



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 February 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
28	29	30 Sacred Space Mtg 4:30 pm	31 Choir 6:30 pm	1 FEB	2 (NO Women's Group)*	3 ASDIC
4 -Food Collection - Pancake Breakfast Yum!	5	6	7 -Choir 6:30 pm -Worship Mn'y Mtg 7 pm	8 Council 7 pm	9	10 ASDIC *Women's & Men's Group attend Nonsense II.
11 Annual Meeting after worship	12	13	14  Ash Wed 6:30 pm service	15	16 (NO Men's Group)*	17 ASDIC
18	19	20	21 Choir 6:30 pm	22	23	24 ASDIC
25	26	27	28 Choir 6:30 pm	1 MAR **Loaves & Fishes	2	3 (no ASDIC)
4 Food Collection	5	6	7 Choir 6:30 pm	8 Council 7 pm	9 Men's Group 6:30 pm (one week early)	10 ASDIC
11	12	13	14 Choir 6:30 pm	15	16 Leaders Retreat	17 ASDIC (through April 21) Leaders Retreat

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

Mmmmm, Pancakes & Survey Results!

Join us for fellowship and a pancake fundraiser provided by the Seeds of Resistance Ministry (formerly Antiracism and Justice Ministries). At that time, the Transition Team will also treat us with the results of the church survey done last November.

Women's Affinity Group & Men's Group

These groups will not have home meetings this month but will, instead, attend a production of ***Nunsense II - The Second Coming*** at the Woodbury Community Center. All CPUC friends are invited to join us. The performance is on Saturday, February 10 at 7 p.m. at the Merrill Community Art Center's Black Box Theatre in East Ridge High School in Woodbury. tickets (limited!) are \$12 and deadline to purchase is January 28. Please contact Karen Shatek with ticket requests and payment. **Payments need to be in cash or checks made out to Winnie Williams.**



Inquirer's Class Invitation

Informal gatherings for people who wish to learn more about Cherokee Park United and the meaning of membership are planned for two Sundays after church in February. A light lunch and childcare will be available. Please let Pastor Joy know if you are interested. 651-227-4275 cpuc@usfamily.net

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 11

Please plan to stay a bit after the worship service for this important time to be together. You will hear reports of ministries, budget, and next steps of the Transition Process.



Lent is early this year. As we look forward to Easter, it is winter still. And perhaps that is the way it ought to be. Like last week, because of the snow storm, we are forced to slow down. Lent is a kind of sabbatical: a break from the usual routines of our lives, over the forty-day period from Ash Wednesday until Easter. On the Sabbath, in the Jewish tradition, work is prohibited. That means, taking a break from doing things that interfere with Nature's processes. According to the Torah, on the Sabbath you can pick up an apple that naturally falls from a tree onto the ground, but you can't pick it from the tree. Mindful Christian meditative prayer practice is very similar. This season, I am going to take time to see things as they are, without interfering with them or trying to fix or change them. My hope is to be able to think and act wisely *on what ought to be*. Perhaps you might join me. *Blessings for the journey. Pastor Joy*

