



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 November 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 Nov <i>All Saints</i> <i>2 a.m.- Move clock back, one hour</i> -Families Exploring Spirituality 9 am -Youth fellowship pancake breakfast -Immigration Vigil 2:30-3 pm	2	3	4 Choir rehearsal 6:45 pm	5 Loaves & Fishes*	6 Women's group 7 pm	7
8 -Sunday School -Presentation after fellowship	9 Worship Mtg 7 pm	10 Presbytery	11 Choir 6:45 pm	12	13 Overcoming Racism Conference	14 Overcoming Racism Conference
15 Sunday School	16	17	18 Choir 6:45 pm	19	20	21
22 -Youth music 9 am -Pledge Sunday -Pancake brunch	23	24	25 (No choir)	26 Thanksgiving	27	28 Hanging of the Greens
29 First Sunday of Advent	30	1 Dec	2 Choir 6:45 pm	3	4 Women's group 7 pm	5
6 -Families Exploring Spirituality 9-10 am -Immigration Vigil 2:30-3 pm	7	8	9 Choir 6:45 pm	10	11	12
13 -Sunday School -Gifts due Ramsey Family	14 Worship Mtg 7 pm	15	16 Choir 6:45 pm	17	18	19
20 -Sunday School -Gospel Nativity -Christmas Dinner & Caroling	21	22	23 Choir 6:45 pm?	24 Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day	26

Save the Date: Leaders' retreat Friday-Saturday, February 26-27, 2016

Families Exploring Spirituality - Learning to Love

November 1, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

How do we learn to love? How do we experience love? How do we share love? How do we know God's love? Together we will share memories, stories, and crafts that help us answer those questions. On this All Saints Remembrance Sunday, our time together will include building a family tree with people who have helped pass onto us the experience of love. We will be building on the Scripture reading for worship which include the story of Ruth and Naomi, Ruth 1-18 and Jesus' love commandment, Mark 12:28-34. This is an opportunity for families to share in questions of faith, providing resources with which they might continue the conversation at home.



All Saints Remembrance

Our congregation, along with many others, uses the first Sunday of November to remember those special people who have died during the past year. Note cards will be made available during worship on which you may write the name(s) of persons you would like remembered, named and honored.

Youth Brunch Fundraiser

The youth of Cherokee Park United Church will host brunch as a fundraiser following worship on November 1. Proceeds will help support their activities in 2015/16. The Faith Life Ministry and Council support the desire of parents to remove any financial barriers to events by working with the youth to host three fundraisers during the year to help meet expenses.

Youth Activity

Youth are invited to Vertical Endeavors on Sunday, **November 15** — last year's event there was a hit, so a repeat was requested. We can climb from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and enjoy snacks from 5:30-6:00 p.m. The fee is \$18 per climber, but there is no charge for children attending Cherokee Park United Church.

Loaves and Fishes (and Toothpaste and Shampoo)

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

The Loaves and Fishes Ministry invites you to help as volunteers with the meal prep from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m., serving from 4:45 - 6:15 p.m., and/or clean up until 7 p.m. (at the latest) at St. Matthew's Church. Young people are welcome. Also please see the collection box in Fellowship Hall for any toiletries you might be able to donate. To volunteer please contact Michelle Rehm Johnson.



Women's Discussion Group

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

We will meet at the home of Lynne Bates.

Inquirer's Class

Anyone considering membership or wanting to learn more about the church is invited to an informal gathering on Sundays, **November 8, 15, & 22**, from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Drawing on the work of Marcus Borg in his most recent book "Convictions," we will explore some of the theological foundations for ministry at Cherokee Park United Church. Information covered will also include the two denominations to which we belong, how they differ, how they are the same, the distinctiveness of CPUC, the various ministries and functioning of the church. Please contact Pastor Tim. Child-care can be provided on request.

Men's Group

CPUC men are invited to join us on Friday, November 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Lanny Bergthold.



