



## ***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 April 2018***

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>1 APRIL</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> -Food Collection -Brunch 8:30 am	2	3 Sacred Space 4:30 pm	4 Choir 6:30 pm	5	6 Women's Group 7 pm	7 ASDIC
8	9	10 Property Mgmt 7 pm	11 Choir 6:30 pm	12 Council 7 pm	13	14 ASDIC -Blood Drive 10 am-4pm
15 Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser	16	17	18 Choir 6:30 pm	19	20 Men's Group 6:30 pm	21 -ASDIC (last) -t-shirt tie- dyeing 1-3 pm
22 <b>Earth Day</b> Lay Min mtg after worship	23	24 High Bridge Town Mtg	25 Choir 6:30 pm	26	27	28 Clean-Up Day 9:30-2:00 pm
29	30	1 <b>MAY</b>	2 Choir 6:30 pm	3 Loaves & Fishes **	4 Women's Group 7 pm	5
6 -Food Collection	7	8	9 -Social Justice Mentoring 5:30 pm -Choir 6:30 pm	10 Council 7 pm	11 ,	12
13	14	15 Outreach 7 pm	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Ministry Chairs Potluck & Mtg 6 pm				

## Looking Further Ahead

May 20, Confirmation Sunday

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

## ***April 1, Easter Sunday***

Brunch 8:30-9:30 a.m. (potluck)

Worship 10:15 a.m.

The nursery will be staffed as usual.

## ***Easter Sunday Offering Envelopes***

As is our tradition, these offerings will be dedicated to supporting our semi-monthly Loaves and Fishes commitment to provide a warm meal for those who are hungry.

## ***Women's Affinity Group***

**April 6, Friday, 7:00 p.m. or thereabouts**

Our gathering this month has a **Mystery Destination !**

We will carpool between 6:30 and later, depending on whose car you are in. Contact Jill Jackson for a description and map/directions.



On May 4, the group will meet at the home of Maria McNamara.

## ***New CPUC t-shirts/Earth Day Tie-Dye Event***

Cherokee Park Outreach Committee is making new CPUC t-shirts available to order. The shirts will have the CPUC logo printed on the center of the front, and on the back will be printed the UCC "Be the Church" Graphics. (see back cover page)

You can order your shirt tie-dyed and ready to wear, or you can join us and dye your own shirt on April 21, from 1-3 p.m. (You may also bring any other article to tie dye.) Our special Earth Day educational event will include the opportunity to learn tie-dye techniques from Sue Rutford, fabric artist and tie-dyer extraordinaire, who happens to also be the recent past moderator of the Twin Cities Presbytery. We hope these colorful t-shirts that proclaim what it means to "Be the Church" will let the world know what CPUC is all about, as we march in the Cinco de Mayo Parade, the Pride Parade, and volunteer in our community.

Last day to order shirts is Sunday, April 8, 2018. Checks can be made out to the church and note "T-shirt" in the memo line. Shirts can also be ordered online at: <http://cherokeeparkunited.org/tshirts/>. Online there are also images of the shirt styles and size charts. Please contact Winnie Williams with questions.

## Notes From Pastor Joy

Greetings, Easter People!

You may have noted the check list on the stage in Fellowship Hall, designed to be a guide to your ministry transition. Your transition team is one of the best I have seen; their perseverance, creative leadership and love for this church is incredible. So far we can check these off the list.



1) *Embrace the rich relationship with both UCC and PCUSA denominations:* We learned, even after 50 years, that figuring out how to combine two denominations' polity is an ongoing process. We celebrate gifts from both.

2) *Reaffirm our commitment to anti-racism as an ongoing focus in our life together:* CPUC continues to claim its fundamental value as an anti-racist congregation. We have not completely arrived and will never fully but are committed to "fierce" justice.

3 & 4) *Surveys and conversations with neighborhood leaders:* (One more neighborhood survey is scheduled to define your ministry.)

5) *Mission and vision statements:* The leaders of CPUC met for 24 hours and wrote a mission and vision statement that will work for the immediate future.

6) *Clarify decision making:* The council has dealt with tough situations and recognized the importance of their oversight.

7) *Restructure committees:* Identifying overlap with ministries resulted in combining Justice & Witness with Anti-Racism to become "Seeds of Resistance", and Caring and Fellowship were combined.

