



## ***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 2016***

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
31 -Adult forum	1 <i>Feb</i>	2	3 Choir 6:45 pm	4 Property Mgmt 7 pm	5 Women's group 7pm @ CPUC	6 <i>Mardi Gras</i> 7-10 pm
7 -Foodshelf -Adult forum -Family Spirituality -Youth to YPC -Faith Action Vigil 2:30 pm	8 Worship Ministry 7 pm	9	10 Choir <b>6 :30 pm</b> <i>Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm</i>	11 Council 7 pm	12	13
14 -Adult Forum -Sunday School	15	16 Fellowship Ministry 7 pm	17 Choir 6:45 pm	18	19 Men's group??? 7 pm	20
21 -Adult forum -Sunday School	22	23	24 Choir 6:45 pm	25	26	27
28 -Adult forum -Children's music 9:15-9:45 -Good News Band worship music	29	1 <i>March</i>	2 Choir 6:45 pm	3	4	5
6 -Foodshelf -Adult forum -Faith Action Vigil 2:30 pm	7	8	9 Choir 6:45 pm	10 Council 7 pm	11	12
13 -Adult forum -Sunday School	14	15	16 Choir 6:45 pm	17	18	19
20 <i>Palm Sunday</i>  -Oscar Romero Missa & brunch	21	22	23 Choir 6:45 pm	24 Maunday Thursday Service 7 pm	25	26

## *Women's Discussion Group*

**Friday, February 5, 7:00 p.m.**

The Women's Discussion Group will meet at Cherokee Park United Church and help the Mardi Gras committee to decorate for the party the following night. The decorations will be provided - we just need willing hands. Snacks will also be provided. Contact: Karen Shatek



## *Mardi Gras Celebration 2016*

**Saturday, February 6, 7-11 p.m.**

Adults are invited to join Cherokee Park United Church and friends for its second annual Mardi Gras celebration. Mardi Gras, French for "Fat Tuesday", has its origins in medieval Europe, when the wild Roman festivals of Saturnalia and Lupercalia were replaced by the Christian rulers in power. The Carnival season (meaning "farewell to the flesh") became a kick-off to

Lent, the 40 days of penance from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. French settlers organized this country's first Mardi Gras celebration tradition in Mobile, Alabama 1703.



## *First Sundays Food Collection*

Foods and funds collected are donated to the Neighborhood House Free Food Store (formerly "Foodshelf") at the Wellstone Center. Over 2,500 pounds of food are distributed daily, serving nearly 10,000 households each year. 50% of those served are children and 90% live on incomes below the national poverty guideline. The Food Store now accepts **perishable foods**; more on this in the next issue.

## *Once Upon A Time there was.....*

Join Glen Herrington-Hall and Sandy Dodson on Sunday, February 7, from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for *Families Exploring Spirituality*.

## *Faith Action Vigil*

**Sunday February 7, 2:30-3 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.

### *Youth Event - "Just Before Sleep"*

**Sunday, February 7 (date change), 2:00 p.m.**

More than 100,000 children in this country are without a permanent home. Justin and his sister Tara must come to terms with the sudden changes that have upended their life. This play gives voice and dignity to a family who struggles to survive on the streets while seeking shelter through the maze of social agencies. Join us for this presentation by the Youth Performance Company at the Howard Conn Fine Arts Center, 1900 Nicollet Av, Mpls. Contact: Sandy Dodson.



### *Ash Wednesday Service ~ February 10, 7:00 p.m.*

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our Lenten journey, 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.

### *Men's Discussion Group*

**Friday, February 19, 6:30 p.m.**

Join us at the home of Fred Dempsey-Hess; the topic will be forgiveness. Please contact Fred if you'd like directions - note there is no parking in the access finger driveway.



*the January group at Wayne's home enjoying his train set-up*



### *Big Band Worship*

Worship music on Sunday, February 28, will be provided by Stefan Sylvander's Good News Big Band, a Twin Cities group that performs big band swing-style Christian-based music. In addition to playing in churches, they play secular venues where the music is the traditional big band swing, Latin style and other big band jazz charts.



## *Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC )*

### *Regional Days on the Hill*

What can we learn from Moses about advocacy and building a more just society? We'll be looking at the stories of the life of Moses as presented in Christian, Jewish, and Islamic texts as an inspiration and example as we chart our own strategy to use our stories to bring about legislative change. This year with the challenges presented by the Capitol construction and a short legislative session, JRLC is taking Day on the Hill on the road and answering that very question.



