



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 January 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
2016					1 <i>Jan</i>	2
3 -Foodshelf collection -Families Exploring Spirituality 9 am -Faith Action Vigil 2:30 pm	4	5	6 Choir 6:45 pm	7 Loaves & Fishes 3-7 pm	8 -CCE 10 am -Women's group 7 pm -Youth bowling & overnight	9
10 -Adult Forum -Sunday School	11	12 Fellowship Ministry 7 pm	13 Choir 6:45 pm	14 Council 7 pm	15 Men's group 7 pm	16
17 -no Adult forum -no Sunday School -MLK joint worship & potluck at Clark/Grace	18 MLK Day & breakfast	19	20 Choir 6:45 pm	21	22 Youth Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo 6 pm	23
24 -Adult forum -Children's music 9:15-9:45 -Papusa Brunch	25	26	27 Choir 6:45 pm	28 Justice & Witness Ministry	29	30
31 -Adult forum -Sunday School -Annual meeting after worship	1 <i>Feb</i>	2	3 Choir 6:45 pm	4	5 Women's group 7pm	6 ASDIC starts <i>Mardi Gras</i> 7-10 pm
7 -Foodshelf -Adult forum -Sunday School -Faith Action Vigil 2:30 pm	8 Worship Ministry 7 pm	9	10 Choir 6:45 pm	11	12	13 ASDIC

(Adult Forum & Sunday School 9:00-10:00 a.m.)

Feed My Lambs

Sunday, January 3

As we plan to come forward to receive communion on the first Sunday of each month, we are reminded to feed, as well as be fed. We collect food (and money donations are greatly appreciated) for the local food shelf located at the Wellstone Center, which distributes over 2,500 pounds of food daily, serving nearly 10,000 households each year. 50% of those served are children and 90% live on incomes below the national poverty guideline.



Faith Action Vigil

Sunday January 3, 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.



The Toddler Who Would Be King

On **Sunday, January 3**, starting at 9:00 a.m., Sandy Dodson will lead our monthly Families Exploring Spirituality series with a focus on Epiphany; the Season of Epiphany Comes AFTER Christmas. Did you know the Three Kings bearing gifts from afar were not part of the nativity scene? Come and discover more fun facts about the manger, learn what happened when Jesus was a toddler and be surprised by the meaning of this word, E Piff a Knee.

Loaves and Fishes

The Loaves and Fishes Ministry invites you to help on **Thursday, January 7**. Areas of participation are 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. Come for part or all of the service. Contact Michele Rehm Johnson

Old Christmas Cards Desired

Before tossing your cards, especially those with nativity themes, please tear off the fronts and give to Susan Strebig for future Advent children's projects.



Women's Discussion Group

Friday, January 8, 7:00 p.m.

The women's group will meet at the home of Michele Johnson. Please join us for light refreshments and a lively discussion as we start 2016!

Men's Discussion Group

Friday, January 15, 6:30 p.m.

All men are invited to the home of Andy George in Apple Valley. Call for directions.

THANK YOU to Outgoing and Incoming Council Members

On Sunday, January 10, newly elected members Andy George, Diane Spicer, Andy Barnett and Jill Jackson will be installed for a three-year term on the Church Council. Andy Barnett and Jill are serving a second term. This is Diane and Andy George's first time on the Council and so they will also be ordained as Elders. Ordination for Elders is part of the Presbyterian tradition that recognizes the shared leadership of clergy and lay members. We thank these members for their willingness to share their time and talents on behalf of our members; the congregation also warmly thanks Fred Hess and Lynne Bates for their dedicated passion and service, as they complete their term on the Council.

