



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 September 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
27	28	29 Worship Mtg 7 pm	30	31	1 <i>September</i> Women's group 7 pm	2
3 Food Collection	4	5	6 Choir	7 * Loaves & Fishes	8 Mdewankanton Wacipi	9 Wacipi food prep
10 Worship Start time changes to 10:15 a.m. Wacipi food prep Serve feast	11 Wacipi kitchen cleanup	12	13 Choir	14 Council 7 pm	15	16
17 Covenanting Sunday	18	19 Outreach Ministry 7 pm	20 Choir	21	22	23
24	25	26 Worship Mtg 7 pm	27 Choir	28	29	30
1 <i>October</i> -Connect! for children & adults -Food Collection	2	3	4 Choir	5	6	7 Fall Clean-UP Fix-Up Day
8	9	10	11 Choir	12 Council 7 pm	13 Women's Retreat Fri-Sat	14
15	16	17	18 Choir	19	20	21

Future dates: Women's Retreat, Fri-Sat, October 13-14

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

Cover photo: by Tom Murphy

For a video of the copter's journey over the church, view You Tube at:

<https://youtu.be/7sifq1rkHpo>



Worship Ministry Meeting

We will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the church on Tuesday, August 29. Please let Jill know if you are unable to come.



Women's Affinity Group

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

The Women's Affinity Group will meet at the home of Jill Jackson. Light refreshments will be served and a lively discussion shared. We look forward to another year of building relationships and sharing our lives with each other. If you are interested in hosting a monthly meeting in the coming year, (usually the first Friday at 7:00 p.m.), please contact Jill. Thanks for considering this!

Loaves and Fishes

Thursday, September 7, 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 (3:45 - 5:00 p.m.), serve, and clean up (4:40-6:30 p.m.). Young people are welcome to volunteer. Contact Michele Johnson.



18th Annual Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Wacipi

Friday–Sunday, September 8–10

We are gathering volunteers to help with our annual support of this wacipi (pow wow). Our primary commitment is the provision of food for 250 people at the closing feast on Sunday evening, which is a major undertaking so many hands are needed to prep and cook and socialize!

We will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 9 in our kitchen, and finish in early afternoon. We also will need people

Sunday after church until 4:00 p.m., then help to transport food over to the site, people to serve, and folks to bring things back to the church afterwards. Clean up is needed on Monday morning in the kitchen. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Karen Shatek and Joanne Sylvander will have sign up sheets with times and dates and are happy to answer any questions. Please see us after church!



Affiliations: As part of our transitional procedure, we have representatives of both the United Church of Christ and of the Presbyterian churches speak to us to better understand our united character. Rev. Steve Boorsma (MN Conf. UCC) spoke to us in July and the Rev. Jeff Japinga of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area will visit in October. Many of us were not raised in either tradition, so information is valuable on many levels.

If you would like to be connected in regularly with the wider churches, you can visit the national UCC homepage at <http://www.ucc.org/> and/or sign up for their weekly newsletter (see middle of the home page.) For the Minnesota UCC, go to their home page at <http://uccmn.org/> and click on the "Get Involved" option and then click on the "Sign up for e-newsletter, *COMMAantary*" in the upper right hand corner.

For the Presbyterian links, go to <https://www.pcusa.org/> and click on News and Announcements at the top of the home page. There is an option to "subscribe by



email" on the left column of the N and A page. For the local Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, visit <https://ptcaweb.org/> and click on the "for PTCA Members" link at the top of the homepage. For local *Emerge* newsletter, contact Risa Anderson, 651 357-1150 ext: 254 or office@ptcaweb.org



Lay Ministries Update an Openings

At this time of year many ministry and other roles of service undergo changes. Some members may wish to step down after numbers of years, perhaps to try their hands and hearts in other areas. Although we all enjoy being personally invited to a role, that does not always happen, so something in which you have an interest may be waiting for you to express your wish or idea. Please contact Diane Spicer or Karolyn Kleingartner or someone in that ministry if you would like information or to try it out.

One area needing volunteers is that of taking the offering at worship, on a rotating schedule or every Sunday if you would like. There are also openings in the Worship Ministry, which involves the "nuts and bolts" areas such as environment, banners & wall art, communion supplies. (This group is not responsible for worship service prayers, readings or music.)

Another area worth considering is a larger role in decision making as a council member. Each year, starting January 1, four members are rotated out, unless they wish to continue for a second consecutive term; this year two new members are needed. A balance of members is always sought - that might include you!

Outreach Ministry

The team will meet on Tuesday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jill Jackson.



