



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 March 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
24	25	26	27	28	1 MAR	2
3 Food collection for Neighbors <i>Mardi Gras breakfast</i>	4	5	6 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	7 Loaves & Fishes *	8 (change) Women's Group 7 pm	9
10 Clocks ahead DST 	11	12	13	14 Council 6:30 pm	15	16
17 Honoring St. Oscar Romero	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1 <i>APRIL</i>	2	3	4	5	6
7 Food collection for Neighbors	8	9	10	11 Council 6:30 pm	12	13
14 Palm Sunday	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 EASTER						

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

Mardi Gras breakfast

(or actually Dimanche Gras, as it is a Sunday)



Sunday, March 3, after worship

Wear your beads and Mardi Gras masks after worship and join us in Fellowship Hall for a great breakfast, hosted by the Seeds of Resistance Ministry.

Loaves and Fishes

March 7, Thursday, 3:45-6:30 p.m.

Join us at St. Matthew's Church cafeteria for our semi-monthly commitment to provide a tasty, hot meal for those in need. Help for an hour or more to prepare, (3:45), and/or serve and clean up (4:45-6:30 p.m.) And thank you to those who show up regularly under Michele Johnson's capable leadership to continue this wonderful ministry--Wayne Bjorlie, Tom Murphy, Mike and Lynn Bates, Karen and Jim Shatek, Dave Hoppe, Jackie Rico, Jill Jackson, Joanne and Stefan Sylvander, Karolyn Gilbertson, Jane Carlstrom, Maria McNamara, Sandy Dodson, Jaime Dodson, Meliza Thurston, Diane Spicer, Jerome Graf, Deborah Morse, Sophie Le Meur.



Ash Wednesday worship

March 6, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Pastor Denise will lead us into Lent with a service of ashes and silence. We will gather in the Peace Room/ classroom space near the Manomin entrance. Please join us as we reflect on our humanity and begin the journey to the cross of Jesus together.

Women's Affinity Group

March 8, (changing, for this month, to second) Friday, 7 p.m.

Jan Howe will host the event at her home. Carpooling is encouraged due to limited parking. Come share in a meaningful discussion with CPUC friends! Light refreshments will be served.





Welcome Pastor Denise!

We welcome into our midst our new pastor who will "bridge" us from our transitional pastor to our new settled pastor, whoever that is and whenever that occurs. Many of us are already acquainted with Denise, who lives nearby with her husband the Rev. Dr. Herbert (Okogyeamon) Perkins. For those of you who may not know her background we include some of that information below. The photo of Denise (left) was taken recently at the state legislature (where she calls herself a "regular") when she offered the opening prayer; she is pictured with Representative Ruth Richardson from District 52B.

The Reverend Denise Dunbar-Perkins is an Honorably Retired Presbyterian Church USA Minister from a Specialized Ministry of Board-Certified Chaplaincy at Abbott-Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, where she also served as an adjunct Clinical Pastoral Education Facilitator and chaplain preceptor for CPE students. Her work included providing pastoral care to patients and their families through spiritual assessment, sacramental ministry, bereavement assessment and support, bio-ethics or health care decision making support, consultation with staff, End of Life, life transitions with the elderly and connection with the interfaith religious community. Her specialty was in attending to the cultural/emotional/spiritual aspects and challenges with long term and life limiting medical conditions. She also served as a public speaker with a focus on the healthcare concerns of the communities of color (HIV, diabetes, cancer, etc.) and the church's response to them.

She is one of the original founding members of Kwanzaa (now Liberty) Community Church PC(USA) in North Minneapolis, the only African American Presbyterian Church in Minnesota and is also the first African-American female to be ordained into Presbyterian ministry in the State of Minnesota. In the last 24 years within the church, she has served locally, nationally and internationally as a speaker, teacher, preacher, workshop leader, curriculum writer and worship leader. She also been an adjunct professor at United Theological Seminary, where she received her Master of Divinity, teaching on Black church culture and Womanist Theology. Additionally, she is a former high school history teacher which informs her passion around paying attention to what has gone on before us in society.

The premise of Denis's 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.

International Transgender Day of Visibility & coffee hour

Sunday, March 31 is dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide. The free will donation at fellowship hour will be directed toward an organization supporting our neighborhood Transgender and LGBT youth.



