



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 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 March 2nd Sunday Lent -Families Exploring Spirituality 9 am - Foodshelf - Faith Action Vigil 2:30 pm	2	3	4 Choir 6:45	5 Loaves & Fishes * Council 7 pm	6 Women's Group 7 pm	7 Spaghetti Dinner/Bingo Confirmation Group Fundrsr
8 3rd Sunday Lent -Adult forum -Sunday School -Confirmation Group 3 pm	9	10 Day on the Hill	11 Choir 6:45	12	13	14 -Habitat for Humanity 8:30-4:00 -Youth Duluth ski trip
15 4th Sunday Lent -Adult forum -Sunday School	16	17	18 Choir 6:45	19	20	21 Romero Presentation 6:30 pm
22 5th Sunday Lent -Adult forum -Special food drive -Children's music 9:15-9:45 --Salvadoran lunch -Confirmation Group 3 pm	23	24	25 Choir 6:45	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday Families Exploring Spirituality 9 am	30	31	1 April Choir 6:45	2 Maunday Thursday Service 7 pm	3	4
5 Easter Sunday -Breakfast 8:30 -Foodshelf						

* the first Thursday of odd numbered months

SaveTheDates : Mon. April 13—Genocide Awareness presentation, Sat. April 18—Spring Church Clean-up/Fix-Up Day, Sat. April 25—Youth to FMSC, Sun. March 29—Families Exploring Spirituality with Sandy, Sun. May 3—Families Exploring Spirituality with Kay and Winnie, Sat. May 16—Youth carnival fundraiser, Sat. May 30—Rain Garden planting



Families Exploring Spirituality

Sunday, March 1, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

This month's experience is being provided by the Antiracism Ministry, and will focus on Dakota spirituality. Lon Navarre, member of the Midwankaton Dakota Community, will be a main presenter, and will bring a chunduhupa (sacred pipe) and explain its significance to the Dakota People, its use, and how it was received. Other topics are the seven sacred rites associated with the pipe, and the medicine wheel.

Women's Group

Friday, March 6, 7:00 p.m.

This month we will meet at the home of Sarah Wovcha. Feel free to phone or email if you need directions.

Women's Survey

The Women's Group is planning to reach out—in person—to all of the women of CPUC, with a brief survey. The purpose is to determine why some women attend, some don't and identify reasons, possible barriers, suggested topics. We want a better sense of the mission the Women's Group is serving and find ways to be sure we are effective. Anyone contacted who does not wish to be interviewed for the survey only needs to tell the woman calling you do not wish to participate.

Loaves and Fishes

Thursday, March 5, 3:30-6:45 p.m.

Join us at St. Matthew's Church for our semi-monthly commitment to provide a tasty hot meal for those in need. Help for an hour or more to prepare, serve, and/or clean up. Young people are welcome to volunteer; contact Michele Johnson. If you cannot help this time but are interested, please remember that we serve the first Thursday of the odd numbered months, so you can make yourself a calendar reminder in advance for May, July, September, or November.



Play Ball!

Thank you to all who found it in your heart and closets to contribute to the supply of baseball equipment that we sent to our partners in Ostuma, El Salvador with Pastor Porfirio Martinez when he traveled there in February.

Mardi Gras 2015





Spaghetti Dinner/Bingo Night

Saturday, March 7, 6:00 p.m.

The Confirmation youth will be offering yummy Italian pasta (including gluten-free), sides and desserts, plus Bingo with prizes and fun announcers. Proceeds will fund a Confirmation mission trip to Atlanta in June. Suggested donation is \$10 adult/\$5 child. Prize donations including baked goods will be most welcome! We are also seeking to borrow some bingo cards/sets. Contact: Deborah Morse

Selma to MN

Sunday, March 8, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Cherokee Park United Church is one of the participating congregations in a coalition of faith communities that will come together from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds, political preferences and across socio-economic differences. We come together across all that could divide us, to be unified in this moment in recognition of the interfaith march of 1965 from



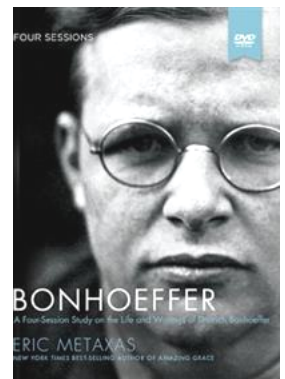
Selma to Montgomery, with hopes of inspiring continued partnerships. We join this march with others across the country, including those in Selma. Together, we are stronger in bringing justice to this broken and hurting world. The Twin Cities observance of the 1965 Selma March **begins at the State Capitol and ends at Central Presbyterian Church** in downtown Saint Paul.

