



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 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
29 <i>Palm Sunday</i> Families Exploring Spirituality 9 am	30	31	1 <i>April</i> (Choir rehearsal moved to Sat)	2 Maunday Thursday Service 7 pm	3	4 Choir rehearsal 10 am - noon
5 <i>Easter Sunday</i> Breakfast 8:30 Worship 10:15	6	7	8 Choir 6:45 pm	9 Council 7 pm	10 Women's Group 7 pm	11 Parents of youth mtg 9 am
12 -Adult forum -Sunday School -Big Band worship music	13 Genocide Awareness 6:30-9:30 pm	14	15 Choir 6:45 pm	16	17 -Faith Life 7 pm -Men's Group 6:30 pm	18 Spring church Clean-up/ Fix-up 9-2
19 -Adult forum -Sunday School -Confirmation Class 5 pm	20	21	22 Choir 6:45	23	24 Art Exhibit Opening 6 pm	25 Youth to FMSC
26 -Earth Day Focus -Children's music 9:15-9:45 -Adult Forum -Vegetarian potluck -Confirmation Class 5 pm	27	28	29 Choir 6:45	30	1 <i>May</i>	2
3 -Families Exploring Spirituality 9 am -Foodshelf	4	5	6 Choir 6:45	7 Loaves & Fishes *	8	9
10	11	12	13 Choir 6:45	14	15	16 Confirmation Youth Carnival Fundraiser

* the first Thursday of odd numbered months

Save the Dates: Saturday, May 30—Rain Garden Planting,
Sunday, June 7— Anniversary Dinner

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 7:00 p.m.

We will again enter the drama of the Last Supper by sharing in Holy Communion around tables in fellowship hall, followed by a service of Tenebrae (Latin for shadows), in the sanctuary, as we hear again the story of Jesus' journey to the cross and reflect on its meaning for our day and time.

Join the Easter Sunday Choir

If you've wanted to sing in the CPUC choir, but can't commit to rehearsals every week, you are welcome to give it a try just for Easter Sunday. We are holding a special rehearsal on Saturday, April 5th from 10:00 a.m.-noon. We will learn two simple pieces to sing in worship the next day. This opportunity is open to **older children, youth,** and adults. There will be **no** choir rehearsal on Wednesday, April 1.



Easter Memorial Garden

At Easter we invite families to bring flowers to help create a “memorial garden” in our sanctuary for Easter Sunday. They may be brought to the church on Saturday, April 4, between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Please leave a note or card with your name and the name(s) of the person(s) you would like remembered on the insert that will be included in the Sunday bulletin. Some simply say “In Memory of Loved Ones.” Others identify specific people. You are free to bring whatever type of plant or flowers you wish, and you may take them with you at the close of the service.



Easter Breakfast: It's on You! Thanks!

Many of us doing just one piece makes it all come together. Set-up is Saturday, April 4, 10:00 a.m. and the Fellowship Ministry would like some adults and a few children to help set and decorate the tables. This is a great way for families to participate; we'll be done by noon.

You are invited to bring food and eat together 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. Foods needed are fresh fruit or fruit salad, juice, muffins or other baked goods (inc. gluten-free), and 9x12 pans of egg bake (inc. veggie/vegan and gluten-free.)

Help is also needed for clean-up from 9:15 - 10:00 a.m.

Sign-up sheets can be found in Fellowship Hall or at the Baker Street entrance or contact Fred Dempsey-Hess.

Women's Group

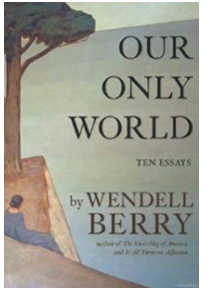
Friday, April 10, 7:00 p.m.

The regular first Friday Women's Group date lands on Good Friday this year so it has been delayed one week. Our host will be Michele Johnson, at her and Pastor's Tim's home. Join us for light refreshments and a lively discussion.

April Adult Forum Topics

Please join us for a timely discussion about caring for the earth and faith.

Wendell Berry's book, *Our Only World – Ten Essays*, will be the focus of the Adult Forum discussions starting April 12. Copies will be ordered for all who request them by contacting either Eric Jacobsen or Pastor Tim cpuc@usfamily.net. The cost of the book is \$18 and a Kindle version is available from Amazon for \$13.50. Chapters will be sent out in advance each week for all who have signed up with Pastor Tim for the Adult Forum email list.



