



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 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 <i>Jan</i> <i>Bring cookies!</i> -Adult Forum -Food Drive -(no Sunday School nor communion)	2	3	4 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	5 *Loaves & Fishes	6 Women's Group 7 pm	7
8 -Adult Forum -Connect! Epiphany celebration 9 am -Communion Sunday	9	10 Outreach 7 pm	11 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	12	13	14
15 -Adult Forum -Sunday School -MLK joint worship and potluck	16	17	18 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	19	20 Men's Group 6:30 pm	21
22 -Adult Forum -Sunday School	23	24	25 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	26	27	28
29 -Adult Forum -Connect! Stories for Solidarity 9 am -Congregational meeting after worship	30	31	1 <i>Feb</i> Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	2	3 Women's Group 7 pm	4
5	6	7	8 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	9	10	11
12 -Adult Forum -Sunday School	13	14	15 Choir rehearsal 6:30 pm	16	17	18

* Loaves & Fishes first Thursday of the odd numbered months

Loaves and Fishes

Thursday, January, 3:30-6:45 p.m.

Join us at St. Matthew's Church for our semi-monthly commitment to provide a tasty, hot meal for those in need. Help for an hour or more to prepare, serve, and/or clean up. Young people are welcome to volunteer. Contact Michele.

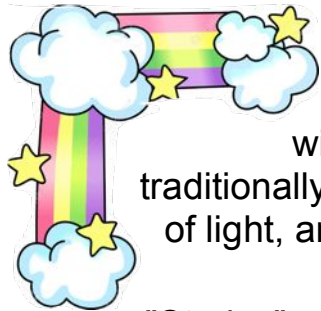


Women's Affinity Group

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

Friday, January 6, 7:00 p.m.

We will meet at the home of Joanne Sylvander. Light refreshments will be served and a lively discussion shared.



Connect ! **Connecting Faith and Life - All Welcome**

Epiphany Sunday, January 8, 9:00-10:00 a.m. Celebrate

with gusto! Epiphany is the season after Christmas that is traditionally about the gifts of the Magi. We will make gifts, explore the power of light, and find our wisdom.

Stories for Solidarity- Sunday, January 29, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

"Stories" was born one sleepless night during the week of November 8, 2016. It is a time for all ages, complete with books and songs selected to intentionally counteract harmful rhetoric of the President-elect— but the tone will not be political. Together we will joyfully impart to our children the values of respect and inclusivity that we hold dear. Come share story and song!

Outreach Ministry Team

January 10, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jill Jackson. If you are unable to attend, please let Jill know.

Men's Group - **Friday, January 20, 6:30 p.m.**
at the home of Dave Hoppe.

December Family Event

The annual Advent intergenerational event was held after worship on the first Sunday of Advent. Members made Advent candle logs, ornaments, and decorated cookie creations. A great start in anticipation of Christmas.



Pray, Eat, Love

Worship on the third Sunday of December was led by our children in the tradition started seven years ago. Prayers and music led by young voices provided the warmth needed despite the minus 35 degree wind chill. Later that day, a potluck dinner, anchored by Chef Jim's roast turkeys, was served, then, more music, and then the love was shared by the group caroling in three locations.



The CPUC Holiday Dinner was just what church holiday dinners should be! The tables were festive, food was fabulous, and as always more than enough, the concert by our own CPUC musicians was great, and the caroling lead by Winnie and Jerry Williams put us all in the spirit. A special visitor stopped with gifts for the kids and to gently harass the adults.



Three teams went to carol for others at Little Sisters of the Poor, Westview Ridge, and Southview Assisted Living. We received an enthusiastic thank you and were well received everywhere. Special thanks to EJ for singing Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer as a solo in the Memory Care Unit at Southview Assisted Living and repeating the duet with Jim Shatek for the other residents.

Thanks to everyone who came and enjoyed the holiday season together, from Renee Pfenning and the Caring Ministries.



From Pastor Joy

Dear, Friends,

As I write this, the end of 2016 is at our doorstep. Many sad and terrible things happened this year and least we forget, joys and celebrations too. It has been a year of great change. It has been a year to sigh and be glad it is over. It is also a year to recognize we have Christmas work to do now more than ever.



Epiphany follows Christmas on the church calendar. I actually like it better than Christmas. I like that we have stars to follow, wisdom to learn, and new births to participate. I like to think we are stargazers. We have brand new light to lead us. And God needs us more than ever to have the courage to keep lighting those candles.

