



# ***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 January 2019***

## Planning Ahead:

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
30	31	1 <i>JAN</i>	2	3	4 Women's Group 7 pm	56
6 "de-green" after worship	7	8  Outreach 7 pm	9	10  Council 6:30 pm	11	12
13  Special organ music  Elder training 12 noon	14	15	16 Transition and Finance 6:30 pm	17 Undoing Racism 6:30 pm supper 7-9 pm program	18  Men's Group 6:30 pm	19
20 Joint worship with Clark- Grace	21	22	23  Outreach 7 pm	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1 <i>FEB</i> Women's Group 7 pm	2
3	4	15	6	7	8	9

Happy Birthday dears:

Liv Larsen      Jan 3  
Sandy Settevig Jan 5  
Bob Lockwood Jan 12  
Pastor Joy      Jan 18

January 1-7: Rev. Denise Dunbar-Perkins  
preaching Sunday and on call  
January 18-27: Pastor Joy in Holyland



## *Loaves and Fishes*

**January 3, Thursday, 3:45-6:30 p.m.**

Join us at St. Matthew's Church cafeteria for our semi-monthly commitment to provide a tasty, hot meal for those in need. Help for an hour or more to prepare, (3:45), and/or serve and clean up (4:45-6:30 p.m.) Contact Michele at [michelerj@comcast.net](mailto:michelerj@comcast.net). (Our church provides Loaves & Fishes meals first Thursdays of the odd numbered months.)

## *Women's Affinity Group*

**January 4, Friday, 7 p.m.**

We will meet at the home of Lynne Bates. Light refreshments will be served and a lively discussion shared. We look forward to a time of building relationships and sharing our lives with each other as we start a new year.

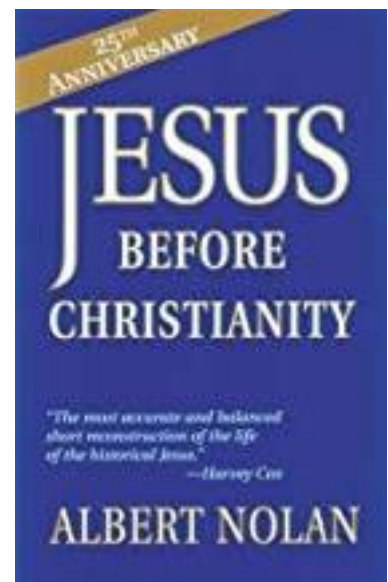
## *De-Greening! Re-Greening!*

Join us after worship on **Sunday, January 6**, to take down our wreaths, bunting, and tree. It took a few hours to put everything up, but with your help, just 30 minutes to take everything down. Ironically, we now go into the actual "green" liturgical Ordinary Time. Time for tending to our roots, watering our shoots, having faith that the stems and stalks will bear fruit with the proper care.

## *Adult Forum Begins Sunday, January 6*

We will begin reading and discussing the book ***Jesus Before Christianity*** by Albert Nolan. Originally published in 1976, this was a highly acclaimed book that focused on the life of the historical Jesus. The printing of several more editions in recent years speaks to the relevance and continued resonance of Nolan's work.

All who wish to participate are welcome. Please find your own copy of the book or try to arrange to share a book. The forum meets in the Parents' Room at 9 a.m. each Sunday morning except on holiday weekends. Please join us!



## *Bob's 91st Birthday + Ione Butler = Special Organ Music*

### **January 13, Sunday worship**

Be sure to join us for worship, and fellowship after, as we celebrate Bob Lockwood's and other January birthdays. It's been a while since Bob has been in Minnesota for his natal day and it seems time to celebrate! Besides missing Bob we've also been missing organ accompaniment for many months since we have not yet found a new music director. Ione, our previous director, looks forward to returning for this special day.

Our organ, dedicated in May 2000, is known as the New Century Pipe Organ as it was assembled by the Century Pipe Organ Company. Parts included our original used Vogelpohl organ purchased in 1974, pipes and wind chests from a 1960's Wicks organ from Worthington, MN, and a Jeffrey Hunt organ purchased used in 1998. The Vogelpohl had needed repairs or a rebuild costing up to \$30,000, so it was decided to do this major renovation, adding new electronic relay controls and fiber optic connection. The purchase of \$42,000 included parts alone valued at 75K; the cost was covered by music lovers at Cherokee, with half donated by Bob and Jo Lockwood.



