



## ***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 April 2016***

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
27 <i>Easter Sunday</i> Breakfast 8:30 Worship 10:15	28	29	30 Choir 6:45 pm	31	1 <i>April</i> Women's Group 7 pm	2
3-Food drive -Adult forum -Families Exploring Spirituality 9 am -Youth Fellowship Hour Pancakes -Faith Action Vigil 2:30 pm	4	5	6 -Choir 6:45 pm - Genocide Awareness 7 pm	7 -Ain Dah Yung fundraiser 5-7 pm -Prop Mgt Mtg 7 pm	8	9 <i>Open House honoring Pastor Tim 1-5 pm</i>
10 -Sunday School <i>-Honoring Pastor Tim at worship, and lunch following</i>	11	12	13 Choir 6:45 pm	14	15 Men's Group 6:30 pm	16 Youth at FMSC
17 -Adult Forum -Sunday School	18	19	20 Choir 6:45 pm	21	22 ArtFest opens	23 ArtFest exhibit
24 -Adult Forum -Children's music 9:15-9:45 -Fellowship hour vegetarian potluck	25	26	27 Choir 6:45 pm	28	29	30 Spring Clean-Up Fix-Up 9:30-2:30
1 <i>May</i> -Families Exploring Spirituality 9 am -Cinco de Mayo at Fellowship -Faith Action Vigil 2:30 pm	2	2	4 Choir 6:45 pm	5	6	7 <i>Cinco de Mayo parade</i>
8 -Adult Forum -Sunday School	9	10	11 Choir 6:45 pm	12	13	14 Youth "go batty"
15 -Adult Forum -Sunday School						

## *A Funny (Tragic, Great, etc.) Thing Happened on the Way to Here*

**Friday, April 1, 7:00 p.m.**

The Women's Discussion Group will meet at the home of Renee Pfenning. Come and share (or just listen to) the unexpected that got us to where we are now, and how we found good in what happened.



## *Neighborhood House Food Store Collection*

**Sunday, April 3**



Our monthly food drive, which is donated to the Neighborhood House, benefits our WestSide neighbors who are in need. In addition, the Neighborhood House also operates a free food market in Highland Park. It hosts 28 open-air produce distributions during the summer months, providing nearly 200,000 pounds of fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables.

Canned and dry foods are always appreciated, but you also may bring in any fresh produce from your gardens, any time during open hours. And monetary contributions can greatly boost the food shelves offerings, as Neighborhood House can use their bulk purchasing power, stretching your gift three times further. It only takes \$22 to feed a family of four for an entire week! Checks can be written out to "Neighborhood House" and if you'd like, in the memo line write "CPUC food drive."

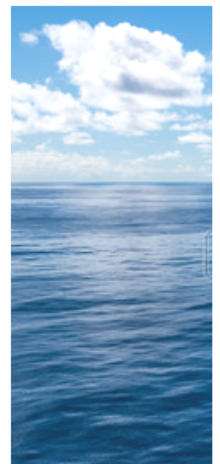
## *God Calls Us By Name ~ Families Exploring Spirituality*

**Sunday, April 3, 9:00-10:00 a.m. ~~ ALL are welcome!**

What is in a name? Join us as we learn a bit about how the dominant white culture re-named much of the original Native American territory we call St. Paul.

Building on the work of the Anti-Racism Team, we will actively explore the power of name, our name and the names of others. Maria McNamara and Sandy Dodson will lead us as we will do some detective work using the Bible, our own family story and some history of the first people to call this area home, the Dakota.

**Mni sota**, Minnesota, cloud-tinted waters  
**Bdote**, Mendota, two rivers meeting





### *Youth Fundraiser Pancake Breakfast* **Sunday, April 3**

Join us after worship for pancakes (including gluten-free), sausage, and fruit. Also included at no cost is fun conversation and good fellowship. Youth fundraisers are held to cover expenses of all youth activities so that no one experiences a financial burden to participate.

### *The Case for Indigenous Renaming; Acknowledging Minnesota Genocide* **Wednesday, April 6, 7:00 p.m.**

During the years leading up to and following the Dakota-U.S. War of 1862, bounties were placed on the lives of Dakota People, and mass executions took place, as well as incarceration in concentration camps, forced marches, and removal from their homeland. In recognition of these events, both Minneapolis and St. Paul declared 2012 “The Year of the Dakota” and acknowledged that genocide had taken place at the hands of the US. government.

The St. Paul resolution mandated that the city identify, name and interpret sacred Native American sites in St. Paul and along the Mississippi River.

