



## **Cherokee Park United Church**

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

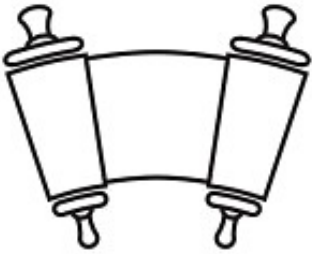
A Progressive Congregation  
Theological Elbow Room  
Global Music  
Community Connected  
Kid Friendly

***Newsletter February 2015***

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>1 Feb</b> -Families Exploring Spirituality 9 am - Adult forum -Confirmation group 3:30-5 pm	2	3	4 Choir 6:45	5	6 Women's Group 7 pm	7
8 -Adult forum -Sunday School -Confirmation group 3:30-5 pm	9	10	11 Choir 6:45	12 Council 7 pm	13 CCE 4-5:30 pm	14 <b>Mardi Gras 7-11 pm</b>
15 -Adult forum -Sunday School -Confirmation group 5-7 pm at CPUC	16	17 Faith Life 7 pm	18 Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm	19 ??Ministry Chairs 7 pm	20 Men's Group 7 pm	21
<b>22 First Sunday Lent</b> -Adult forum -Children's music 9:15-9:45 -Youth to YPC 2 pm	23	24 Antiracism 6:45 pm	25 Choir 6:45	26 Justice & Witness 7 pm	27	28
<b>1 March</b> -Foodshelf - Adult forum -Faith Action Vigil 2:30 pm	2	3	4 Choir 6:45	5 Loaves & Fishes	6	7
8 -Adult forum -Sunday School	9	10 Day on the Hill	11 Choir 6:45	12	13	14 Habitat for Humanity 8:30-4:00
15 -Adult forum -Sunday School	16	17	18 Choir 6:45	19	20	21
22 Children's music 9:15-9:45	23	24	25 Choir 6:45	26	27	28
<b>29 Palm Sunday</b> Families Exploring Spirituality 9 am	30	31	<b>1 April</b> Choir 6:45	2 Maunday Thursday Service 7 pm	3	4
<b>5 Easter Sunday</b> -Breakfast 8:30						

## *Families Exploring Spirituality - What's in the Bible?*

**Sunday, February 1, 9:00-10:00 a.m.**

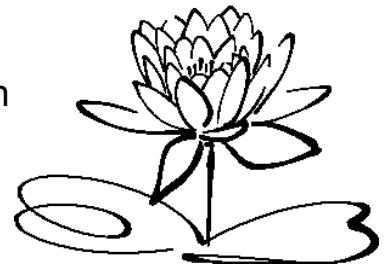


Glen Harrington-Hall has graciously agreed to lead this family session on exploring the Bible. Can we reduce a seminary, multiple-year study into a one-hour lesson understandable to a seven-year old? Join us in Fellowship Hall, and see!

## *Women's Discussion Group*

**Friday, February 6, 7:00 p.m.**

The women's group will meet at the home of Karen Shatek. Join us for lively conversation and light refreshments. Park in our driveway, or other side of street.



## *Foodshelf Collection*

**Sunday, February 1**

Please fill up our grocery cart destined for the Neighborhood House food shelf, this month and especially next month for the annual March food drive. (And cash donations go three times as far, as food can be purchased in bulk.) For many families, personal care items for teens such as shampoo, deodorant, and toothpaste are especially needed.

## *Faith Action Vigil*

**Sunday February 1, 2:30-3:00 p.m.**

This monthly vigil at the Ramsey County Adult Detention Center, 425 Grove St., St. Paul is held to support immigrant detainees and their families and to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform. Contact: Joanne Sylvander

## *Men's Discussion Group*

**Friday, February 20, 6:30 p.m.**

All men are invited to the home of Mike Bates starting with a light meal at 6:30 p.m.

## *Mardi Gras Celebration*

**Saturday, February 14, 7:00-11:00 p.m.**

Adults are invited to join Cherokee Park United Church and friends for its first Mardi Gras celebration featuring live Dixieland and Mardi Gras music, dancing, and a full spread of Cajun, Creole, and Brazilian foods. Tickets (\$12) purchased before February 7 are eligible for a special door prize drawing. Events include mask-making and stage humor; damsels, **pirates** and other costumed characters are welcomed and encouraged.



**Pirate Jack Sparrow and brothers Lon and Tim**



### *Re-Lent*

This Lenten daily devotional will be available at the church; suggested donation \$5.00.

### *Ash Wednesday Service 7 p.m.*

February 18 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.

