

Silent night-Holy night

"Silent Night! Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleeps in heavenly peace,
Sleeps in heavenly peace."



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

Cover image from a 1920's
Christmas program
at Cherokee Heights
Presbyterian Church

Newsletter December 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29 Choir 6:30 pm	30	1 DEC Women's Group 7 pm	2 9-11 am Hanging of the Greens
3 -Food Collection -Adult & Childrens' Hour 9 am	4 Seeds of Resistance 5 pm	5	6 Choir 6:30 pm	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Choir 6:30 pm	14 Council 7 pm	15 NO Men's meeting this month	16
17 Christmas dinner and caroling	18	19	20 Choir 6:30 pm	21	22	23 1 pm "The Longest Night" Service
24 -10:15 service -Set up for evening service -5:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 Blessed Christmas	26	27 Choir 6:30 pm	28	29	30
31	1 JAN	2	3 Choir 6:30 pm	4 Loaves & Fishes	5 Women's Group 7 pm	6 Unhanging of Greens!

Future dates:

* **Loaves & Fishes** first Thursday of the odd numbered months

Just for fun - another aerial view of CPUC

In this promotional Youtube done by Sundial Solar Energy company, you'll see our building included, around seconds 43 through 48.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_slkT1Ff78&feature=youtu.be

Women's Affinity Group ~ Christmas Past and Present (not Dickens!)

December 1, Friday, 7:00 p.m.

The Women's Affinity Group will meet at the home of Jan Howe. Let's talk about our celebrations of Christmas, our earliest memories, how our families celebrated, what religious or cultural customs we followed, any special food served - lutefisk? UGH! Was gifting a part of this? Were you finally, after years of hoping, chosen to be Mary in the Christmas pageant? Have you carried any of this over to your family today? Lots to talk about. Should be fun! Light snacks provided. No Christmas cookies. Sorry! (Join us anyway!)

Hanging of the Greens

December 2, 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. Come for one or both hours. Refreshments will be served (and you are invited to bring anything you wish to share also.)



Adult Forum Advent Update

2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays 9:00-10:00 a.m.

In December, the Adult Forum will start reading and discussing Deby Irving's book, ***Waking Up White***, which shares her mid-life realization of her white privilege. She goes on to explain her own transformation and efforts to undo the unfair racial, cultural and systemic ramifications of privilege. All are welcome. Please find a copy of the book to use. If you have trouble with that, please let Jill Jackson know. Discussion schedule will be found in future bulletins and an outline of the chapters to read for each session is available at church. Please join us in the Parent's Room!



Seeds of Resistance

December 4, Monday, 5:00 p.m.

This meeting of the combined ministries of Anti-racism and Justice and Witness will meet at the home of Okogyeamon.

Inquirer's Class Invitation

People who wish to learn more about Cherokee Park United in order to become members are invited to an Inquirers Class that will be held early in 2018. The classes are usually held on two consecutive Sunday evenings at the church. Please let Pastor Joy know if you are interested.

Christmas Potluck and Caroling

December 17, Sunday 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.

You are invited to supper and caroling or just the part in which you are able to join. Deck the Halls and share in the feast. The annual CPUC Christmas Dinner starts at 4:00 p.m. and the turkey will be provided. Sign up sheets for potluck contributions will be available every week through December 10.

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.

Survey Monkey Deadline December 5

Please remember to fill out your church survey so that your opinions are considered when making plans for our future with a new pastor. Paper copies are available at church, or fill it out online (which is much easier) at

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cherokeeparkunited>



Volunteer Opportunities



Choir Members: Choir rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. If you would just like to try this out and join us for one practice, get in the Christmas spirit and come on Wednesday, December 20. Our congregation delights in your sharing of many voices. We use the Baker Street side entrance and the light will be on!

Nursery Help Needed: We need adults and mature youth who enjoy kids to help in the Sunday nursery, if only for one or two times a year. You do not need to be able to get on the floor to play with kids and adult size chairs are available for you to sit on. We need one person in addition to me to keep with the common safety practice of two people in attendance. Please e-mail or call Rebecca Knott if you help. cpucnursery@gmail.com

Copiers and Folders, and Mailers, Oh My!: Some of our usual volunteers who copy, fold, or mail our weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter are gone for the winter months or unable to be here for periods of time. If you are interested in helping with these tasks please contact Susan Strebig (newsletter editor). None of these is very time-consuming, but happen on a regular basis. kellystrebig@comcast.net or 651-457-1404

Communion Servers: We'll be putting together our schedule for communion servers for 2018 and invite you to consider volunteering in this way. With enough people we usually schedule each about four times a year, and if your schedule does not work with that particular Sunday we can find a substitute. A complete description of "how to" is available and given to all new volunteers, as well as any assistance to feel comfortable doing this. Please contact Susan Strebig.