Dr. Chris Mato Nunpa will present his views on the renaming that still must take place, from the white bluffs below Indian Mound Park to the streets and places that still bear the name of Alexander Ramsey, Henry Sibley, and John C. Calhoun, Euro-American conquerors who were guilty of genocide against the indigenous people of Minnesota.

Dr. Mato Nunpa is a Dakota elder and historian, chair of the Oceti Sakowin Omniciye (Seven Fires Summit), a retired professor from Southwest Minnesota State University and a Community Faculty member at Metropolitan State University.

The program is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the Antiracism Team.







### *Men's Group*

Wayne invented a baseball board game to be used at one of his volunteer efforts providing respite to caregivers of people with memory loss; the March men's group volunteered as test subjects.

The next meeting is on Friday, April 15, 6:30 p.m., at the home of Mike Bates.

### *Altogether Now, "Chicken, Veggies, Soy, Rice!"*

**Saturday, April 16, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

Youth are invited to our service project, packing dry foods (packed in this exact order so that nutrients survive intact before used) at *Feed My Starving Children*, 990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136 in Eagan. Children must be five years or older to volunteer or be in the packing area. Food contents are listed on page nine.



Please contact Sasha Aslanian if you can join us for this upbeat volunteer experience; 15 slots have been reserved. Needed are the names of those coming, and whether you can give others a ride or need a ride.

### *Art Fest 2016 - Greeters Needed!*

Cherokee Park United will sponsor a Spring Art Fest, April 22 to May 15. We are excited to welcome local photographer Monica Bryand and her exhibit entitled "Birds in the 'Hood," showcasing urban MN birds. Our exhibit is part of the St. Paul Art Crawl on Friday, April 22, 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 23, 12:00 to 8:00 p.m. Monica will give a talk about her art at 7:00 pm on Friday. The exhibit will also be open on Sunday by appointment.

The Outreach Ministry Team needs your help to be a greeter for the Art Crawl show-goers on April 22 and 23. Please sign up at church to help for a two-hour shift on either of those days to serve light refreshments and extend the welcome of our church to the community. Contact: Jill Jackson at 651 224-9209 or [jilljacksonmn@comcast.net](mailto:jilljacksonmn@comcast.net).





## *Vegetarian Potluck*

**Sunday, April 24, after worship**

Pick up your fork and do your part to help fight global warming! All are invited to bring a vegetarian dish to share at fellowship hour. (No animals, fish, or other watery creatures or any parts of them or their by-products like gelatin or animal fats lard.) Consider a veggie tray and dip, fresh fruit, nuts, pasta salad without the pepperoni, cheese platter with crackers, potato salad, chips and guacamole, hummus and pita chips, soups and stews made with vegetable broth, and, of course, any number of dessert options, store-bought or homemade. Recipe ideas: Vegweb.com, VegCooking.com, VegRecipes.org, Vegancheef.com, GoVeg.com, and VegSource.com.

## *Spring Clean-Up/Fix-Up Day*

**Saturday, April 30, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

Join us for a few hours or half day to keep our church building and grounds safe, kept up, and attractive. We will have a sign-up sheet available or please contact Susan Strebig.



## *Cinco de Mayo !*



We will celebrate this special day at Fellowship Hour on Sunday, May 1 (Uno de Mayo). Mexican pastries and a piñata will be part of the festivities. Cherokee Park United will once again march in the WestSide Cinco de Mayo Parade on Saturday, May 7. We will showcase our newly renovated float! Please bring your favorite puppet (we have some if you need one) and plan to walk with us. The parade steps off at 10:00 a.m. More details follow in the worship bulletins and May newsletter.

## *Caring for the Birds*

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

Faith Life Ministry welcomes West Side photographer and environmental advocate Monica Bryand back to CPUC in May for Families Exploring Spirituality. Enjoy Monica's photography on display during the month of April, then join her for a family-friendly session in fellowship hall before worship on Sunday, May 1. Come learn about Monica's important work, and about our local birds and what we can do to care for them.



## *Faith Action Vigil*

**Sundays, April 3 and May 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 for more information.



### *Council Corner*

Pastor Tim moderated his final Council meeting on March 10. We give thanks for the hundreds of Council meetings he has planned and moderated over the years. Council leadership and service is an important part of congregational life at Cherokee Park United.

In accordance with the by-law change passed in January at the Annual Meeting, the Council elected a lay moderator and vice-moderator for the upcoming time of pastoral transition. Jerome Graf will be the Moderator and Karen Hyers will be the Vice-Moderator. We heartily thank them for assuming these leadership roles. They will preside over Council meetings and Congregational meetings during the interim ministry period.

The Council called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, April 17, 2016 after worship. The purpose of the meeting is to fill the vacancy on Council left by the resignation of Andy Barnett in February.

