



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 May 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	1 MAY	2 Loaves & Fishes *	3 Women's Group 7 pm	4 C d Mayo parade
5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9 Council 6:30 pm	10	11
12 Service/fellowship appreciation for Okogyeamon and Pastor Denise	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 JUNE
2 Anniversary Sunday	3	4	5	6	8	8
9 Worship time changes to 9:30 am	10	11	12	13 Council 6:30 pm	14	15

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

Future dates:

June 23, Pride parade 11 a.m. downtown Mpls

July 28, Worship and Picnic in the Park

Note to our website readers:

Personal addresses, phone numbers, and emails are deleted from this website inclusion of the newsletter; however if you wish to reach any of the people listed, please contact the church.

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



Loaves and Fishes

May 2, 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 p.m.), and/or serve and clean up (4:45-6:30 p.m.) Our coordinators this month are Okogyeamon and Stefan

Sylvander - please contact Stefan if you can help this month.

Women's Affinity Group

May 3, Friday, 7:00 p.m.

Come, fill the cup,
And in the fires of Spring
Your Winter garments
of Repentance fling.
- The Rubiyat of Omar Kyham



Apologize much, ladies? Somehow, as women and girls, we feel compelled to say sorry. We say it a lot. For our thoughts, for our words, our emotions. For putting our hand up, or our foot down. For taking up space in the world.

Here we are in May. May is a juicy and boisterous month. All around us life is announcing itself in no uncertain terms. So ladies, can we talk? What are those juicy aspects of ourselves that we're no longer willing to say sorry for? What inner mischief are we longing to unleash upon the world? Come to Maria's house and share it with the sisterhood over food and drink and fellowship. And please, no apologies.



Let's Celebrate *Cinco de Mayo!*

Following worship on May 5, there will be a special Fellowship Hour to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. There will be Mexican-style treats and a piñata for the children. Stay for the "fiesta!" Bienvenido!

from Pastor Denise

A POST EASTER REFLECTION

I am sure that most, if not all of us can recall a time when we found ourselves plunged into a “dark” time in our lives. One of the most prevalent feeling during those times was that of being alone, feeling that no one understands or is willing to be there with you. This darkness can carry many different forms - physical, emotional and spiritual. You end up having the feeling of wondering, that despite the fact you have loving friends and family, if anyone truly understands you, knows you, really loves you, creating the sense that you are somehow on your own. Therefore, you find yourself being sucked into a place where it seems that no one can walk but you. People say, I care, I understand, I'll pray for you. But in the end, it is you and the lonely darkness. So, what do you do in the darkness? I would like to present a radical proposal on how to navigate your way through this period of unknown challenges.....

Go slowly...
Consent to it...
But don't wallow in it...
Know it as a place of germination...
And growth.
Remember the light ...
Take an outstretched hand if you find one...
Exercise unused senses...
Find the path by walking it...
Practice trust...
Watch for dawn.

Marilyn Chandler McEntyre 2004



Sounds strange, huh? We've always been people of the light, so how can doing this help us? Well, I encourage you to read the story of Jesus in Gethsemane as told in Matthew 26, during a lonely and very dark time for him, and you will find that he surely modeled the words of this poem for us.

Jesus was in a dark place and feeling abandoned by his friends. But even in that most scary, human-like vulnerable time, he was able to feel the presence and assurance of God.

So while we are afraid and lonely, finding our way through the darkest time, Jesus is both with us in those moments because he lived them too! Surely, he is, in his Resurrection, waiting for us as the proverbial light of dawn at the end of the tunnel!!

April council meeting notes

- ◆ the meeting was attended by Rocky Rockenstein, moderator of the Presbytery, who invited sharing thoughts and dreams of the congregation and how the Presbytery could be of help.
- ◆ A subcommittee of the council was formed to help direct efforts in making any necessary refinements in our Child Protection/Sexual Harassment Policies.
- ◆ Funds were donated anonymously for the expense of contacting all congregants by USPS with information on events surrounding the arrival of an eventual nominated pastor.
- ◆ Due to several recent resignations, there are two positions now needing filling on the Personnel Committee, which need to be non-Council members. (Presently, there are two council members on the committee.)
- ◆ The FREC fiscal contract with CPUC was renewed for another year.
- ◆ Dates: Anniversary Sunday is set, as usual, the first Sunday in June (June 2) and the worship and picnic in the park will be July 28, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Nursery during worship

If you would love to spend an hour with our little ones, the nursery is in need of more helpers - one or two Sundays or more for 2019 would be great! It is a different kind of time commitment as it takes you away from the church service, and we also will do a background check, completed through the church. Please contact Rebecca (Nursery Supervisor) cpucnursery@gmail.com



PRIDE parade participation

Cherokee Park United Church often marches in the annual Pride Parade, this year taking place on Sunday, June 23 at 11:00 am in downtown Minneapolis. We usually march with representatives from UCC churches in Minnesota. Marchers wear their CPUC T-shirts and carry one of our welcoming church banners.

