



## ***Cherokee Park United Church***

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

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

***Newsletter March 2013***

24 <i>Children's Music</i> 9:15-9:45 am	25	26	2 Choir 6:45 pm	28	<i>1 March</i> Women's Group 7 pm	2
3 <i>Families Exploring Spirituality</i> 9-10 am Food Shelf Collection Ramsey Co Detention Ctr Faith Action Vigil 2:30-3 pm	4	5	6 Choir 6:45 pm	7  Loaves & Fishes 3:30-7 pm  Seasons workshop @ CPUC	8	9
10 <i>Sunday School 9-10 am</i>	11	12	13 Choir 6:45 pm	14 Council 7:00 pm	15 Men's Group 6:30 pm	16
17 <i>Sunday School 9-10 am</i> One Great Hour of Sharing	18	19 Caring Ministry 7 pm	20 Choir 6:45 pm	21 Outreach Ministry 7 pm	22	23
24 <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>Children's Music</i> 9:15-9:45 "People's Mass" with Donna Peña Brunch-Salvadoran Chicken & Rice	25	26	27 Choir 6:45 pm	28 Maunday Thursday service 7 pm	29 Good Friday	30
31 <i>Easter Sunday &amp; Brunch</i>	<i>1 April</i>	2 Justice & Witness 7 pm	3 Choir 6:45 pm	4 Faith Life 7 pm	5	6
21 Earth Day Vegetarian Dinner			24 Intergenerational evening 5:30-7:30			13 Spring Art-Fest opens



## *Minnesota FoodShare and Neighborhood House March Food Drive*

Our Sunday School children and youth are solidly supporting this food drive, as evidenced by poster reminders they've made and placed on our tables at fellowship hour. They are reminding us that hungry sisters and brothers need to be fed. Although we always support this food shelf with our **first Sunday food collection**, this March drive is particularly urgent; donations will be partially matched by Minnesota FoodShare. Cash donations are especially welcome, as with bulk purchasing power, the food shelf can stretch cash donations **3-4 times further**; and cash is easier to store and never expires! Let's fill up that empty grocery cart!

Neighborhood House food shelf is located in the Wellstone Center at 179 Robie St. E., and is the largest single-site food shelf in Ramsey County, distributing over 2,500 pounds of food daily to nearly 10,000 households each year. 50% of those served are children. Of all food shelf participants, 90% have incomes below the national poverty guideline (a family of four earning \$22,050 or less annually.) [www.neighb.org](http://www.neighb.org)

Various merchants are also donating proceeds to this drive: 5% of purchases from El Burrito Mercado Saturday March 10; 10% of catering from Jerebek's New Bohemian; "round up" your charge to the next dollar at Mississippi Market and the extra will be donated; Kowalski's Markets on Grand Ave. will donate a portion of your collected receipts.

## *Women's Discussion Group Friday March 1*

All women are invited to the home of Mary Murphy, 15 W. Baker St., (651-290-2591) at 7 p.m. The topic is Books. Please come prepared to discuss one or two books that you like/love. Mary invites those who are interested to participate in a book exchange that evening. Feel free to bring some books to share with others and to take books that are brought. If you want your books back, write your name in them. Otherwise, bring books that you are done with that can be taken by others and passed on. If you prefer, bring a list and we can share titles too. Read on!

## *Come, Pray, Support ~ Faith Action Vigil ~ March 3*

Can you devote thirty minutes to support the rights of immigrant detainees and their families? This monthly vigil is held every first Sunday at 2:30 p.m., to draw attention to the current practice of using the criminal justice system to arbitrarily detain, which is prohibited under international human rights law, as well as other immigrant issues of injustice. Join us at the Ramsey County Adult Detention Center ~ 425 Grove Street, St. Paul. Joanne Sylvander

Advocates for Human Rights action alerts: <http://www.energyofanation.org/>

Dignity Not Detention: [http://detentionwatchnetwork.org/DND\\_main](http://detentionwatchnetwork.org/DND_main)