Council Corner Highlights – January 2018

- ❖ The Council accepted Karen Hyers' resignation for the remainder of her Council term. We thank Karen for her service and leadership over many years.
- ❖ Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled after worship, Sunday, February 11, 2018. The agenda will include approval of the 2018 budget, electing members of the Lay Ministry Team and electing a person to Council to fill the term of Karen Hyers. Nominees from the Council for Lay Ministry are Jill Jackson (Chair) and Mike Bates (Vice Chair). Nominees for other positions will be made at the meeting.
- ❖ In light of recent events and conversations, Council asked a few of its members to organize some gatherings where the congregation is invited to come and share their thoughts and feelings about the life of the church. These sessions will be facilitated to encourage honest, direct, and respectful conversation.
- ❖ Council designated Jerome Graf to organize a planning team to draft a proposal for the creation of a Personnel Ministry Team. The proposal will define the membership, qualification, duties, and responsibilities of a Personnel Ministry. Upon council approval, that proposal will be submitted to the congregation for a vote so that it can be incorporated into the church's bylaws. The goal is to have in place a designated ministry team to provide support and resources, as well as supervision, to our staff.
- ❖ Since Abe Hunter is no longer Music Director, the Council discussed short term plans to ensure music support for Sunday worship. Once a hiring process has been determined for a new director, we'll share that with the congregation. [see next page]
- ❖ Council reviewed and approved the 2018 budget.
- ❖ Council elected the following Elders to these duties this year: Moderator—Jerome Graf, Vice Moderator—Karen Shatek, Clerk of Council—Mike Bates, Minute Taker—Mary Murphy, Church Treasurer—Phyllis Clark, Financial Secretary—Karen Shatek, Accountant—Lynne Bates, Auditor—Jerome Graf, Presbytery Commissioners—Mike Bates, Jill Jackson & Tomie Evans, MN Conference UCC Annual Meeting Delegates— Maria McNamara & Andy George, Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul Delegates— Lynne Bates & Jerome Graf.
- ❖ Susan Strebog and Tomie Evans will be ordained as Elders and installed on the Council during worship on January 21, 2018.
- ❖ On Friday evening and Saturday, March 16 – 17, 2018, our annual Leaders' Retreat will be held at the ARC Retreat Center.
All interested members of the church are invited to attend. Our focus this year will be on crafting a new Mission Statement for Cherokee Park United Church.
[See Next Page]
- ❖ The Council 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.



Music Program Change

A note from Jerome Graf, Moderator of the Council: As you may have heard, the council made the difficult decision to ask Abe Hunter for his resignation as Director of Music Ministries. After several discussions regarding job expectations and performance, the council agreed that asking for his resignation was necessary for the health of the music program of CPUC. We thank Abe for sharing his musical gifts during his time here, wish him the best in the future, and hold him in our hearts during this difficult time. The choir, with the support of Jerry Williams and Pastor Joy, is making plans to continue the music program while we begin the search for a new music director. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at denardografs@comcast.net

CPUC Leaders' Retreat 2018 - ARC Retreat Center - Stanchfield, MN

March 16 – 17, Friday, Saturday (You may also just come for Saturday if you cannot do an overnight.)

What we're doing: This year we will be updating the CPUC Mission Statement.

Who's invited: You! Council members are particularly encouraged, but **you don't need to be an Elder, or even a member**, to attend. All interested friends of the church are welcome.

When: We start with dinner at 6 p.m. Friday and will conclude by 5 p.m. Saturday.

What it costs: \$120 per person covers lodging and meals. Please speak to Pastor Joy if you need assistance with the cost.

If you'd like to attend, please complete a registration form (one included on back page) to Karen Shatek, and include a \$30 deposit. Space at the ARC is limited; registration **deadline Sunday, February 18.**

The ARC Retreat Center is a wonderful old lodge in a beautiful wooded setting near Cambridge, Minnesota, known for its superb vegetarian cooking! Linens are provided. There will be time for hiking on the grounds, fellowship and just relaxing. arcretreat.org



Adult Forum

This group, which meets Sundays from 9 to 10 a.m., continues reading and discussing the book ***Waking Up White*** by Debby Irving. This book shares Irving's mid-life realization of her white privilege. She details her own transformation and efforts to undo the unfair racial, cultural and systemic ramifications of privilege. A schedule of the chapters for each week is posted outside the Parent's Room.

Food (not just) for Thought

Please consider organizing set-up, snacks, or cleanup for fellowship hour any Sunday starting with February 11. Sign-up binder is located on table in Fellowship Hall.



West Side Community Panel Thanks to the Transition Team for an engaging evening focused on learning how we can best help our neighbors. After a wonderful supper of soup, breads, fruit, and (happy birthday Pastor Joy) cupcakes, representatives from Cherokee Heights Montessori (public) School, St. Paul School Board, St. Paul Police, Neighborhood House, and Youth Farm shared their needs and wishes on how we as a church can support the community and the efforts of these organizations to lift up all people that they might achieve their greatest potential.



West Siders for Strong Schools

Thursday, February 8

The community is invited to the Math Carnival Night from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Humboldt High School at 30 E. Baker St. Carnival games, various activities, and a free meal will be provided. Many community agencies, including CPUC, will be there supporting public schools. Bring your family and friends to meet your neighbors!