Here is a poem someone shared with me recently:

“When the world is busy doing worldly things and not really watching the edges of creation, on some wonder days shall love be born again...

And on that Beautiful Day the promise shall be fulfilled,
that now haunts the minds of dreamers...

On that day when the ‘counter-imagination’ of Jesus of Rosa of Martin, of Barack - shall be fulfilled.

When love, inclusiveness, community, are born again on the edges.
Is that not what haunts all dreamers?”

And what about us? Can we also dare to say...when the ‘counter-imagination’ of Cherokee Park United Church as a niche, progressive church, shall be fulfilled? If not, why not? I invite you, us, to both ponder and dream as we start at a new place.

Peace for the journey,
Pastor Joy Smith

*All God's Creatures
got a place in the choir,
some sing low,
some sing higher;*

and our choir sang much higher in the organ pipe loft on the first Sunday of Advent.



Nursery Play Church



A number of years ago nursery director Rebecca told Jim and Karen Shatek that she'd like to create a dollhouse type church. Jim and Karen found a kit, assembled, added the celtic crosses on the outside, and donated it to our church nursery. Rebecca added the solar panels on the roof and worked on the interior walls and furnishings; Kay and Anna provided additional help, and

Pastor Tim provided wall images. As you look closely you will find some of our own art pieces, a grand piano, fellowship hall, and sanctuary of people seated for worship. It will be on display January 22 on a table in fellowship hall so that we need not kneel on the floor as children do, to explore its details.



Council Corner

The Council met on for its last time in 2016 on December 8, led by moderator Jerome Graf. They approved a Letter of Transfer of membership for the Rev. Anna Larson, now serving as pastor of Circles of Faith United Church of Christ in Waubun, MN, and approved changing communion from January 1 to January 8, 2017 due to the New Year's Day holiday. They scheduled the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, January 29; **Ministry Team chairs are asked to have their annual reports to Pastor Joy by January 15.**

Members welcomed Maria McNamara and Mike Bates who begin terms on Council in January joining continuing members Mary Murphy and Karen Shatek as the Class of 2019. Maria and Mike will be installed into service during worship on January 8. The Council heartily thanks Karolyn Gilbertson Kleingartner and Dave Hoppe as they end their service on Council at this meeting.

Council leadership remains grateful for the prayers and participation of the CPUC family of faith during this interim period. Please connect with Council members or Pastor Joy with ideas or concerns you want to share as we continue to live out God's will together.



Music Recital

Sunday, February 12, 2:00 p.m.

Cherokee Park United will host a recital of Humberto Borboa Beltran, tenor, with Abe Hunter (our music director), on piano. Abe worked with Humberto in Italy and has teamed with him on other recitals. Humberto currently lives in Denver. His most recent work is with the Tulsa Opera. This event is open to the community; a suggested donation will be requested. Please bring your family, friends or "Valentine" to this special musical happening.



Dear Friends,

Thank you for the love and support you gave Burt and me in the months before his passing in November. Thanks to Pastor Joy and all who took part in Burt's Celebration of Life in early December. The time of remembrance shared, the lovely meal served, and the desserts and decorations you provided made for a day I and others will remember always. Thank you for the many lovely cards, notes and other ways you honored Burt's life and cared for me at this tender time. I'm very grateful to be a part of this loving faith community.

Peace,
Jill Jackson

West Siders for Strang Schools Partnership

On Wednesday, January 25, the community is invited to the Winter Concert at Humboldt High School. Cherokee Park United and other community agencies will be there, supporting public schools and sharing about our church with those in attendance. Please join us!

Mother Earth Needs Help at CPUC

Recently the City of St. Paul has changed their recycling pick-up program, as of January 18, to **EXCLUDE** non-profits and small businesses. We also cannot find any services that we can contract to do this. The city office "environmental coordinator" seems uninterested in the fact that much recyclable material may now end up in the trash bins. Does anyone have any ideas or help? We may need to try to trundle home recyclables until we solve this challenge. Contact Kelly, Property Management Ministry, 651-457-1404.



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 - Transitional Pastor

Abe Hunter - Director of Music Ministry

*...right, temporarily defeated,
is stronger than evil triumphant.*

from Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech

December 10, 1964

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