Rather than a single day of action in St Paul, JRLC is hosting six Regional Days on the Hill to bring people of faith together to work for important social justice issues; events will include a meal, training, issue briefings, and a chance to take action. Metro venues are **February 23** in Fridley at the Islamic Center of Minnesota, 6 - 9 p.m., and **March 8** in Burnsville at Mary, Mother of the Church, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Registration Fees are \$15 until February 5 and \$20 thereafter. Contact Andy Barnett to attend.

JRLC, founded in 1971, was the first interfaith public-interest lobby group in the United States. There are nearly 2.4 million people in Minnesota who identify themselves as having a religious faith that is connected to JRLC, representing about 48% of Minnesota's total population.

### *New Music Ministry Director*



Abe Hunter will begin as our new director, rehearsing with the choir starting February 17 and worship the following Sunday. Abe has served as an accompanist and music director throughout Minnesota performing everything from musical theatre to opera and has performed at opera festivals in Austria and Italy. In the sacred realm, he has served as a guest musician, pianist, organist and music director in churches since an early age. He has served recently as the accompanist at Northeast United Methodist Church where he founded the Coda Performing Arts Series. He also regularly performs at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport as part of the MSP Arts and Culture Program. You are invited to his upcoming recital with tenor J. Warren Mitchell on Saturday, February 20 at 2:00 p.m. at Northeast United Methodist Church. Abe is thrilled to have the opportunity to serve as the Director of Music Ministry at Cherokee Park United Church. As a Native American and as a member of the LGBT community he is excited to share his gift of music to help CPUC achieve its mission.

# HONORING OUR ANCESTORS

Sponsored by the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community

Event will be at the Fort Snelling State Park. Entrance to park is off Hwy 5 at Post Road near St. Paul Intl Airport Below Mendota Bridge.

**Saturday Feb 6th, 2016**  
**Lighting the Sacred Fire 10:00 am**  
**Ceremony 11:00 am**  
**Potluck 12:00 pm**



Please join us again this year to honor our ancestors. Print this article as a permit to get into the park; no need to stop by the building, just drive through. Help is needed with DePuis House setup, call Sharon, and with fire and setup at the park, call Lon.

Pidamaya from the Mendota Mdewakanton  
Dakota Tribal Community.  
[mendotadakota.com](http://mendotadakota.com)

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## *Unbending Gender*

**Mondays March 7 & 14, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

Cherokee Park United Church will host these evenings designed to help us gain language for understanding gender and to become an advocate for transgender people. Rev. Lawrence T. Richardson will lead the sessions that will include the personal account of a transgender person. Doors open at 6:30, light snacks will be provided and a free-will donation taken to benefit programs serving transgender people. The sessions are supported by a grant from the Justice and Witness Committee of the Minnesota Conference UCC.



## *Ecclesiastical Council for Anna Larson*

Cherokee Park United Church will host this council on Thursday, February 18, beginning with a light lunch at noon. An Ecclesiastical Council is comprised of delegates from United Church of Christ (UCC) congregations in Minnesota, primarily churches in the regional vicinity of the hosting church. This is the final step of approval from the UCC needed by those seeking ordination. The Ecclesiastical Council consists of a presentation by the candidate for ordination, questions and answers with those present, followed by discussion and a vote. Prior to this final step, candidates must have completed all other ordination requirements, including the prior approval of the Church and Ministry Committee of the Minnesota Conference UCC. The Ecclesiastical Council is open to all and members of the home church are especially encouraged to attend.



Cherokee Park United Church became Anna's home church when she became a member while attending United Theological Seminary. Presently Anna is serving as a commissioned minister at Circles of Faith UCC in Waubun on the White Earth Reservation. A commissioned minister is a designation of the UCC that enables people to serve as pastors for a set period of time at a specific location without ordination. With approval for ordination Anna will be installed and ordained at Circles of Faith. Anna has been serving the congregation for the past year and seven months and at their recent annual meeting the congregation voted to call Anna as their pastor pending approval for ordination.

For more about Anna's spiritual journey please see her report in CPUC's Annual Report. From that report you will find this affirmation from Anna. *"Community shaped me personally and professionally at Cherokee Park United Church where I found my ideal church home in my second year of seminary. Our reliably robust fellowship (conversation in a multi-generational context, seated at round tables) gave me a strong sense of belonging in a familial setting. My (In Care) Discernment committee in this mature, broadminded and faithful church was a wonderful place to share and reflect on my journey.* Members of Anna's CPUC Discernment Committee include Jill Jackson, Eric Jacobsen, Mike Bates and Pastor Tim. If you are able to help host the Ecclesiastical Council luncheon please contact Pastor Tim.