## Families Exploring Spirituality - Communion

The February focus in Families Exploring Spirituality used a hands-on learning experience to explore the philosophy and teachings of our progressive church. We heard the story of Jesus' last meal with his friends, we reclined at the Passover table, we repeated his words, and as he instructed, we consumed bread and wine (updated to non-gluten and non-alcohol.) Just like Pastor Oliver's sermon theme that day, "What's Wrong With This Picture?", we first had to find and remove the items that did not belong. Children easily spotted the anachronisms - a bowl of Skittles, Burger King, flashlight, clock, and personal forks (not invented for 400 more years). We examined our communion tablecloth of fabrics, given by members, a wonderful symbol of our unity and communion; we made our own paper-quilt family squares to combine, and then finished off some Seder foods—radishes, celery, hard boiled eggs seemed fine at 10 a.m.!



## Families Exploring Spirituality - Prayer - Baptism - Spirit

Sunday March 3, children/youth and their parents will focus on the many aspects of **Prayer**, led by Laura Gatzke and other Cherokee members.

On Sunday April 7, the sacrament of **Baptism** will be explored, led by Sandy Dodson.

On Sunday May 5, we will welcome the **Spirit**, led by Susan Strebig.

All gatherings are held in from 9-10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall (lower level). Join us for learning and fellowship.

## Children and Youth Sunday School Class Focus

The K-3 group has been creating a rainbow banner (as they meet in the Rainbow Room). Each hue represents a Bible story relating to that color —sometimes edible! March's colors are green and blue —we care for the earth, and also green represents the money of our One Great Hour of Sharing and St. Patrick' Day. We'll find out why the Lent color is purple.

Grades 4-7 will be looking at food disparity and Eco challenges our community faces while continuing to uncover the parables of Jesus and what they can mean for our changing world.



## Fourth Sundays - Making Music in Church

Jen Folkers and Andy Barnett are introducing children and youth to music that will be part of the morning worship service that day. Music time is 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to bring your child/ren at 9:00 a.m. Pastor Tim will be there to welcome them and be with them until the time begins. At 9:45 they will be invited to find a game in the Kid's Corner. We welcome parent volunteers to help with this time before worship begins.

*Pictured below, the children learned about the cultural origins of music to be used that day, and experienced the types of drums and drumming accompanying that music.*



## Next Intergenerational Evening

Wednesday, April 24. Possibly lions, and tigers, and zebras, oh my!

## *Loaves and Fishes*

On Thursday, March 7, CPUC will again participate in Loaves and Fishes, a church-based program for feeding the hungry. Our serving site is at St. Matthew's Catholic Church. We need volunteers to help prepare the meal from 3:45 - 5:00 p.m., serve from 4:45 - 6:15 p.m., and/or clean up, and are usually finished by 6:45 p.m. Young people are welcome to serve as volunteers. Contact Michele Rehm Johnson at 651-222-5433 if you are able to help. [timmj@comcast.net](mailto:timmj@comcast.net)



## *To Pastor Tim and the Cherokee Park Congregation:*

Porfirio Martinez and I had a wonderful time in El Salvador staying with his and his wife Transito's relatives in Ostuma in the mountains and also near San Salvador. UCC Pastor Luis Alvarenga's sister Marlen also hosted us for several days. Our goal was to hear and record people's experiences with the political problems and massacres there in the 1980s and 90s.



*Families working together along the Road outside of Ostuma*

So many people shared at a deep level with us: victims of a large massacre in El Carrizal, victims of other massacres in and around San Salvador, and Jesuit priests who lived through the massacres in which their colleagues and staff died. We also were committed to telling the truth about the United States as we both see it and without trying to defend the United States and its harmful and sometimes murderous involvement in El Salvador and other places around the world.

We visited museums about the El Salvadoran martyrs, including Monsignor Oscar Romero, who is the symbol of resistance there in a way similar to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the United States. His image and words are part of private and public culture throughout El Salvador.