The Pastoral Transition Team brought several organizational details to the Council to assure a smooth transition time between Pastor Tim's retirement and the start of an Interim Minister. The Team will be contracting with the pastors leading worship each week and a pastoral care provider for this period. They are also planning wonderful celebrations for Pastor Tim's retirement on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions on transition details, please contact a member of the team: Joanne Sylvander, Karolyn Kleingartner, Glen Herrington-Hall or Jill Jackson.

Council: Andy George, Jerome Graf, Diane Spicer, Dave Hoppe, Karen Hyers, Jill Jackson, Karolyn Kleingartner, Mary Murphy, Okogyeamon Perkins, Karen Shatek, Joanne Sylvander

Deadline for articles is the 20th of the month; please submit articles, ideas or feedback to editor Susan Strebig at [kellystrebig@comcast.net](mailto: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.



### *Web Stuff*

Winnie Williams has agreed to take on the responsibility as our main Facebook Administrator. Also note that Tom Murphy continues as our website webmaster. Thanks to both for keeping us on the web.

### *Let's Go Batty!*

**Saturday May 14, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**

The Lipetzky family has invited all 4<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders to their home and Very Big Yard in Lake Elmo at. We will build bat houses to encourage these mosquito-eating critters to make their home in our neighborhoods. There will also be games and a cookout. Families are invited. Carpooling will be arranged as needed.



### *Never Place a Period Where God Has Placed a Comma*

Gracie Allen



The United Church of Christ selected the “comma” as a symbol of their theology and part of the UCC’s “God Is Still Speaking Campaign” in 2005. This statement is credited to Comedian Gracie Allen - what does it mean? For many of us it means that God still has more to say to us than just that which was written in the Bible. Over 400 people gathered on the Eden Theological Seminary campus in St. Louis MO, to celebrate the success of that campaign by forming the world’s largest human comma.

### *Upcoming Youth Events 2016*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Organizers</b>
April 3	Fellowship Fundraiser	Nate/Duncan/Ingrid Fleming
April 16	Feed My Starving Children Service	Sasha Aslanian
May 14	Back yard batty fun at Lipetzky's	Andrew & Meg Lipetzky
May	UCC youth retreat-urban focus	Sandy Dodson/Andy Barnett



## *What Exactly Are We Feeding Starving Children?*

Youth will spend an afternoon packaging MannaPacks for Feed My Starving Children - a food mixture developed that would be easy and safe to transport, simple to make with only boiling water, and culturally acceptable worldwide.

With the input of scientists from major food companies in the Twin Cities area—including Cargill and General Mills—FMSC developed this formula of:

- Rice: the most widely accepted grain around the world.
- Extruded soy nuggets: providing maximum protein at lowest cost.
- Vitamins, minerals and a vegetarian flavoring: to give growing children the critical nutritional elements they need.
- Dehydrated vegetables: for flavor and nutrition.



Packaged in small pouches which provide highly nutritious meals for six children, this easy-to-prepare food blend has won rave reviews all over the world. While the formula was designed to save the lives of severely malnourished and starving children, the ingredients also improve the health, growth and physical well-being of children who are no longer in immediate danger of starvation.

A single bag of food costs around \$1.32 to produce, and 92 percent of all donations to FMSC goes directly toward the food program. The product name was chosen to capture both the nourishing qualities of the supplement and FMSC's spiritual mission by using the word **manna**, which the dictionary defines as:

1. In the Bible, the food miraculously provided for the Israelites in the wilderness during their flight from Egypt.
2. Spiritual nourishment of divine origin.
3. Something of value that a person receives unexpectedly.

## *Abrahamic Traditions Dinner ~ Tuesday April 12~ 6:30 p.m.*

The Niagara Foundation, a Turkish-American organization with a mission to promote social cohesion by fostering civic conversations and relationships between people of different cultures and faiths is hosting this 8th annual dinner at Mizpah United Church of Christ in Hopkins. One of the featured speakers is Rev. Shari Prestemon, the Minnesota United Church of Christ Conference Minister and Renee Pfenning from CPUC is one of the dinner coordinators. The dinner features speakers from each of the three Abrahamic Faiths; the theme this year is Social and Economic Justice as understood and practiced in the three faiths. There is no charge for the dinner but reservations (required) are taken at:

