

Cherokee Park Anited Church

The Door is Open to All Welcoming people of all ages, sexual orientations, races and ethnic origins

A Progressive Congregation
Theological Elbow Room
Global Music
Community Connected
Kid Friendly

Newsletter August 2013

SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1 August	2 Art Exhibit Opens 6-9 pm	3
4 Food Shelf Faith Action Vigil 2:30 pm	5	6	7 Council 7 pm	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Antiracism 6:45 pm	28	29	30	31
1 September	2	3	4 Choir rehearsals resume 6:45 pm	5 *Loaves & Fishes	6	7
8 Covenanting Sunday Worship starts 10:15 am.	9	10	11	12	Mendota Dakota Annual Wacipi (pow wow)	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Wedding!

^{*}Loaves and Fishes service occurs the first Thursday of odd numbered months

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 also consists of: prepublishing fact editor Pastor Tim Johnson, copyeditor Sara Strebig Pedersen, collate/mail team Phyllis and Cal Clark; winter team, Kathy Bergthold & Stefan Sylvander.

CPUC Art Show August 2-September 22

Cristina Plaza Ruiz's exhibit opens Friday, August 2, from 6-9 p.m. with refreshments and her Gallery talk at 6:30 p.m.

This opening coincides with the West Side's "Art on the Ave" art hop featuring local artists in businesses on Smith Avenue from the High Bridge to Annapolis Ave. The art hop continues on Saturday from 12-10 p.m. with children's craft activities from 12-4 pm at Capital Deals on Smith & Morton, an "Art Van" interactive project, and live bands at Bank Cherokee lot and Amore Café Friday and Saturday evenings.



CPUC Finance Ministry Update

The present financial picture for CPUC is a mixture of good news and challenging news. On the good news front our Capital Campaign continues to be strongly supported. It is the donations of friends and members to the Capital Campaign that has enabled CPUC to install solar, upgrade all the lighting with energy-efficient lighting, and meet the expense of the recent landscaping project. Previous expenditures from the Capital Campaign included carpeting in the Sunday School/Building Blocks area, paying off the lift, paying of a street assessment, and a new roof. Donations to the Capital Fund continue to be welcome as we seek to build the fund for eventual boiler replacement.

On the challenging side, CPUC was notified this winter that 2013 was the last year we will receive a grant from the Bendorf Trust. This trust was created by a former member, Agnes Bendorf, who left the congregation a \$10,000 bequest and left US Bank managing a large trust with no definition. US Bank invited us and a few others to apply for annual grants from the Trust. Since 2006 we have averaged approximately \$10,000/year for a total of \$84,000. In 2013 US Bank turned the Bendorf Trust over to the St. Paul Foundation and those moneys are no longer available, which means we enter 2014 with \$10,000 less income than we have had in previous years. This fall the Finance Ministry will be lifting up the challenge and inviting members to consider how together we might be part of the solution.

Presently, CPUC income has been sufficient to meet this year's expenses. But, it will be crucial that donations for this fall and December reflect the overall energy, dedication and faith of our members and friends. It is extremely helpful that all those who are able stay current on pledges and donations. Gifts over and beyond the pledged amount are always welcome and much appreciated.



The Dempsey and Hess Families REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE AT THE MARRIAGE OF

Douglas Edward Dempsey 10 Frederick Eugene Hess

> SEPTEMBER TWENTY-FIRST TWO THOUSAND THIRTEEN 1:30 P.M.

CHEROKEE PARK UNITED CHURCH 371 WEST BAKER STREET SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55107

RECEPTION FOLLOWING IN CHURCH SOCIAL HALL
RSVP-http://www.theknot.com/wedding/dempsey-and-hess



A Message from Fred and Doug

We are so excited about being able to get married! Our vision of our wedding is one of inclusion with everyone celebrating our joyous occasion.

Our Cherokee Park United Church family has been supportive and an inspiration to our family and hope you will be able to join us for this special time in our lives.

Please follow the RSVP instructions as found on the invitation (website below) so that we can plan accordingly.

If you are unable to join us on Saturday for the ceremony, or would prefer a less crowded reception atmosphere, we are also hosting a celebration of our marriage the following day in the fellowship hall immediately after Sunday worship services.





Marriage Notes from CPUC

On October 22, 2011 the congregation passed a policy to stress their belief that marriage is a covenant made in the presence of God between two people, regardless of their gender or sexual orientation.