Adult Forum

Sundays, March 1 through 22, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

This month's forum will be a four-session, video-based small group Bible study by New York Times best-selling author Eric Metaxas.

The focus is the major themes of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's writing and speaking and how he not only helped transform an entire faith community in Germany during World War II, but how his beliefs continue to impact the Christian faith of people throughout the world today. Filmed on location in Germany, Metaxas will take us on a journey of Bonhoeffer's faith and why it has captured so many people's imaginations and how it has inspired the Christian faith of so many today. Metaxas helps us understand why these spiritual truths meant so much to Bonhoeffer and how they can be an inspiration and challenge to our faith. Sessions include: What is the Church?, Life Together, God Says Yes/Cheap Grace, and Religionless Christianity.



Lenten Wednesday Evenings

February 25 through March 25, 5:30-6:45 p.m.



A handwritten letter to elected officials is one of the most powerful ways to act for justice. The Justice and Witness Ministry hosts a simple meal, a brief time of worship and a chance for you to write letters about justice issues that are on your heart.

Each Wednesday there will be resources available focused on a particular justice theme. February 25 focuses on environmental justice with resources from

Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light, March 4 focuses on economic justice, March 11 on advocacy issues from Joint Religious Legislative Advocacy, March 18 on immigration justice, and March 25 open to all issues. People are also invited to write letters of advocacy for any other concerns to which they feel called.

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.



Be the Hero. Fight Hunger

The weekend of March 20-22, join forces with congregations across the state—fight hunger—pack our pews with bags of non-perishable food items—support our local foodshelf at Neighborhood House.

Celebrating the life of Archbishop Oscar Romero

Saturday and Sunday, March 21-22

We will recognize the 35th Anniversary of the Resurrection of Archbishop Oscar Romero with events on both Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday, from **6:30-8:30 p.m.**, “Meeting the Martyr – Oscar Romero” will be presented, in which we will learn why the Roman Catholic Church has recognized Romero as a martyr, a significant step toward sainthood, and discover the story behind the Misa Popular Salvadorena which provides the musical structure for the People's Mass.

Pastor Porfirio Martinez will return from his recent visit to El Salvador with a copy of a new film created by Fr. Angel Renderos Diaz of the Romero Foundation, in preparation of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Romero's birth to be held in 2017. Padre Angel is the much-loved El Salvadoran priest who worked with Mons. Romero and visited us last year. Also, he plans to join us by Skype on Sunday during lunch...with his guitar! We anticipate seeing excerpts from his film as well as Pastor Porfirio's own account of the events that led to the assassination of Archbishop Romero and why we now celebrate his resurrection.



At our regular Sunday worship service, music of the Misa Popular Salvadorena will be provided by El Espiritu del Milagro and the CPUC choir. Our preacher for the day will be The Rev. Don Christensen. Pastor Porfirio Martinez and Pastor Tim Johnson will officiate at a special Communion service. The whole service will be given in Spanish and English.

Following worship there will be a fund- raising lunch of Salvadoran chicken and rice, salad and dessert. The suggested donation is \$8 and proceeds will be donated to support the Comunidades Construyendo Esperanza (Communities Building Hope) partnership with our brothers and sisters in Ostuma, El Salvador.

Please extend a hearty invitation to family, friends, neighbors – anyone who wishes to learn about and celebrate the remarkable life of Archbishop Oscar Romero.

Deadline for newsletter articles is the 22nd of the prior month. Please contact editor Susan Strebig at kellystrebig@comcast.net or 651-457-1404.