We are considering hosting a pumpkin-decorating event for people in our church neighborhood this fall. We need a source for reasonably priced, small pumpkins! If you or someone you know has a pumpkin connection, please contact Jill. Thanks!



Sunday School 2017-2018

A new church year is upon us and change is in the air. This year the format of Sunday School for kids in the church is evolving to better fit the needs of families and the congregation.

Starting **Sunday, October 1**, the first Sunday of each month will be a **Connect!*** Sunday. This is an intergenerational event beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall that will focus on exploring spiritual concepts in fun and meaningful ways. Whether or not you have small children you are invited to participate and have your soul nourished.

We will no longer have classroom-based Sunday School lessons for kids on the other Sundays of the month. Instead, once a month (on a different day than **Connect!**) there will be a kid-friendly, spirit-filled activity that all children of the church will be invited to attend. The idea is to get kids outside the walls of the church to experience God and their faith, and then talk about that in a meaningful way. We anticipate this will happen after Church on Sunday afternoons, but that will likely vary based on the activity and family schedules.

The date and activity for October will be announced in the October newsletter. Possible activities this year include volunteering at Feed My Starving Children or a local food shelf, attending a film or play with a spiritual message, or doing outdoor activities that connect the kids with nature. All children and families of the church are welcome to participate.

We're excited to reinvent ourselves again and let the Spirit guide us. If you have questions, or ideas for either **Connect!** or the monthly activity, please contact Faith/Life chairwoman, Kay Myhrman-Toso.

* To help us make connections between church and our homes and the wider world, and connections across generations.

Message from Pastor Joy

Transition – What Next?

Thus says Yahweh, Who made a way through the sea, A path in the great waters; Who put chariots and horse in the field And a powerful army, Which lay there never to rise again, Snuffed out, put out like a wick: No need to recall the past, No need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, Even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, Paths in the wild.

(Isaiah 43: 16-19; from The Jerusalem Bible)



The next step in the transitional process is to complete a survey that will allow us to **explore CPUC in three ways:** (Fall, 2017)

- 1) Terms of identity:** an analysis of who we are — the history, beliefs, world view, paradigms, patterns, norms, attitudes and traditions — as well as the internal demographics, generational breakdown, congregational personality/DNA and the glue that holds you together.
- 2) Congregational Context:** where we are – the external demographics as well as our social, denominational, community and cultural context, including assessment of community needs.
- 3) Congregational Process:** how we do things, how decisions are made (formal structure and informal process).
- 4) Congregational Program:** what it is we're doing and how well we are doing it, how could we do it better.

The next part is **mission planning** (probably Winter 2018): This is a process to plan your mission and ministry and putting together a mission statement. Using surveys, questionnaires, interviews, and small group conversations, we will:

- 1) Future:** community projections and needs (schools, services); projections of church and community growth and/or decline.
- 2) Vision:** choosing the future we prefer, setting goals and directions. What is it we would like to do and be? What kind of church does God want us to be? What should we be doing in this community? What is our special mission? What is realistic? This process includes the developing of a concise goal and mission statement
- 3) Implement:** Developing a timetable; carrying out the plan, who's going to do what when?
- 4) Evaluate:** How's it going? Was it realistic? Where are we going from here?

Now for the Fun part!

Pastor Joy

August 10 Council Highlights

The Council approved the creation of a four-way covenant for the Rev. Sandy Dodson. The covenant is between Sandy, the Committee on Ministry of the MN Conference of the United Church of Christ, Woodwinds Hospital where Sandy works as chaplain, and Cherokee Park United Church.

The Council and Pastor Joy will work with the Finance and Property Management Ministry Teams to create a Capital Campaign for replacement of the church boiler/furnace. The goal is to bring a proposal to the congregation for a vote at the fall 2017 congregational meeting.

The Council authorized funds for the Transition Team. These will be used to pay for demographic studies and survey options needed in the transition process. The Transition Team will share a possible timeline for other transitional goals in the September newsletter.

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 you want to share as we work together to discern our church's future.

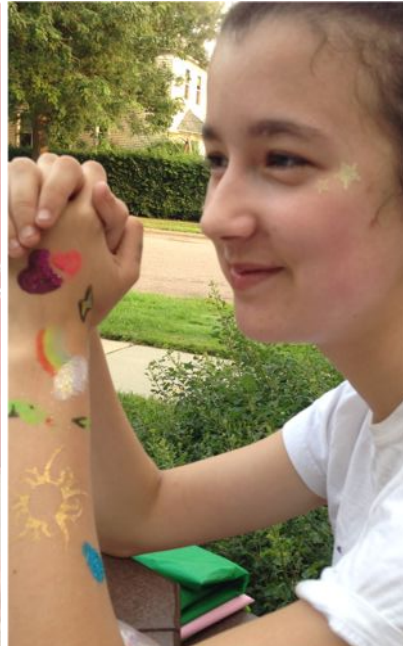
Art Conservation

These banners were designed and created by Sandy Settevig and Joanne Sylvander over a decade ago. They are actually stoles worn by children as they represented "putting on the clothes of Christ." Today they can be used as two larger banners; Susan and granddaughter Gretta, visiting from WA, combined them for a better visual impact.