Porfirio worked with the steering committee in El Carrizal about further work on organization that has been built around a community corn mill (molino), and Bundy took the lead in working with a women's group in Ostuma starting a small business together.

*Juan, Jesus & Porfirio at steering committee meeting in El Carrizal*





The generosity of the people in both El Salvador and Nicaragua (where I stayed before and after the working trip in El Salvador) brought me to tears a number of times. I visited a doctor in Ostuma in the evening when she was home from her full-time job at a clinic near Ostuma. When I asked if she could take my traveler's insurance, she said no – and with a big smile said she didn't need to charge me anything, that it was her pleasure to help. I started sobbing, and everyone was so concerned. Nothing was wrong. I was incredibly touched by her kindness and then by everyone else's attention in the room.

Porfirio and I bought a folk-art cross for Cherokee Park United as a small token of our gratitude for the support we received from you. All the prayers were appreciated. We had a great trip, even in the face of some unexpected change of plans, including the loss on our first day in Ostuma of our translator/driver to pressing family issues.

I will be sorting through my photos (2,000) and video clips in Spanish (270) for a while. I expect to create a photo and/or video show in the next few weeks and then later a longer video documentary about the trip. Other projects will likely arise as the full impact of the trip and next steps unfold.



Muchas gracias,  
amigos and  
amigas! The trip  
was all that we had  
hoped for.

Con corazon,  
Bundy Trinz  
Porfirio Martinez



*Friend Alicia's kitchen in Ostuma*

### *Would You Like to Be a Communion Server?*

The Worship Ministry is preparing a schedule of communion servers for April through September of 2013. Servers need to be members of CPUC and willing to distribute the elements and then clean up (usually the first Sunday of each month). Written instructions are provided. If you have never served before or would especially like to do so during this period, please contact Jill Jackson at 651 224-9209 or [jilljacksonmn@comcast.net](mailto:jilljacksonmn@comcast.net) by March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you for serving our church in this important way.



*From our pastoral intern Laura Gatzke,  
“Laura the Explorer”*

Thank you, friends and members of Cherokee Park, for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers as I traveled to Kenya, Africa in January.

What an amazing trip it was! I went with Compassion International, an organization through which I sponsored a child named Joy. I was able to bring her the “Dora the Explorer” backpack that we blessed at our Sunday, January 20th service. She enjoyed looking through it and seeing all the nice gifts for her and her family: thank you for your spiritual and financial support!



On my trip, I visited several schools and met lots of Kenyan children. I spent most of my time between the cities of Nairobi (the capitol) and Nakuru. I was able to meet many people from the Maasai Tribe, and especially enjoyed being able to spend time with the women of the tribe and hear their stories. Kenya is a beautiful country filled with the kindest people—I am so blessed to have gone on this trip. My group was also able to sneak in a safari—I loved seeing the animals right in their natural habitat. The zebras and giraffes were my favorite.



One of the most spiritual moments on my trip was worshipping at a Presbyterian church. Somehow, right in the middle of East Africa, I felt as if I were right back at Cherokee Park. The singing, the taking of much time to greet everyone—it was wonderful.

If you are interested in reading more about my journey, please visit my trip daily blog at [www.laurainkenya.wordpress.com](http://www.laurainkenya.wordpress.com)

## *Renee's Reflections*

In January I traveled to Cape Town, South Africa with a group from United Theological Seminary and St. Thomas University. In these three weeks, we experienced the awesome – Cape Point where the Indian and Atlantic Oceans meet, and the awful – the grinding poverty of life in the squatter villages and settlements.

In the 1960's the South African government forcibly removed all black and colored people to "townships"

as an act of apartheid. The premise was that the races should each have their own area to live in. Needless to say, "own area" did not in any way translate to "equal." Even though apartheid officially ended in 1992, the vestiges remain. Black South Africans no longer have to enter buildings through separate entrances and carry passes, but for many their lives are just marginally better.



