



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 December 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						26 Hanging of the Greens 10 - noon
27 First Sunday in Advent Adult Forum	28	29	30 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	1 <i>Dec</i>	2 Women's Group 7 pm	3
4 -- <i>Advent Connect !</i> for Families <i>after</i> worship/fellowship -Food Drive -Adult Forum -Faith Action Vigil 2:30 pm	5	6	7 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	8 -Council 7 pm	9	10
11 -Adult Forum -Sunday School	12	13	14 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	15	16 (no Men's Group)	17
18 (no choir) -Adult Forum -Sunday School -Children's Nativity Gospel -Evening potluck & caroling	19	20	21 All voices Invited to Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve Service</i> All voices Invited to be in Choir
25 <i>(new)</i> <i>Christmas Day Worship</i> <i>10:15 am</i>	26	27	28 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	29	30	31
1 <i>Jan</i> <i>Bring cookies!</i> -Food Drive (no Sunday School) -Adult Forum -Immigration Vigil 2:30-3 pm	2	3	4 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	5 Loaves & Fishes	6 Women's Group 7 pm	7
8 -Adult Forum -Sunday School	9	10	11 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	12	13	14

Advent and Christmas Events

Hanging of the Greens

November 26, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to noon

All are welcome to help start a new church year and prepare our spaces for the season of Advent. The sanctuary and fellowship hall are traditionally adorned with greens, wreaths, tree, and Advent Candle. Please come if you are able to join us.



Faith Life Intergenerational

December 4, Sunday following worship

All are invited to fellowship snacks and then join in Advent activities. We will be making Advent candle birch logs, and if we run out of logs, there are other crafts, cookie decorating (and eating) and music with Abe. Come and prepare for the Birth of the Baby.

Ramsey County Family Christmas Program

CPUC is again bringing Christmas joy to a family through this Community Human Services Department project. Last year this program served 88 families in need of Christmas help. This year we have been matched with a family of eight. 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 signup sheet is available at the Baker St. entrance starting November 27. There is also a "wish list" for gifts for the family. All gifts should be brought to the church by Sunday, December 11. Cash donations for purchase of gift cards at a grocery store 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."

Nativity Figures Needed

Do you have a crèche? Will you please loan us the characters? (Jesus, camels, sheep, cows, Mary, Joseph, the 3 wise ones, and anyone else you think was in Bethlehem.) They will become a part of the Christmas Eve service. Please drop them off at church by December 18 or 19.



Children's Nativity Gospel

December 18, Sunday, 10:15 a.m.



Enjoy our (seventh year) tradition of having the Sunday School children help lead us in worship. This year's theme is love.

Our liturgy comes in part from "Mary Shows Us the Givingness of God" from the book "Heart Talks with Mother God" by Bridget Mary Meehan & Regina Madonna Oliver. We also take inspiration from biblical and contemporary stories of God's love for the world expressed through mothers. We welcome Grandmas and Grandpas and extended families to come for the message and snap pictures of the kids in their costumes.

While current Sunday School students will lead the service, we'd love for Sunday School alumni (18 and under) to participate also. If you have a musical instrument, or dance, or poem, or some other way you want to be part of the fun, please contact Andy George. As with all things Christmas, the more the merrier!

Christmas Potluck and Caroling

December 18, Sunday 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Deck the Halls and share in the feast. The annual CPUC Christmas Dinner starts at 4:00 p.m. Sign up sheets for potluck contributions will be available every week through December 11. *There are a couple of changes for this year:*

Dishes: Bring a dish, take a dish—an empty one that is. The hardworking clean up crew will not wash the pots and pans and casserole dishes you bring with your contributions. Take them home to wash, making the task of the clean up crew more manageable. Containers will be available if you want to share any of your leftovers.

Caroling will start at the church, following the meal, with a mini concert presented by our members who play instruments or sing and group caroling. From there groups will go by car caravan to the homes of some of our members or others who are not able to attend the dinner. (There will not be caroling at Cerenity Center this year.)