The planet's environmental problems respect no national boundaries. From soil erosion and population displacement to climate change and failed energy policies, American governing classes are paid by corporations to pretend that debate is the only democratic necessity and that solutions are capable of withstanding endless delay. Late Capitalism goes about its business of finishing off the planet, and we citizens are left with a shell of what was once proudly described as The American Dream. In this new collection of eleven essays, Berry confronts head-on the necessity of clear thinking and direct action. Never one to ignore the present challenge, he understands that only clearly stated questions support the understanding their answers require. For more than fifty years we've had no better spokesman and no more eloquent advocate for the planet, for our families, and for the future of our children and ourselves.



Big Band Worship

Worship music on Sunday, April 12, will be provided by Stephan Sylvander's Good News Big Band, a Twin Cities, Minnesota group that performs big band swing-style Christian-based music. In addition to playing in churches, they play secular venues where the music is the traditional big band swing, Latin style and other big band jazz charts.

Spring Clean-up/Fix-Up Day

Saturday, April 18, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Join us for a few hours or half day to keep our church building and grounds safe, kept up, and attractive. We will have a sign-up sheet available or please contact Susan Strebig.



Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering

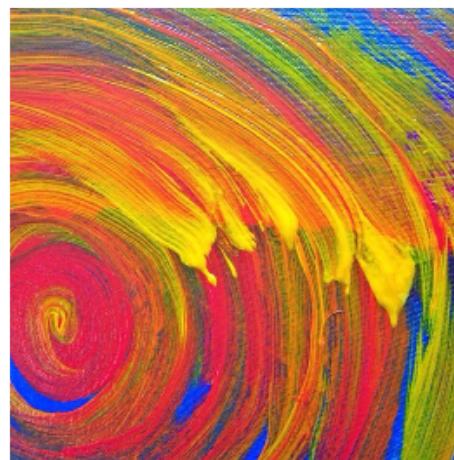
Saturday, April 25, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Joanne Sylvander invites you to travel with her to attend the Twin Cities area Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis. The speaker will be a seminary colleague of Joanne's, the Rev. Bebe Baldwin. She and the Rev. Alike Galloway will share stories from their book, *Living Water, Living Stories: African American Women & Their Biblical*

Sisters. For more information please contact Joanne.

Art Crawl Here ~ April 24-25

Again this year the CPUC Cherokee West Art Fest is included in the St. Paul Art Crawl so we are expecting greater numbers of visitors. (See flyer on last page for details on our new art exhibit.) Volunteers are needed to greet people Friday from 6 -10 p.m. and Saturday from 12 - 8 p.m. We can schedule you for one or more two-hour shifts and two adults are needed for each shift; parents and youth are welcome to do this as a family. Please contact Sandy Settevig or Andy George.



Youth Activities



Service Activity: Cherokee Park youth will be volunteering at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan on Saturday, April 25, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Any youth who are interested who have not signed up should speak with the parent organizer Sasha Aslanian to see if any slots are still available and to confirm departure time from Cherokee.

Parent Meeting: Parents of youth in grades four and up in 2015/16 are requested to attend a parent gathering on Saturday, April 11, 9:00 a.m. at the church in the Parent's Room. Coffee and bagels will be provided.

The meeting will be an opportunity to review this past year. What has gone well? What might be improved? What would we like to repeat? What might be dropped? What would we like to see for 2015/16 and who will provide leadership? It is hoped each family will be represented.

Confirmation Class: The group will meet at Pastor Tim's home from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. on Sundays, April 19 & 26.

Families Exploring Spirituality

Sunday, May 3, 9-10 a.m.

Families are invited to come together this hour for a focus on care for Mother Earth, led by Kay Myhrman-Toso and Winnie Williams.

Our focus will be, **Food, Glorious Food!**

Come celebrate Earth Day as we have fun exploring ways we can help care for God's creation and the food we grow and eat.

Expect stories, games, an art project and perhaps some digging in the dirt!



We are **Buzzing** with excitement, hoping you'll make plans to **Bee** there!

Caring for God's Creation

Worship on Sunday, April 26, will link the rhythms of faith with the celebration of Earth Day; Tom Evans of the Justice and Witness Ministry will be preaching. Worship will also include a "story for children of all ages"; a wolf may appear!