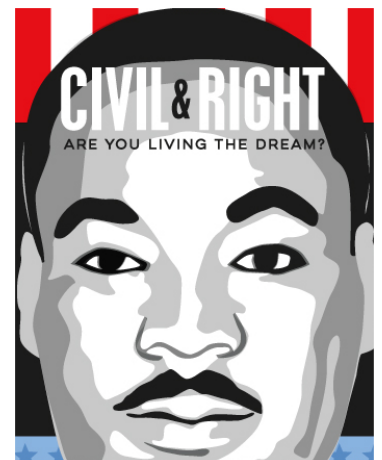
Ministry Chair Reports

All reports for the CPUC Annual Report are due on Monday, January 18. Please email them to Pastor Tim as a Word doc. at cpuc@usfamily.net. We plan to have them printed and available on Sunday, January 24.

MLK Joint Worship and Potluck January 17

We will worship at Clark-Grace UCC, at 779 15th Av N, S. St. Paul, for this celebration of faith, hope, and justice as we remember the life and vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Pastor Tim will be preaching. Following worship we will join together in our traditional Epiphany Dinner; everyone is invited to bring an item of a distinctive ethnic origin.

This is the twenty-sixth year that our congregation has joined together with Minnesota's first African-American UCC congregation to celebrate the birthday of Dr. King. In 2013 Grace Community UCC began sharing worship with Clark Memorial UCC. There will be no worship at Cherokee this Sunday. Our nursery director, Rebecca, will offer nursery service at Clark.



Pastor Tim to be Honored at MLK Community Breakfast

Monday January 18, 7:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Tim Johnson will be awarded the Local Legend award at the annual Martin Luther King Day Breakfast. Pastor Tim's years of faithful service and leadership on church and social justice issues in our community will be recognized. Please consider attending to help honor Pastor Tim.

Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul (formerly the St. Paul Council of Churches) sponsors the breakfast again this year. The West Side/West St. Paul breakfast will be held at Faith United Methodist Church at 1530 Oakdale Ave. W. St. Paul. Reservations and a modest \$5.00 charge are required. Register online at <http://interfaithaction.org/mlk> (Scroll down and click on the location.)



The theme of the breakfast is "Civil & Right – Are You Living the Dream?" The breakfast will include a video link to the MLK Holiday Breakfast at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The keynote speaker is Deval Patrick, former governor of Massachusetts and past Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, the nation's top civil rights post, under President Bill Clinton.



Pastor Tim Named West Sider of the Year!

At the West Side Citizen's Organization's Annual Meeting on December 7, Pastor Tim Johnson was named West Side Citizen of the Year. WSCO's Executive Director, Christine Shyne, presented the award. She honored Pastor Tim's service by including the many ways his active presence and open-hearted care for neighbors made a positive impact on the West Side community for the last three decades. Tim gave a thoughtful acceptance speech that was well received by the big crowd attending the meeting. Congratulations, Pastor Tim!



Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 31

The congregational meeting will be held immediately following worship and includes receiving reports, acting on the 2016 budget, voting on a Lay Ministry representative and a possible by-law change.

Youth Overnight

Friday, January 8

The first 2016 Youth event for Cherokee Park United Church Youth (grades 4 and up) will include **bowling, pizza, movie and an overnight at the Bates'**. Youth will meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. Friday and be picked up at the Bates, by 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. All interested youth are asked to confirm their participation with Pastor Tim.

Youth Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner/Bingo Night

Friday, January 22, 6:00 p.m.

The youth of CPUC will be offering yummy Italian pasta (including gluten-free), sides and desserts, plus Bingo with prizes and fun announcers. Proceeds will fund youth events so they may be made available at no cost. Suggested donation is \$10 adult/\$5 child.



Prize donations including baked goods will be most welcome! We are also seeking to borrow some bingo cards/sets. Contact: Andy Barnett or Deborah Morse.

El Salvadoran Brunch

Sunday, January 24

Join us at this tasty fund-raiser supporting CCE (Comunidades Construyendo Esperanza/Communities Building Hope), a collaboration of CPUC with local Salvadoran leaders. On our behalf CCE continues providing resources and support to several small communities in Ostuma, El Salvador. These communities suffered tremendously from the U.S.-prolonged civil war, which continues having devastating consequences in the country and is the source of continued U.S. immigration as residents flee violence and poverty. Through our partnership with local Salvadorans, CCE works to support these communities in their rebuilding efforts and advocates for immigration justice.

