



## **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 October 2018***

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
30	1 <i>OCT</i>	2 PNC 6:30 pm	3 Finance mtg 1:30 pm	4	5 Women's Group 7 pm at church	6
7 -Food Collection -Flag blessing	8 <i>Indigenous People's Day</i>	9 Outreach 7pm	10	11 Council 6 pm	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Women's Retreat	27
28 Congregational Meeting after worship	29	30	31 <i>All Hallow's Eve</i>	1 <i>NOV</i> * Loaves & Fishes	2	3
4 <b>Fall Back</b> Daylight Saving Time Change Food Collection	5	6 <b>VOTE</b>	7	8 Council 6 pm	9	10

## Planning Ahead:

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

Worship assignments can  
be found in this google doc.  
<http://tiny.cc/cpuchelpers>

Newsletter article deadline is the 20th of the month; please  
submit articles or ideas to [kellystrebig@comcast.net](mailto:kellystrebig@comcast.net)  
-editor Susan Strebig  
-proofreaders Phyllis Clark, Mary Murphy  
-collate/mail teams Phyllis & Cal Clark, & Kathy Bergthold.



## *Women's Affinity Group*

The Women's Affinity Group will be meeting Friday, October 5, at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at church. Please come and help us create some small Fall centerpieces to donate to Southview Nursing Home. Karen Shatek is hosting and will have all the supplies and directions for creating them. Light desserts will be served. Come join the fun! Questions? call Karen 651-453-1370

## *Remembering our departed loved ones...*



From the second week in October through the second week in November, you are invited to add a photo, framed or unframed, or memento of a departed loved one to the shelf display at the back of the sanctuary — a combination of All Saints Day, Dia de los Muertos. There will also be small post-it notes if you'd like to identify the person (or pet), and you may also light a battery-operated tealight candle.



## *...and Welcoming a new baby into the family*



Just as we will remember departed ones this month, we are also blessed with the gift of new life. Rita Sage was welcomed in baptism – a reminder that love continues on for generations. We pledge our support to Sebastian and Sarah as they begin this wonderful life of parenthood.





## *Rainbow Flag Dedication on World Communion Sunday*



The Outreach and Property Management Ministry Teams installed a rainbow banner on the Baker Street side of the church building this summer. A ceremony blessing the flag will take place during worship on World Communion Sunday, October 7, outside, if the weather permits.

We are inviting the wider community to come to this service. The flag is a visible sign of our welcome for all – to our worship, communion table, and fellowship. Please share one of the colorful invitational fliers Sandy Settevig designed for us. Post one in a community place you visit or

give one to a friend and ask them to join us. Fliers are available at church. Thank you for inviting our neighbors as we boldly live God's love in this world.

### *Outreach Ministry*

This team will meet at the home of Jill Jackson on Tuesday, October 9 at 7:00 pm.

### *Women's Affinity Group Retreat*

Could you use more serenity in your life? If so, come to the Women's Retreat 2018!

"God, Grant me...serenity" is the theme for our time away from 5:30 p.m. Friday, October 26 to 5 p.m. Saturday, October 27. Joanne Sylvander will facilitate the gathering. Our new location is The Benedictine Center in Maplewood, MN. Registration forms are available at church and the [last page of this newsletter](#). Forms are due (with a \$30 deposit) by October 14. Please contact Karen Shatek or Jill Jackson with your forms or questions.

### *Thank you!*

Thank you to our willing and able members who have been working behind the scenes to repair and re-do areas of walls and shelving as new components of our heating system are being installed. It's all in a day's work for these talented guys who are experienced with the saws, sanders, spacklers, drills and tape measure (measure twice, cut once!) High fives to Jim Shatek, Dean Mudgett, Stephan Sylvander, and Curt Fleming.



## *A Way of Thinking – a Way of Mindfulness*

THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION from Pastor Joy



Prayer is not as much a particular activity as a frame of mind. It is using our imagination in a way that focuses on love. The prayer that transforms is the prayer that gently embraces; not the prayer that seeks to manipulate or direct. It is a way of connecting with the rest of life.

To only have positive thoughts is to deny life itself because life is always a mixture of positive and negative. The process of enlightenment is not one of denial but to bring us into the light of day, what we previously could not face in ourselves. It is what we discern beyond these that give life its fullest meaning. However, the process is not to pour judgment on ourselves but to surround it with transforming love.

