



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 November 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
28 Cong mtg after worship	29	30	31 All Hallow's Eve	1 NOV *Loaves & Fishes	2 (no women's group)	3 Movie Night 6:30 pm
4 "Fall Back" Daylight Saving Time Change Food Collection	5	6 VOTE	7	8 Council 6 pm	9	10 Youth Spaghetti Fundraiser
11	12	13 Outreach mtg 7 pm	14 Church Culture soup & conversation 6:30 p.m	15 Seeds of Resistance mtg 4:30 pm	16 Men's Group 6:30 pm	17
18 -Pledge Sunday -SoR pancake breakfast	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 DEC Hanging of the Greens am
2 25th Anniv ordination celebration Pastor Joy	3 Hannukkah	4	5	6	7 Women's Group 7 pm	8

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
-editor Susan Strebig
-proofreaders Phyllis Clark, Mary Murphy
-collate/mail teams Phyllis & Cal Clark, & Kathy
Bergthold.

Bring Friends and Family for a Free Movie Night!

Please join us on Saturday, November 3 at 6:30 p.m. at church for a Community Movie Night to watch the movie **Coco**. The popcorn will be provided by Jim Shatek and we'll share other free snacks, too. **CoCo** is an

Academy Award winning animated film about a Mexican

boy and his family "who embark on an extraordinary journey to the magical land of their ancestors." Remember El Dia de los Muertos and join us for this movie!



Women's Affinity Group

Thanks to Karen for bringing supplies to the September meeting, to make table and tray decorations for residents at Southview Nursing Home. There is no November meeting as will have just met at our late October retreat.

The December 7 meeting will be held at the home of Jill Jackson.



Loaves & Fishes

November 1, Thursday, 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, serve (3:45 - 5:00 p.m.), and/or clean up (4:40-6:30 p.m.). Contact Michele at michelerj@comcast.net or 651-497-4753. See background article on Loaves and Fishes on last page.

(Local Loaves & Fishes occurs the first Thursday of the odd numbered months.)

Remembering our departed loved ones...

From 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) tealight candle.



Wanted - Bingo Basket Spinner, Cards, and Chip Thingys



The Confirmation Youth group is planning a spaghetti dinner and bingo night fundraiser and is in need of Bingo supplies. Please contact Sasha.

Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo Night - Attend, Eat, Play

Saturday, November 10, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Support the Confirmation youth and their mission trip by joining in this fun evening. Fellowship Hall will be full of good smells, yummy food, and lots of fellowship. Suggested dinner donation is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child.

Outreach Ministry: The Team will meet on Tuesday, November 13 at 7 p.m. at the home of Jill Jackson.



Sophie is Directing!

You are invited to attend Central High School Drama Club's "Once Upon a Mattress" where Sophie LeMeur will exchange her violin bow for the director's baton. She will be conducting the pit orchestra for her school's musical. The dates of the performance are Friday & Saturday, November 16 & 17 at 7 p.m. and November 18 at 2 p.m. You can purchase tickets at the door or online at <https://centraldramaboard.brownpapertickets.com/>

Thank You - to all who quickly responded to our pledge reminder

Asking for money is never a comfortable task, yet we are often told that keeping everyone informed and reminded is a key as we all live busy lives and it is easy to forget some details. Your holy dedication to our church family and all that is needed to exist and succeed is evident. *And Now, on to 2019!* A letter will arrive soon to ask us to consider the 2019 budget. Our pledges inform the Finance Ministry what services we can fund - Pledge Sunday is November 18.



Lanny Raymond Bergthold

December 3, 1951 - October 2, 2018

A memorial service of witness of the resurrection was held Saturday, October 20 to honor the memory of our good friend Lanny. He was at home both organizing the property management team as well as tending to our landscape and appreciating the beauty of every flower. He could create a functional object or a stained glass window. When you needed him, he was there, with a willing hand and a smile. Many stories were shared of Lanny's talents and his kind and generous personality. But as Lanny's memory became diminished with Alzheimers, new challenges arose. Pastor Joy shared this touching experience.