2016 Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your offering envelopes from the table in the back corner of the sanctuary. Pledges can still be turned in if you have not done so yet; they are very helpful for the Finance Ministry when deciding on the budget for next year.

Council Corner



At the December 10 meeting, the Council approved the recommendation of the Lay Ministries Committee for two congregational representatives for the Interim Pastor Search Team. Barb Herrington-Hall and Jackie Rico will join Council members, Karen Shatek and Andy George who agreed to serve.

We are grateful to all those who volunteered for this important role in our faith community.

The Interim Pastor Search Team will recruit, interview, and vet candidates and recommend the best candidate to the Council. A "Want Ad" will be distributed within the Minnesota UCC conference and the local presbytery to attract qualified candidates. The position will be posted in early 2016 and the search completed in time to assure continuity as Tim retires in early April 2016.

You are welcome to talk to Council members individually or attend a Council meeting if you have questions or concerns. The Interim Search Team also welcomes your input; however, please raise questions and comments outside of worship and education activities. It is critical that our church leaders have time for their own worship and spirit-feeding to sustain themselves during this process.

We ask for your prayers and for God's grace as we continue to live out God's will in our church and community.

In peace ~ The Council of Cherokee Park United Church

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

Birds Tell Us It's Time to Act

Monday, January 25, 7:00 p.m.

West Side resident Monica Bryand will present *Birds Tell Us It's Time to Act; Climate Endangered Birds of MN* on at Cherokee Park United Church. The program is free and all interested people are welcome. More than half of all bird species in North America are seriously threatened by climate change. In Minnesota there are 116 climate-threatened or endangered species, including the Trumpeter Swan, American White Pelican, Common Loon, Mallard Duck, and the Bald Eagle.
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(continued) Monica, a member of the St. Paul Audubon, is an avid birder and photographer. She is working on a special project through National and Minnesota Audubon, photographing threatened birds in both urban and out-state areas of Minnesota. She is passionate in her work to protect the environment for people and birds and will share her photos and travel stories.

Cherokee Park United Church is eager to support this program because of the congregation's commitment to earth care. The church was one of the first congregations in Minnesota to have its electrical needs met through solar energy, and uses LED lighting throughout the building. A recent earth-friendly effort was the installation of a rain garden. The church annually celebrates Earth Day and has done legislative advocacy on environmental issues.

Free ASDIC Participation

Our Fiscal Agent agreement with ASDIC provides for two free participant slots for each Circle. The antiracism team will also cover the cost of the book. To register, as a free participant, please speak with Pastor Tim.

ASDIC (Antiracism Study Dialogue Circles) Community Circle
Spring 2016 ~ February 6 - April 16 (ten Saturdays - no meeting March 26)
Refreshments 8:00 a.m.
Sessions 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m..

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. Community ASDIC Circles, such as this one, are open to everyone. Each week participants gather to create a safe place for risk-taking, community formation, and acting with care and confidence. The book resource is *The White Racial Frame*, 2nd edition, 2013, by Joe R. Feagin. The program is led by Okogyeamon, PhD, and Margery Otto, JD, with skilled facilitators trained in ASDIC principles and methodology.



Fees contribute to the cost of food, the ASDIC e-manual (270 pages), other program materials, and stipends to facilitators. Individual registration fee is usually \$365, but all are welcome to participate regardless of financial circumstances – extended payments possible. Contact Okogyeamon.



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 featuring live Dixieland and Brazilian Mardi Gras and carnival music, dancing, and a full spread of Cajun, Creole, and Brazilian foods. Events include mask-making and stage humor; costumes are welcomed and encouraged.

Tickets are \$17 or \$30/couple, available for purchase through several members of the CPUC community and each Sunday in January until we are "sold out".

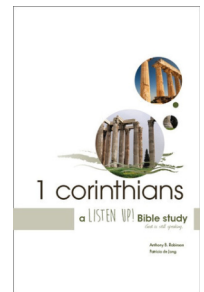
Anyone willing to sell some tickets, please contact Joy Sorensen Navarre. Ticket sellers, please turn in ticket stubs and money to Joy as soon as possible so we can keep up to date about availability of tickets.