Do not let others decide the best form of prayer for you. No one knows better than you what is best for you. You are your best guru. We access the mystery through letting go, not through filling our minds with thoughts. Search for the stillness and it will elude you. Go with the flowing and you will become your stillness. Come out of the silence and take it with you.

### PRAYER

O deep mystery, vital center of our lives, we know your presence is not called up by much speaking. Rather may we honor your presentness in the absence of noise, in the promise of the morning, in the dancing brightness of the sun.

## *Happy Birthday Cal*

Wishing many more years of happiness to Cal on a milestone birthday – one that ends in a zero but we won't tell you which one!



## *Sacred Space Ministry*

This group, originally named “Stained Glass Jesus” is a taskforce of the Council. The name was expanded to express the idea that the intent is to create a sacred welcoming space to all. Many people at CPUC feel that the current window does not provide that. However, the original window will not be removed; it may not be usually visible, but will still be available for any special request.

The scope of this project was greatly altered last year when it became apparent that our 47 year-old boiler could give out soon; members graciously pledged to fund a new heating system; and the committee started looking for much less expensive options. Funds will not come from the church treasury but from donations, fund-raisers, bequests, and grants if available.

Other churches have been visited (see photos) to view what others have done to create a space more welcoming, vibrant, creative, and live-giving, much involving tapestries or textile art, which covered the unintended message of exclusion (is Jesus only for white people?) and replaced with visual messages that shout their welcome for all.



Also, many months have been spent on creating an application form to invite artists who might be interested in helping create that type of atmosphere, described in our current Vision, Mission, and Values statements, as including:

- ♥ *Extravagant welcome...*to people of all races and ethnicities...to any who have been marginalized by systems and institutions
  - ♥ *Theological elbow room...*because we believe in dynamic growth and learning and don't dare put a period where God has placed a comma
  - ♥ *Engaging worship and heartfelt prayer...*with equal room for the feminine face of God in images and language...with art and creative activities that express the many faced of God and humanity...
- (continued next page)



- ♥ *The uncompromising pursuit of justice...*by acknowledging in the historical figure of Jesus all the richness and diversity of the human experience...by declaring ourselves to be an actively antiracist congregation and challenging ourselves to live out that claim.

After all artists qualifications are reviewed, three will be selected to submit concepts of what they might create for us, from which the best will be selected and reviewed with the council. The congregation will also be given a presentation with time for their comments and inspirations to be added. The congregation will ultimately vote on recommended art.



(The two top pictures are the same church, with banners that can be changed out. Behind the screens is their white Jesus.)

We look forward to working together and listening for God's will to make a healthy decision for all who find their way to Cherokee Park United, now and in the future.

The complete history of discussions and committees devoted to the stained glass Jesus window, starting in 2012, was outlined in the October 2017 newsletter, and is attached as a separate document to this email.



## *Hello, and goodbye again, to the Liddle family*

We were recently blessed with a visit from Tom, Monica, and Hannah, missionaries to East Timor, during their visit to the Midwest. They brought along projected photos and stories of their efforts. Simon opted out of this visit in favor of being with grandparents; he was missed as Wayne hoped to practice his Portuguese with him, and also questions about alligators vs. crocodiles came up which we are told are Simon's expertise.

Our group had many questions about life there, and although some of us regularly follow Tom's blog, <http://timorsite.wordpress.com> their in-person answers were much appreciated. Of course, our foodie members had to ask about foods, and we learned that they eat lots of eggs but meat sometimes just once a week, and Tom may have to kill the chicken first and Hannah and friends pluck it! Hannah most misses chips and salsa & cheese, but heartily endorses the fresh fish – not crazy about having to eat it with her fingers – and tropical fruits they have available. Many topics were addressed, from health care to politics to economics; just ask one of the people pictured below.



A collection was taken in support of this mission, but donations can be given any time. You may make your check out to CPUC with Liddles written on the notation line.



## Having not yet found the money tree....



we need to rely on your offerings given each Sunday at worship or other ways you send in your donations.

The Finance Ministry would like to remind all of their pledges. We especially lose ground in meeting our budget during the summer when more people are “up north” or on vacation and not in attendance, and therefore not contributing on those weeks.