(Point of interest: At the recent community panel discussion at CPUC, we learned that these events with meals are made possible by a 5-year grant. When that grant runs out, schools may have a great need for our help to continue these family evenings.)

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



Schedules and Communications

(Notes from your friendly list-maker and editor, Susan)

It is always a challenge to keep people reminded about their many scheduled volunteer efforts at CPUC. Being a small group means that many of us play multiple roles, often on the same day, sometimes at the same event! Sasha has organized a *Google document for organizers to list those in 2018 Sunday roles*, before, during, and after worship, so to better prevent the need for bi-location! To access it (or add to it) all you need is to click the link in your personal copy of this newsletter. No sign-up needed. The trickiest part is to remember to bookmark the link or hang onto an email that contains it so you can easily access it.

Regarding events and happenings, those of you who are loyal *newsletter* readers, and even newsletter/calendar savers, are probably pretty well-informed. Sometimes we'll hear someone saying they wish they knew what was going on, for instance, on the council or the transition team. As a point of interest, in the past two years the newsletter has contained about 16 council reports and six transition reports from either the team or Pastor Joy. Even I was surprised to realize how many there were! And our *worship bulletins* always contain reminders and announcements of upcoming events. Again, those of you who take them home are often the best-informed. These same items are mentioned, often in great detail, in the *email update* sent by the pastor each week.

One new item is a framed clipboard on the back (sanctuary) wall which can offer copies to you of latest notices or other lists that might be helpful to you.

If you have more ideas on how to keep ourselves better informed, you are welcome to contact me or a council member with ideas and details on how to achieve your purpose, and, hopefully your offer of help to accomplish this.



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: fact editors Phyllis Clark, Mary Murphy; collate/mail teams Phyllis & Cal Clark (spring, summer, fall), Stefan Sylvander & Kathy Bergthold (winter).

Open Doors for the Next Generation!

A request from CommonBond Communities (Torre De San Miguel)

Our work comes from a simple notion: Home is the foundation for everything in life. Our expertise ranges from interacting with officials on complex legislation, to investing in and developing properties, to making sure a child has a place to do homework.



Since the early 1970's, CommonBond Communities has provided homes and support for those most in need. We were founded in part as a response to racial and economic injustices. Today, nearly 50 years later, injustices still exist and our mission is more relevant than ever.

We are looking for people to participate in our mission by sharing their time and talents as volunteer tutors. The Torre De San Miguel housing community on the Westside of St. Paul has a number of afterschool youth programs that rely on the help of neighbors and people in the community to support students:

- **Study Buddies:** Match with a student for a weekly 1:1 tutoring experience.
- **Homework Center:** Support youth with their homework success.
- **Teen Program:** Help middle and high school students with their homework and post-graduation goals.

Learn more about how you can help by visiting www.commonbond.org/volunteer or contacting volunteerservices@commonbond.org / 651-290-6226

Christmas Thanks from Guadalupe Alternative Programs!

Tony Zahradka (Director of Employment and Training for Guadalupe Alternative Programs) writes: I wanted to give a shout out to Tom Murphy for organizing a joint effort with his church to sponsor a family in need for Christmas. We were able to give gifts to 2 different families. Sha Mue wrote a wonderful letter and included a very cute pic. Good job Tom! And thanks to everyone who goes above and beyond to help our students every day." And a thank you to Maria McNamara for her great help with this effort.





The Naked I: Recognize/d

February 1-11

(Highly recommended by Tomie)

Featuring the contributions of over 50 LGBTQIAP+ artists, **THE NAKED I: RECOGNIZE/D** will explore queer and transgender experience through brand new, never before seen monologues, short scenes, movement pieces, spoken word poems, short film, and more. At the Minnsky Theatre, 1517 Central Ave NE, Minneapolis. *20% Theatre continues to create and produce a new*

NAKED I production every two years since 2009.

www.tctwentypercent.org/archive/nakedi5.html

ASDIC Circles are designed to provide you with an in-depth experience to better understand the ways race and racism operate in all of our lives. They will give you greater clarity of thinking, strength of relationship, and effectiveness of action in addressing systemic racism.

Each week we gather to create a safe place for risk-taking, community dialogue, and acting with care and confidence. The experience includes readings and videos, large and small group discussions, the sharing of personal stories, and practicing skills to show up and speak up when racism occurs.