"One afternoon last year, when Lanny was drifting into that darkness, he and a neighbor rang the church door bell. He had lost his way - but as I thought about it - not really. He neighbor explained to me that Lanny was wandering around the neighborhood and seemed confused. When he asked him where he lived, Lanny said, take me to my church. He loved this place and all of you. CPUC was his home because then he knew where he was. Because that was his home. He was clear about that. And when I opened the door, his face relaxed and smiled. As we walked back to his house, he kept telling me that he knew where his church was - then he could find his way back. That is the gift Lanny gave to me. When we are lost - just go back to the beginning where we left off."

Dear CPUC Family,

My family and I are overwhelmed by the love, concern, and help we received from you over the difficult years of Lanny's illness. Thanks especially for making his memorial service so warm and heartfelt. Pastor Joy, Jerry Williams, singers, servers, speakers, comforters-- bless you all!

Kathy Bergthold

*In the Bulb There is a Flower, in the seed, an apple tree,
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
In our end is our beginning, in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing, in our life, eternity,
in our death, a resurrection, at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

Church and Culture Conversations

Wednesday, November 14, 6:30 p.m.

The Transition Team is offering a soup & bread supper and conversation event around the question of “How do churches today engage with a non-Church going society?” Present will be a panel of United Theological Seminary students and Andrea Zirbel, Program Director for Urban Immersions Retreat for the Minnesota Council of Churches. Andrea is working on her Doctorate about Millennium and Church. More on the issue of how today's churches grow, or not, is found in an article from the Alban Weekly at Duke Divinity School by Dan Hotchkiss found at this link.

[Read more from Dan Hotchkiss »](#)

Window Repair Miracle

Some aging members of the Property Management Ministry have been worrying about the also aging church window frames, which need scraping, painting, or possibly replacing, all costly projects. Mentioning our concerns to Curt Fleming resulted in his volunteering to scale the bricks, gauge the needs, and then scrape and paint the concerning areas. We found him working there many days, and also nights! Thanks for being our miracle answer, Curt!



Hanging of the Greens!

Please join us at the church at **9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 1** to decorate our sanctuary and fellowship hall for the Advent/Christmas season. Supplies are well-organized. Treats & coffee will be on hand. Many volunteers will make this a joyful two-hour burst of holiday cheer. Contact Sasha Aslanian, Worship Ministry Chair.

Youth Confirmation Group Urban Plunge

Our Confirmation Urban Immersion on September 28,29,30 was a service retreat where we learned about the consequences and complexity of poverty and privilege. We participated in several simulation activities and constant critical reflections. Our service project was doing “chores” at Women’s Domestic Abuse safe haven. We also watched a movie, ate plenty of snacks and were awakened by a false security alarm! Participants included the confirmation youth - Jaime, Liv, Mia, and Eli. We express a huge thank you to chaperones Sandy Dodson, Lynda Morrison, Sasha Aslanian, Pastor Joy, and Chuck Paulson who joined us.



Notes from Pastor Joy

My reflection listed in last month's article originally was too lengthy, so the following points were left unwritten. This may be the time to share those. They are not meant as a continuum - each thought stands on its own. Perhaps just reading one a day would be great plenty.

- ♥ Peace of mind does not come through struggling to stop thinking, but as we focus our minds on some particular thought or object, and especially the rhythm of our breathing.
- ♥ If you attempt to capture the moment you lose it but if you let the moment capture you, you find it.
- ♥ May I not be so enchanted by still waters that I do nothing about the injustice and oppression of this world.
- ♥ In my solitude I am at one with all things. In my loneliness I am not even at one with myself.
- ♥ The secret of praying lies not so much in talking but in listening for then a whole new world of sacredness can impinge upon us.



