



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 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
23	24	25	26 Choir 6:45	27	28	1 March NEW DATE Parent/ teacher/ leader enrichment 9-12 noon
2 -Foodshelf -Families Exploring Spirituality 9am - Faith Action Vigil 2:30 pm	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm	6 -Loaves and Fishes 3:30-6:30 pm -Faith Life 7 pm	7 Women's group 7 pm	8
9 1st Sunday of Lent -Sunday School	10	11	12 -Choir 6:45 - Lenten Justice Supper 5:30 pm	13 Day on the Hill Council 7pm	14	15
16 2nd Sunday of Lent -Sunday School	17	18	19 - Lenten Justice Supper 5:30 pm	20	21 Men's group 6:30 pm	22 -Habitat Build -Youth group to FMSC
23 3rd Sunday of Lent -Children's Music -Worship honoring Oscar Romero - Brunch	24	25	26 - Lenten Justice Supper 5:30 pm	27	28	29
30 4th Sunday of Lent	31	1 April	2 - Lenten Justice Supper 5:30 pm	3	4 Women's MOPR (prom) 7 pm	5
6-Families Exploring Spirituality 9 am	7	8	9	10	11	12

Foodshelf collection

Sunday, March 2

Please fill up our grocery cart destined for the Neighborhood House food shelf, especially during this annual March food drive. (And cash donations go three times as far as food can be purchased in bulk.)



Families Exploring Spirituality

Sunday March 2, 9-10 a.m.

This morning's gathering, led by Sandy Dodson and Tom Liddle, will deal with death and grief. These are part of life, yet families often aren't quite sure how to talk about these topics with their children. Ideally, families should be prepared to handle these realities, and the feelings that follow, before they experience this personal loss. We will explore these important issues and share some of the ways our faith tradition speaks to them.

Loaves and Fishes

Thursday, March 6, St. Matthew's Church

Feed the hungry. Join us for meal prep from 3:30 - 5 p.m., serve from 4:45 - 6:15 p.m., and/or clean up until 7 p.m. (at the latest). Young people are welcome to help. Please contact Michele Rehm Johnson. 651-222-5433 timmj@comcast.net

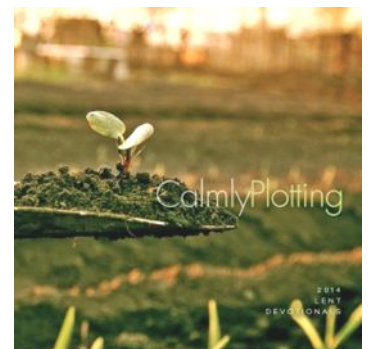
Women's discussion group

Friday, March 7, 7 p.m.

The Women's Discussion Group will meet at the home of Karen Hyers. Light refreshments and lively conversation will be shared. All women are welcome to attend.

Calmly Plotting

This Lenten daily devotional will be available at the church; suggested donation \$3.00.





Ash Wednesday Service

March 5 marks the beginning of our Lenten journey. Ash Wednesday is a time when we face our mortality and the brokenness in our lives and world, placing our trust in God's renewing spirit as we seek to live in faithfulness to a God of love and justice. The ashes remind us of our common humanity and the transforming power given to us through the way of the cross. The service begins at 7 p.m.

Fast so we all may feast on goodness

(Inspired by a reading on February 9, Isaiah 58:3-8)

Fast from judging others...	Feast on Christ dwelling in them.
Fast from anger.....	Feast on patience.
Fast from harsh words.....	Feast on phrases that give life.
Fast from gossip.....	Feast on purposeful silence.
Fast from pessimism.....	Feast on optimism.
Fast from lethargy.....	Feast on enthusiasm.
Fast from complaining.....	Feast on complimenting.
Fast from stress.....	Feast on unceasing prayer.
Fast from hostility.....	Feast on non-resistance.
Fast from bitterness.....	Feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self- concern.....	Feast on compassion for others.
Fast from discouragement.	Feast on hope.
Fast from negatives.....	Feast on affirmation.
Fast from suspicion.....	Feast on truth.
Fast from sorrow.....	Feast on serenity.
Fast from fear.....	Feast on trust in God.
Fast from self pity.....	Feast on joy.
Fast from resentment.....	Feast on contentment.
Fast from jealousy.....	Feast on gratitude.
Fast from selfishness.....	Feast on service.

Justice and Witness Opportunities



Please join the CPUC Justice and Witness Ministry to support the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition's **Day on the Hill on Thursday, March 13**. JRLC is the oldest, largest, and most inclusive inter-faith advocacy coalition in Minnesota. Their advocacy priorities include increasing family economic security and improving the impartiality of Minnesota's courts. The Day on the Hill will include a policy briefing, a large event in the Capitol Rotunda, and individual meetings with legislators in support of JRLC's agenda. More information and registration is available

at <http://www.jrlc.org/day-on-the-hill> or by contacting Andy Barnett at 612-490-8398.

