



*Signs of Spring — Magnolia Blossoms and Art Fest*

## ***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 May 2014***

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
27 -Children's Music 9:15 am -Earth Day worship & vegetarian brunch	28	29	30 Choir 6:45	1 <i>May</i> Loaves & Fishes*	2 Women's Group 7pm	3 <i>Cinco de Mayo parade</i>
4 -(FES next week instead) -Foodshelf - <i>Pinata &amp; pastries</i> fellowship - Faith Action Vigil 2:30 pm	5	6	7 -Choir 6:45  -Faith Life 7:30 at church	8 -Building Blocks Dinner -Council 7 pm	9	10 [Spring clean- up <b>moved</b> to June 7]
11 -Families Exploring Spirituality 9am	12	13	14 Choir 6:45	15	16 Men' Group 6:30 pm	17 Sounds of the Neighborhood Cabaret 7-9 p.m.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1 <i>June</i> Anniversary Dinner	2	3	4	5	6	7 <i>Spring Clean-Up</i> 9:00-2:30
<b>8 worship time changes to 9:30 a.m.</b>						

\* the first Thursday of odd numbered months

## *Adult Forum : Christian Faith and Economic Justice*

On the first two Sundays in May, Tom Liddle will lead a discussion on the faith dimensions of economic justice. We will be discussing the Accra Confession\*, which is a succinct analysis of our current global economic order coupled with a provocative theological response.

May 4: Introduction to the Accra Confession: "Reading the Signs of the Times." We will read and discuss the first part of the Confession that looks at how the global economic system affects people living in poverty, and the earth.

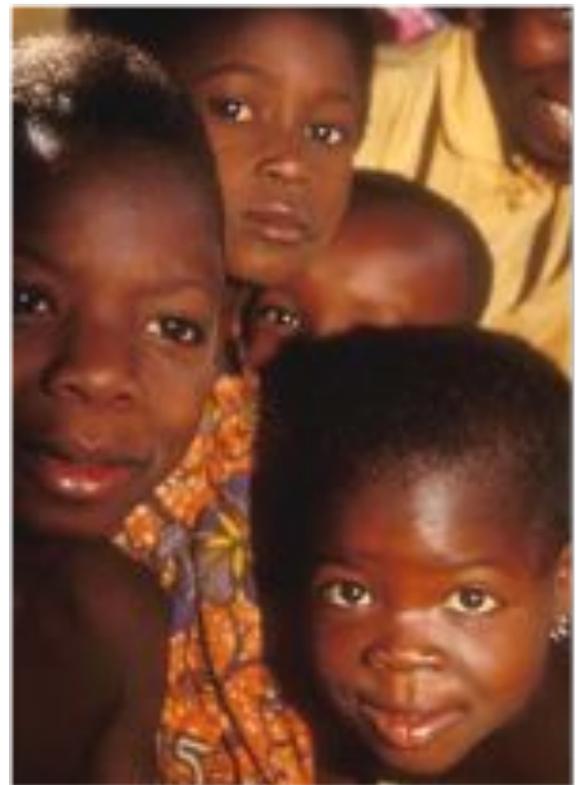
May 11: The Accra Confession in faith and practice: We will read excerpts of the Confession and explore what can we do locally and with the global church to address economic disparity and ecological destruction.

Copies of the Accra Confession are available at the church entrances or can be accessed at <http://wrc.ch/accra-confession/>

### \* A bit of background on THE ACCRA CONFESSIO

In 1997, the General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (formerly General Assembly of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches/WARC) invited the member churches, of which the UCC and Presbyterian are members, to enter into a process of "recognition, education, and confession to break the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice." Many groups of reform churches had already been studying this global problem for decades.

