



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 March 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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 Loaves & Fishes	4 Women's Group 7 pm	5 Youth skiing at Afton
6 -FOODSHELF DRIVE -Adult forum -Families Exploring Spirituality 9 am -Faith Action Vigil 2:30 pm	7 UnBending Gender 7 pm	8	9 Choir 6:45 pm	10 Council 7 pm	11	12
13 -Adult forum -Sunday School	14 UnBending Gender 7 pm	15	16 Choir 6:45 pm	17	18 Men's Group 7 pm	19
20 <i>Palm Sunday</i>  -Adult Forum -Sunday School -Oscar Romero Missa & brunch	21	22	23 Choir 6:45 pm	24 Maunday Thursday Service 7 pm	25	26
27 <i>Easter Sunday</i> Breakfast 8:30 Worship 10:15	29	30	31 Choir 6:45 pm	1 <i>April</i>	1	2
3 -Food drive -Adult forum -Families Exploring Spirituality 9 am -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	8	9 <i>Open House honoring Pastor Tim 1-5 pm</i>
10 <i>Honoring Pastor Tim at worship, and lunch following</i>	11	12	13 Choir 6:45 pm	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Choir 6:45 pm	21	22	23

Loaves and Fishes

Thursday, March 3

Join us at St. Matthew's Church to provide a hot meal for those in need. Help is needed to prepare (3:30 - 5:00 p.m.), serve (4:45 - 6:15 p.m.), and/or clean up until 7 p.m. (at the latest). Young people are welcome to help. If you plan to help, please contact Michelle Rehm Johnson.



Women's Discussion Group

Friday, March 4, 7:00 p.m.



The women's group will meet at the home of Karolyn Kleingartner. Future gatherings are scheduled for April 1 and May 6.

Food Store Collection - Minnesota Food Share Campaign

Sunday, March 6

We collect food each first Sunday, Communion Sunday, remembering that as we are fed spiritually, we need to feed those physically in need. Our donations always go to the Neighborhood House, which plays a transformative role in the lives of families, giving them immediate access to critical food support when needed, and connecting them with resources they need to become active, contributing members of our community. In March we also join in the statewide food sharing effort.

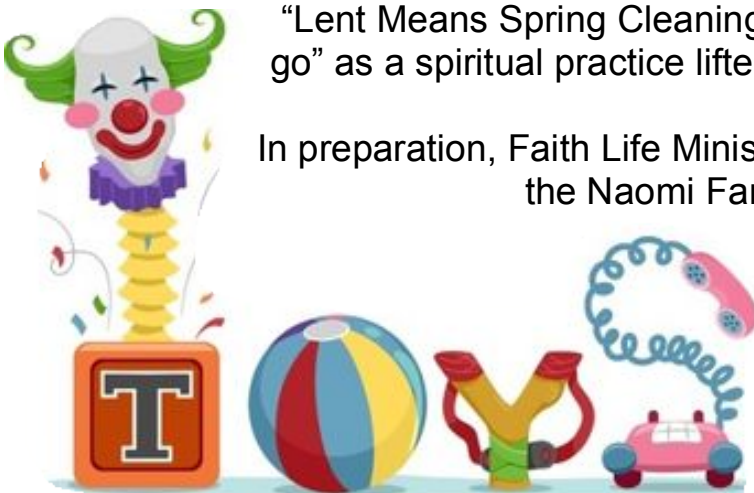
Families Exploring Spirituality - Toy Collection

Join us in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 6, 9:00 a.m. for

"Lent Means Spring Cleaning." Families will explore what it means to "let go" as a spiritual practice lifted up by Lent.

In preparation, Faith Life Ministry invites members to bring in used toys for the Naomi Family Center, a family shelter run by Union Gospel Mission in downtown St. Paul.

Donated toys should be in good condition and can be dropped off in Fellowship Hall on or before March 6. Travel size toiletries are also needed for adults.



Faith Action Vigil

Sunday March 6, 2:30-3:00 p.m.

This monthly vigil at the Ramsey County Adult Detention Center supports immigrant detainees and their families, and members advocate for comprehensive immigration reform. Contact: Joanne Sylvander

One Great Hour of Sharing ~ March 13

This offering is taken by both the United Church of Christ and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Working with partner churches around the world, the offering helps meet basic human needs in time of hardships, whether environmentally-caused or the direct impact of war and violence. Member Renee Pfenning is the MN Conference Disaster Preparedness Coordinator; our contributions make local disaster response possible.

Men's Discussion Group

Friday, March 18, 6:30 p.m.

Please join us at the home of Tom Murphy for a light supper followed by a discussion on "Mindfulness."

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 his personal account. 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.



Maundy Thursday

March 24, 7:00 p.m.

We will again enter the drama of the Last Supper by sharing in Holy Communion around tables in Fellowship Hall, followed by a service of Tenebrae (Latin for shadows) in the sanctuary, as we hear again the story of Jesus' journey to the cross and reflect on its meaning for our day and time.

Welcome to New Members



Our congregation is again blessed with new members. Mary Bren, Kristyn Aasen, and Jerry and Winnie Williams were formally welcomed at worship on January 30. We look forward to praying, working, and being together in our common goals.

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 chicken and rice meal will follow, with free will offering in support of the CCE partnership. (see pages 8-9)



During the meal there will be 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.

Easter Sunday Offering Envelopes

As is our tradition, these offerings will be dedicated to supporting our semi-monthly commitment to provide food for those who are hungry, through Loaves and Fishes.

Easter Memorial Garden

At Easter we invite families to bring flowers to help create a "memorial garden" in our sanctuary for Easter Sunday. They may be brought to the church on Saturday, March 26, between 10:30 a.m. and noon. Please leave a note or card with your name and the name(s) of the person(s) you would like remembered on the insert that will be included in the Sunday bulletin. Some simply say "In Memory of Loved Ones." Others identify specific people. You are free to bring whatever type of plant or flowers you wish, and you may take them with you after the close of the service.