The Outreach Ministry Team is determining if we have enough marchers to participate this year. **If you are interested in marching in the PRIDE Parade please let Pastor Denise or Jill Jackson know by Sunday, May 26.** If we do not have 6 to 8 marchers, we will skip the parade this year and hope to participate in 2020. Many thanks for considering and communicating about this community outreach event.



Member news

We wish to share exciting news about the **Rev. Dr. Okogyeamon**. He accepted a call to serve as Pastor of First Congregational Montevideo, UCC starting on May 17. The church chose him because they were looking for someone to help them create a more visible presence in their community by being a community builder. They wanted a person to help them advocate for social and environmental justice in their community and our world as well as serve in the pulpit with interesting and thought-provoking worship. First Congregational is a very small but active congregation. Some mission projects in which they have been involved are Bring It Home (packing food students take home over weekends or school vacations), Community Meals, gifting families in need of assistance at Christmas, immigration, Early Out Club children's ministry, in-depth workshops and readings about racism, the Food Shelf, scholarships for students to be involved in community education activities, helping high-risk students with homework, as well as many other missions over the 142 year life of the church. Okogyeamon and Pastor Denise will keep a primary residence in the Twin Cities, as well as a new home near Montevideo.

We will have a special service of appreciation for Okogyeamon's and Pastor Denise's ministry with us and fellowship hour on Sunday May 12. Please join us!

Sophie LeMeur will be playing the Beethoven Violin Romance in F Major with the Central High School Orchestra on May 8th at Central High School at 7 p.m. We are so fortunate that she often shares her talents here with us during worship.



Make a joyful noise to the Lord - Psalm 98:4



Sometimes the noise is the beautiful sounds of children, and often it is our own spontaneous use of tambourines and maracas. You will find baskets of rhythm instruments available in the worship space - feel free to select something if you are inspired to join in some of our more joyful music pieces.

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 asking for members interested to join a task force to work on this important matter.** If interested please contact Pastor Denise or Jane Peterson.



Backpack survival

Members Karen & Jim Shatek have been serving homeless people, encountered on our city streets, by handing out backpacks full of survival items. If you visit garage sales, could you watch for used but serviceable, **Large or Extra Large/ adult backpacks** for their ministry? (New packs are not used as they are more likely to be noticed and stolen.) In the past few years well over 50 packs have been given out. Packs with many zippered pockets are especially

appreciated.

Backpacks are filled with: a regular size jar of peanut butter, box of breakfast or granola bars (a soft kind as homeless people often have problem teeth), beef jerky (can be sucked so no tooth problem), tuna/cracker packets, four-pack of chocolate pudding, a metal fork and metal spoon in a plastic bag, washcloth, bottle of water, reusable plastic or metal water bottle, chapstick, tube of creamy Vaseline, toothbrush and toothpaste, ibuprofen, antiperspirant/deodorant, small hand sanitizer, two pair of socks, stocking or fleece cap, light or heavy gloves, lightweight jacket. In winter they also keep a supply of heavy jackets to give out. (Shampoo or other liquids are not desired as the bottles open or break and spread over the other contents.) Packs given to women include feminine hygiene products, and a booklet listing contacts for organizations that can help with their health and safety.

If you have any items to contribute, they are also most welcome, with the highest priority being the used backpacks.

The impeded stream is the one that sings.

There are, it seems, two muses: the Muse of Inspiration, who gives us inarticulate visions and desires, and the Muse of Realization, who returns again and again to say 'It is yet more difficult than you thought.' This is the muse of form. ... It may be then



that form serves us best when it works as an obstruction, to baffle us and deflect our intended course.

It may be that when we no longer know what to do, we have come to our real work, and when we no longer know which way to go, we have begun our real journey. The mind that is not baffled is not employed.

Wendell Berry

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.

(summer hours starting June 9, 9:30 a.m.)

Rev. Denise Dunbar Perkins, Bridging Pastor

651-227-4275

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cherokeeparkunited.org

April council meditation

*Nothing in your life is so insignificant,
so small,
that God cannot be found
in the center of it.*