We continue on with the remaining tasks.

8) *Long-term financial priorities:* CPUC recognizes that spending, with the wonderful talent and steadiness of Lynne Bates, must be thoughtful and well budgeted.

9) *Personnel ministry:* A planning group will meet in April to define purpose and guidelines and then an intentionally diverse personal ministry will be formed.

10) *Growth conversations:* We will continue to discuss concerns about drawing in and how to best serve families and children.

11) *Stained glass resolution:* The team broadened its focus to Sacred Space and how to make the sanctuary more welcoming to all. Their proposals will be brought to the council and then to the congregation.

12) *Music program:* When a personnel ministry is formed, the search for a music director will move forward. The choir, with Jerry Williams's volunteer leadership, continues to offer beautiful music and leadership in worship.

My ministry with you has its challenges. The major one, I think is welcoming a new pastor, after a long and prosperous 35 years. (see page 5) You inspire me to how you wrestle to do authentic ministry. I look forward to being with you a little longer. Thank you again for allowing me to share your ministry.



## ***March Leaders' Retreat Report from Andy George, Transition Team***

On March 16 and 17, twenty-two members attended our annual Leaders' Retreat at ARC. Our goal was to draft a Vision Statement and a Mission Statement for the church. The vision speaks to what we believe *God's* vision is for the world. The mission describes how we believe God wants us to accomplish that vision.

After two days of hard work, introspection, laughter, honest disagreement, and blessed compromise, we arrived at these statements:

<b>God's vision:</b>	<i>Fierce Justice. Radical Love. Abundant Grace.</i>
<b>God's mission for Cherokee Park United Church:</b>	<i>We are an inclusive faith community joining our neighbors to build God's vision of the world.</i>

As our community makes decisions about where to put our resources, how to conduct our ministries, and what kind of person to call for the settled pastor position, we will return to this mission and vision again and again. Vision and mission will guide our decisions in all things. For example, we may ask ourselves if a particular investment furthers the cause of God's justice. Or when we engage with outside groups, we will ask ourselves if we're *telling them* what to do, or if we're truly *joining with them* in a spirit of mutuality and grace.

This spring we'll formally present these statements to the congregation for discussion and affirmation. Watch your email for more information.

## ***Pastor Nominating Committee Update***

The process for selecting our next pastor will be led by a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). It's a group of about seven members who will meet regularly to perform certain tasks, including conducting a search for candidates, interviews, and managing the hiring and call process before the congregation votes on a new pastor. The PNC will operate independently of the Transition Team.

In the near future we will be holding an information session, with help from both the UCC and the PCUSA, for everyone who would like to learn more about the PNC. *(Don't worry; attending the session does not automatically draft you on to that team.)* Once we have a date set, a letter about this process will be sent to the congregation. As we enter this new chapter in the life of the church, prayerfully consider whether you feel like you may be called to participate in this important work.



## ***Men's Group***

**April 20, Friday, 6:30 p.m.**

The men's group will meet at the home of Stefan Sylvander. (Pictured: food at the March meeting - Tom Murphy's chili on sauerkraut rye bread, a tip of the hat to St. Patrick's Day.)

***Cherokee Park United to Host Red Cross Community Blood Drive*** Spread the word! CPUC will host a Community Blood Drive on Saturday, April 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please consider donating blood. Encourage your family (anyone over the age of 17) and friends to sign up; share our Facebook post with your network. The whole donation process takes about an hour. You can also call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit <http://tiny.cc/cpuc-redcross> to register. Help us reach our goal of 30 donors.



We also need CPUC helpers to move tables and chairs in the social hall after fellowship on April 8<sup>th</sup> and after the blood drive, before church on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Please be there to help! People to welcome the donors and serve snacks are also needed. Sign-up sheets for these opportunities are available at church. Or talk to Pastor Joy or anyone on the Outreach Ministry Team. Please consider joining this special effort for our community.

## ***Adult Forum Discusses OutNorth Film***

**Sundays April 15 – May 20**

The Adult Forum will watch and discuss TPT's video telling the history of GLBTQ people in Minnesota over the past 50 years. We meet in the Parent Room before worship, Sundays at 9:00 am in the Parent's Room. All are welcome.

