



## **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 July 2017***

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
25 Pride Parade	26	27	28	29	30	1 <i>July</i>
2 -Food Collection	3	4	5	6 <i>Loaves &amp; Fishes</i>	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Worship In the Park	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1 <i>August</i> National Night Out hosted by CPUC	2	3	4	5
6 -Food Collection	7	8	9	10 Council 7 pm	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	2118	19

**Future dates:** Mendota Mdewakanton Tribal Community Wacipi Sept 8-10  
 Fall Clean-Up Day, Saturday, October 7  
 Women's Retreat, Friday-Saturday, October 13-14  
 Covenanting Sunday **MOVED** from September 10 TO September 17

*Worship Start Time Changed* to 9:30 a.m. on June 11. (summer hours)

## *Worship in the Park*

Join us July 23<sup>rd</sup> for our annual outdoor worship and picnic at Cherokee Park pavilion. Worship starts at the usual 9:30 a.m. summer hour, and is followed by a potluck meal. Plates, utensils, beverage are provided and a grill will be lit and hot for anyone who needs it.



## *Come to Church on National Night Out!*

Cherokee Park United will host National Night Out on Baker Street in front of the church on Tuesday, August 1, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The event is open to all but people who live in the area close to church will get invitations. We hope St. Paul police units and/or fire fighters will stop by. The goal is to connect people and build safe neighborhoods. Ice cream treats, fruit and beverages will be offered at no cost.

If you are willing and able to distribute invitations to houses sometime in mid-July, or help with set-up, serving, or clean-up on August 1, please let us know. We appreciate you considering this, especially if it means missing an event near your home. Contact Joanne Sylvander or Jill Jackson.

## *Fellowship Hour - what would you like?*

Russ Spangler, frequent fellowship hour host at CPUC, will soon be a welcome addition to a new faith community as his family will be moving by this Fall. Russ has some great perspectives on hosting the social hour. He sees it as a service he's chosen and believes one should serve with joy. He emphasizes that fellowship is the point of social hour. In that spirit of service, Russ hopes to be a fellowship hour host most Sundays during the month of July.



The current plan for the rest of the summer is to invite everyone to sign up to help in one way or another one or more Sundays. Menus can be very simple, including only coffee, tea, and juice on occasion, or a chance for you to provide what you once were thinking when you said, "I wish they would have....."

There will be options to sign up for one or more categories, including hosting and coordinating, providing the food (reimbursement comes from the free will donations), setting up beforehand, serving the food, clean-up and running the dishwasher. Join with others and form a team. Brief "how-to" descriptions will be available also. It's a great way to meet others or it can be a family project. A sign-up sheet will be available in July.

## *Transition Team Update* from Andy George

Sometimes the Transition Team gets asked, “*Why do we need a Transition Pastor? Can’t we just hire a permanent pastor and have them do the transition tasks?*” It’s an excellent question, and one that we asked both the UCC and the PCUSA when Tim announced his retirement. They told us that when churches try to skip over the transition period, the pastor they hire gets bogged down in the unfinished grieving and emotional processing needed by a church after a long time pastor leaves. Long dormant conflicts explode, divisions appear, and visioning for the future becomes impossible. So the pastor they hire to be permanent ends up burning out and leaving after a year or two anyway.

An intentional transition period, like we’re doing now, is difficult, but healthy. With a critical and compassionate eye, we’ve examined our past and the challenges we face today. Being intentional about this process means we can work together to move forward.

### Transition Task Updates:

- The transition team met with representatives of the Anti-Racism Team to discuss how our commitment to anti-racism and the beloved community can help shape the church’s new mission.
- We’re organizing representatives of the two conferences to come, preach, and together examine our unique commitment as a joined community.
- We’re preparing a survey for members to take about where our energies are and where we want to go from here.
- With Barb Herrington-Hall taking a step back from active involvement so she can fully support Pastor Glen and his new ministry, we’re excited to welcome Sandy Dodson to the Transition Team. Even representation between council members (Karen Shatek and Andy George), and non-council members (Sandy and Jackie Rico), ensures that as many perspectives as possible are brought into the conversation.