We visited Guguletu, one of the townships of Cape Town. Homes in the townships, where many black South Africans still live, range from solid permanent homes (about 720 square feet) to hostels where men live six to eight to a room with three or four beds. In between are the shacks, constructed of whatever material can be found, including shipping containers. (The residents themselves refer to the structures as shacks.) The carryover from apartheid remains in many subtle ways, also. The permanent and official addresses for the homes start with NY and a number. NY stands for Native Yard.

Many shacks have no inside running water and some have no electricity. There are take-away food shops and street vendors all over. The absence of refrigerators, stoves, and means to cook, results in ongoing poor nutrition and high costs for food. Following a flood in 2006 when parts of Guguletu were damaged, the government built a "temporary" area – locally called Tin Town, comprised of just over 1000 tin shacks, each 3 meters by 6 meters with a small yard. They are in straight rows with dirt paths. There is one toilet and one faucet for each 4 shacks. Some of the yards had attempts at beauty with a few sunflowers. Tin Town has no schools, no shops. Most of the children do not go to school. It is too far to go to the buses.

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Pay is low, costs are high. Farm workers get just 69 rand a day (8 rand to the dollar) but a bottle of water costs about 8 rand; when we were there, they were striking for higher pay. The arguments are the same. If the farm owners have to pay more for labor they will not be able to stay in business. Our driver's wife works as a housekeeper at one of the high-end Cape Town hotels. She earns 2000 rand a month. However, her bus fare is 400 rand a month and the bus for their son to school is another 400 rand. School fees (uniforms, books) for the public school cost about 7000 rand a year. After school fees and transportation, they have little left to live on. The children go to school barefoot and when they need shoes for some special occasion, they borrow them from someone who has a pair.

Throughout the trip, we also saw and experienced a lot of joy. The people we met were happy and optimistic. They sing, they dance, they smile, and they are hopeful. They are disappointed with their government, but they are positive, and as one woman reminded me, "free."

Throughout the three weeks we had the opportunity to meet men and women who had been in the front lines of the struggle for freedom and now for equality. We met with a woman who had served as one of the judges on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, with a young white Anglican priest who had dedicated his life to service in black parishes, and an amazing dissident poet who wrote a lot of his poetry while in prison as a political agitator. We heard stories of women who worked as domestics, but maintained their dignity and turned their energies to helping their neighbors, and of others who stood in the front lines to make their voices heard at great personal risk and cost. It was often hard to hold back the tears.

Apartheid has legally ended in South Africa but remains in effect through economic, educational, and opportunity disparities.

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### *Welcoming Agua De Vida*

On Sunday, March 3, Cherokee Park United Church welcomes Agua De Vida as a new congregation to be renting space for worship. They will be at Cherokee on Sunday afternoons from 1 - 3:30 p.m. and Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The congregation's pastor is Francisco DeLeon. His partner and wife is Alma DeLeon. They join the St. Paul Mennonite Fellowship who worship at the church on Sundays from 4 - 6 p.m. and New Life Assembly, which worships on Sundays at Cherokee from 7 - 9 p.m. With all the congregations worshipping at Cherokee we hope to extend a warm welcome and generous hospitality. If you have an opportunity, please help us extend that warm welcome. Congregations worshipping at Cherokee know that we have a shared use policy so if there is need to use parts of the church while other congregations are worshipping, that is available. Please speak with Pastor Tim if you have any questions.



## *Gathering Meals*

Cherokee Park United Church is not only remarkable for its commitment to social justice, but also for food and fellowship, both at and away from the church building. Stories from scripture reveal that relationship is a great part and result of sharing a meal. The Caring Ministry team continues its practice of scheduling meals shared in our homes. You are invited to consider being either a host or a guest. Simple meals are the norm, as our emphasis is on getting to know each other.

Our next schedule of Gathering Meals will be between April 5 and April 28. Sign up sheets will be available the first three Sundays in March. Gathering meals are a way to welcome newer members, and get to know all on a deeper level, in an unhurried, casual setting.



## *Church Landscaping*

Input for new landscaping on the south side of the church is requested during the first couple of Sundays in March.