Easter Breakfast

Fellowship Ministry is offering our traditional breakfast before worship on Easter Sunday. We will eat together from 8:30 - 9:15 a.m.

Help is needed the day before, Saturday, March 26, 10:00 a.m., to set and decorate tables; **decorating ideas welcome** and also, children are welcome to help with their parents. Please contact Mary Bren if you can help.



Your help is also graciously accepted for clean-up after the meal, before worship.

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-US 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.

Ain Dah Yung Center Fundraiser

Thursday, April 7, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Member Sarah Wovcha is hosting a fundraiser at her home at 426 Cherokee Av. This center works with young at-risk American Indian youth to prevent drug abuse, solicitation into street activities, and homelessness. Their goal is to keep families together and strong, and provide safe, stable emergency housing for children and life skills training for older youth. The evening will include yummy finger foods and desserts, and fellowship with others interested in strengthening the lives of families and neighborhoods. Please RSVP to Sarah.



Council Corner ~ Honoring Pastor Tim

At the February Council Meeting, the Pastoral Transition Team shared plans for celebrating Pastor Tim's retirement. A Community Open House 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 pot-luck dinner until 2:00 p.m. If members would like to help with either of these events, please contact Joanne Sylvander, Karolyn Kleingartner, Glen Herrington-Hall or Jill Jackson.

The Transition Team is also working with Pastor Tim to document his vast knowledge of CPUC information to help with continuity of church business, ministry, and community connections. We appreciate Pastor Tim's extra efforts to leave our congregation on a solid footing as he moves into retirement. If people have questions or would like to talk about feelings you're having about this big change in our communal life, please contact one of the team members.

The Council heartily thanks Pastor Tim and Michele for the thoughtful gift of the re-upholstering the loveseat in Pastor Tim's office. Tim bought it early in his ministry here; this piece will be a reminder of the love and dedication the Johnsons have shown us over all these years.

We sadly accepted the resignation of Andy Barnett from Council. Andy will become the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity in Asheville, NC in early March. We thank Andy for his leadership at our church and service on Council. We look forward to a time of celebration and blessing for the entire Folkers-Barnett family before they move in May.

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

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, 651-457-1404, kellystrebig@comcast.net.

Communities Construyendo Esperanza

From time to time our social justice efforts will focus on supporting Communities Construyendo Esperanza /Communities Building Hope, (CCE). The following is a history, written by Pastor Pastor Porfirio Martinez, and translated by Joy Sorensen, of our partnering with this community based in Santa Maria Ostuma, San Jose, El Carrizal, in El Salvador.

Gracias



In the year 1975 in El Carrizal, Ostuma, El Salvador, we were a community of great hope, dreaming of a new church, which would be the light and leaven of the Kingdom in our unequal, exclusive and exploiting society. By living this way and practicing the Christian faith, we were considered dangerous. Thus began the persecution, starting with slander and defamation of catechists and Christian leaders. It culminated in the savage massacre of the community on May 31, 1980.

In 2009, an important event in the life of this community began through a brotherly/sisterly relationship and communion with Cherokee Park United Church in Saint Paul MN. The universality of the Gospel and the practical approach to our Christian hope has made us grow, reciprocally, in both communities, in the practice of faith and hope and struggle for justice and social peace.



The support of the Cherokee Park United Church community has been important for our sister community in San Jose for their small community projects, such as:

- Purchase of a community Molino (corn mill): Two years ago, donations sent financed 50% of the project. The Molino provides service to their neighbors to grind corn for their tortillas, and the small profits are used to provide food aid to families most in need and for community celebrations.

- Cultivation of pineapple and papaya: Contributions support this project which produces a small profit to help project member families.
- Growing beans and corn: The summer of 2015 was a sad period for campesinos (subsistence farmers) as a drought ruined 80% of the corn and bean crops, the foundation of a poor family's food basket. The following dry season, a creative and enterprising spirit of this small community emerged, and they designed an irrigation project. They built a water storage tank, rented some land, bought fertilizer and sowed bean seeds. Last month they reported they are very happy to see that their plants have grown, and soon they will be picking the fruits of their labor. After collecting the bean harvest, they will begin to sow corn.

No help is too small... when it is done with love, it will bring joy and happiness to others. Truly, feeling joy for these people is enormous, when they realize that the provident and invisible hand of God has reached out to them in difficult times through our solidarity in prayer and financial support. Their gratitude is infinite. Your contribution to our community life becomes very large and valuable, especially your prayer, your testimony of faith, hope and spirit of struggle.

January Youth Fundraiser Bingo Callers and Players



Upcoming Youth Events 2016

Date	Event	Organizers
Mar 5	Skiing & Snowboarding Afton Alps Cost covered through youth group fundraisers.	Fred Hess/Julia Olmstead Please contact.
April 3	Fellowship Fundraiser	Nate/Duncan/Ingrid Fleming
April 16	Feed My Starving Children Service	Sasha Aslanian
May	UCC youth retreat-urban focus	Sandy Dodson/Andy Barnett

**Cherokee Park United Church
presents, as part of the St. Paul Art Crawl,**

Works of Monica Bryand



Birds in the 'Hood'
April 22 to May 15

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.



Mardi Gras 2016



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

Abe Hunter, Director of Music Ministries

Rebecca Knott - Nursery Supervisor

Andrew Gbaa - Custodian

Lenten Fast ~ Lenten Feast

Fast from overwork

Feast on contemplation

Fast from consumerism

Feast on simplicity

Fast from video

Feast on presence

Fast from impatience

Feast on calm

Fast from talking

Feast on listening