Help Sponsor a Family in Need

CPUC is again bringing Christmas joy to a family living in Ramsey County. You are invited to sign up to purchase a toy or clothing for children (suggested range \$20-\$30) or clothing for adults (suggested range \$30-\$50). A sign-up sheet is available at the Baker St. entrance on November 22. All gifts are to be brought to the church by Sunday, December 13. Cash donations are needed as well. Please have a gift receipt with the gift and clearly put the name of the gift recipient on the gift. It is suggested you include a note, "From your friends at Cherokee Park United Church."



Pancake Brunch

Sunday, November 22

The Antiracism Team will hold a fundraiser following worship. Proceeds will help support their work, which in 2015 will include the second annual authentic Mardi Gras celebration on Saturday, February 6. Please join us for a time of fellowship and support for this important work.

Church Member News

Jon Butler and Sophie Le Meur are participating in the Minnesota Youth Symphony concert on November 15, 2:00 p.m. at Bethel College.

Finance Ministry Update

Members and friends will be mailed a letter with details about the 2016 budget and a pledge form for the coming year. Please return your pledge by **November 22**.

Our blessings: + Donations are generally on track.
+ We presently have a modest reserve.

Our challenges: - It is difficult to know where we will be at year-end due to variable giving patterns. December is always our biggest giving month, but it is difficult to forecast the level of giving.
- We are eager to remain both spiritually and fiscally strong in this time of anticipating and planning for Pastoral change. Both will be vital in finding the leadership that will help us continue to grow as a community of faith.

Tax-savings strategy for giving: If you donate appreciated stock or mutual funds directly to the church, you can receive the full charitable deduction without paying capital gains tax on the appreciation. Several of our members take advantage of this tax strategy thereby stretching their giving dollars. See Lynne Bates or Ingrid Fleming if you would like more information.

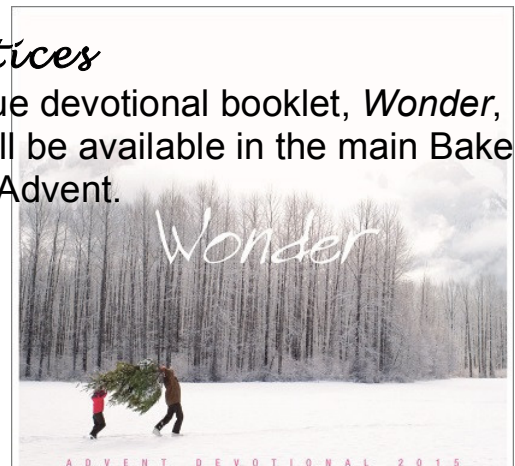


Hanging of the Greens

Help us prepare the way for the season of Advent on Saturday, November 29, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The sanctuary and social hall are adorned with greens and other special decorations. This is a wonderful tradition at CPUC. Light refreshments will be served to support our work and celebrate our community together as we start a new church year. Sign-up form in the entry and social hall.

Preparing For Christmas - Best Practices

Deepen your Advent experience by reading the unique devotional booklet, *Wonder*, from the UCC Stillspeaking Writers Group. Copies will be available in the main Baker Street entrance by November 29, the first Sunday in Advent. Suggested donation- \$5.00.



Families Exploring Spirituality

**Sundays, November 29 &
December 6, 9:00-10:00 a.m.**

Looking for ways to celebrate the Advent season that go deeper than sales and Santa? Join us as we become better acquainted with Advent, the Christian church season that teaches us about preparing and purposeful waiting. Led by Heidi Van Schooten and Jen Folkers, this will be an opportunity for families to draw on the resources of Advent and share in preparation for the Gospel Nativity as told by the children on Sunday, December 20th.



Wisdom and Love

Quite a few of our church family members have taken off beyond the Minnesota and U.S. borders this past month. Here they share a bit of their experiences.

Renee and Wayne



We did not have to wait for their return to hear about their adventures, as Renee offered a blog to follow, and follow we did. They traveled to

five South American countries, starting on the Amazon River, and ending at Machu Pichu and then Lima. From hot and muggy to high altitudes with less oxygen, Wayne's fluent Portuguese and Spanish (and Renee's ability to nod and smile in several languages) carried them through. Hopefully there will be a synopsis ready for the next newsletter.