**Organ pipes in the balcony and the organ room behind it. The largest pipe is 16 feet long.**

*January 13, noon*

~ elder training with Pastor Joy in Parents Room

## *Undoing Racism: In it for the Long-Haul*

Led by ASDIC Metamorphosis (Antiracism Study Dialogue Circle)

**January 17, 2018, hot soup & fellowship at 6:30, program from 7-9 p.m.**

Wherever you are in your journey—whether you have taken some steps forward or feel completely stuck and overwhelmed—we hope you can join us, share your story, and be nourished for ongoing engagement. If you are interested please contact Okogyeamon. [HPerkins1@gmail.com](mailto:HPerkins1@gmail.com)

## *Celebrate the Life and Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.*

### **January 20 Sunday Worship**

This year Clark Grace UCC will join us at CPUC. Pastor Oliver White is the preacher, and a joint choir from both churches will sing lively spirituals with the leadership of Sandy Waterman and Madeline Hansen.



## *Outreach Ministry*

**January 23, Wednesday, 7 p.m.**

The next meeting will be at the home of Jill Jackson.

## *Council Corner Highlights – December Meeting 2018*

- With the help of Finance Ministry Team Co-Chair and Church Accountant Lynne Bates, the Council reviewed the proposed 2019 church budget. The Council decided to wait until the January 10 meeting before voting to approve and recommend the budget to the congregation. This will allow them to know the church's finances after December 2018 offerings are counted.
- The new elders to Council will be ordained and installed during worship on December 30. Joy Sorenson-Navarre (Class of 2021) will be ordained and installed. Jan Howe (Class of 2020) and Curt Fleming, Jackie Rico, and Diane Spicer (Class of 2021) will be installed.
- The Council reviewed the Rolls of the Church. The Clerk, Mike Bates, will contact several people who've not attended in a while and notify them they will be removed from the rolls unless they notify us. (This saves the church from paying Per Capita for these people as well as maintains an up-to-date membership list.)
- The Child Safety and Background Check Policy of CPUC is being revised. The Clerk will bring a new policy to the Council for a vote in the coming months.
- Pastor Joy and the Council are planning a special worship service for January 13, honoring Bob Lockwood whose birthday is January 12. The church's New Century Organ will be featured in the music that day. A special fellowship hour will be sponsored by the Council following worship.
- Council members Andy George, Jerry Williams, and Jill Jackson complete their terms this month. We thank them for their leadership and service.



The Council asks 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. Please connect with Council members or Pastor Joy with ideas or feedback you want to share as we seek to embody the vision, mission, and values we proclaim.

## Help Cherokee Park United GROW by being a Greeter or an Ambassador

The role of greeter before worship service is key to the growth and grounding of our church community. *Greeters* extend the hand of welcome to members, children, friends, and newcomers. *Ambassadors* watch for new faces at worship services; they welcome visitors during worship and then join them at Fellowship time. Serving in these important capacities is a good way to meet, assist, and connect with people at church. Adults, youth, and families are welcome to serve.

If you are interested in volunteering for one of these roles please contact Jill Jackson.  
Thank you for helping welcome all at CPUC!

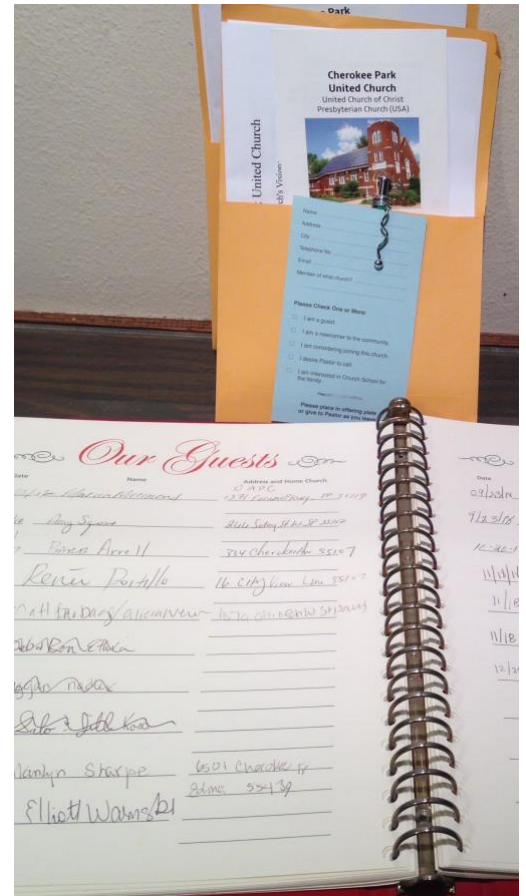
### 2019 Leaders' Retreat Invitation

Do you feel called to lead? Do you want to explore a topic among friends that challenges and nourishes our minds and souls? We're looking for a member, or members, to bring that energy to the 2019 Leaders' Retreat.