## *Loaves and Fishes*

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

After a four-month "vacation," we are again providing a meal for about 100 hungry people at St. Matthew's Church. Helpers are needed to prepare the meal from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m., serve from 4:45 - 6:15 p.m., and/or clean up until 7:00 p.m. Young people are welcome to volunteer. Contact Michele Johnson at [timmj@comcast.net](mailto:timmj@comcast.net) or 651-222-5433. 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.



## *Children's Communion Preparation*

Children at CPUC are always invited to receive communion and there is no rule on the amount of preparation needed or on the age. This is left to the discretion of the parents, but periodically the Faith Life Ministry offers a communion preparation class for anyone interested. We have one family who would like to attend this, and if you are interested to join in, please contact Susan Strebisg so we can find a time that works best.



## *Praying With Letters*

**Lenten Wednesday evenings starting February 25, 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.**

Try a new spiritual discipline for Lent this year. Please join us in Fellowship Hall for the nourishment of food, fellowship and the opportunity for mutual support in advocating for justice.

A handwritten letter to elected officials is still one of the most powerful ways to act for justice. The 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 in your heart. There will be resources available focused on a particular justice theme each week. February 25 will be environmental justice with resources from Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light. March 4 will focus on economic justice. March 11 highlights justice in Minnesota with resources from Joint Religious Legislative Advocacy. March 18 offers immigration justice resources from Isaiah and March 25 is open to all of the above. People are also encouraged to write letters of advocacy for other concerns to which they feel called.



## *Habitat for Humanity Build*

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

Mark Your Calendars! Eight to ten Cherokee Park volunteers are needed to help renovate a home with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. No special skills or experience is required, but volunteers need to be at least 16 years old. Please contact Andy Barnett if you are interested in volunteering.

Deadline for newsletter articles is the 22nd of the prior month. Please contact editor Susan Strebisg at [kellystrebisg@comcast.net](mailto:kellystrebisg@comcast.net) or 651-457-1404.

The newsletter team also consists of: pre-publishing fact editor Phyllis Clark, copyeditor Sara Strebisg Pedersen, collate/mail team Phyllis and Cal Clark; winter team Kathy Berghold & Stefan Sylvander



## *Play Ball!*

It's time to get out those balls, bats, and gloves and share the All-American game of baseball with the youth of San Jose Carrizal, a small base-community, started by Pastor Porfirio in late 1970's and early 1980's, in Santa Maria Ostuma, El Salvador. Look through your closets, storage chests, under the beds for the baseball equipment you aren't likely to use again and bring it to our collection in Fellowship Hall.

These brothers and sisters are survivors of a massacre during their country's civil war. Bundy and Porfirio visited them in January 2013 and we support a number of projects thru micro-grants to build their molino, retaining wall and their pineapple/papaya project.

Please help support this community in their efforts to provide meaningful activities for their youth by building a baseball team for the young women and a soccer team for the young men. Contact: Joanne Sylvander

## *Thank You, Ione*

At our last worship service in January, time was taken to express gratitude to Ione Butler, our Music Ministry Director for 13 years. She has been a vital part of our worship experience, helping us fulfill our mission to honor all cultures by leading us in music from many lands. She has fostered the talents and musical offerings of anyone with a wish to do so, from semi-professional to earnest amateur, and from ages seven to seventy, and beyond! And her gentleness and ready smile have welcomed us and encouraged us to do our best at worship and every area of service. She also has been a wonderful spiritual guide on our church retreats, and it is to this vocation that the Spirit guides her now, as she leaves us.



## *Music Ministry Transition*

A transition team has been created by the church council to secure interim music leadership, and to hire a new Music Ministry Director. Members are Joanne Sylvander, Andy Barnett, Glen Herrington-Hall, Karen Hyers, Jim Shatek, Jerome Graf and Pastor Tim. With input from Ione they will revise the position description and post the position opening on various websites. The team has contracted with Andy Barnett as interim director responsible for rehearsing the choir, and music selection. Sara Zanusi has been contracted as accompanist; she is presently the founding director of Commusication, a youth-focused music program in St. Paul. Andy and Sara will continue in these interim roles through Easter with the possibility of extending if needed.

## *Justice and Witness Opportunities*

**Day on the Hill, Tuesday, March 10, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

There are a number of faith-based groups holding events during the 2015 MN Legislative Session, providing a well-supported opportunity for you to meet with your state legislators, become more engaged in the world of public policy, and witness for justice at the state capitol. For many years, CPUC has supported the advocacy efforts of the **Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC)**. Their agenda for this year's legislative session includes economic justice, voting rights restoration, human trafficking, and judicial elections, and it will include breakfast and lunch, issue briefings, and group meetings by district with representatives.



**Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light 2015 Day at the Capitol**

**Monday, February 2, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

The Justice and Witness Ministry is in process of meeting with the leadership of the Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light organization ([www.mnopl.org](http://www.mnopl.org)) to consider an ongoing collaboration. (see [www.mnopl.org](http://www.mnopl.org)). The Day at the Capitol agenda includes the Clean Energy and Jobs Campaign, calling on our legislators to support a responsible Minnesota Clean Energy Plan by increasing the Renewable Energy Standard. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. in the church sanctuary of Christ Lutheran Church, 105 University Ave. St Paul, followed by Clean Energy Training at 9:30, meeting with your legislators at 11:00, and Interfaith Prayer Circle from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Even if you can't come to the whole day, please join us for this important opportunity to bring a moral voice to this work as we gather to lift up our witness and power through prayer and song for a healthy, sustainable future for all. Also throughout the day there will be activities in the fellowship hall including writing letters to the editor, hearing more from policy experts, participating in a community art project, and more! It's going to be a powerful day to join together and call for the clean energy future we know is possible. Please contact Andy Barnett for more information about these opportunities.

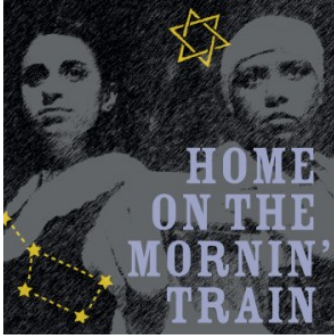
### **ISAIAH**

The Justice and Witness team is exploring a potential partnership with this faith based advocacy group mobilizing for racial and economic equity in Minnesota. ISAIAH believes in the power of acting collectively in ways that are consistent with our faith values and the principles of democracy. Last fall ISAIAH conducted a Prophetic Voters campaign during the mid-term elections to reach out to those least likely to vote, not through a partisan effort, but through engaging voters around their deepest faith values and dreams for their communities, including economic dignity, racial justice, and the inclusion of all in our democracy.

Currently, ISAIAH is inviting churches to bring their members to the Capitol to engage in legislative visits, on a Tuesday or Thursday from February 19 to March 26. This would be a good opportunity to become more familiar with ISAIAH and their advocacy efforts. <http://www.isaiah-mn.org/>

## *Home on the Mornin' Train*

**CPUC Youth Group Event — February 22, 2015, 2:00 p.m.**



Join us for this outstanding Youth Performance Company presentation at the Howard Conn Fine Arts Center, Plymouth Congregational Church. This remarkable play follows two intertwined stories of courage and faith—the path of a Jewish girl in WWII Germany and the journey of a young runaway slave in the Deep South in the early 1800's. It examines the unflagging search for freedom that unites us, even across oceans and country-sides.

We have purchased tickets at a group rate of \$10/person plus \$1.75 convenience fee. Pretty good deal! Reserve your ticket NOW from Sandy Dodson.

## *Antiracism Study Dialogue Circles (ASDIC)*

**Saturdays, March 7-May 16, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**



Cherokee Park United Church is again hosting an ASDIC Metamorphosis Circle. This reflective, interactive dialogue series is designed for those seeking to better understand the ways race and racism operate in our lives. ASDIC Circles enable greater clarity of thinking, strength of relationship, and effectiveness of action in addressing systemic racism. Each week (but no meeting April 4) participants gather to create a safe place for risk-taking, community formation, and acting with care and confidence.

We are able to offer this training to two members at a much-reduced rate of \$150 because of our involvement and support for this group. (Corporations pay \$1400 per person.) Many of our congregation's leaders have participated and find it especially helpful and transformative for their impact on awareness and action.



ASDIC Circles also can now be taken for university/college credit through Metropolitan State University, Urban Studies Program, and School of Education, offering college or seminary students or ASDIC circle participants to take the ASDIC Antiracism Circle as a graduate or undergraduate course for three (3) units of credit; those students will follow assignments specifically designed to meet designed Course Outcomes. For more information contact Okogeanman at 651-558-0452, [hperkins01@gmail.com](mailto:hperkins01@gmail.com) or

Margery Otto, 952-334-3149, [margeryotto@gmail.com](mailto:margeryotto@gmail.com).

See registration on next page.