The 24<sup>th</sup> General Assembly met in Accra, Ghana in 2004; they visited a church in Elmina, whose basement area had been slave dungeons, and Cape Coast where millions of Africans were commodified, sold and subjected to the horrors of repression and death. They became aware that Christians and their clergy worshipped in the very church where brutal oppression, in the basement dungeon, was openly tolerated as being normal. It was observed that world-wide repression and bondage continues today in many forms. Out of this study came the "Accra Confession", which outlines the problems and invites responses of faith commitment. The confession acknowledges the Christian complicity in this evil and seeks to work towards correction.





### *Women's Discussion Group*

We will meet at the home of Mary Murphy, on Friday, May 2. All are invited to share thoughts on good "must read" books, and bring any you would like to show or loan out to others.

### *Loaves and Fishes*

**Thursday, May 1, St. Matthew's Church**

Feed the hungry. Join us for meal prep from 3:30 - 5 p.m., serve from 4:45 - 6:15 p.m., and/or clean up until 7 p.m. (at the latest). Young people are welcome to help. Please contact Michele Rehm Johnson.



### *Cinco de Mayo Parade*

**Saturday May 3**

*staging 9:30 a.m.*

*parade 10:00 a.m.*

Join us as we march in the parade to express our support for the West Side neighborhood. Gather by 9:30 a.m. at the Gross Givens Manufacturing parking lot at 75 West Plato Boulevard. We will be utilizing our Building Blocks float. Bring hand puppets (will also be available) and if possible, wear a Cherokee Park United Church T-shirt (available in Fellowship Hall Market.)

### *Men's Group*

The next men's gathering will meet Friday, May 16, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Fred Dempsey-Hess.

## *Families Exploring Spirituality - May 11*

May's family experience will happen the second Sunday (not the usual first) this month. Sandy Dodson and Kathy Steffens, CSJ, will lead a session focused on Creation Spirituality. Earth has provided us a home, but how do we honor that gift? We find many ways, both small and large, to rethink how we treat our earth; one way various churches have changed is to use eco-friendly palms on Palm Sunday. Pay more, use less, save the earth.

Our April time together (picture at right) focused on retelling events in Jesus' life from Palm Sunday through his Resurrection, using eggs and symbols.



## *Eco-Palms for Social and Environmental Justice*

As a part of our ongoing commitment to the earth, on Palm Sunday we use environmentally sustainable *Chamaedorea* palms, purchased through the University of Minnesota Center for Integrated Natural Resources & Agricultural Management.

Eco-Palms purchases provide fair wages, environmental protection and development assistance for impoverished harvesting communities in northern Guatemala and southern Mexico. Harvesters help protect and preserve their own forests as this program purchases only quality, rather than quantity as in the past. Waste has been reduced from up to 60% to about 5%. Harvesters also reap the full benefit as they both pick and process and are paid directly rather than through a middle person. Harvesting is done by hand, preserving the other flora of the forests, and leaving the plants intact to re-grow more leaves; natives do not have to clear forests to establish other cash crops. <http://www.cinram.umn.edu/ecopalms/index.html>