Using designated funds raised through the capital campaign, the Property Management Ministry is working with Andy Hovland to create a design for the front Baker St. side of the church. The design incorporates many of the values of the previous landscaping on the Manomin Street side, such as plants appropriate to Minnesota, plants that provide a seasonal diversity, that are low maintenance, and that are designed to be welcoming to the community.

The plan will be available in the Fellowship Hall and you are invited to offer your thoughts with sticky notes, speak with Andy or any member of the Property Management Ministry, Jim Shatek and Tom Murphy, chairs.



The CPUC community will also be invited to again assist with the planting. The date will be announced this spring.

Deadline for newsletter articles is the 22nd of the month. Please email to editor Susan Strebig at [kellystrebig@comcast.net](mailto:kellystrebig@comcast.net) or 651-457-1404.

The newsletter team also consists of: pre-publishing fact editor Pastor Tim Johnson, copyeditor Sara Strebig Pedersen, collate/mail team Kathy Bergthold & Stefan Sylvander .

## *Palm/Passion Sunday Salvadoran Folk Mass and Brunch*

**Sunday, March 24** we will lift up and celebrate the life of El Salvador's Archbishop, Oscar Romero who was assassinated on March 24, 1980, while serving mass. Romero's courage in speaking out against injustice and violence offers a powerful insight into the life of Jesus as he entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

The bi-lingual service will incorporate music from the Salvadoran Folk Mass, written in honor of Romero five months after his assassination. Guest musicians will include La Familia Torres-Peña (Donna Peña\*, Pedro Torres, Laura Torres-Peña and Hondo Torres-Peña). Porfirio Martinez, who traveled with Bundy Trinz to El Salvador this past month, will preach. He is a former priest serving a community that suffered a massacre by the Salvadoran military. Cherokee Park United Church is now in partnership with this community.

Following the assassination of a close friend and fellow priest, Romero became an outspoken advocate for justice in El Salvador, even as the military junta, running the country became more and more violent. His assassination came amidst a 12-year civil war in which thousands were massacred or just "disappeared." The Salvadoran military, including their covert death squads, were heavily funded by the U.S. as was the case in many Central and South American countries in the 1980's and 1990's.

\*Donna Peña is a composer and performer, who speaks strongly to and for the Hispanic community in the Midwestern church; she provides a leadership founded strongly on her Mexican and Cherokee heritage. Among her many compositions are the popular song "Digo Si, Señor/I Say Yes, Lord," her recorded collections *Alma Mia* and *Against the Grain* and *A New Heaven, A New Earth, Mass of the Nations* and the collaboration with Marty Haugen, *We Come Dancing*.



## *Palm Sunday Brunch—Salvedoran Chicken & Rice*

Brunch is hosted by CCE (Communities Construendo Esperanza or Communities Building Hope,) a partnership with CPUC and local friends from El Salvador, including pastor Martinez. This fundraiser continues our support of two communities in Ostuma who are presently working to rebuild following the devastation of the long civil war.

## *Maundy Thursday*

On March 28, starting at 7:00 p.m., we will enter the drama of the Last Supper by sharing in Holy Communion around tables in the fellowship hall. We will then proceed to the sanctuary for a service of Tenebrae (Latin for shadows), as we hear again the story of Jesus' journey to the cross and reflect on its meaning for our day and time.

### *Easter Memorial Garden*

Flowers may be brought to the church on Saturday, March 30, between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.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 Sunday Breakfast*

Join us in Fellowship Hall for breakfast between 8:30 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. The Fellowship Ministry is planning a fun menu. It would also be greatly appreciated if you could help with the clean up after, (it's actually fun!) so it can all be done before worship begins.

### *Faith-Based Summer Camping for Children and Youth*

Information (and coffee) will be available from Pastor Tim on Sundays March 10 & 17 between 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Both the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the United Church of Christ have week-long summer camps. In addition, Wisdom Ways in St. Paul hosts a summer Peace Camp, during the day. Dates, costs, (scholarships available from our youth fund) and other information will be available. Please join us and explore the many options.