*Helpful information from a transgender awareness website:*

If you're in a public bathroom and you think a stranger's gender does not match the sign on the door, follow these steps:

1. Don't worry about it – they know better than you.

## ***West Siders for Strong Schools Event***

Come celebrate our multicultural world with *West Siders for Strong Schools* on Thursday, April 19 at Cherokee Heights Elementary School (694 S. Charlton St.) from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Bring your friends, neighbors and family to enjoy a delicious dinner, activities for all ages, and the opportunity to learn more about our local schools and community organizations. For more information about this event, call [651-500-1059](tel:651-500-1059) or e-mail [info@westsidestrongschools.com](mailto:info@westsidestrongschools.com)

## Council Corner Highlights – March Meeting 2018



❖The Council started the process of inviting members to find out about what service on the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) means. Please stay tuned for more information.

❖The Council revised and renewed the fiscal agent agreement between Cherokee Park United and FREC (Facilitating Racial Equity Collaborative), with our thanks.

❖The Council encourages anyone willing to serve the balance of this calendar year on the Lay Ministry Team to talk to Pastor Joy, any Council member or Lay Ministry Team member. (Jill Jackson, Mike Bates, Karolyn Gilbertson and Jan Howe.)

❖As another part of preparing for a new pastor, the Council began a review of the church By-Laws.

❖Soon we'll welcome Sara and Sebastian Ellefson into membership at CPUC. They recently completed an Inquirer's Class with Pastor Joy. We are glad to have them in our midst.

The Council remains grateful for the prayers and participation of the people of CPUC during this transitional period. Council normally meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month, except July. Meetings **begin at 6 p.m.** temporarily due to the large amount of information that needs to be shared and discussed.

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, in faith and love.



Pictured l-r, top row: Susan Strebig, Mary Murphy, Tomie Evans, Jerome Graf; middle row: Andy George, Mike Bates, Jerry Williams, Bottom row: Jill Jackson, Diane Spicer, Karen Shatek, Maria McNamara

## *Spring Clean-Up Fix-Up Day*



**April 28, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

Join the Property Management Ministry for a few hours or half day to keep our church building and grounds safe, kept up, and attractive. We will have



both inside tasks. and outside landscape maintenance tasks (in dry-ish weather). No experience necessary – if you can stuff weeds into a plastic bag, you can do it! If you can help, please sign up on our task list, available April 15 & 22 or contact Susan Strebig or just show up. Pizza lunch will be provided.



## *Loaves & Fishes*

Join us at St. Matthew's Church on Thursday, May 3 for our semi-monthly commitment to provide a tasty, hot meal for those in need. Help for an hour or more to prepare, serve (3:45-5:00 p.m.), and/or clean up (4:40-6:30

p.m.) Contact - Michele Johnson.



## *Get Ready to Celebrate Cinco de Mayo!*

On Saturday, May 5, the Cinco de Mayo Parade marches south on Wabasha and Cesar Chavez Street in a colorful, spirit-filled procession. Come march with us! Wear your new CPUC T-shirt if you have one! With our float and hand puppets we'll meet lots of new friends! If you have a puppet to bring, please do so. Puppets will be available to borrow. Parade units gather at 75 W Plato Blvd. (the former Gross Givens building.) Parking adjacent to the parade route on surface streets and walking to Plato Blvd. is encouraged. Please arrive at the float location by 9:45 am. The parade begins at 10:00 and is usually over by noon. Plan to stay for the food, festivities and fun after the parade.

Following worship on May 6, the Outreach Ministry team will host a special Fellowship Hour in honor of Cinco de Mayo. There will be Mexican pastries and a piñata for the children. Check with Jill Jackson for more information on these events. Bienvenido!



## *From Pastor Joy*

Remember that resurrection is more than mere resuscitation! It is life transformed!

It is faith in possibilities, when others are convinced of inevitability.

It is the courage to love others, when they don't love you in return...

to show compassion, when others are heaping judgment...

to live by peace, when others are being violent...

to work for justice, when others are working for wealth...

to respond with gentleness, when others are reacting with rage...

and to trust that life, well-lived, even if short-lived,

is preferable to longevity without virtue.

Don't remain caterpillars when you can become butterflies!

Live beautifully! Birth goodness in all you think, say, and do!

For you are called to life abundant!

God's blessings be with you.