Though this is a party for adults, please know that your children are considered. For members of our CPUC community, we will assist in securing in-home child-care provided by our Youth. Please contact Joanne Sylvander if you need child care or are willing to provide that care.

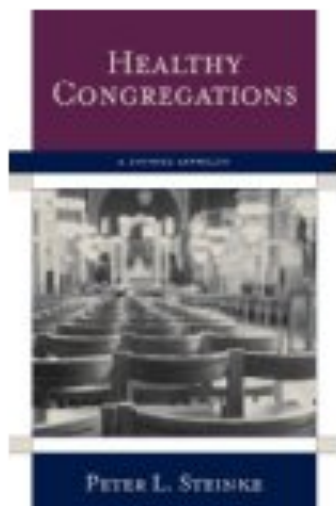
Help is still needed in the fun planning and preparation i.e. working on decorations, "setting the stage", and of course, clean-up. Please contact Joanne.

2016 Adult Forum ~ 9:00 a.m. Sundays

Our new bible study, *1 Corinthians LISTEN UP!*, provides a rich reflection on what it means to be the church, and analysis of some of the chronic ways in which church health and vitality are undermined from within. The brilliance of Paul's letter is that all of this is grounded theologically; he doesn't simply say, "Now, now, can't we just all get along?" His argument is much deeper, based on what God has done in Jesus Christ. Paul's letter hits on a number of sub-themes: sexual morality, the place of the human body, food and diet, spiritual gifts and their use, including speaking in tongues, the meaning and celebration of Holy Communion, and famously, in 1 Corinthians 13, love.



The purpose of the *Listen Up! Bible Study* series is not simply learning information. It is hearing God speak. You are encouraged to listen - to the Bible, to your own questions and responses, and to the honest sharing among participants in your study group. We believe that in the mix of biblical text, personal engagement, and honest speaking and listening, God's word of challenge and comfort may be heard.



Cherokee Park United Church Annual Leader's Retreat

Healthy Congregations in Times of Change

Friday & Saturday, February 26 & 27

at ARC Ecumenical Retreat Center, Stanchfield, MN

Focus: The primary resource will be *Healthy Congregations* by church consultant, Peter Steinke. In the introduction, he states, "The health of a congregation involves the stewardship of the congregation as a unit in itself... The people who are in a position to enhance the health of a congregation are precisely those who have been empowered to be responsible, namely

the leaders... They set a tone, invite collaboration, make decisions, map a direction, establish boundaries, encourage self-expression, restrain what threatens the integrity of the whole, and keep the congregation's direction aligned with its purpose."

Because a distinctive aspect of the mission for CPUC is its commitment to antiracism, the Council has decided to make antiracism learning a portion of each leader's retreat. Friday evening will be given to further this learning and Saturday will be devoted to the focus on healthy congregations.

A copy of *Healthy Congregations* is provided to each participant, included in the registration fee. It will not be necessary to have read the book prior to the retreat; brief summaries will be provided.

Location: The ARC Retreat Center is a wonderful old lodge in a beautiful wooded setting near Cambridge, Minnesota, and is known for superb vegetarian cooking! Linens are provided.

Fellowship and relaxation: There will be time for participants to hike on the grounds, fellowship and just relax.

Who should attend: Council members, ministry chairs and other leaders, as well as all interested members and friends.

Cost: \$120/ person, which includes over-night accommodations and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Full or partial scholarships are available through 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.

**Please turn in form on bottom of following page
to Pastor Tim by Sunday, February 14.**

Advent Intergenerational Evening



-Making angels (and sometimes wearing them)
-Decorating cookies (but mostly eating them)
-Building nativity scenes

~~~~~ 2016 Annual Leaders' Retreat Registration ~~~~ 

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I plan 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to Pastor Tim by Sunday, February 14**

**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

*I have decided to stick with love.  
Hate is too great a burden to bear.*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.