### *Calling All Artists, Poets and Musicians*

Our annual **Cherokee West Art Fest** begins with an opening night celebration on **Saturday, April 13**. The Art Fest features West Side artists displaying the labors they've created from God's blessings. The Art Fest concludes on **Saturday, May 18**, with the **Closing Night Cabaret**, a chance for poets, singers, and musicians to celebrate their gifts with the community.



If you are interested in participating, please contact:  
Art Fest: Sandy Settevig, [settevig@comcast.net](mailto:settevig@comcast.net)  
Cabaret: Mike Bates, [mjbates@skypoint.com](mailto:mjbates@skypoint.com)



Interfaith Coalition on Immigration  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2013**  
**2:30 – 3:00 PM**

Ramsey County Adult Detention Center

425 Grove Street, St. Paul MN

**FAITH ACTION VIGIL #42** “We as people of  
faith have a powerful role to play to make  
immigration reform a reality”

**Dignity not Detention**

**THIS MONTH’S HOSTS:**

**Centro Guadalupano, Santa Rosario/Holy Rosary Church  
(Mpls), and St. Albert the Great Church (Mpls)**

**“to be companions on the journey with immigrant families...”**

**<http://www.holyrosaryop.org> 612-724-3651**

**COME, PRAY, SUPPORT**

“You who are so-called illegal aliens must know that no human  
being is ‘illegal’. That is a contradiction in terms. Human beings  
can be beautiful or more beautiful,  
they can be fat or skinny, they can be right or wrong, but illegal?  
How can a human being be illegal?”

Elie Wiesel, Nobel peace prize recipient



## *Men's Discussion Group*

All men are invited on Friday, March 15, to the home of Tom Murphy, 15 W. Baker St. (651-290-2591) for fellowship and discussion. Pizza is served at 6:30 p.m., and the discussion, possibly focusing on St. Patrick or something Celtic, will start at 7:00 p.m. The past few months the attendance has increased to eight, meaning the food and/or the discussion must be delicious and interesting! Join us if you can.

## *New Address*

Please note that Helma Rogers has moved to 750 Mississippi River Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55116. 651-696-3220.

## *One Great Hour of Sharing*

This collection will be received on Sunday, March 17. For more than 50 years, members of the United Church of Christ and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have joined with Christians throughout the nation in supporting One Great Hour of Sharing, responding to Christ's love for all people by joyfully sharing that love with people in need. The refugee and the stranger, and those stunned by the aftermath of natural disasters and war, have found food and safe shelter. The hundreds of millions of dollars given over the last half-century have enabled a powerful witness to the love of the One who came that all might have life more abundantly. Offering envelopes are included in the April newsletter, mailed to those who receive the newsletter electronically, and will also be available at church.

## *CPUC Hosting Writers' Workshop*

A *Seasons of the Spirit* writer's workshop will be held March 7, 8, 9 and 10. This curriculum is a lectionary-based resource that began in 1987 as *The Whole People of God* and evolved in 2002 to become *Seasons*. It is an honor for a congregation to host this event. Cherokee Park United Church was chosen because its theology and social justice commitments are strongly in line with that of *Seasons*. CPUC participants include Okogyeamon (Herb) Perkins, Sandy Dodson, Kay Myhrman-Toso, Nancy Swanson and Pastor Tim. They will be joined by writers from other congregations.



Although much has changed from the early days of *Seasons*, we remain committed to the things that have inspired *Seasons* from the very beginning: our belief in the value of integrating worship, learning, and service; our passion for the arts; our hope that we can inspire the imagination by integrating current biblical scholarship with insights from science and technology, while at the same time respecting the wisdom found in our traditions; our commitment to listen to the many voices that make up the ecumenical church; and our need to remain grounded in the real-life, contemporary experiences and practices of congregations and parishes from around the world.

## **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



*The Celtic Knot* - because  
anything without a beginning and end  
is particularly frustrating to the devil.