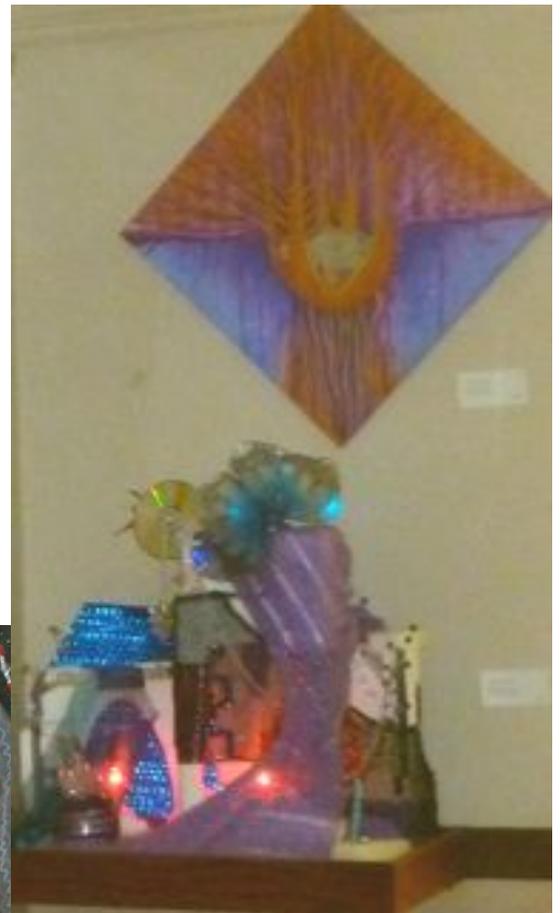
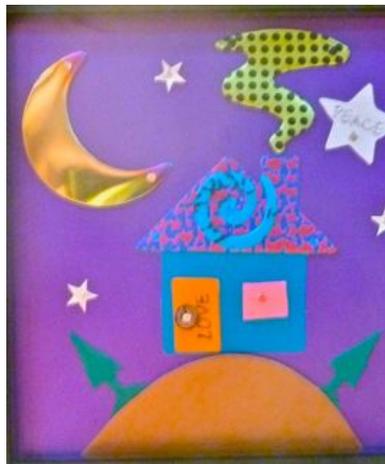
## *Sounds of the Neighborhood*

### *CABARET*

Saturday May 17, 7-9 pm

First check out the art exhibit, showcasing both traditional and non-traditional entries such as found-art light sculptures. Then enjoy drama and musical expressions from the neighborhood and our members. Savor imaginative refreshments.

To add your talent to the cabaret, please contact Michele Rehm Johnson.



### *Spring Clean-Up*

The usual Spring Clean Up/Fix it Day has been postponed from May to Saturday, June 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Please come and help as many hours as you can.

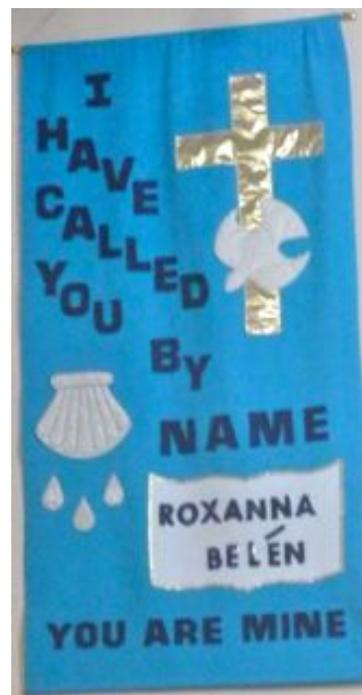
There will be both indoor and outdoor tasks from which to pick, such as washing off the hall chairs, clearing cobwebs, and cleaning the kitchen counters; if you would like to learn a bit more about our beautiful landscaping, you can team up with someone else who has been tending to the plants and just sweep dried stems and leaves etc. into trash bags. No experience or skills are necessary.



The Property Management Ministry organizes this day to help keep our church home welcoming and inviting, inside and out. A sign-up sheet will be available at church later in May, or you can contact the "recruit wrangler," Susan Strebig.

## *Celebrations of Life-Giving Water*

On April 27 our Sunday gathering focused on water in a number of ways. Our intern, Tom Liddle, based his sermon on respect for the earth with a special focus on water that sustains all life, the brunch following worship was vegetarian-based, remembering that a plant-based diet is much more conserving of the earth's natural resources, and worship included the baptism of our newest member, Roxanna Belen. As Tom pointed out, many cultures and religions of the world regard water as sacred and life-giving; may our common concerns treasure and sustain this earth's resources for Roxanna, all children, and future generations.



## *Celebrate the Ministries of Rev. Glen Herrington-Hall and Rev. Dr. Christine Smith*

Chris and Glen have both recently completed their ministry at United Theological Seminary and are in a time of discernment about where ministry will next lead them. As members of Cherokee Park United, their ministries have been embraced in covenant as part of the extension of the ministry of Cherokee Park United Church.



On Sunday, May 18, during worship we will share in a special liturgy to ask God's blessing on this time of transition.