## *Oscar Romero Celebration March 20 (Palm Sunday)*

Comunidades Celebrando Esperanza (CCE) is pleased to announce this annual celebration at Sunday worship. Please join us and invite others! Pastor Porfirio Martinez will preach, and Marta from El Salvador and St. James, MN will share her testimony. Special music from La Misa Campesina will be provided by the El Milagro group and Cherokee Park United Church choir. A Salvadoran meal will follow, with a program, via Skype, with Padre Angel Renderos. Many of us remember Father Angel fondly from his visit with us in 2014. He is a leader of the Romero Foundation in El Salvador, spearheading the upcoming 100 year anniversary of Mons. Romero's birth and a good friend of our brothers and sisters in El Carrizal. We hope he will play his guitar and sing for us.

## *Pastor Tim Receives MLK Day Local Legend Award*

Pastor Tim received the 2016 Local Legend Award at the West Side/West St. Paul Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Breakfast on January 18. The breakfast was sponsored by Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul and was held at Faith United Methodist Church. A good contingent of Cherokee Park United folks braved the below zero temperatures to see Pastor Tim honored.

Pastor Tim was recognized for his tireless dedication to Cherokee Park United and his active leadership in the community and wider church. Of special note were his antiracism efforts and the many organizations he supports in that work. Pastor Tim graciously accepted his award reminding everyone it is all of our charge to keep working towards God's kingdom here on earth. This award was a fitting honor and acknowledgment of Pastor Tim's ministry in this community for the past 35 years.



Breakfast attendees enjoyed a nice meal and viewed the MLK Day breakfast celebration broadcast from the Minneapolis Convention Center. That was highlighted by an inspirational speech given by former Massachusetts governor, Deval Patrick.



## *A Congregation Committed to Antiracism*

-an article written by Pastor Tim for the Community Reporter

It is no easy thing for a predominantly white community of faith to speak openly and honestly about race, racism and the factors that continue making racism front-page concerns both locally and nationally. Like everyone else, members of predominantly white congregations receive from their earliest formative years an outlook on the world that presumes that to be white is to be superior. Author Joe Feagin refers to this as the “White Racial Frame”. It is a message reinforced by the telling of history, who and what gets lifted up and who and what gets ignored. Literature, music, and art created by whites are called classics and all other works of culture are assigned to some variation on ethnic work. In many Christian congregations of faith this subtle, but powerful naming of white as superior is reinforced with regular images of a white Jesus, surrounded by Nordic looking disciples with a cast of characters who are white. Children are introduced to these life-shaping images at a very early age.

Congregations of faith face other challenges as well in addressing race and racism. Belief in the value of confession and honest reflection provides a powerful tool for truth telling. But predominantly white congregations also share what author Robin DiAngelo refers to as “White Fragility”, a state in which even a minimum amount of racial stress becomes intolerable, triggering a range of defensive moves. Most congregations prefer to avoid conflict whenever possible and conversations about race come laden with the potential for conflict.

Most surprisingly some of the deepest values for congregations of faith can become barriers to honest conversations about race. Many congregations greatly value a universalism enabling us to see each other as one in our humanity. It is born out of a belief that God’s love is for all. The challenge occurs when this universalism collapses, as it often does, into whiteness as a dominant and superior norm for that universalism. Similarly congregations rightfully place a high value on reconciliation. But, reconciliation when placed ahead of the more difficult work of addressing historic and existing injustice, itself becomes a barrier to an open and honest discussion of race. In religious terms, unless reconciliation is preceded by acts of repair (reparation), it can become a form of cheap grace.

Cherokee Park United Church has struggled and continues to struggle with all these dynamics that form a wall to racial justice. We have found no simple answer other than to make a commitment to being an antiracist congregation and follow the path of that commitment wherever it leads. The journey has included such things as incorporating antiracism into the congregation’s mission, infusing world music into worship, balancing the image of a white stained glass Jesus with images of Jesus from many lands and cultures, congregational wide discussion, celebrations honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Monsignor Oscar Romero and supporting

artists of color by hosting their exhibits. The commitment has opened up valued relationships with partners from El Salvador and an ongoing relationship with the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community.