The holiday was founded by US-based transgender activist Rachel Crandall of Michigan in 2009 as a reaction to the lack of LGBT holidays celebrating transgender people, citing the frustration that the only well-known transgender-centered holiday was the Transgender Day of Remembrance which mourned the murders of transgender people, but did not acknowledge and celebrate living members of the transgender community. The first International Transgender Day of Visibility was held on March 31, 2009. It has since been spearheaded by the U.S.-based youth advocacy organization Trans Student Educational Resources.

Lent - into the wilderness

This significant but austere season on the Christian calendar is often not heartily embraced. Sometimes we need help to find the positive in this focus. Find below an excerpt written by Rev. Paul Lebens-Englund for Westminster Presbyterian Church's *Thin Places* newsletter. This was written upon the occasion of his hearing and heeding a call to move himself and his family from their ten-year anchor in Washington State to what he calls "the wilds of Minnesota."

"While God must no doubt delight in this depth of commitment to a place, it's clear God seeks breadth for us, as well, if for no other reason than to push against the limits of our horizons and the ease of our prejudice. Time spent in the wilderness makes real for us God's loving provision of both comfort and challenge - of food and drink for the body, and demons, beasts, and angels for the soul. Time in the wilderness reminds us that we are citizens not of any particular place or people, but of all places and of all people - we are citizens not just of here' but also of 'there.'

God clearly knows this is an uphill battle, so the Lenten story comes 'round annually - the story of our being not from a place or people, but from the dust, like everyone, in every place. "

February Council meeting notes

- ♥ Mike Bates read a list of thank you notes and letters from such groups as Interfaith Action, United Theological Seminary, Presbyterian Missions, and Neighborhood House for donations in money and food. Some donations we did not send from our church but may have been donated by individuals, in our name.
- ♥ Tomie reports that in a summary of earth-care points, our church has compiled, as a result of our many efforts in conservation around the grounds and in the building, 270 points; only 100 is required to apply to be certified as a PC (USA) Earth-Care Congregation. The council took the Earth Care Pledge on behalf of the people of Cherokee Park United Church.
- ♥ A motion was passed to authorize the Personnel Ministry to hire a Bridging Pastor.
- ♥ A motion was passed to work with Pastor Denise to review procedures to provide a safe and supportive workplace.
- ♥ A motion was passed to elect Joy Sorensen Navarre to the Personnel Ministry.

The Council asks for the prayers and participation of the people of CPUC as we near the end of our transitional period. Council normally meets on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Please connect with Council members with ideas or feedback you want to share as we seek to embody the vision, mission, and values we proclaim. Or better yet, plan to attend. All meetings are open except when they occasionally go into executive session, when non-council members may be asked to step out for a time.

Council Contacts 2019

Copies of council members' contact information are available from the small clipboard in back of church.



West Siders for Strong Schools

March 14, Thursday, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Our mission statement states that "We are an inclusive faith community joining our neighbors..." This was meant to be quite literal, not that all peoples are not to be regarded as neighbors, but that our actual nearby neighbors are a priority. We often join the West Siders for Strong Schools and their efforts to bring the community together to celebrate and strengthen our neighborhood schools.

On March 14 the community is invited to come together for one of these evenings. All are invited to Math Carnival Night (it's on Pi Day!) at Humboldt High School, 30 E. Baker St. from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Math games, prizes, and a free meal are planned for people of all ages. Many community agencies, including CPUC, will be there supporting public schools. Bring your family and friends to meet your neighbors!

Winyan Awanyankapi: Protecting the Lifegivers: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Indigenous Peoples Sovereignty of Housing and Water

April 5-7, 2019, Friday evening to Sunday noon

Location: First Universalist Church, 3400 Dupont Avenue South, Minneapolis.

Cost: Non-indigenous People: \$375.00 early bird registration (before March 1 or \$425 after). This allows indigenous people to attend at no cost. All proceeds will go to the presenters in support of their presence and teachings. <https://bit.ly/2FZD2pd>



This conference at [First Universalist Church](#) in Minneapolis will address the missing and murdered American Indian women, and indigenous peoples sovereignty of housing and water. The conference, open to everyone, is designed by and will be led by indigenous women. Keynote speakers are Ann McKeig, the first American Indian to serve on the Minnesota Supreme Court, and Patina Park, executive director of the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center. The conference will offer place-based learning experiences, keynote speeches, breakout sessions and opportunities for conversations with fellow conference attendees. Meals will be provided by indigenous-owned catering companies offering traditional foods. The image above is by Jillian Elaine Stately, Red Lake Ojibwe, Santee Dakota. A flyer is found at "[Winyan Awanyankapi](#)." The conference is [also on Facebook](#). The registration page is at "[Lifegivers](#)."