Our Members Share their Stories



On Covenanting Sunday, Eric Jacobsen and Jaime Dodson shared their faith stories – our congregation continues its mission to nourish and strengthen the faith and witness of its members - just as the whole body of the congregation is fed and strengthened by its individuals, whether adult, teens, or children.

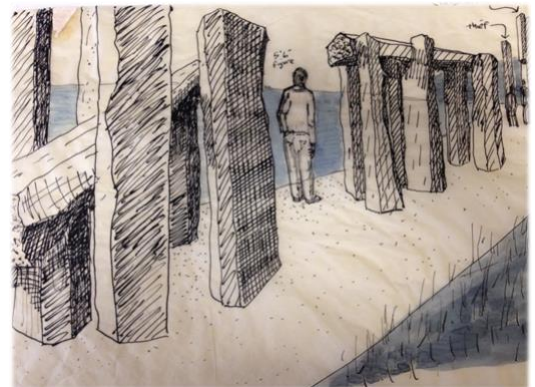
Eric: This church, Cherokee Park United

Church, is our connection to our community. You root us in this place and help us to have an outward perspective. The religion that I want to have includes both perspectives. Sometimes I am busy and feel that I don't want to commit to this or that activity that you invite me to join. And sometimes, I say no. But when I say yes, and when I do participate, do you know what? I never regret it afterward. So, I want to stay committed to this church. I want to keep the blessings coming that this church gives and gives, and I want to send them on, both forward and outward.

Jaime: Being able to participate [in many church activities] has really opened my eyes to know that there are other ways to worship and other ways to celebrate life and that it is good to help people less fortunate than us. The people at church are my friends. I know they care about me.

Philip: A few weeks later Philip Rickey shared his thoughts, videos, and model of public art he has created. His sculptures are found both locally in St. Paul, near Eveleth as a memorial to Paul Wellstone, and more recently, in a major installation at Notre Dame depicting the life of Christ. (video online at <https://vimeo.com/226471399>) Awed at an early age by huge stone churches in Europe, he was impressed with the connection of a physical aspect to the spiritual journey, that something so heavy could be so imbued with something so light and deeply spiritual.

Greatly appreciated was his opening statement that it was good to be at CPUC on this beautiful fall day, but equally good to be here in any type of weather, receiving strength and inspiration. We mirror his sentiments, as we all benefit not only from his inspiring work, but from his patience and kindness.



Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

Members' (listed below) efforts are guided by Gale Robb and Rick Wagner, representing both of our affiliated denominations. Their current task was to complete the PCUSA Ministry Information Form which is used to post openings for ministers on the national Presbyterian website. The form has been sent to the presbytery committee that reviews MIF's and is on their October 25 agenda. It will then be posted online. Next, the committee will augment the Ministry Information Form with UCC-specific materials. That should be completed and available to the national office for posting within the next 4 weeks. Interested persons will be reading about CPUC and our open pastorate by Thanksgiving, (barring unforeseen blips). It's exciting to ponder how the Spirit will move midst faith-filled people and process!!

Gina DeNardo Graf, Sandy Dodson, Sebastian Ellefson, Karolyn Gilbertson, Maria McNamara, Tom Murphy, Kelly Strebis

Council Corner Highlights – October Meeting 2018

~ Accountant and Finance Ministry Team Co-chair Lynne Bates reported Cherokee Park United sent \$2,020 for the Liddle's ministry in East Timor this year. This exceeded our \$1,500 pledge.

~The Council will sponsor a special fellowship hour on Sunday, December 2, to honor the 25th anniversary of Pastor Joy's ordination.

~The Personnel Ministry Team continues to accept applications and interview candidates for the job of Director of Music at Cherokee Park United.

~The Lay Ministry Team will nominate a slate of candidates for Council at the congregational meeting on Sunday, October 28 after worship. They are...

Class of 2021- Curt Fleming, Jackie Rico, Joy Sorensen-Navarre, Diane Spicer
Class of 2020 – Jan Howe

Your prayers are requested during this transitional period. Members are always welcome to attend meetings (next meeting 6:30-9 p.m. on 2nd 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.