Joanne and Stefan



Last year in September we spent an afternoon in Nogales, Sonoro, Mexico visiting *Hogar de Esperanza y Paz - HEPAC - The House of Hope & Peace*, and other places that served people who have been deported "dumped" across the border. We returned this September to spend time with the women of Casas Adobes UCC and helped them with a successful Fiesta celebration and sales event with the women from Nogales. We traveled into Mexico three times; the first day we helped to serve lunch to the 80 -90 children who come before or after their school day; then Stefan made the rounds of the property, drafting jobs and a shopping list for our next visits. The second week we were unable to go because of the rains - the streets were washed out. The third and fourth

weeks, we brought tools; Stefan began electric work in the shop area used for skill training; Joanne played with the kids and talked with the HEPAC director, Jeannette, and Scott Nicholson, our Global Ministries Missioner living there. Tito made sure we were not lost, interpreted for us and assured us over and over that we were most welcome at all times. We always left with the hope/promise "See you next time."

Needlework for Nogales Children (N4NC) at Casas Adobes Congregational Church UCC in Tucson, AZ, began as a group who wanted to help children in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico by donating handmade items to HEPAC. After doing the handiwork for a time, one of them said "...why not teach the mothers of these children how to do this?" Over two years have passed and their students/friends are knitting, crocheting and sewing, earning extra income for their families. They make necklaces (pictured below), scarves, hats and cloth purses, recycle plastic grocery bags to make small clutch purses, and continue to improve their skills.



Proceeds from the sale of the necklaces are distributed back to the women of "Mujeres Unidos de HEPAC", a nonprofit community center

in the impoverished neighborhood of Bella Vista in Nogales, Sonora— just three miles south of the Mexico/U.S. border. HEPAC strives to create a healthy community where citizens do not feel that their only choice for survival is to risk their lives in the desert in an attempt to immigrate to the United States. Maquiladoras, or manufacturing plants, employ a large percentage of the population of Nogales. Unfortunately, wages in the maquiladoras are very low, only paying about \$5.00 a day. You can support this good cause by purchasing these beautiful necklaces; they are light-weight, non-metallic, and length-adjustable. Purchase for \$10 from Joanne and at the time of their presentation.

Presentation: You are invited to linger after Fellowship following worship on Sunday November 15 when we will share some pictures and talk about our experiences and why we chose this way to increase our understanding and deepen our relationship with those who live and work on both sides of the border.

Julia

In early October, my mother, Lee Olmstead, and I traveled to Ireland for a week of walking. We are not particularly dedicated walkers, but we wanted to do a mother-daughter trip, and friends who had done "walking holidays" in Europe raved about them, so we thought – why not? The kids and I had recently watched the gorgeous Irish animated movie "Secret of Kells" and so Ireland

was on my mind. It was something of a whimsical choice.



Whimsy, it turns out, goes a long way in Ireland. In the end, we walked about 60 miles along the “Wicklow Way,” one of many marked walking trails in that country that cross public and private land. We averaged 10-15 miles a day, spending each of five nights at a different inn along the path (with a few days of tourism in Dublin on each end). A local tour company arranged our lodging and transported our luggage every morning, so we only had to carry a lunch, water, and our maps and guidebooks. That was a really good thing, because although I’d imagined our walk would be mostly strolling along country lanes and stopping regularly for tea, in reality it was a very demanding trek through very hilly, remote wilderness. No tea to be found anywhere. We were exhausted at the end of each day, ready for a big Irish supper and a pint of Guinness.

County Wicklow, just south of Dublin, is made up of sheep farms and steep, windswept, heathered moorland. It’s also the site of the ancient monastery, Glendalough, and is, coincidentally,

where Tim and Michelle lived during Tim’s sabbatical. Tim pointed this out to me before we left for our trip, and told me what a magical place it is. That sounded nice, but again, I was focused more on tea and sheep in my imaginings and less on magic and early Christian monuments, so I took his comments under advisement but didn’t think too much about the potential soulfulness of the journey. Fortunately, Ireland’s history and magic are so layered and thick and, well, magical, that the experience became a deeply meaningful one without me even trying.