For Those Whose Holidays are Somewhat "Blue"

December 23, Saturday, 1 p.m.

A special service, called "The Longest Night" takes place on or near the longest night of the year, (usually December 21.) "Longest night" also describes the feeling that a number of us have during this season, with painful thoughts of past experiences and present situations. For some, Christmas Day is the most difficult. For others, Christmas Eve, or New Year's Eve, or the beginning of another lonely year. In this service, we invite you to listen, to pray, to sing, to meditate upon your pain and anguish and bring it to the Christ Child. Find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. The service will last 30-40 minutes and be followed by an hour or so of time for refreshments and companionship.

Learning to walk in the dark Barbara Brown Taylor

Through darkness, we begin to see the world and sense God's presence around us in new ways, guiding us through things seen and unseen, and teaching us to find our footing in times of uncertainty. Like seeds buried in the ground, we will find how darkness is essential for our own growth and flourishing.

I have learned things in the dark that I could never have learned in the light, things that have saved my life over and over again, so that there is really only one logical conclusion. I need darkness as much as I need light.



Recognizing our tendency to associate all that is good with light, and all that is evil and dangerous with darkness, Taylor asks whether God doesn't work at night too?

In Advent, themes of light and dark are explored, often with light trumping the darkness. But maybe this duality is unhelpful. At CPUC during Advent, we will light candles, listen and sing music, and share fellowship in a variety of ways. Join us as we deliberately juxtapose hope with its opposite, love with its opposite and thereby explore the dark shadows, and discover God is in the darkness too.

Council Corner – November 2017

Highlights of the meeting included -



- The Council approved the Baptism of Parker Anakin John Rafferty-Wood, child of Kristin Rafferty and Michael Wood, on Sunday, November 12.
- The Council reviewed the rolls of the church. Mike Bates, co-clerk, recommended people to contact about removing their names and others to check with on their status.
- The Council approved welcoming Abe Hunter and Friends for a concert at the church on Sunday, December 10 at 2 p.m.
- The Council encourages members and friends of CPUC to prayerfully consider the Annual Fund Drive and the Heating System Campaign and pledge or show support.

Council leadership remains grateful for the prayers and participation of the people of CPUC during this transitional period. Please connect with Council members or Pastor Joy with ideas or feedback as we work together to discern our church's future.

Annual Stewardship Commitment



& Heating System Capital Campaign

Thank you to everyone who has turned in a pledge and for your generosity in supporting the capital campaign. If you have yet to turn your pledges in, doing so soon will be of great assistance to the Finance Ministry as they firm up a proposed budget. If you have lost your pledge cards, please contact Karen Shatek.

Remaining both spiritually and fiscally strong in this time of anticipating and planning for Pastoral change will be vital in finding the leadership that will help us continue to grow as a community of faith.

Tax-savings: Donating appreciated stock or mutual funds directly to the church merits the full charitable deduction without paying capital gains tax on the appreciation. Also, for those of us over age 70 ½, donating our IRA Required Minimum Distribution directly to the church also is a big tax savings as it is not taxable income. Several of our members take advantage of these strategies thereby stretching their giving dollars. See Lynne Bates or Ingrid Fleming if you would like more information.

Where your treasure is,
there your heart will be
also. *Matthew 6:19-21*

Sacred Spaces Ministry - Update November 2017

This newly formed group has met three times. The September meeting focused on the concept of “welcome” and the group arrived at the agreement that the stained glass window was just one piece of making a welcoming space; just changing the color of Jesus’ skin was not the focus, and the whole sanctuary, not just one window, was a consideration. Words and phrases were suggested to describe the welcome we wished visitors and members to feel, and the congregation was also invited, through the newsletter, to contribute to this. The October meeting centered on reading a proposed Request for Qualifications (RFQ) that could be sent and made available to artists who might consider working on our space. Many changes were suggested and a member volunteered to put all our ideas in that revised document. The November meeting focused on further RFQ refinements and the timeline for this effort. It is hoped to have the RFQ ready for distribution on January 15, 2018.

Discussion was brought up that if a new heating system is installed, it would not be a good time for an artist to be working in the church. But with the current timeline of applications, meetings, selection, etc., it would be almost six months before the final design would be approved (June 2018) and another three-six-twelve months after that to complete raising the funds before any actual installation began.

The timeline includes up to three times that the chosen artist participates in public presentations with congregational input, and then a final presentation is given to the congregation for approval.