As always, please bring your transition questions to a member of the team, or to Pastor Joy.



## *Thank You*

We thank Alice Savitski for the artwork piece she donated for allowing her to exhibit in our sanctuary. We will leave it up for the next couple of months. Her works are multi-media and in addition to paints she uses many pieces cut from left-over materials; on this work you will find glittery pieces left after the My Little Pony stickers are peeled off, and the foil from small Hershey bar wrappers. See if you can find them!

## *Pastor Jay's Thoughts*

Dear Friends Who Share the Journey,  
Your outpouring of generosity and support, as my family plots an unexpected new course in our lives, has lifted our spirits and given us courage. The meals are gourmet and lessen the worry about what to cook! Thank you and thank you.

### **Observations since June 2016**

#### ***Traditions***

Can you let go of projects, ministries, even traditions when there is a lack of interest, volunteers, or past their sell-by date? Some of your traditions need to stay; my concern is that holding on too tightly to others will lessen the impact of what you are doing and the energy for something new. I wonder too, is it hard to see or hear the new thing the Spirit is calling us to do? I want to be clear, I am not talking about changing values, theology, commitment to justice - without those, we don't get to call ourselves a church. But anything other than those, need to be held lightly, and sometimes not at all.

#### ***Communication***

In the midst of all the important things you do here – I hear from those not in the loop – how they do not always know what is going on CPUC. Perhaps more importantly, who is the contact person? Some of that is because there are many ministry teams that overlap. Fewer ministry teams with more specific descriptions might increase participation and prevent burnout. One other point, an article I read in the Christian Century, a progressive well-known magazine, reported on a survey which asked why people come to church. The most frequent answer was that folks are looking to learn about the Bible and how it fits into their lives today.

#### ***A Plan***

I once asked a pastor friend who was revitalizing his dying church to send me an outline of his plans. He sent me a six-month calendar of upcoming events. Planning and making sure the events are on the Google calendar is important and you do that really well (unless the pastor over-books!) I wonder if it would help if ministry teams and the council went about planning that includes a roadmap for how to get from where you are now to a more desirable future. Yes, that plan will change as circumstances change, so be prepared to adapt and change needs to into the plan.

#### ***More Assessment or Evaluation***

CPUC is a small church and it is hard to gauge effectiveness by numbers. Every time we do any ministry, we need to intentionally ask: What went right? What went wrong? Why? What we can do to improve it the next time? Is it worth our continued time and energy?



(cont'd next page)

### ***Inward Focus***

One of the many endearing traits of CPUC is how you welcome visitors. I love to watch the passing of the peace. You are excited to see new faces and joyously welcome them. Even introverts, like my husband, feel an authentic acceptance. Ambassadors are planted to greet and meet and invite them to fellowship time. So here is the question: is CPUC willing to be changed by those who come into your church? Are you willing to listen and adapt your methods (but not the core theology) based on the changing needs of the community around us? Churches that are not able – will be seen as a “holy hurdle” and have a good chance to become irrelevant.

### ***Numerical growth is not the goal. Health is.***

I have heard lament, that if we were only bigger and had more people – we would be able to do more and have a better budget. True, but not the goal. You are a small – with lots of gifts and vision and fabulous people and your gift is actually because of being a smaller congregation. Numerical growth is not the goal. Health is. Sometimes that health will produce numerical growth, sometimes not. So focus on the being you right now – and be proud of it.

I expect some of you will agree and disagree with my list. We will both have others to add. And I hope you will talk about it.

I believe you are an important faith community. I experience your vision, nurture, and hope. I am inspired over and over again how much is done with just a little over 100 people. Your worship services are one of the most joyous experiences I have had for a long time. I love and appreciate your values and commitment to a more just society. I am moved how you embrace and love your children as if they were your own. I follow you in how you walk the way of Jesus.

