



Cherokee Park United Church

A Progressive Congregation

*Welcoming people of all ages, sexual orientations,
races, and ethnic origins*

Theological Elbow Room

Global Music

Community Connected

Kid Friendly

Newsletter July 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
23 Pride Parade	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1 JULY	2	3	4 (no Loaves & Fishes)	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Council 7:00 pm	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Worship and Picnic in the Park	29	30	31	1 AUG	2	3
4	5	6 National Night Out at CPUC	7	8 Council 7:00pm	9	10

Future dates:

Loaves and Fishes next date, September 5
 Covenanting Sunday, September 8
 Mdewankanton Dakota Wacipi Sept 13-15

Nursery special alert!

We are in need of some more volunteers to help us cover all of the summer Sundays! If you can help, even just one Sunday, it would be greatly appreciated by our families with small children - we have 5 children! We need volunteers for July 7 and September 1 (Labor Day weekend) - these are holiday weekends so there may be fewer kids. We will also need some help this fall - please see the CPUC Helpers document for all the openings. Background checks will need to be completed to work in the nursery. Please e-mail or call Rebecca if you can help.



June Council Meeting Notes

- Pastor Matthias will be in the office M-Th, 8 a.m. 3:30 p.m. plus be available evenings for meetings etc. as well as lead worship on Sundays. He asks that ministries contact him so he can meet with each of them this summer and become acquainted with individuals and programs and assess how he might be helpful to their missions.
- The bylaws taskforce presented a proposed change that states the moderator of the council shall be a council member rather than the pastor; the proposal will be again discussed at the next meeting and voted upon.
- A group visiting from Germany is seeking dinner and other connections in the area; our congregation will take a "pass" on this, but will again be willing to host Rev. Lise Sparrow's mission group from Guilford Community Church, Battleboro Area Youth in Vermont as they pass through on their way to a Lakota Reservation.
- Mike & Lynne Bates attended the MN UCC conference: highlights include a talk by Mayflower Church on how 100% of their membership pledges, insuring that their budgeting process is accurate; conference resolutions to urge the Minnesota legislature to pass a law designating Minnesota as a Sanctuary State and to call for racial justice through reparations with ten outlined actions to do so; the decision to sell UCC owned Pilgrim Point Camp due to lack of funding.
- Council was alerted by Pastor Matthias of the First Covenant Church of Minneapolis possibly being removed from the denomination because of their open and affirming stance. Pastor Matthias and council will send a letter of support to them as they stand firm in living out the love of Christ to all. A vote on any action will be taken at the next annual meeting.
- Tomie reports that the goodwill offering of about \$70 from the Transgender Awareness Sunday fellowship hour will be donated to a shelter for LGBT youth; She has arranged for a new CPUC banner to be carried at the Pride Parade, designed by Sandy Settevig, with our new vision statement and the new UCC Rainbow Comma logo. Pastor Matthias and family were gifted with the newly made tie-dyed rainbow T-shirts to wear at the parade.
- **Seeds of Resistance** reports that it will continue the ministry of Loaves and Fishes under leadership from Stefan Sylvander; also it will continue to provide the closing feast at the Mendota Mdewankanton **Wacipi September 15** with help from other organizations such as ASDIC.
- **Dates:** Worship and **Picnic in the Park July 28** (unfortunately the same date as Okogyeamon's installation in Montevideo so we will miss some people) and we can't change the date as the park pavilion (shelter from sun and rain) needs to be reserved a year in advance. **Covenanting Sunday** will be **September 8**.
- Council will go back to original 7 p.m. start time effective in July.





~~~CELEBRATING~~~

### Our young adults

Seniors were gifted with cozy afghans made by Kathy Bergthold to remind them that their church's warm love goes with them in their next endeavors.



### Our 51st Anniversary

Everyone likes cake and we always reserve a corner piece for Jan!



### Pastor Matthias

giving our children time during worship



### PNC "meet and greet" with question and answer time



## From Pastor Matthias

A few months after our current president was elected, the graffiti artist Banksy popped up with this stencil art on the side of a building. It was a reminder to the many, many folks who were engaged in resisting the constant barrage of dehumanizing and unjust utterances and policies and actions. Six months into the term and already people were feeling burned out. It took a lot of energy just to keep up with the news, let alone find ways to resist each new affront.



In the life of church, it is also a worthwhile reminder.

Cherokee Park United Church has been through much transition in the past three to four years. The many changes take energy to process, accept, and adjust to. Meanwhile, there is the effort to continue beloved programs, to keep being church, to keep showing up for one another and our neighbors. Some have expressed that feeling of fatigue to me. Others have shared with me that they are feeling as energized and hopeful as ever. Wherever you find yourself at this moment, we all have moments of feeling worn out.