"The Covenanted Community of Cherokee Park United Church believes that the current civil marriage policies are discriminatory to members of our community and that, at least until those policies are corrected, Cherokee Park United Church will no longer perform civil marriages as an agent of the State of Minnesota. We will continue to perform religious marriages, for all couples, regardless of gender. It is the policy of Cherokee Park United Church to separate the holy rite of marriage from the civil institution of marriage as defined by the State of Minnesota. Accordingly the clergy of Cherokee Park United Church will not sign civil marriage licenses for wedding celebrations conducted at Cherokee Park United Church. Couples seeking a civil marriage or legal domestic partner status will need to pursue those options separately from the religious ceremony..."

With Minnesota's passing of the marriage equality bill in May of 2013, the terms of this policy have been fulfilled. We look forward to celebrating with their friends and families, the marriage of Doug and Fred.

Wider Church News

Nancy Swanson had been elected by the MN Conf. UCC to be a delegate at this year's (national) General Synod of the UCC. This is a real honor, one that many clergy, and certainly lay folk, never get. Nancy writes of her experience there:

The setting of General Synod 29 – Long Beach, CA – was delightful. The 3000 delegates, UCC staff, and visitors were greeted with a spacious, light-filled Convention Center close to the water. We enjoyed outstanding worship with preachers who delivered messages with passion and unique style, speakers who conveyed compelling information on immigration and climate change, and business sessions led by officials of the UCC who were both skillful and fun. We passed resolutions encouraging and supporting divestment from fossil fuel companies, responding to the Supreme Court decision on Voting Rights, and announcing solidarity and concern for Christian leaders in Central America who are facing threats of punishment for standing up to drug gangs.

The Minnesota delegation included a variety of younger and older clergy and laypersons; with rare exception, they were regularly present at business sessions, committee meetings, and workshops. Also present were our own Glen and Barbara Harrington-Hall. Rev. John Gutterman of New Brighton UCC received well-deserved special recognition for his continuing work on Immigration Reform.

Finally, the food in Long Beach was fantastic (between food trucks and a plethora of ethnic restaurants) and the accommodations were very comfortable – both important factors since General Synod days are long, intense, and life-changing. I was glad to go and look forward (though with a little less passion) to General Synod 30 in Cleveland in 2015. My goal there – to visit our national UCC Headquarters!

On July 9, Nancy begins an interim ministry at St. Peter's UCC in Stillwater.

Fred Hess and Anna Larson were our delegates at the Minnesota Conference UCC special meeting in June to elect the new Conference Minister for the Minnesota Conference UCC, who is Rev. Sharon (Shari) Prestemon.

Jill Jackson and Mike Bates were the elder commissioners who represented CPUC at the meeting of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities in Albert Lea in July. Lynne Bates joined them as an observer. Meeting highlights included approving three young men for ordination who made remarkable statements of faith and of varied backgrounds. Their presence in the Presbytery will hopefully be helpful in reaching out to diverse community members and sustaining exciting ministries in the church. Pastoral changes were announced, including a new UCC-ordained pastor at Macalester Plymouth Church. Over 20 delegates to the Youth Triennium meeting in July were commissioned. There are several member churches of the Presbytery who are going through the process of "graciously separating" or moving to other affiliations. Knox Presbyterian (St. Paul) and North Como Presbyterian are moving towards merger. It was a spirit-filled meeting, filled with lots of hugs and heartfelt sharing.



Food Shelf Donations

Remember, the first Sunday of the each month (Communion Sunday) is also the day to bring donations for the food shelf. The need is always great but increases in the summer when the kids are home all day. In addition to food, families need paper products, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items. Donations can be brought any time but we

especially emphasize sharing with others when we break bread together.

Eating Out as an Act of Justice

The word is out that there are less calories in food that is eaten with a bit of social justice in mind. Renee infoms us that *The Daily Diner* at University and Dale serves really good food, AND, the staff are all residents or clients of the Union Gospel Mission, receiving training and a chance to earn some money and support for the mission. Most food is prepared on-site, but the fabulous pie comes from a small bakery. Daily specials and full dinners are offered at a reasonable price. Slim up your wallet for a good cause. Slim up yourself by eating out once instead of twice, and leaving a quadrupled tip.

Antiracism Team

The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 27 at 6:45pm at the home of Bundy Trinz.

Mendota Dakota Mdewakanton Community Welcome Home Wacipi

This annual pow wow will be held Friday-Sunday, September 13 - 15, at St. Peter's Church grounds in Mendota. Cherokee Park United members and friends are invited to support this tribal community and help sell food at the tribal food booth (mmmmm...fry bread, buffalo burgers) or bring food and help serve at the 5 p.m. feast on Sunday. Contact: Lon Navarre









Thank yow to Jon, Sophia, and Kristina Butler for sharing their many musical talents with us at worship.