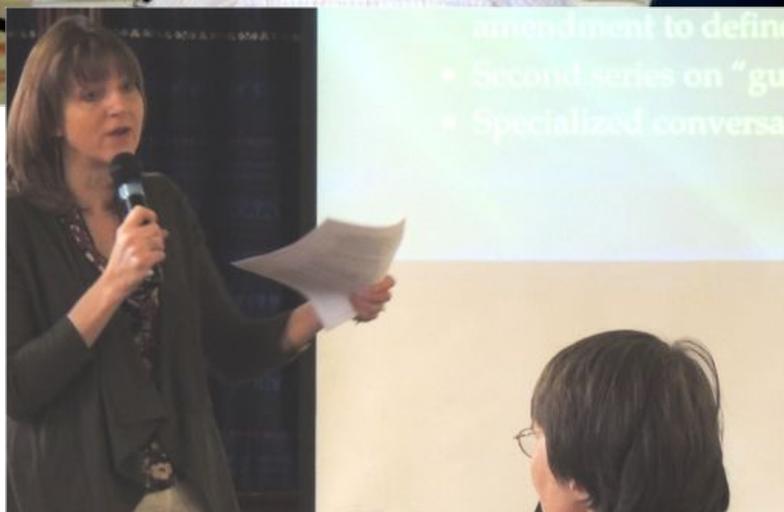
Following worship there will be a special fellowship hour in which Chris and Glen are invited to share reflections on their ministry at United.



## *Respectful Conversations*

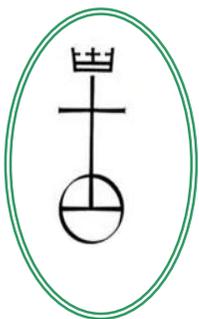
Thirty members of Cherokee Park United Church joined together on April 26 for a wonderful morning of discussion and reflection on the stained glass Jesus and the significance of whiteness. The event, organized by the Stained Glass Taskforce, was led by Kim Olstead of the Minnesota Council of Churches, and by members trained as table facilitators including Sasha Aslanian, Jim Shatek, Joanne Sylvander, Kathy Bergthold, Kathryn Price, Tom Liddle and Karen Hyers. The Antiracism Team hosted a delicious brunch with home-made potatoes, French toast, bacon, fruit, juice and coffee.

If you were unable to attend, you are encouraged to join in the conversation by speaking with a facilitator, a participant in the morning discussion or member of the Stained Glass Jesus Taskforce: Jerome Graf, Phyllis Andrews, Chris Smith, Tom Liddle, Joy Sorensen Navarre, Okogyeamon Perkins, or Pastor Tim.



## *New children's worship activity bags*

The Faith Life Ministry has provided new activity bags for children to use in church. They are located on a hook tree behind the last pews and color-coded — the yellow bags are geared to children under six years old (sun color as we keep our little ones safe and warm), and the blue bags are more geared to children over six (blue being a cool color for our “cool” youth). Inside are a booklet with pictures of items and areas here that children may wish to “seek and find;” a photo album showing our members of all ages in service, worship, and community; multi-cultural pictures of Jesus; books, word-finds and puzzles based on worship and sacrament; mazes, mandalas to color; white crayons and pencils to use on black paper, and black and white copies of our own Jesus window to color. Adults might find them interesting too, (but not during the sermon. 😊 )