Mark Your Calendars! Ten to twelve Cherokee Park volunteers are needed to help build a home with **Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, March 22**. No special skills or experience is required, but volunteer need to be at least 16 years old. The workday will be from 8:30 to 4:00. Please contact Andy Barnett if you are interested in volunteering.



Want to try a new spiritual discipline for Lent this year? A handwritten letter to elected officials is still one of the most powerful ways to act for justice. During Lent, Cherokee's Justice and Witness Ministry will host a simple meal, a brief time of worship and a chance for you to write letters about justice issues that are on your heart. Join us **Wednesday evenings beginning March 12 from 5:30 - 6:45**, in Fellowship Hall for the nourishment of food, fellowship and the opportunity for mutual support in advocating for justice.



Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers are crying out against you (James 5:4). Please help show Minnesota legislators that a \$9.50 minimum wage bill is an act of **economic justice** by attending a **rally** at the **State Capitol rotunda February 25th at 4:00**.

Youth group

We will join others in assembling meal packets at Feed My Starving Children (<http://www.fmssc.org/>) in Eagan on **Saturday, March 22**. This non-profit Christian organization is committed to feeding God's children, hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals that are specifically formulated for malnourished children, and then the meals are shipped to nearly 70 countries around the world. We will meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. and return at 11:30 a.m.



In February, Cherokee Park United Church youth served as ushers at the Steppingstone Theater, followed by an opportunity to see the play *The Black Snowman* and then back to the church for discussion and a pizza.



Stories for Children of All Ages

The February story was read by Sara (and sung by Pastor Tim). Bob Marley's "One Love," encourages our total love, encompassing each other and all of creation.

Families Exploring Spirituality

April 6 edition hints from Susan's supply list:

Egg cartons, plastic eggs, scissors, felt, flannelboard, hidden symbols, snack, Jesus story from the garden, to Calvary, and beyond. It will be "eggstra" special.



Pepper says "thanks"
to the Antiracism Ministry Team
for the great pancake breakfast.

Celebrating the life of Archbishop Oscar Romero

On **Sunday, March 23** we will lift up and honor, as part of our Sunday worship, the life of El Salvador's Archbishop, Oscar Romero, who was assassinated on March 24, 1980, while saying Mass.

Romero is often considered the Martin Luther King, Jr. of many people in the Americas and around the world. Although not formally recognized as a saint by the Catholic Church, much like with the Celtic Christian tradition, ordinary people have claimed him a saint by virtue of the powerful example and witness he gave to the love and justice proclaimed by Jesus.

Romero's assassination came amidst a 12-year civil war that took thousands of lives, including untold numbers who disappeared, and many massacres of communities. The Salvadoran military, including their covert death squads, were heavily funded and trained by the U.S., as was the case in many Central and South American countries in the 1980s and 1990s. 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.

Cherokee Park United's celebration of Romero is an outgrowth of our joint ministry CCE (Comunidades Construyendo Esperanza – Communities Building Hope) undertaken with local Salvadorans who are now part of the West Side community. One of the



participants in CCE is Pastor Porfirio Martinez, who was a priest active in El Salvador during the time of the civil war, and one of a dozen priests working with Romero. Pastor Martinez and his fellow priests served in poor villages, teaching the people a new model for being the church called Base Christian Communities, and proclaiming a theology of liberation for the people. Base Christian Communities rely heavily on lay leadership and develop the capacity of the community for reflecting on the Gospel and then acting on the Gospel. Organizing cooperatively for a better life and speaking out against injustice, was perceived as a threat by the military Junta. On May 31, 1980, an armed militia entered the San Jose Carrizal, Ostuma, the village Pastor Martinez served from 1972 – 1978, massacring children, men and women. Many of those who survived fled the area and only in recent years have begun returning, seeking to rebuild their communities and lives.

The brunch fundraisers organized by CCE enable Cherokee Park United Church to be in partnership with brothers and sisters from Ostuma, El

Salvador, as they seek to rebuild from the devastation brought by the militia and years of civil war. Through our efforts we have contributed to creating a Molina (corn mill) as an important source of development in El Carrizal. A project presently being supported is the development of pineapple farming.

CCE is a spirit-infused ministry that began in 2012 when Pastor Martinez asked if Cherokee Park United Church would be a clothing donation site for the people of El Salvador following torrential rains and mud slides that caused much damage and loss of life in the country. This is the same year that Pastor Tim and Glen Herrington-Hall participated in a United Theological Seminary Global Justice Study trip to El Salvador led by Dr. Chris Smith, a member of CPUC. Through conversation with Pastor Porfirio and other interested members of the church, the vision of CCE began to emerge.