The newsletter team consists of pre-publishing fact editor Phyllis Clark, copyeditor Sara Strebig Pedersen, collate/mail team Phyllis and Cal Clark; winter team Kathy Bergthold & Stefan Sylvander .

The Day on the Hill

Saturday March 10

Joint Religious Legislative Coalition's annual policy briefing and lobby day starts at 8:30 a.m. at the River Center in downtown St. Paul. Clergy and lay people from across the state attend Day on the Hill to show their interfaith commitment to social justice and to participate in the lawmaking process.



Participants gather in the morning for inspiration and issue briefings on what is being debated and voted on at our State Capitol. Meetings are held with legislators at the Capitol complex in the afternoon. Buses shuttle between RiverCentre and the Capitol until 4:00 p.m.

The theme, "Dignity in Democracy", will be addressed in a keynote presentation by Joan Rosenhauer, Executive Vice President of U.S. Operations for Catholic Relief Services. Joan leads their domestic programs and advocacy— faith-based actions that bring the agency's work with those in need overseas into the lives of people in the United States.

Registration is required by Friday, March 6, 1:00 p.m. at jrlc.org.

Fees are \$40 (\$25 student/low income) from February 21-March 6, or \$45 (\$30 student/low income) from March 7-10 and at the door. Please speak with Andy Barnett if you are able to attend. Scholarships are available on request through Pastor Tim.

Welcome to Sara Zanussi



Sara has been hired as interim accompanist, working with Andy Barnett who is our interim Music Director. Sara is presently the founding director of Commusication, a youth-focused music program in St. Paul. A native of St. Paul, Sara has a B.A. in Music from Luther College where she studied piano and voice, postgraduate certificate from New England Conservatory and recently graduated as a Sistema fellow. She interned as a teaching assistant with Boston Children's Chorus, at various nationwide Sistema-inspired programs, coached youth choruses in Venezuela and taught voice, piano, and children's music classes in Tanzania.

Her business, Z's Keys, has won awards for her Skype lessons program, and she has youth leadership experience through camp counseling, Upward Bound, and leading youth backpack trips.

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity

Saturday, March 14, 8:30-4:00 p.m.

Twelve volunteers (age 16 or older) are needed to help build a home; no special skills or experience is required. Please contact Andy Barnett if you would like to join this great group of people.



Sometimes they go incognito.



Measure twice, cut once.



Our Communion Cloth

Children will experience a communion preparation on Sunday, March 8, 9:00-10:00 a.m. in Sandy's class. Any older children, whether or not they already are receiving communion, and parents, are also welcome.

Newer members joining this church may notice the colorful altar cloth that appears on the first Sunday of the month communion service during worship. This is a wonderful piece of history, which is shared at the communion preparation class. In 1999 members were invited to submit pieces of material that were meaningful to their families. Quilting squares were cut from these 83 pieces, and assembled to represent our coming together as one through God's welcome and love. Pieces celebrated ethnic heritages, military service, life-changing experiences of travels, hobbies, and deceased loved ones. They included pieces of baby blankets, a wedding gown made over for a daughter-in-law, needlework done by great-grandmothers, and a beloved pet's blanket (now laundered). The explanations and sample pieces are all found in a blue 3 ring binder on the shelves in fellowship hall to the left of the stage.



Salem Centering Prayer Group

Saturday, March 21, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

If you practice centering prayer or would like to learn more about this form of Christian meditation, join us at Salem Lutheran Church in West St. Paul. We are part of an ecumenical, world-wide network of Christian meditators who seek to live ordinary lives with extraordinary love. The morning will feature a tape of Fr. Thomas Keating talking about *The Mystery of God* and will include discussions, meditation, hospitality and lunch. Free will offering. No RSVP necessary. Contact: Louise.



Fr. Thomas Keating

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

Andy Barnet - Interim Music Director

Jill Jackson - Building Blocks Tutorial Director

Rebecca Knott - Nursery Supervisor

Andrew Gbaa - Custodian

In every human being
there are two wolves constantly fighting.
One is fear, and the other is love.
The wolf that wins the battle is the one you feed -
always the one you feed.
Henry Meloux, Anishinaabe Mide,
William Kent Krueger's
Cork O'Connor series