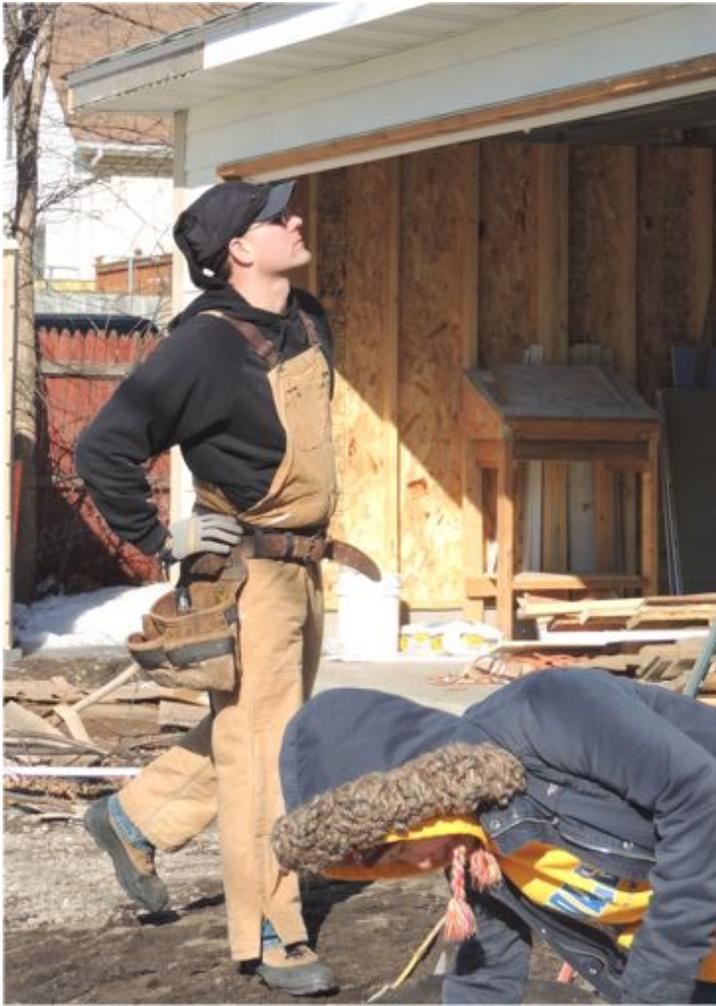
## *Happy Anniversary to Us*

On Sunday, June 1, we celebrate 46 years of the merger of St. John's United Church of Christ and Cherokee Presbyterian Church. As usual, the Property Management Ministry will provide a wonderful lunch after worship. Chef Shatek's tantalizing roast beef (plus a vegetarian option) is again on the menu.



A bit of history: Cherokee Heights Presbyterian Church began as a Sunday School Mission of the Goodrich Avenue Presbyterian Church on November 15, 1908. The Mission was organized as a church congregation on September 27, 1912. The older part of the building was erected in 1914, eventually taking the name of Cherokee Heights Presbyterian Church, and on June 2, 1968, merged with St. John's UCC to become Cherokee Park United Church.

# March Habitat for Humanity Build





## *Building Blocks Award*

Jill Jackson and Building Blocks Tutorial were nominated by Macalester College to receive a President's Award from the Minnesota Campus Compact whose goals include "advancing community-engaged learning that develops the knowledge, skills, creativity, courage, and persistence critical for work, life and citizenship."



The nomination states: "Macalester students have been volunteering at Building Blocks since its inception in 1989. Coordinator Jill Jackson's unwavering love and advocacy for children is seen in her every action. She is an exemplary teacher and mentor. Her dedication to children and her support for our students' development is beyond measure"

Our Building Blocks Ministerial Team invites the CPUC community to join us in extending congratulations and expressions of gratitude to

Jill for this award and for her creativity, courage and persistence in providing a safe and vital learning place for West Side children and Macalester students.

One way to say "thanks" would be to support this year's Awards Dinner on Thursday, May 8 at CPUC Please consider preparing and serving food, cleaning up, or driving families (5:15 and 7:00 p.m.) to and from the event.

Contact Joanne Sylvander.

## **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.

**Summer: starting June 8, 9:30 a.m.**

Dr. Timothy M. Johnson - Pastor

Ione Boettcher Butler - Organist/Choral Director

Jill Jackson - Building Blocks Tutorial Director

Rebecca Knott - Nursery Supervisor

Andrew Gbaa - Custodian

*The best art moves us into that part of life  
that sustains our connection with God.*

Jean Formo, Twin Cities calligrapher and artist