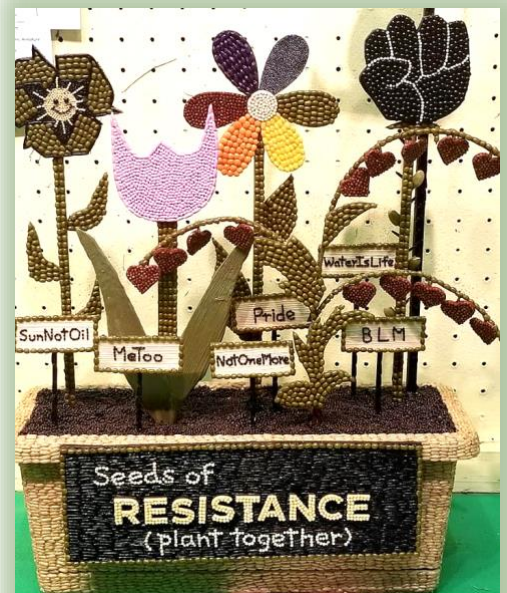
Paying salaries, our gas & electric (although our solar system now greatly reduces our bills), water, irrigation controls, mowing (when no volunteer is available) snow shoveling, kitchen supplies, etc. requires a basic financial outlay of about \$13,000 per month, or **\$3,000 per week**. Our weekly worship collections varied the first nine months from \$600 to \$5,300, averaging **\$1,800 per week**. Additionally, \$24,000 was prepaid in December adding another \$460 per week. (Also, this year members generously donated \$2600 for designated offerings and \$9000 towards the heating system.) So, we greatly depend on pledges being paid, and plate offerings which we cannot accurately predict.

We are constantly on the lookout for ways to save rather than spend, and we recognize that our members have been very generous in donating items and their hours and hours of work. An interesting demonstration of our frugality is a comparison to past years' budgets; in 2002 our annual budget was \$169,000 (adjusted for inflation), compared to the current \$157,000. We look forward to being together long into the future, making the world a better place for all through fierce justice, radical love, and abundant grace.



### *A State Fair find*

from Mary Bren  
Seeds of Resistance  
portrayed in actual  
seeds!



## *Council Corner Highlights – September Meeting 2018*

- The Council clarified the instructions to and reviewed the process proposed by the Sacred Space Ministry Team. This team is helping us find ways to make our sanctuary welcoming to all people and addressing concerns about the white, red-haired Jesus on the stained glass window.
- On behalf of the Personnel Ministry Team, Jerome Graf reported the job of Director of Music at Cherokee Park United is posted in wider church and other musical associations. The deadline for applications is September 30.
- The Council reviewed current church finances. A letter addressing church giving concerns will be sent out soon.
- A congregational meeting is set for Sunday, October 28 after worship. Church Council members for 2019 will be nominated and elected at the meeting. Terms begin in January. Your prayers are requested during this transitional period. Members are always welcome to attend meetings (6-9 p.m. on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays) or share their ideas or feedback with Council members or Pastor Joy as we work together to discern our church's future, in faith and love.



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## Women's Retreat 2018

*God, Grant me...serenity*

What is serenity?

How or where can I /we get some?

**The Benedictine Center,**



The Benedictine Center, part of the St. Paul Monastery, is close-by but worlds away. Join us as we explore the paths to Serenity in our lives. We'll likely run into Paradox and Prayer along the way. We'll share juggling tricks and strategies that we can take home with us.

Friday, 5:30 p.m. to Saturday, 5:00 p.m., October 26- 27, 2675 Benet Road, Maplewood

The retreat fee is \$106, or \$79 for Saturday only. All rooms are double occupancy with a few single rooms available at extra cost. Linens are provided. Meals are served buffet style in the Center's cafeteria. See more details at

<https://www.benedictinecenter.org>

There is limited space, so please register early. If you need scholarship help, please talk to Karen Shatek or Pastor Joy, and for other questions, please contact Jill Jackson.



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### *Women's Retreat Registration - October 26 & 27*

- ☐ I will be attending this year's retreat and staying overnight. (fee \$ 106)
- ☐ I will be attending this year's retreat but not staying overnight. (fee \$79)
- ☐ I am unable to come on Friday but can attend on Saturday. (fee \$71)
- ☐ I will make my own travel arrangements.
- ☐ I wish to carpool and would like to connect with others who do, too.
- ☐ I would like a single room, if available (fee \$ 121)

Please indicate if you have any special dietary restrictions and specify, i.e. vegetarian gluten-free, allergies. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form by Sunday October 14, along with your payment, or \$30 deposit to Karen Shatek or Jill Jackson.**



## **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)

The truth will set you free...  
but first it makes you miserable.  
A reminder from Tom Liddle