You are a church that is needed more than ever. I want you to exist for a very long time. My purpose and strong desire is joining with you to strengthen the vision that has been fostered here for more than a half of century. I continue to be blessed serving you. Thank you.



### ***Women's and Men's Groups are "Off" for the Summer***

The Women's Affinity Group will resume in September. People willing to host a monthly meeting (usually the first Friday at 7 p.m.) can contact Jill Jackson to sign up for the 2017-2018 program year. Thanks for considering this!

## *Annual Women's Retreat*

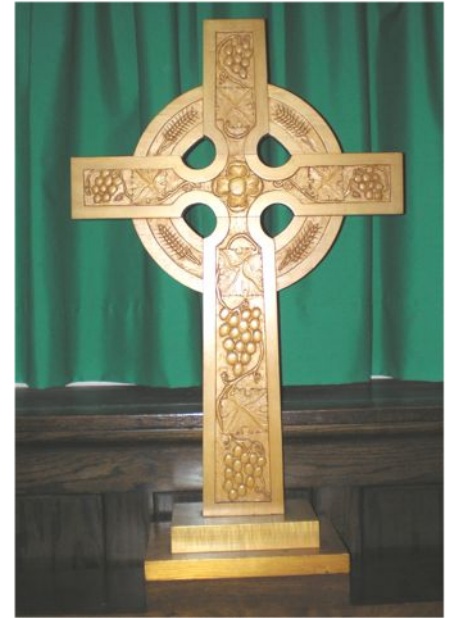
This annual event will be held again at the ARC Retreat Center on Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14. Registrations will be available later and due in early September. Mark your calendars now for this enjoyable time away!



### *A Little More History*

Since our developing awareness of Celtic spirituality

has been fairly recent (compared to our 100 year old history), it seemed safe to assume that our Celtic altar cross was also relatively contemporary. However, the plaque in the back indicates it was donated in 1947, dedicated to the men who served during World War II. The wooden candlesticks are also part of the set.



## *Council Corner*

The Council met on June 8 and highlights of the meeting included the following:

- The Council renewed Pastor Joy's contract for another year (through June of 2018.) She received the same 3% raise as other staff. If congregation members wish to see Pastor Joy's contract, please contact a Council member.
- The dates of the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Pow Wow (Wacipi) are September 8-10 this year. Cherokee Park United pledged to prepare the final feast for the gathering on Sunday, September 10. Because of the need for lots of help and kitchen space to prepare for the feast, the Council voted to move CPUC's Covenanting Sunday from September 10 to September 17. Please mark your calendars!
- The Council shared honestly about the transition process and of the commitment the process will require of church leaders and all church members over the coming months.

The Council will meet next on August 10.



## *Anniversary Sunday*



The first Sunday in June always includes a celebration of the past and the future. Ted and Diane received pins for their 50<sup>th</sup> year of membership.



High school graduate Nora was gifted with a quilt (made by Sara George and Kathy Bergthold), and college graduates Nona and Leah were presented with the Desmond Tutu book "Believe". The 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the united churches was celebrated with a dinner after worship.





## *Fellowship Hall Library*

In addition to the Little Free Library outside, we also have a little library (not free, but lending) inside in Fellowship Hall. We've tried to clear it out of "old theology" that has accumulated through the years, and shelved the books in color coded categories so you might easily find what you are looking for (and we can easily reshelv.) Categories are: Vegetarian Cookbooks, Bibles and Scripture Commentary, Social Justice/Care for the Earth, Grief and Loss, Inspiration and Prayer, Family, Spirituality including Recommended Titles which have been used in Adult Forum, and Church. And there is no need to check them out. The bottom two shelves are for Children and Teens and toys that

the younger children can easily reach themselves. Thanks to Meliza Thurstin and Jaime Dodson for helping Susan with this.

## *Heavenly Music*

Thank you to Leah and Marta Williams for sharing their musical talents at worship in June. All immensely enjoyed their flute and harp music. Note the artworks that will be hanging during Advent and you will see a photograph which Leah took of her harp for a photography class, and donated for our collection.



