota.

Indeed they also thank you for this day, a new day to make a difference in the lives of those citizens who need and depend upon them, asking for the boldness to be leaders of action and heart as they make difficult decisions for the benefit of all the varied populations of this vast community, from the farmland to the cities and all the places in-between.

This is a task that is not always easy and yes, sometimes painful.

So, in that vein, grant them a spirit of compassion and cooperation through the following ways of being:

- Wisdom to govern amid the conflicting interests and issues of our times
- A sense of the welfare and true needs of all of the people.
- A keen thirst for justice and fairness.
- The confidence in what is good and fitting in the process.
- The ability to work together in harmony even when there is honest disagreement.
- The willingness to listen and hear all voices, on all sides, even if occasionally it is not what they would wish to hear.
- And most of all, grant them personal peace in their own lives and joy in their tasks.

Finally, while I ask blessings on those who choose to take up the difficult task of governing, it is not only for those who are elected, but also those who serve as staffers, interns, and volunteers, whose daily support makes carrying out these tasks possible.

This prayer is indeed prayed from the deepest part of the hearts of each one in this gathering. So shall it be.

AMEN



CPUC's own version of the Ice Palace



Thanks to Curt, Jim, Tom and Stefan for deconstructing the ice dams and saving our building from possibly thousands of dollars in damage.



500-pound ice chunk conquered by Curt and gang!





Member News

Kristin Rafferty will display her new work, "Where is Mitch McConnell?" at Galería Paz Jesús - 582 Hall Avenue during the **Saint Paul Art Crawl**, Fri-Sun, April 26-28. The gallery is about a mile from Cherokee Park United Church; while Galería Paz Jesús is new to the Saint Paul Art Crawl, both Kristin Rafferty and Michael Wood (parents of Parker) have shown and sold works with the Saint Paul Art Collective plus Rafferty works have been part of various CPUC exhibits. This exhibit touches

on themes of grief and loss, politics, current events, racism, religion, environmentalism, and more. Art Crawl Hours:

Fri 6-10, Sat 12-8, Sun 12-5

<https://www.facebook.com/RaffertyArtNight/>



Loaves & Fishes Salad

Stefan thinks this salad contained a UCC comma.

Earth Day

International Earth Day is a global day of action, celebrated in over 190 countries, raising awareness of ideas to support a healthy planet. In 1970, Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson and San Francisco activist John McConnell separately asked

Americans to join in a grassroots demonstration to help address the environmental crises of the day. Nelson chose April 22, (McConnell had preferred the spring equinox, March 21.) The first Earth Day "teach-in" focused on engaging thousands of students on a sunny, spring day.



*While I know myself as a creation of God,
I am also obligated to realize and remember
that everyone else and everything else are also
God's creation.*

Maya Angelou

Westminster Town Hall Forum

Forums are one hour in length with a speaker presentation and Q&A. Music precedes each forum a half hour in advance, and a public reception follows. Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nicollet Mall and 12th St., Minneapolis. Convenient parking at Loring Garage on Nicollet Mall and Grant Street, the Marquette Ramp on 12th St. and Marquette Ave., and the Convention Center Garage on 12th St. and 2nd Av.



Jonathan Capehart: A Bold Look at Today's Headlines Tuesday April 9 Noon

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and editorial writer for *The Washington Post*, focusing on politics, social issues, and cultural change. Host of the Cape Up podcast and contributing commentator on MSNBC.

Barbara Brown Taylor: Finding God in the Faith of Others Tuesday April 30 Noon

Episcopal priest, teacher, and bestselling author of fourteen books on religion and spirituality. Named one of the top twelve preachers in America. Her latest book is *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*



Council Contacts 2019

2-denotes second consecutive 3-year term.

Class of 2019

Mike Bates

Maria McNamara:

Mary Murphy (2)

Karen Shatek (2)

Class of 2020

Tomie Evans

Jerome Graf (2):,vice-moderator

Susan Strebog

Jan Howe

Class of 2021:

Diane Spicer (2)

Jackie Rico

Joy Sorensen Navarre, moderator

Curt Fleming

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. Denise Dunbar Perkins, Bridging Pastor

651-227-4275

cpuc@usfamily.net

cherokeeparkunited.org



*God simply keeps reaching down into the dirt of humanity
and resurrecting us from the graves we dig for ourselves
through our violence, our lies, our selfishness, our arrogance, and our addictions.*

And God keeps loving us back to life over and over.

Pastor Nadia Bolz Weber