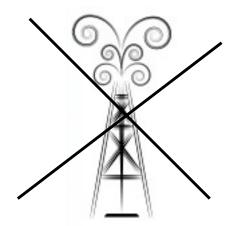
Justice and Witness Ministry - Investing Challenge

At the May meeting we agreed to inform our delegates to the MN Conference Annual Meeting in June that we supported the resolution to encourage the General Synod (National UCC body) to "consider divesting in fossil fuels." The MN Conference UCC resolution passed, as did the resolution at the General Synod on July 1, 2013.

The resolution, brought by the Massachusetts Conference and backed by 10 other conferences, calls for enhanced shareholder engagement in fossil fuel companies, an intensive search for fossil fuel-free investment vehicles and the identification of "best in class" fossil fuel companies by General Synod 2015. "This resolution calls on each and all of us to make difficult changes to the way we live each day of our lives," said Donald Hart, UCF president. "Implementing the multiple strategies outlined in this resolution will demand time, money and care — but we believe Creation deserves no less."

For our J & W team, this seemed like an easy decision, since we (CPUC) do not have any money to put into investments. However, several of us have our pension funds in The Pension Board of the UCC whose investments could be affected by such action. The more we discussed, the more we realized that it matters to us as individuals and as a body how we invest our resources. And "putting our money where our mouths are" is not a simple endeavor.

If we are truly a body of people striving to be faithful, we ought to discover ways whereby we can learn and teach, support and challenge one another in determining how we spend our valuable resources of time, talent and money. This we consider our inviting task for the coming year, to study together **Investing.** Perhaps we'll have some common reading to do. A study series, small challenge groups are other ideas. We invite the congregation to imagine with us how we can accomplish this because not only does Creation deserve it, we all do. Let's do this together.







Cherokee Park United Church

Women's Retreat October 4-5 2013



ONENESS

Experiencing Connection with Self and Others

The day of my spiritualawakening was the day I saw –and knew I saw- all things in God and God in all things. –Mechtild of Magdeburg (1207-1297)

When: 6:00 p.m. Friday through 5:00 p.m. Saturday

Where: The ARC Retreat Center near Cambridge, MN (763 689-3540)

Remember the joy of re-connecting with a long lost friend? Ever witnessed the glee in a small child who moves and claps to the sound of a marching band? What kind of wonderment pulses through your veins when you sit under the stars on a clear night? Connections. Mystical, rhythmic, innate. There are many words and ways to describe the Oneness we share with All That Is. Yet, we can feel fragmented, isolated, and overwhelmed with the many associations our daily lives demand. Come away on retreat to sift through distractions and distortions and reclaim the joy and liveliness available to you through community and communion with All That Is.

Music, conversation, meditation, games, worship, and meals will fill our time together, all with the intent of renewing your deep connection to Self, Others, and All That Is. The retreat will take place at the ARC Retreat Center, a wonderful old lodge in a beautiful wooded setting near Cambridge, Minnesota. It is known for superb cooking! The retreat will be facilitated by Ione Butler, CPUC Music Director who is also trained in spiritual direction.

The cost of the retreat is \$120, with a \$30.00 deposit due by Sunday, September 8. (Scholarship monies are available for those who need them. Please speak with Pastor Tim). There is limited space, so please register early. If you have any questions, please contact Bundy Trinz, Jill Jackson, or Mary Murphy.

How to register:	Women's Retreat Registration Form Friday and Saturday, October 4 and 5, 2013				
Please return this form along with your payment or deposit to Karen Shatek or Jill Jackson by Sunday, Sept 8th.	 Yes, I will be attending this year's retreat (fee \$120) I am unable to come on Friday evening, but I plan to attend on Saturday.(fee \$60) I will make my own travel arrangements I plan to carpool and will be at the church by 4:00 pm. I am willing to share a double room, if necessary Special needs or dietary restrictions				
Name	Phone				
Email address	(requested by the ARC)				

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 - **Summer 9:30 a.m.**(10:15 a.m. starting Sept. 8))
Dr. Timothy M. Johnson - Pastor
Ione Boettcher Butler - Organist/Choral Director
Jill Jackson - Building Blocks Tutorial Director
Rebecca Knott - Nursery Supervisor
Andrew Gbaa - Custodian

"The life of the individual only has meaning in so far as it aids in making the life of every living thing nobler and more beautiful."

-- Albert Einstein