National Night Out

Many thanks for helping make National Night Out at Cherokee Park United a great success! Whether you designed or delivered invitations, worked on electronic communications, helped with set up, during the event, or with clean-up, your effort made a difference. Winnie estimated there were 35 to 40 non-church people there. We had great support from our congregation folks, too. And we did it all without electricity for most of the time! We may have had a "Higher Power" watching over us. We met some of our neighbors and made some good connections with young ones and families. We certainly hit the community helper "trifecta" when the fire-fighters, the ambulance folks and the mounted patrol officers all showed up to meet our attendees.





*...and
Summer Warship & Potluck in the Park*



Annual Women's Retreat

Seeing with new eyes...the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new lands but seeing with new eyes. *Marcel Proust*

This annual event will be held again at the ARC ((**A**ction, **R**eflection, **C**elebration) Retreat Center on Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14. Join us as we explore new ways to imagine our faith and life at Cherokee Park United Church. Pastor Joy will lead us on a journey to visualize our common life in new ways. Come to see the possibilities for our church in transition!



ARC is a wonderful lodge in a wooded setting near Cambridge, Minnesota and it is known for superb vegetarian cooking – and there is no washing dishes! Those wishing to carpool should plan to leave St. Paul by 4:00 pm. on Friday. Linens are provided.

Registration forms are available in the Baker Street entrance and in Fellowship Hall. The cost of the retreat is \$120, with a \$30.00 deposit due by Sunday, September 17 to Jill Jackson or Karen Shatek. There is limited space, so please register early.

Westminster Town Hall Forums - Free and Open to All

Tuesday September 19, Noon

Can We Save the Planet? Speaker Carl Pope, former executive director and chairman of the Sierra Club, author of *Climate of Hope: How Cities, Businesses, and Citizens Can Save the Planet.*

Tuesday, October 24, Noon

Politics, Governing, and the Law: Speaker Ari Melber, graduate of Cornell Law School, chief legal correspondent for MSNBC, covering the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Department, and FBI. Host of the political news program *The Beat.*

Tuesday, November 28, Noon

Crime and Punishment in Black America: Speaker James Forman, Jr., author of the book *Locking Up Our Own*, founder of the Maya Angelou Public Charter School serving incarcerated and at-risk youth, professor of law at Yale Law School.



Forums are held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nicollet Mall and 12th Street in downtown Minneapolis and are one hour in length. Q & A follows each presentation. Music precedes each forum 30 minutes in advance, and a public reception follows. 612-332-3421 westminsterforum.org

Hard Copy Readers

If you receive this newsletter as a paper copy in the mail, please contact the editor if you would like to receive it in **color** (like the July issue). We can send color copies to those who request it.

Focus on Transformative Social Change

Applying Spiritual Practice to Racial Justice

Thursday-Sunday, October 19-22

Clouds in Water Zen Center, 445 Farrington St, St. Paul 55103, 651-222-6968

Thursday-Friday Retreat for People of Color, 7 - 9 p.m. and 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday Retreat Open to All, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Retreat programs include meditation and movement, dharma talks by Rev. angel Kyodo Williams, Q & A, small group discussion, lunch provided Friday and Saturday.

Fees: \$150 Thur-Fri for People of Color, \$250 all events People of Color,
\$150 Saturday Open to All.

Additional events open to all:

Friday - Public meditation and dharma talk
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sunday - Public meditation and dharma talk
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Sunday - Open discussion
1:00 pm. - 4:00 p.m.

Registration deadline September 22 at cloudsinwater.org
online or by mail.



Deadline for articles is the 20th of the month;
please submit articles, ideas or feedback to
editor Susan Strebog at kellystrebog@comcast.net
or 651-457-1404.

The newsletter team also consists of:
pre-publishing fact editors Phyllis Clark and Mary
Murphy, collate/mail teams Phyllis & Cal Clark,
Stefan Sylvander & Kathy Bergthold.

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

summer hours **9:30 a.m.** through Sept 3

10:15 a.m. starting Sept 10

Rev. Joy Smith - Interim Pastor

Abe Hunter - Director of Music Ministry

Laughter is carbonated holiness.

Anne Lamott