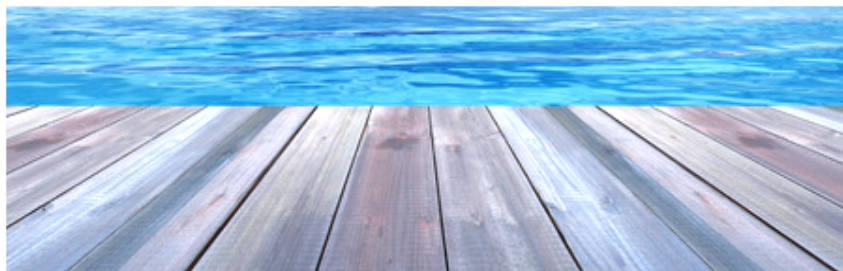
[https://docs.google.com/a/niagarafoundation.org/forms/d/1mNkQ3kTUMw569PB-hbKXkhVRNlzdDvwyLxg\\_ysFw0fc/viewform](https://docs.google.com/a/niagarafoundation.org/forms/d/1mNkQ3kTUMw569PB-hbKXkhVRNlzdDvwyLxg_ysFw0fc/viewform)



## *Diving into Retirement*

*A column written by Pastor Tim for the Community Reporter*

There are essentially two ways one enters a large body of water. One can wade in rather carefully, somewhat cautiously, assessing the temperature of the water, letting one get used to it before becoming fully immersed. The other way, of course, is to take the plunge, going for it all at once without hesitation.



Every summer my family and I head to the Atlantic Ocean where we reunite with East Coast in-laws on my wife's side. Family returning from Texas, well accustomed to the bath

water temperatures of the Gulf, stand reluctantly on the water's edge, only slowly moving into the ocean, sometimes quickly backing out, before trying again. My wife and my adult children show no such hesitancy. If they have decided to go for a swim it is run and dive, confident their bodies will adjust to the cool ocean temperatures.

As my wife will tell you, I generally take a more cautious approach, not quite as hesitant as the Texas clan, but still, edging in slowly rather than a bold dash has always felt like a better way to go. On April 10<sup>th</sup>, I will complete 35 years as the pastor of Cherokee Park United Church. With the close of the service, I will officially be retired. I have been wondering about how one edges into retirement from the ministry rather than just taking the plunge.

There are times in the church, as in life, when the bold plunge is what is needed. It is important to take a stand, ignore the impulse toward caution, and do what is required if the church is to be faithful to its calling. The decision for Cherokee Park United Church to go solar was a bold plunge. There was no easing into it with a few panels at a time. The right decision for the church and for the earth was to act boldly. The result is an entire roof of solar panels that produces all the electricity needed by the church.

Yet, as a general rule, I lean toward the more gradual move into the waters slowly approach when it comes to community life. It is this gradual versus bold plunge approach that dominates the political landscape of 2016. Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump favor the bold plunge, though I must confess that in Trump's case it feels to me more like a plunge into the Arctic than it does the New York shores of the Atlantic. Hillary Clinton and the Republican alternatives, with the exception of Ted Cruz, lean more in the direction of a gradual approach.

When it comes to congregational life I generally favor this gradual approach in no small measure because it is a way to build consensus and make changes that tend to last. The congregation spent a full year in conversation and study before it voted in 1997 to be completely welcoming of our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender neighbors. We could have taken the plunge by action of our Board. But the gradual approach led to changed hearts and minds that have lasted. The same can be said of the congregation's living into an antiracist identity. It is an ongoing process, moving slowly, but steadily. To be sure the congregation can and has acted with boldness on matters of social justice. But, a willingness to enter the waters a little at a time has often enabled members to grow in understanding and take ownership of whatever direction is being proposed.

I am now standing at the water's edge. There are some professions that let you ease into retirement, perhaps cutting back to just a couple days. This is seldom an option in the ministry. Come April 10<sup>th</sup>, I will be taking a cue from my wife and adult children, diving head first, fully immersed in these retirement waters. I have some friends who have already made the dive. That brings some comfort. They are waving with a motion that says, "Come on in, the water is just fine." I am both anxious and eager. As with the Atlantic Ocean, there will be adjustments. In the end, what gets me into the water is an underlying trust that everything will be OK. It is, after all, the belief that there was something bigger than myself in which I could place my trust that got me into the ministry. It is this same trust with which I hope to retire from a ministry that has been my life for 35 years.

Postscript for Cherokee Park United Church – Words are unable to capture the deep gratitude I feel for the opportunity to have been the pastor of this special community of faith. Pastor Tim



**A Community Open House** in honor of Pastor Tim will be held at the church on Saturday, April 9 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. with a program starting at 3:00 pm. On Sunday, April 10, Pastor Tim will be honored during worship, followed by a congregational potluck dinner until 2:00 p.m.

## **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

Abe Hunter, Director of Music Ministries

Rebecca Knott - Nursery Supervisor

Andrew Gbaa - Custodian

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that there was something bigger than myself  
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that got me into the ministry.*

Pastor Tim Johnson,  
retiring pastor  
of Cherokee Park United Church