Worship will be followed by a **vegetarian potluck**. Pick up your



fork and do your part to help fight global warming! All are invited to bring a vegetarian dish to share. (No animals, fish, or other watery creatures or any parts of them or their by-products like gelatin or animal fats lard.) Consider a veggie tray and dip, fresh fruit, nuts, pasta salad without the pepperoni, cheese platter with crackers, potato salad, chips and guacamole, hummus and pita chips, soups and stews made with vegetable broth, and, of course, any number of dessert options, store-bought or homemade. Recipe ideas: Vegweb.com, VegCooking.com, VegRecipes.org, Veganche.com, GoVeg.com, and VegSource.com.

Building Blocks Tutorial to End after Twenty-Seven Years



In February, the church council, acting on a recommendation from the Building Blocks Ministry Team, voted to end this long-standing program of Cherokee Park United after this school year. It took much thought, discussion, prayer, and hard work to reach the decision. The program is hoping to end its twenty-seven year history on an upbeat note. There is much to celebrate considering the positive impact Building Blocks has made on countless people in our community and beyond for over a quarter-century.

The reasons for the decision are many. The structural changes forced upon the program by the school district the past few years have made it hard to fulfill our mission as in the past. The change from three to two days per week, the move to the school, and the shortened district calendar has impacted the program in major ways. Recent funding challenges lead to new money-raising efforts but no new on-going sources of dollars. With other administrative and unknown challenges ahead, it seems the time has come to conclude this very special community program.

The contributions of Cherokee Park United members to make this program possible are countless. Thanks to everyone for all the ways you've supported Building Blocks – tutoring, serving on the ministry team, helping with special events and snacks, donating dollars, praying, bookkeeping, and grant-writing. Building Blocks is an example of a rare "win, win, win" situation. It enhances the lives of its students and their families and schools, the amazing volunteers who tutor, and the people and ministries of Cherokee Park United Church. The spirit embodied in Building Blocks will have ripples in our community for a long time to come.

The program will end with its annual Awards Dinner for this year's students and their families and tutors on May 7. The church is planning a farewell celebration for church and community friends in late May. Stay tuned for news on that very special event. Please join us as we give thanks for the learning and friendship that have been the hallmark of Building Blocks Tutorial. As our mascot BB says, this ministry has been a very moooving experience for all.



Gathering Meals

Following Jesus' example of building relationships through sharing of meals, we find strength in our social times together, as foundation for the other services in which we involve ourselves. The Caring Ministry team continues its practice of scheduling meals shared in our homes. You are invited to consider being either a host (simple meals are the norm) or a guest. Our next group of Gathering Meals will be anytime in April or May. Sign-up sheets are available by the Baker Street entrance.



This is one way to welcome newer members, and get to know all on a deeper level, in an unhurried, casual setting. Contact: Mike Bates.

Director of Music Ministry Update

As of March 21, seven people have applied for the Director of Music Ministry position at Cherokee Park United. The Director of Music Taskforce has met and decided to explore further 5 of the applicants. Interviewing will take place in mid April.

Annual Cinco de Mayo Parade

Saturday, May 2

Join us as we march in the parade to express our support for the West Side neighborhood. Gather by 9:30 a.m. at the Gross Givens Manufacturing parking lot at 75 West Plato Boulevard. The parade begins at 10:00 a.m. We will be utilizing our Building Blocks float. Bring hand puppets (will also be available) and if possible, wear a Cherokee Park United Church T-shirt (available in Fellowship Hall Market.)



Deadline for newsletter articles is the 22nd of the prior month. Please contact editor Susan Strebig.