**ASDIC Circle —Spring 2015 — Ten Sessions**  
**Dates: Saturdays, March 7<sup>th</sup> through May 16<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m.**  
**Location: 371 West Baker St, Saint Paul MN 55107**

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Telephone number</b>	
<b>E-mail address</b>	
<b>Mailing address</b>	
<b>Organization or affiliation</b>	
<b>Dietary preferences: (indicate vegetarian, vegan, allergies)</b>	
<b>Special accommodations needed</b>	

**Certificates of Completion for Continuing Education Units** available on request.

Register me for this ASDIC Circle as follows:

- ☐ \$1,400 – Corporate Staff Development Participant
- ☐ \$920 – Non-Profit or Governmental Staff Development Participant
- ☐ \$350 – Individual Participant (may be paid in three payments): For need-based, see below.
- ☐ I am interested in a need-based scholarship; I will call Okogyeamon at 612-558-0452 or send an email to him at hperkins01@gmail.com.
- ☐ I am enclosing an additional amount as a donation to support the scholarship fund. Such donations are tax deductible as provided by law.
- ☐ I plan to attend all TEN sessions.  
(A non-refundable deposit of \$50 is required with this *Registration Form* unless other arrangements are made.)

Checks should be made payable to “**Cherokee Park United Church, Fiscal Agent for ASDIC**” and mailed to **ASDIC Antiracism Study-Dialogue Circles, 371 Baker Street West, St. Paul MN 55107** or emailed to Margery Otto at margeryotto@gmail.com. For inquiries, contact Okogyeamon at 612-558-0452 or hperkins01@gmail.com. Thank you for your commitment to being part of ASDIC Metamorphosis!

**This ASDIC Circle is sponsored with the support of Cherokee Park United Church, [www.cherokeeparkunited.org](http://www.cherokeeparkunited.org).**



**Host: Cherokee Park United Church**

## **Mardi Gras Celebration**

**Saturday, February 14, 2015**

**7:00-11:00 p.m. Tickets \$12**

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

Information:

Okogyeamon – 612-558-0452

**You are invited to join us for the First Annual  
Mardi Gras Celebration at Cherokee Park Church**

**Fun for All – Adults – Couples Night Out!**

**Get your tickets by February 8, 2015 to be  
registered for a special door prize**

- Full spread of Cajun, Creole & Brazilian food – serving begins 7:15 p.m.
- Live Dixieland & Brazilian Mardi Gras and Carnival music!
- Dancing, Door Prizes, Stage Humor!
- Costumes are welcome & encouraged. Make a mask at the event.

**Costumes and Masks – Welcomed and Encouraged!**

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# Cherokee Park United Church Annual Leader's Retreat

## *The Rebirthing of God*

### Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings

Friday and Saturday, February 27 & 28

at ARC Ecumenical Retreat Center, Stanchfield, MN



**Focus:** The retreat will provide an opportunity for leaders of Cherokee Park United Church to reflect on how our community of faith can be and is part of a fresh beginning for faith in our day. The primary resource for discussion will be *The Rebirthing of God* by John Philip Newell. The

author is a peacemaker and scholar who draws from the tradition of Celtic spirituality with a great affinity toward all traditions that share an awareness of the sacredness in all of life. He argues that Christianity in its present form is dying and something new is ready to be born. He draws on modern prophets from East and West who are showing the way, including Thomas Berry, Aung San Suu Kye, Mary Oliver, Bede Griffiths, Thomas Merton, Mahatma Ghandi, Carl Yung and Simone Weil. A copy of the book will be provided to all participants. It will not be necessary to have read the book. Brief summaries will be provided for discussion.

**Location:** It will take place at the ARC Retreat Center, a wonderful old lodge in a beautiful wooded setting near Cambridge, Minnesota, known for its superb vegetarian cooking! Linens are provided. There will be time for hiking on the grounds, fellowship and just relaxing.

**Who should attend:** Council members, ministry chairs and other leaders, as well as all interested members and friends. **Cost:** \$120 per person, which includes over-night accommodations and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. The cost also includes a copy of "Rebirthing God." Scholarships are available on request for whatever amount is needed. Contact Pastor Tim.

**Time and Travel:** The retreat will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday with dinner and conclude by 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. Those wishing to car pool should be at the church by 4:00 p.m. on Friday.

\_\_\_ **Yes**, I would like to attend the Leader's Retreat on February 27 & 28.

Enclosed is my \$20.00 deposit. \_\_\_ **Yes**, I plan to car pool. \_\_\_ **No**, I will drive on my own. **Do you have special dietary needs or restrictions?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please specify: Vegetarian, gluten-free, allergies, etc.)

**Email address** \_\_\_\_\_ (requested by the ARC)

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **\*Please return to Pastor Tim by Feb. 1**

## **Cherokee Park United Church**

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

Open & Affirming, Multicultural, Antiracist

651-227-4275

[cpuc@usfamily.net](mailto:cpuc@usfamily.net)

[cherokeeparkunited.org](http://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



Don't wait to see the evidence  
that God's good news is coming.  
*Be the evidence*  
that God's good news is already here!  
*Jared A. Rardin*