10 Saturday Sessions Feb 3-Apr 21

(no session March 3 or 31)

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (includes breakfast)

Location: Cherokee Park United Church,

371 Baker St. W., Saint Paul, MN 55107

Learn more and register at asdicycle.org/circle



Lobby Day for LGBTQ Equity

<https://www.outfront.org/events>

APRIL 19, 2018

This is our day to share our stories with our legislators. Let's talk about the intersections of LGBTQ equity, racial justice and economic justice. Let's talk about issues that matter to us and speak out against legislation that discriminates against LGBTQ people. Show up & make your voice heard! We have scheduled opportunities for you to let your lawmakers know what issues are important to you.

AGENDA

9:30 a.m. -10:45 a.m.: Attend a workshop at our Lobby Day Institute

11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.: Join us for a rally in the Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda

12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.: Attend another workshop at our Lobby Day Institute

News from the Beloved Land (Timor-Leste)...

from Rev. Tom Liddle who, along with his wife Monica and children Hannah and Simon, is a missionary in East Timor. Tom was our pastoral intern in 2013-14, working with Faith Life, the Stained Glass Taskforce, teaching Sunday School, and leading worship.

Happy 2018! I saw a woman on the main street of Lospalos selling vegetables the other day. She was crouched on the sidewalk beside a bucket of jackfruit, selling big pieces of the sticky, succulent fruit for a quarter. Her smile was as bright as ever despite the hard life she leads as a subsistence farmer. She greeted me warmly and insisted on giving me some jackfruit for Simon. I accepted gratefully.

There is a scabies epidemic in Timor. In the last quarter of 2017 almost 20% of Clinic Immanuel patients had it and Clinic Immanuel is the only place in Lospalos that has medicine for treating it. We were in a warung (small restaurant) today and met two nurses from Iliomar (2 hours away) and they said they are treating scabies with guava and tamarind leaves, made into a tea, then used for bathing, 2 or 3 times a day until better. The nurses thought the treatment was working ok, and really, there is no other option... Research on herbal medicines in Timor is needed.

On Christmas day I baptized 8 people at an IPTL church in the seaside village of Teno. What a joyful occasion! The church had a party afterwards serving homemade cake and Timor coffee – delightful Christmas breakfast.

Commentators say Timor-Leste's government is teetering on the edge of collapse. After the July election, no single party won a majority of seats in parliament so the president formed a minority government. Unfortunately, the opposition coalition took "opposition" literally and opposed everything the minority proposed, including a budget. So the Prime Minister in turn decided not to convene parliament anymore. So there you have it: Timor's version of a government shut-down. Politicians more invested in ego struggles than the needs of the people. Conversely, the people are going on with their lives and there seems to be little threat of civil unrest. Praise the Lord!

We had a great vacation after Christmas that included a few days hiking in the mountain town of Maubisse and a few days relaxing on Timor-Leste's unique Atau Island which has the highest marine biodiversity in the world. Snorkeling was amazing. One day a local fisherman took us out on a skiff to see a school of dolphins up close.

Hannah is now back to her homeschooling and is into doing craft projects these days. She has recently designated the jazz classic *So What* by Miles Davis as the Liddle family theme song, so we must be doing something right as parents.



(continued from page 10)

Simon is still on break for another couple of weeks before starting 2nd grade.

People started planting corn before Christmas and it's looking good in some places but failing miserably in others. We are thus reminded of the tenuous reality of being a small farmer in a rural area.

The Peace of Christ be with you all.



2018 Leaders' Retreat – March 16-17

Registration

Please return with \$30 deposit to Karen Shatek by Sunday, February 18

Name(s): _____

Email: _____(requested by the ARC)

Phone: _____ Would you like to carpool? _____

Special needs? (Dietary requirement-gluten-free, allergies, 2nd floor room, etc.)

Cherokee Park United Church

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

Open & Affirming, Multicultural, Antiracist

371 W. Baker Street

St. Paul, MN 55107

Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.

Rev. Joy Smith - Interim Pastor

651-227-4275

cpuc@usfamily.net

cherokeeparkunited.org

*Oh God,
help my words to be sweet and tender today,
for tomorrow I may have to eat them.*