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 order them! The Worship Ministry Team invites you to complete the form below and submit it with your cash or check between March 10 and April 14 (Palm Sunday). Each plant will cost \$15. Please make your check payable to CPUC with a note on the memo line that says "Easter Memorial Garden." You can place your order 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 plants 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? _____

Four Way Covenant

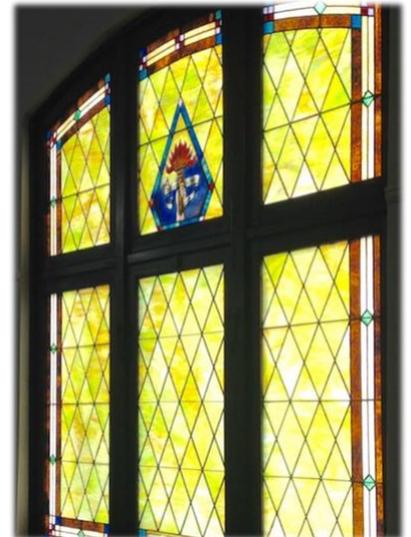
Last Sunday we were privileged to be a part of Rev. Sandy Dodson's Service of Installation.

Representatives from the Minnesota Conference UCC and the HealthEast Care System were involved in this prayer and blessing as well as the people of Cherokee Park United Church.



Opening windows in January?

On one of the very cold days our sanctuary temperature had gone down into the 50's and the boiler installers discovered a sanctuary window open. It was a mystery until Property Management people, while meeting in the music room, weeks later, heard a noise, and discovered that a sanctuary window had popped open by itself, and not only that, after closing it, a little while later popped open again! Standing on a ladder to investigate more closely it appears that of the four main windows, three have latches that can easily sound like they are catching, but the springs may be getting loose and one needs to be up there to feel when they are actually tightly latched.



The least used window, that closest to the piano, has the best latch and it would be best to *only* use that for circulation next summer.



Faces in our spaces

Our custodian Andrew (right) is now being joined by his nephew James doing our weekly upkeep. Most of us do not encounter them often as they usually work on Monday afternoons. Andrew has been with us for about ten years - we welcome James and are grateful for his attention to our needs.



A bit about Minnesota Native American tribes

Our state District 52A representative, Rick Hansen, offers legislative updates online. His February 18 update included information about the first Sovereignty Day at the Capitol involving leaders from all 11 sovereign Minnesota tribal nations (seven Anishinaabe and four Dakota). Check out the link below for a very succinct and informative description of the tribes, their locations, and how their lands were defined, and much more.

[Minnesota Indian Affairs Council](#)

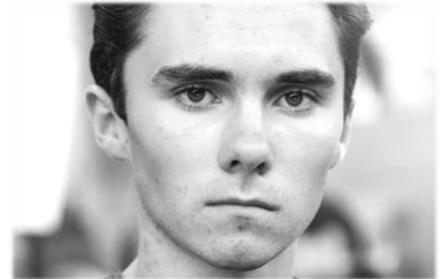


Westminster Town Hall Forum

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.

David Hogg: Putting the USA over the NRA **Tuesday March 19 Noon**

Survivor of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, and co-founder of March for Our Lives. Advocate for ending gun violence in America and increasing voter participation and civic engagement.



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*



Calling cards

We now have church “calling” cards on the welcome desk in case anyone would like to put one or two in their wallet to have available to give to an interested person. They show a photo of our Baker street side and address and worship times on one side, and our new banner plus room to jot a note on the other. (These were obtained at no cost to us. Yeaah!)



Cherokee Park United
Church
371 Baker Street West
St. Paul, MN 55107
Worship 10:15 am Sundays
(9:30 am May-August)

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

*it takes
courage to
grow up and
become who you
really are.*

E. E. CUMMINGS