When people ask me how the trip was, what I say most often is that it felt like home. We don’t have any Irish heritage that I know of, so it wasn’t “home” in that sense, but rather in the way the landscape felt deeply familiar, in how many of the people we met along the walking path and in shops and restaurants felt like instant friends, and in the deep comfort that was created by the rhythm of walking for hours at a time, just my mom and me, sometimes talking, sometimes quiet, seeing few people and marveling at the details – a



comically bright-red mushroom, the joyful song of an Irish robin, the turquoise blue of a lake.

Early one morning we set off from our bed and breakfast just outside of the monastic city of Glendalough, set in a glacial valley and framed by lakes and forested hills. Our path took us right past the ruins we had explored the previous afternoon, but this time it was early enough that none of the herds of tourists had yet arrived. It was quiet, there was a mist over everything, but the sun was coming in at a perfect angle, and I looked at my mom and knew she was thinking the same things I was – that we were lucky to be here, to do this together, and to be alive in a beautiful world. It was easy for me to see why St. Kevin had chosen that location in the 6th century – it is a magical landscape. And it amazed me to think that even thousands of years

ago when life was mostly a hardscrabble struggle to carve something out of the wilderness, that same wilderness could be a source of wonder just as it is for us today. I am certain that the wonder, awe, and reverence I felt there – truly a feeling of being in the presence of God – was the same feeling the monks experienced. I know that St. Kevin and I shared a timeless experience of feeling that some places, for reasons you can't quite put into words, just feel like home. I can't wait to go back.

Kathryn

Kathryn Price and Geoff Love were married in Algodones, New Mexico on September 29. It had been a dream of theirs to visit New Mexico, even before they met, and they began to consider being married there as well. When Kathryn finished a hospital chaplaincy internship in August and Geoff finished a contract position in September, they saw an opening in their schedule and they decided to elope!



They were married by candlelight in a 200 year-old adobe chapel. Kathryn wrote the prayer for the ceremony, which recalled a wish for goodness and kindness as the basis of their meeting.

Other highlights of the trip were visiting Ghost Ranch, known as Georgia O'Keeffe country, which is run by the Presbyterian Church as an education and retreat center, and exploring White Sands National Monument, the largest gypsum dune field in the world. Kathryn and Geoff hope they can visit New Mexico again next year.

Tom & Monica

On Sunday, November 8, Monica Liddle will be sharing about the ministry in which she and Tom will be re-engaging in East Timor. They had been involved in mission work there in 2003 and again in 2008-2011. They have been appointed as mission personnel to serve with the Protestant Church of East Timor, an established partner of our Common Global Ministries with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

This opportunity for Tom and Monica represents a deep and abiding call, an opportunity to return to a place they love. The church council has committed to raising \$1,500 annually over the next 3 years in support of their ministry; a special offering will be taken on Pledge Dedication Sunday, November 22.





Generations Working Together for Climate Action Now!

A weekend conference focusing on climate change solutions and citizenship empowerment with emphasis on youth, agriculture, faith, business, and government

Friday-Saturday-Sunday, **November 6-7-8**, 2015, Red Wing High School

<http://bit.ly/cclwind2015>

West Side Wonders



This community playgroup welcomes children ages 0-5 and their caregivers to play and chat. Enjoy toys, books, dramatic play, creative crafts and a simple snack (plus coffee for the grown-up.)

2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

November 11 - March 23 (only the 9th in December)

Cherokee Park United Church, Manomin entrance, downstairs playroom

Handicapped accessible

westsidewondersplaygroup@gmail.com

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

Erik Peregrine - Director of Music Ministry

Rebecca Knott - Nursery Supervisor

Andrew Gbaa - Custodian

Deadline for articles is the 20th of the month; please submit articles, ideas or feedback to editor Susan Strebig at kellystrebig@comcast.net or 651-457-1404.

The newsletter team also consists of copyeditor Sara Strebig Pedersen, collate/mail teams Phyllis & Cal Clark, Stefan Sylvander & Kathy Bergthold.

*Now and then it's good to pause
in our pursuit of happiness and
just be happy.*

Chinese fortune cookie