In the RFQ, Artists are being invited not only to create something and then install it, but there is also an invitation for those artists who might design a collaborative plan where they direct an effort in which the congregation is also a part of the creative and/or construction process. They also are invited to consider, and advise us, on the atmosphere of the church as a whole, not just the altar area.

Please contact anyone in this Sacred Spaces Ministry if you have questions or concerns. *Joy Sorensen Navarre, Maria McNamara, Kay Myhrman-Toso, Winnie Williams, Tomie Evans, Susan Strebis, Jim Shatek, Okogyeamon, Sandy Settevig, Pastor Joy*

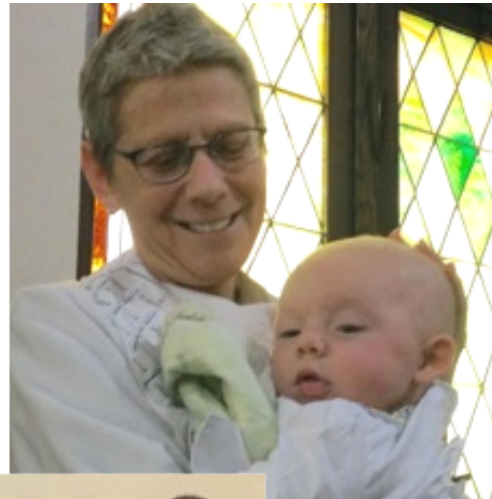
Krumkake Anyone?

Sources tell us that Sasha and Kay have been planning to treat us with their Krumkake one of these Sundays. Keep your nose alert for the aroma of this Norwegian, freshly-made-in-the-kitchen, waffle cookie for Fellowship.



November Baptism

We were blessed to take part in the baptism of Parker Rafferty-Wood. We continued the tradition of gifting the baby with a baby quilt, handmade by Pauline (Huffman) Donaldson; she had been a member here for many years and passed away this September. After she moved to Arizona many years ago, she continued to make these and mail them to us to support the efforts of this congregation. Her love as well as ours is passed on to Parker and his parents, and her kind actions live on in the hearts and homes of both friends here and babies whose families had never met her.



Food and Fellowship ~ We All Love Bath

See the binder on the round table in Fellowship Hall for an opportunity to host or help with refreshments after worship. You can sign up for one or all aspects; please note the right-hand column where people are offering to help you with your Sunday. Christmas Eve morning is still open, and dates from January 21 and on after that.

What's News?

Each month the chairpersons of ministries or organizers of programs are invited to submit articles for our monthly newsletter; but our email list may be missing some organizers. So here is your invite to involve or inform the congregation about our many efforts and activities.

Please email your articles, by the 20th of the previous month, or phone. Or maybe you would just like to have more details - let us know if you need more information on any area or ministry. Editor: Susan Strebig, email at kellystrebig@comcast.net or 651-457-1404.

Did You Participate in the Reformation?

If not, stay tuned as we may again join Martin Luther and be treated to a "Part Two."



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 snowplows never quite get it cleared away. One driveway fronts on Manomin Av., but the lot is most conveniently accessed from King St. as then cars are oriented to the parking slots.

Guadalupe Alternative School Still Needs

Warm Jackets and Coats

Many children in this school have immigrated from countries with much warmer climates so are not prepared for a Minnesota winter. Please donate used items to the box at entrance of Fellowship Hall. Mittens, hats, and gloves welcome also. Children's and adult small sizes are most needed.



Christmas Day ~ Peace and Blessings
wherever you may be celebrating.

Roses of Remembrance for Christmas Eve

Christmas is a season that provides wonderful opportunities for families and friends to be together sharing in love and fellowship. Christmas is also a time when many of us are painfully aware of those from whom we are separated by death or distance. During Advent, scripture, song, and symbols of the season remind us of the promise that we are united in God's love through both our joys and sorrows.

Roses will be available to place on the altar in remembrance. If you would like to remember someone in this way, please fill out the form below and place it in the box in the church entrance by the Sunday before Christmas.

Suggested donation is \$4.00/rose. Names of those being remembered will be printed in the bulletin if you so indicate below; after the service please take your roses home with you.



Roses Reservation

Person(s) requesting remembrance rose(s)

_____ How many roses would you like? _____

In memory of _____

Would you like their name(s) included in a list prepared for Christmas Eve? _____

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.

Rev. Joy Smith - Interim Pastor

Abe Hunter - Director of Music Ministry



...darkness is a beautiful thing...

The darkness gives way to the stars.

The darkness of the earth is what allows the seed to grow into bountiful crops.

Darkness and times of uneasiness make way for change
and invention... together with God,
we can wander into the darkest and most amazing parts
of life. We are never alone...

Laura Gatzke, former intern at CPUC