It is a universal human experience to feel tired—both the physical, bodily tiredness and the emotional, spiritual tiredness.

The Bible offers us a helpful and gentle reminder of this fact in God's proscribing of observation of the sabbath. Sabbath is connected both to God's own rest on the seventh day of creation and also with God's liberation of the Israelites from endless toil of slavery where there was no rest.

When Jesus was questioned by the Pharisees because his disciples plucked grain to eat on the Sabbath, his response was: "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath."

Sabbath, holy rest, is a gift from God. It is a way in which God calls us to slow down, take care of ourselves (and let God take care of us), so that we might be renewed to care for others and creation. I encourage you to claim rest for yourself as you need, recognizing it is a holy calling to do so.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Matthias



## Worship in the park

Join us July 28 for our annual outdoor worship and potluck picnic at the Cherokee Park large pavilion. Worship starts at the usual 9:30 a.m. summer hour, and is followed by a potluck meal. Please bring your own beverages, any meat you want grilled (with bun) and a dish to share; Jim, Jerome, and Curt are bringing grills as the park grills are still not safe to use. Call Karen with questions.



## Member news ~

Sophie and Friends  
recital



*Thank you, Sasha,* for picking our dandelions - even though we are now reminded that our "all are welcome here" sign has a limitation!



## National Night Out Tuesday August 6

For the third consecutive year the Outreach Ministry is organizing our gathering of the neighborhood. We will block off Baker St in front of the church and provide a great opportunity to foster connections, build a safer neighborhood, and introduce our new pastor to the community. We hope all last year's, and a few new people, will volunteer to put up our tent, hand out ice cream, watermelon, and water, possibly help with a cake walk, and face/arm paint the young and young at heart. More details provided later. Contact Pastor Matthias or Jill Jackson.

Newsletter article deadline is the 20th of the month; please submit articles or ideas to editor Susan at [kellystrebig@comcast.net](mailto:kellystrebig@comcast.net) Many thanks to our -proofreaders Phyllis Clark, Mary Murphy -collate/mail team Phyllis & Cal Clark

## From the UCC website

BOSTON (RNS) June 3, 2019

Three years ago, the Treasury Department announced that it would put Harriet Tubman's face on the front of the \$20 bill by 2020. A portrait of the abolitionist, championed by activists, would replace that of President Andrew Jackson, who would be moved to the back of the bill. (Jackson, the country's seventh president, a staunch anti-abolitionist, owned as many as 160 slaves; his role in the forced relocation of an estimated 60,000 Native Americans, led to the death of tens of thousands.)



Then, in April, the government walked back its plan. The image's redesign likely would not come up until 2028, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin declared.

But that didn't end the matter at Hope Central (United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ) Church in Boston. "The U.S. Treasury said they will not," Pastor Laura Ruth Jarrett said. "and we say we will." Since May 2, the church has been stamping all \$20 bills from its offering plates with Tubman's face.

Tubman, who was chosen from thousands of nominations as the new face of the \$20 bill, would have become the first African American on paper money. The addition of Tubman to the bill was planned for next year, to mark the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in America. After Tubman escaped the Maryland plantation where she was born into slavery, she returned to the South to help hundreds of other enslaved people to freedom through the Underground Railroad. Later, she worked as a Union spy during the Civil War.

Congregant Marylou Steeden said she has noticed the number of \$20 bills in the church's Sunday plate increase since the church began stamping them. "Everyone who does this just gets giddy about it. It just feels so good, like a little rebellion". The stamps were originally created by Brooklyn, N.Y., designer Dano Wall, who has sold hundreds of the stamps online, giving the proceeds to charity; his blueprint of the stamp for a 3D printer is available for free.



[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/nature/birds/bird\\_songs\\_interactive.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/nature/birds/bird_songs_interactive.html) For a pick-me-up, click on a Minnesota bird at this website and enjoy its song.

## 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 am

Pastor: Rev. Matthias Peterson-Brandt

651-227-4275

cpuc@usfamily.net

cherokeeparkunited.org.

*Ring the bells that still can ring,*

*Forget your perfect offering*

*There's a crack in everything,*

*That's how the light gets in.*

Leonard Cohen

### *Council Members 2019*

Class of 2019: Mike Bates, Maria McNamara,  
Mary Murphy, Karen Shatek,

Class of 2020: Tomie Evans, Jerome Graf,  
Susan Strebig, Jan Howe,

Class of 2021: Diane Spicer, Jackie Rico,  
Joy Sorensen Navarre, Curt Fleming