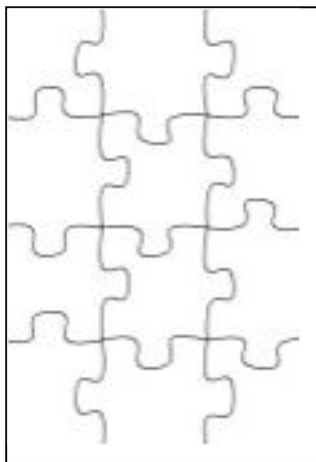
The goals of CCE include the following:

1. Working toward economic justice – reflected by our collaboration with the people of Ostuma.
2. Working toward immigration justice – reflected by our monthly participation in vigils for detained immigrants held at the Ramsey County jail.
3. Enabling the faith formation of Cherokee Park United Church, other Salvadoran supportive communities and Salvadorans in Minnesota, deepening their awareness of justice as central to faith and strengthening them in the struggles.

The service on March 23 will be bilingual and incorporate world music from our hymnal, response repertoire and the Salvadoran Folk Mass, which was written in honor of Romero five months after his assassination. The guest preacher will be Marta, a lay woman now living in Minnesota, who experienced first hand the brutality of the civil war, but also had her faith and life transformed when she met Monsignor Romero. Pastor Porfirio Martinez will co-officiate communion with Pastor Tim.

A Chicken and Rice Brunch will follow the service. The Brunch is hosted by CCE. The fundraiser provides resources for our continuing support of two communities in Ostuma who are presently working to rebuild following the devastation of the long civil war.





Puzzlers

There are at least four more weeks of Winter, and you are out of interesting jigsaw puzzles. Or has this long winter increased the stack of puzzles in the closet, in the corner, or even on the dining room table.

The women's gathering is organizing a Puzzle Exchange and Lending Library. For five Sundays, beginning **Sunday, March 2**, bring in puzzles you are ready to pass on or are willing to lend. Add to the collection in the Fellowship Hall throughout the month.

Please mark clearly if you wish to have a particular puzzle returned to you. For example, "Please return to Ann Smith"; unmarked puzzles are ready to be passed on "for keeps." (Indicate on the box if there are any missing pieces.) After April 6, all puzzles remaining will be returned to the original owner if labeled, or donated. Let us know if you have a suggestion for donation destination.

In the spirit of Reduce-Reuse-Recycle, we suggest you take home fewer puzzles than you brought in. You don't have to bring in any puzzles to participate in this sharing.

Contacts: Joanne Sylvander & Kathy Bergthold



Chasing Ice

If you were not able to join us last Sunday for the showing of this highly acclaimed, 70-minute documentary, you are invited to borrow the video for home viewing.

Chasing Ice, produced in 2012, follows the efforts of photographer, James Balog, and his *Extreme Ice Survey* to publicize the effects of climate change. The film was directed by Jeff Orlowski and released in the United States on November 16, 2012. There is a sign-up sheet at church for borrowing the video; it

is also available on Netflix for any who have a subscription.

Wishing speedy recoveries

Jill and Mary share their stories of broken bones and pesky casts. Although not received while participating in "Crashed Ice," the falls were still a memorable, but hopefully not to be repeated, winter experience.



Invitation for all women

Who is your date for the MORP?

(prom, backwards)

Friday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.

It's almost spring, possibly bringing (back) thoughts of The Prom! Who will I go with? What will I wear?



This year, you are lucky—it's a MORP, and anything goes! So put this date on your calendar, imagine wearing whatever your heart desires, and consider what woma/en you will invite to join you in this evening of revelry and re-imagining.

You might wear what you could have worn "back in the day" or perhaps this backwards theme inspires you.

There's likely a woman you've seen at church but have not yet engaged in discussion; gather up your courage and meet her at the coat racks or coffee table (our version of the lockers or cafeteria) and invite her to be your "date." Or come as a single, or a triple—any constellation fits in at a MORP.

Of course there will be music and munchies, punch and a promenade, options without objections, remembrances without regrets.

All this happens at CPUC: 7:00 p.m., lights out at 10:00 p.m.
(Sorry, no overnight activities nor a breakfast at 4 a.m.)

Contact Joanne Sylvander if you have questions and/or you want to help put this together.

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

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

Cherokee Park United Church

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

Open & Affirming, Multicultural, Antiracist

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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

*God is to be found not by stepping aside from the flow of daily life
into religious moments and environments,
or by looking away from creation to a spiritual realm beyond,
but rather by entering the depths
of the present moment.*

John Philip Newell, The Book of Creation