*"Patience is a hard discipline . .*

for it asks us to live the moment to the fullest,  
to taste the here and now,  
to be where we are.

When we are impatient,  
we try to get away from where we are.

We behave as if the real thing  
will happen tomorrow.

Let's be patient and trust that  
the treasure we look for  
is hidden in the ground  
on which we stand." .....

.....Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*

## *Angels Behind the Scenes*

Occasionally we recognize various ministries and individuals in our Sunday worship; there are many additional tasks being done on a weekly or monthly, or sometimes daily basis, and we'd like to recognize some of those involved - we know this is not a complete list, so please forgive us (and remind us of the others). Running a church is like running a household - the building needs to be maintained, the equipment repaired, the utilities monitored, the supplies purchased and organized, the bills paid.

Here is a partial list of our willing church angels.

**Russ Settevig:** Takes out the recycle bins on Mondays and returns them on Tuesday and sets out the trash cans on Wednesdays and returns to behind the building on Thursdays, (Even in the winter!)

**Jim Shatek:** Studied to pass the boiler operator's licensing; checks the water levels in the boiler room pipes every week; calls in a contractor if repairs are needed; monitors and replenishes all janitor and kitchen supplies; before worship provides liturgist and pastor's water, and water for the forgiveness prayers, turns sound system on.

**Stefan Sylvander:** Writes up the final draft of the worship bulletins and copies them and copies the newsletters.

**Kathy Bergthold, Cal & Phyllis Clark** fold and mail the newsletters monthly and fold the bulletins weekly.

**Jim Shatek:** Arrives at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays to check the building and set up coffee! **The electricity went off**, the freezer is defrosting, the internet is not connected, there is water all over the floor! who do you call? **Jim and Stefan and maybe Tom Murphy!** Tom also organizes and runs the computerized wall imaging for worship.

**Jill Jackson:** Maintains the candles and other supplies needed for worship and in the pews.

**Kathy Bergthold:** Organizes the communion elements and containers.

**Jan Howe:** If you find any hymnals with child's pencil scribbling in them, put them in Jan's pew as she regularly brings a really good eraser to worship and cleans them up!

**Wayne Bjorlie:** Mows the lawn, sweeps up grass clippings every Friday, and does fertilizing and weed control.

**Jerome Graf:** Transports the leaves/branches/grass trimmings to the Ramsey County Compost Site.

**Lynne Bates:** Maintains all the financial accounts.

**Phyllis Clark:** Writes checks or requests them from the bank and maintains our bank account.

**Karen Shatek:** Coordinates people to count and record the church offerings and maintains individual financial records of giving.

...and thanks to the many committee members, (especially Jill), who spend hours everyday on church emails!



*We Have a Beautiful  
Mather*

by Alice Walker

We have a beautiful  
mother  
Her hills  
are buffaloes  
Her buffaloes  
hills.

We have a beautiful mother  
Her oceans  
are wombs  
Her wombs  
oceans.

We have a beautiful  
mother  
Her teeth  
the white stones  
at the edge  
of the water  
the summer  
grasses  
her plentiful  
hair.

We have a beautiful  
mother  
Her green lap  
immense  
Her brown embrace  
eternal  
Her blue body  
everything  
we know.

*Many Images of God....*

male

fair-skinned  
white-bearded  
tall & slender, white-robed  
judges our actions

female

dark-skinned  
long black-haired  
bountiful and busty  
nurtures and protects us  
with her own body



## **Cherokee Park United Church**

United Church of Christ/Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Open & Affirming, Multicultural, Antiracist

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cherokeeparkunited.org

371 W. Baker Street

St. Paul, MN 55107

Sunday Worship **9:30 a.m.** June-July-August

(10:15 a.m. Sept-May)

Rev. Joy Smith - Interim Pastor

Abe Hunter - Director of Music Ministry

*Peace is Joy at rest.  
Joy is Peace on its feet.*

Anne Lamott