It is also out of this antiracist commitment that the congregation serves as the Fiscal Agent for ASDIC Metamorphosis (Antiracism Study Dialogue Circles), an award winning antiracism program bringing people together for study and community building, equipping them to address racism. Through Cherokee Park United Church, ASDIC was the recipient of recent Saint Paul Foundation Grants intended to help strengthen and build their capacity in doing antiracism work. Okogyeamon (Dr. Herbert Perkins) is the director of ASDIC, a member of Cherokee Park United Church and an influential voice in the congregation's ongoing work and commitment. In addition to ASDIC, Cherokee Park United Church is the Fiscal Agent for and co-sponsor of an Annual Overcoming Racism Conference held at Metropolitan State University in November, organized by FREC, the Facilitating Racial Equity Collaborative. Cherokee Park United Church continues struggling with and living into its commitment to be an antiracist community of faith.

### *Council Corner*

We congratulate Pastor Tim on being named the 2016 Local Legend at the West Side/West St Paul Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Breakfast. it is an honor he richly deserves.



At the January Council meeting, the "Want Ad" for the Interim Minister position at Cherokee Park United was finalized. This is the document the CPUC Interim Search Committee put together to advertise our opening. It is available through both the United Church of Christ and Presbyterian networks. It is also posted on the church website. We trust qualified people will see it and apply for the position. We thank the Interim Search Committee for their work on this and wish them good luck as they discern the best interim match for our church.

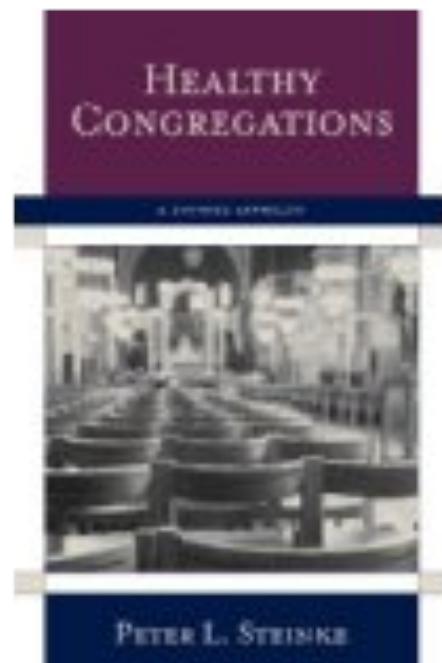
The Council also decided to form a Transition Team to deal with matters arising from our pastoral transition that go beyond the hiring of the interim minister. This team will coordinate special events to honor Pastor Tim, provide support for him and the church's infrastructure in departure preparations, and provide resources and direction to our faith community. Karolyn Kleingartner and Joanne Sylvander agreed to lead the Transition Team. Folks from the congregation will be invited to help the team in many ways over the next few months. This is a time-limited group that will be discontinued when the Council feels its work is done.

Please be in touch with Council members for any questions as we move through this time of change. We ask for your prayers and for God's grace as we seek to live out God's will at Cherokee Park United, in our community, and in our world.

*Cherokee Park United Church Annual Leader's Retreat*  
**Healthy Congregations in Times of Change**  
**February 26 & 27: 6 p.m. Friday to 4:30 p.m. Saturday**  
**ARC Ecumenical Retreat Center, Stanchfield, MN**

The primary resource will be *Healthy Congregations* by church consultant, Peter Steinke, which will be the focus on Saturday. The Council has also decided to make antiracism learning a portion of each leader's retreat - Friday evening will be given to further this learning. Council members, ministry chairs and other leaders, as well as all interested members and friends are invited.

The registration cost of \$120/ person includes over-night accommodations, dinner Friday night, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and a copy of the book. Full or partial scholarships are available through Pastor Tim. Those wishing to car pool should be at the church by 4:00 p.m. on Friday.



**Registrations need to be turned in to Karen Shatek by Sunday, February 14.**

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**2016 Annual Leaders' Retreat Registration**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**, I would like to attend. Enclosed is my \$20.00 deposit.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**, I plan to car pool.

\_\_\_\_\_ **No**, I will drive on my own.

**Special dietary needs or restrictions?** \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify: Vegetarian, gluten-free, allergies, etc)

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_



**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

Rebecca Knott - Nursery Supervisor

Andrew Gbaa - Custodian

*Everybody can be great  
because everyone can serve.*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.