Cherokee Park United Church
Presents the Collected Works of

Marina Castillo



April 24 - June 7

Opening reception Friday,
April 24 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

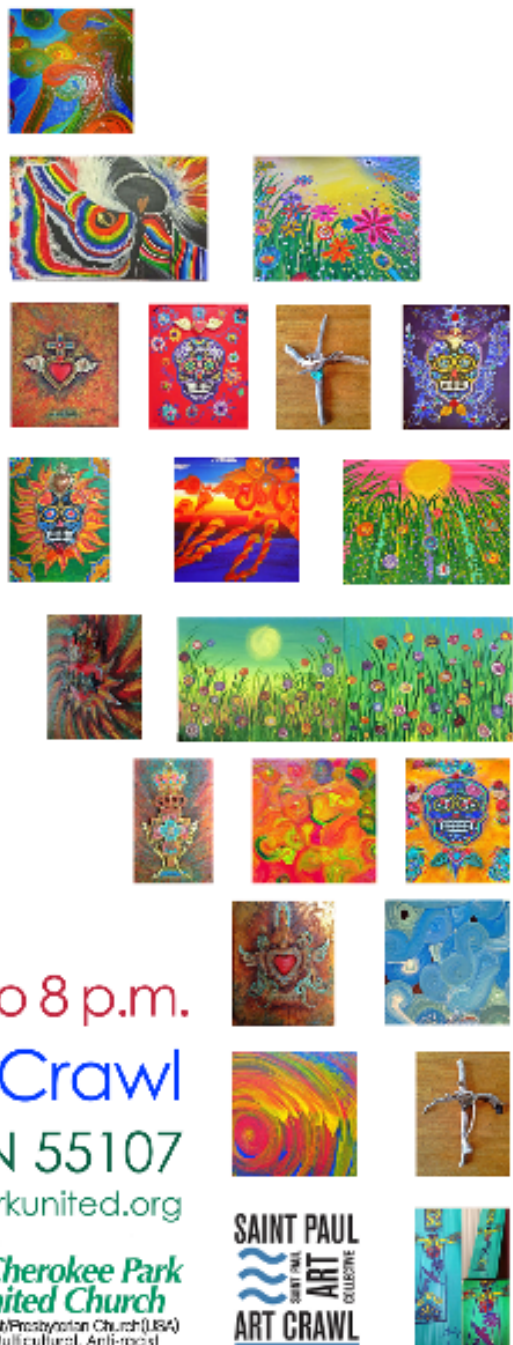
Gallery talk at 7 p.m.

Also open April 25 from noon to 8 p.m.

Saint Paul Art Crawl

371 W. Baker St., St. Paul, MN 55107

<http://www.cherokeeparkunited.org>



Challenging Biblical Narratives of Genocide



1862-1863 Concentration Camp of 1,600 Dakota interned at Fort Snelling – (women, children, elders)

Monday, April 13, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m

A Free Genocide Awareness Month Event

Explore the enduring impact of Biblically sanctioned genocide.

Look at counter narratives that challenge the theology of genocide.

Edwin Schenk (Lac View Desert Ojibwa/Cheyenne River Sioux) is Director of the T.J. Jones Library at North Central University and holds a Master of Arts degree in Old Testament from Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Edwin is a convert to Pentecostal Christianity who has roots in traditional Lakota life.

Dr. Chris Mato Nunpa is a Dakota Elder and retired Associate Professor of Indigenous Nations & Dakota Studies at Southwest Minnesota State University. He is currently finishing his first book titled - WOSICA TANKA KIN, "THE GREAT EVIL": GENOCIDE, THE BIBLE, AND THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE UNITED STATES

Dr. Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer is an associate professor who teaches justice and peace studies at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. He has written more than a dozen books, including *Jesus Against Christianity*, *Violence in the Bible and the Quran*; and *Saving Christianity from Empire*.

371 W. Baker St., St. Paul, MN 55107

**Sponsored by Cherokee Park United Church
(651-227-4275) www.cherokeeparkunited.org**

Cherokee Park United Church

United Church of Christ/Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Open & Affirming, Multicultural, Antiracist

651-227-4275

cpuc@usfamily.net

cherokeeparkunited.org

371 W. Baker Street

St. Paul, MN 55107

Sunday Worship - 10:15 a.m.

Dr. Timothy M. Johnson - Pastor

Ione Boettcher Butler - Organist/Choral Director

Jill Jackson - Building Blocks Tutorial Director

Rebecca Knott - Nursery Supervisor

Andrew Gbaa - Custodian



*"As humans we are born of the Earth,
nourished by the Earth, healed by the Earth.*

The natural world tells us:

*'I will feed you, I will clothe you, I will shelter you, I will heal you.
Only do not devour me or use me so that you destroy my capacity
to mediate the divine and the human.*

For what I offer you is communication with the divine."

Thomas Berry,
in "Making Peace"