New Banner! Sandy Settevig's creative talents bless us again as she designed the new banner which will grace our front entrance. Curt Fleming braves the 20-foot ladder to hang it! Thanks to the Outreach Ministry for its efforts on this and many other projects to fulfill our mission.



*Roxanna and Maria
welcome baby Rita
at Fellowship.*



Westminster Town Hall Forum

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nicollet Mall and 12th St., Minneapolis. Forums are one hour in length with a speaker presentation and Q&A. Music precedes each forum a half hour in advance, and a public reception follows. Convenient parking is available at Loring Garage on Nicollet Mall and Grant Street, the Marquette Ramp on 12th St. and Marquette Ave., and the Convention Center Garage on 12th St. and 2nd Av.

[Michael Beschloss](#) **Presidents of War: From 1807 to Modern Times**
Tuesday November 13 Noon

Award-winning author of nine books on presidential history. Trustee of the White House Historical Association and the National Archives Foundation. His forthcoming book is *Presidents of War*. (click on presenter's name for more information)



Loaves and Fishes (from Star Tribune, by Shannon Prather, August 3, 2018)

Largely stagnant wages and a growing population of struggling seniors, paired with a housing shortage and rising rents, have pushed the Twin Cities' poorest even lower, nonprofits leaders say.

The largest open-to-the-public free meal program in Minnesota, **Loaves & Fishes**, is on track to serve a record 1 million meals this year. That's one-third more than last year. Minnesotans visited food shelves a record 3.4 million times in 2017, more often than even during the recession. And Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis opened Higher Ground, its new, larger homeless shelter, in January 2017 and filled all of its 320 emergency shelter beds within three months.

"When we opened Higher Ground, we had hoped not to get to our full capacity ever, quite frankly," said Catholic Charities President and CEO Tim Marx.

The nonprofit examined area income, housing and poverty data as part of its mission refresh and found the overall poverty rate has gone down from more than 11 percent during the recession nearly a decade ago to just under 10 percent, but the number of people in extreme poverty has been stubbornly stable at about 4 percent, even ticking up slightly.

A growing number of seniors are facing homelessness, he said, referring to work by Wilder Research that shows the number of older adults in shelters has increased by more than 20 percent over a three-year period ending in 2015.

"We are losing affordable units when the demand for them is greatest," Marx said. "Rents are going up and renters' incomes are not. That's a recipe for increased homelessness and distress."

At Loaves & Fishes, July is the busiest month, said Executive Director Cathy Maes. The nonprofit serves healthy cooked meals at 39 sites during the summer. They also do street outreach, serving sandwiches and snacks out of vans on the weekends. About half of their clients are 55 and older and a quarter of clients say they have jobs — but they still need help making ends meet. Maes said rising rents and stubbornly low wages are forcing many people to make tough decisions: Do I pay the rent, buy groceries or buy medicine? And often cheap, starchy foods only exacerbate health problems. Maes said nearly 70 percent of Loaves & Fishes clients report having diabetes.

Loaves & Fishes board Chairman Stephen Ripple said some of the growth can be attributed to underemployment. "Yes, they have a job but it doesn't mean they have good food to eat. We are addressing a thimble full of the need, just a small fraction of the need."

The United Nations issued a report in May indicating 40 million Americans live in poverty and 18.5 million Americans live in extreme poverty. The U.N. used the official census definition of extreme poverty, which is having an income lower than half the official poverty rate, according to the Washington Post. In 2016, that was about \$12,000 a year for a family of four. But in a rebuke, the Trump administration said only about 250,000 Americans live in extreme poverty. It cited survey data from the think tank Heritage Foundation, which found only 0.08 percent of American households are in "deep poverty," defined by the Heritage Foundation as living on less than \$4 a day. Maes said her data shows deepening poverty and greater need. "I don't want to be political about it, but it's just the facts."

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



Last of the Fall flowers

Church means caring about others.

Jaime