We need your help! As the Caring Committee prepares for this event, we realized that some members and friends of Cherokee Park will find it difficult to join us. We would like to bring the celebration to them and have groups of carolers visit different homes. You can help us by providing us with names of members and friends who will not be able to join our celebration but would enjoy having carolers visit them. Please check with those you'd like us to visit to make sure that they will be home and open to carolers, and then give/send Gina the names, addresses and phone numbers by Sunday, December 4, so we can make all of the arrangements.

Thank you!

An Advent Prayer

from Pastor Joy (Along with Henri Nouwen)

Messiah, Anointed One, Creator of both the light and the darkness,
Send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do

seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things

look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways

long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy

seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness,

yet seeking light.

To you we say, "Come, Lord Jesus!"



Singing Voices

If you cannot make the commitment to be a choir member, but could join the choir for just one occasion - you are welcome to join the rehearsal on Wednesday, December 21 and then sing in the choir on Christmas Eve. Abe promises it will be fun!

Family Christmas Eve Service

December 24, Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service

December 25, 10:15 a.m.

Since Christmas Day is on a Sunday this year, we will have a worship service. This will be an informal setting, with time to come and breathe and reflect on the festivities of the holiday and to sing Christmas carols.

Women's Affinity Group

...welcoming all women and those who identify as women or along a feminine spectrum

Friday, December 2, 7:00 p.m.

We will meet at the home of Joanne Sylvander.

Children and Families

Our All Hallows' Eve/Day of the Dead weekend offered families a Dia de los Muertos celebration before worship; later, the children's message time included a close-up skeleton with Pastor Joy. The following week All Saints was celebrated with kites made to remember those who have "flown up" from earth.



Please Dance

Our music leaders often provide music that almost commands one to dance. We checked with the music and worship groups, and they said, by all means, dance! So if you feel led by the spirit, or by your children, move on out into the aisle and express your joy.



Google Alert-CPUC Internet Calendar

Thanks to Josh Welter, CPUC now has an online calendar for reserving spaces or checking on events. If you already have a Gmail address, you can access this by contacting Josh and he can put the calendar on your account. He has very generously been bringing his laptop to fellowship hour to teach us how to access the calendar, or to help those of us set up an account.

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: fact editors Phyllis Clark, Mary Murphy; collate/mail teams Phyllis & Cal Clark, Stefan Sylvander & Kathy Bergthold.

Thank You to all who joined in our annual Fall clean-up-fix-up day. It's always fun when the improvements are so apparent.

- the front doors really "pop" now - maybe more people will pop in
- the mulch makes us look new again
- the wooden well covers are newly painted or recovered
- the stage steps went from scuffed-up-sad to step-brightly-glad
- the kitchen shines
- years-old cob webs have been banished (sorry spiders)
and much more.



Save the Earth's Resources....

If you are in the church building and find lights on anywhere, or the ceiling sanctuary fans, *please turn them off* when you leave, even if others are somewhere in the building. The fan slider switch is to the left after entering the church office door. (The fans in the nursery and fellowship hall remain on during the humid summer months.)

...and keep our spaces secure

The front door has been found ajar at least four different Mondays, meaning the whole building was accessible to anyone who wished to come in and explore or do mischief. (We know there are those who wish us ill will as we did have an incident last summer where slurs were spray painted on our front doors, needing two coats of paint to cover.) Please be sure to push both front doors closed when leaving, especially if you have stayed awhile and may be one of the last persons to leave.



Winter parking

Johnson Funeral Home graciously allows us to use their parking lot; this is especially helpful in the winter when the streets get more narrow and ice-packed, as snow plows never quite get it cleared away. One driveway fronts on Manomin Av., but it is most conveniently accessed from King St. as then cars are oriented to the parking slots.

Cherokee Park United Church

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

Open & Affirming, Multicultural, Antiracist

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cherokeeparkunited.org

371 W. Baker Street

St. Paul, MN 55107

Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.

Rev. Joy Smith - Transitional Pastor

Abe Hunter - Director of Music Ministry



*Thou shalt know Him when he comes
not by any dim of drums
nor the vantages of airs
nor by anything he wears . . .*

*For His presence known shall be
by the holy harmony
that His coming makes in thee.
(15th Century Advent poem)*