## *Ministry Team Chairperson Potluck Dinner & Meeting*

The Lay Ministry is hosting its semi-annual potluck dinner and planning meeting on Tuesday, **May 22** at 6 p.m. at the church. Chairpersons are requested to report who on your team has agreed to stay on for 2018-2019 and if you are requesting any additional numbers of people for your ministry; this includes the chairperson – our ideal goal is to have the same chair no longer than three consecutive years. More info to come.



## *Our Beauty*

Jaime (whose friends artfully arranged her hair into hearts) invites you to attend the annual Sibley High School play; this year they are presenting the musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, and Jaime, one of the few freshman accepted, will perform in the townspeople group. Program times are Thursday & Friday April 12-13 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday April 14 at 2:30 p.m.

## Goodbye Winter?



We are used to having salt and snow shovels next to our doors, but in March there was the addition of snowshoes that Sasha used to travel to church. It was a lightly attended worship that day. Pastor Joy also says she has gotten lots of use from her new Minnesota boots.

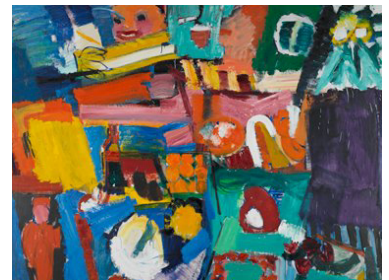


## Phyllis in Bloom



Many of our members have very interesting involvements. Phyllis Andrews can run circles around many younger members (editor: speaking for myself). She is the superintendent in charge of the flower shows all 12 days at the State Fair, she has been a master gardener, is a National Garden Club master judge, a Minnesota State Horticulture judge and instructor, and a member of the Lilly Society, the Peony Society, and the Gladiolus Society. Her interests extend from flora also to fauna as she has been a volunteer at the Minnesota Zoo for 35 years.

This month she, her daughter and grand-daughters are involved in their tradition of entering the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) *Art in Bloom* Celebration of Spring festival. 165 people, on a first come basis, are invited to design and display a floral arrangement inspired by one of the pieces of art picked by Mia. This is the 35<sup>th</sup> year of this festival, and Phyllis has entered every one since its inception! This exhibition is open four days April 27-30 but Phyllis advises that if we'd like to avoid crowds, to come between noon and 5:00 on Wednesday, April 26 when exhibits are first set up. Phyllis' entry this year will interpret Grace Hartigan's "Billboard", and she and her daughter are interpreting the elevator grills for the Lilly Society both on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.



## *Mission Stewardship Moment from East Timor* by Monica Liddle

Just as in the USA sexual harassment, abuse, and violence against women have a long and often hidden history, so it is in East Timor. The patriarchy here, however, keeps women silent to the core. No #MeToo movement is in place here, yet.

In our church partnership, an egregious story of sexual abuse has recently made national news. We thank God that Timorese law condemns such acts of violence against women and girls, and that the perpetrator is now in prison. Still, three young women suffered years of abuse in the home. Cultural norms permitted the abuse to continue unchecked, despite the local community's suspicions of misbehavior. In the end, the girls' aunt rescued them. And now she herself is in danger: for breaking cultural norms, for exposing the family, for not just leaving the problem to the family to work out.



Tom's work with IPTL's pastors and Monica's work in health care have dovetailed into a new mission direction for us here now. Pray for us as we strive to bring justice and freedom from violence and abuse to more girls and women in East Timor through our work with our partners, the Protestant Church of East Timor.



## *What Liturgical Season Are We In?*

Just ask Freddie. As our most consistent acolyte, he will happily describe how each cincture (belt) he wears over his robe is color-coded to the church season.

Deadline for articles is the 20th of the month; please submit articles, ideas or feedback to editor Susan Strebig at 651-457-1404 or [kellystrebig@comcast.net](mailto:kellystrebig@comcast.net)

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).



## **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](mailto:cpuc@usfamily.net)

[cherokeeparkunited.org](http://cherokeeparkunited.org)

T-Shirt image  
Printed on our new  
CPUC T-Shirts

## **BE THE CHURCH**

*Protect the environment.*

Care for the poor.

**Forgive often.**

**Reject racism.**

**Fight for the powerless.**

*Share earthly and spiritual resources.*

Embrace diversity.

**Love God.**

**Enjoy this life.**