In 2017 and 2018 the Transition Team facilitated the Leaders' Retreat. Both events were very "business focused" (digging into church history, and writing a new mission statement). Both were valuable and successful. However, the Council would like this next retreat to be more "spirit focused" with discussion and activities that will hopefully help fill the wells of our souls.



Due to cost and scheduling changes, we will not be using the ARC Retreat Center in 2019. This is an opportunity to explore other possible venues and formats. We're looking for one, two, or more members who would like to take the lead in organizing the 2019 Leaders' Retreat. You don't need to have a concrete idea at this time, perhaps just an inkling of what you might want to do. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Joy.







## Advent Journey

The Seeds of Resistance Ministry lead us in worship on the first Sunday of Advent. We met in the CPUC bus station (Fellowship Hall), were welcomed by conductor Okogyeamon., and heard messages of hope and resistance proclaimed, and also sung by Jim and Tom, and later, Simeon.

The Advent candle was lit by the bus station's cleaning lady, and various young and old passengers sought for comfort from "Mary" and her older cousin "Elizabeth". Challenging life experiences were shared such as being sexually harassed, being bullied in school or defending others being bullied, doubting career choices of service rather than those with much greater financial benefits, being alone during times of great loss.

Consolation and understanding were given, pointing to the hope that all can be well - we travel together, following God's

requests, as Mary did.





## Thank Yous

Throughout the year our church contributes to various charity and justice efforts. We have received acknowledgement of our gifts from the following:  
Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul (\$200), More Light Presbyterians - working for LGBTQ+ inclusion (\$200).

We have also received heartfelt thank you from the GAP school family which was provided with Christmas gifts and money from CPUC members, through Tom Murphy. He passes on to us this thank you and photos from a grateful family. They used some of the money to purchase a Christmas tree, and we are told this family went from no Christmas at all, to the wonderful bounty carried over in Tom's car.

Dear Cherokee Park Church,

We are so grateful for your gifts which have been allocate to our family. We are very happy and overjoy the gifts very much. We can not thank you enough for your kind and love.

May God bless all of you and fulfil your wishes.

We wish you a Merry-Christmas and Happy New Year!

From →





## Giving Schedule

Throughout the year we are invited to join in various efforts to share our financial resources towards charity and justice concerns. Charity addresses immediate needs of people made vulnerable by society's inadequacies; justice seeks to address and correct the causes of those inadequacies.

**February/Lent: Per Capita** - We pay each of our two denominations for half of our reported membership.

**March: Neighborhood Food Shelf** - both food and money donations

**April: Loaves and Fishes** - pays for the six meals per year we prepare and serve. We have been doing this since 2001!

**May: One Great Hour of Sharing** (UCC & PCUSA) - supports victims of famine, natural disasters, those needing help during displacement, etc.

**October: Peacemaking/ Peace & Global Witness PCUSA** - divided between our two affiliations and 25% remains with us to fund our own peace efforts.

**December: Christmas Joy PCUSA & Christmas Fund UCC** - to help retired church workers who have encountered special needs and are on limited incomes and from PCUSA and to support educational scholarships for youth and affiliated racial ethnic schools. **Christmas Family** - gifts and money we provide for a specific local family identified through a local school or Ramsey County.

**Various Months:** Offering boxes contain six envelopes labeled "Communion" which are used as an emergency fund, distributed by the pastor. Funds have been requested and shared with both members and non-members and have truly pulled individuals and families out of very bad financial situations in times of unanticipated medical bills, unemployment, etc.



## New Artwork Acquisition

Member Winnie Williams saw this print at a Taize prayer service and located the artist so we could obtain a print, which we purchased through our Outreach Ministry. We have a collection of various Nativity-themed prints, fabrics, and paintings; this one seemed particularly apropos in today's political climate - a reminder of those travelers who are too easily, and often brutally, turned away. The picture is entitled "Refugees La Sagrada Familia", created by Kelly Latimore.



### *Notes from Pastor Joy*

If you contemplate the events of the world, it appears nothing has changed since Christmas: The continued embarrassing turmoil in the White House, the government shut down and loss of jobs, Russia's threats with nuclear missiles, and another child has died in the Border Security Detention center - most likely still without their parent. Since I am a dreamer, every year I partly believe Christmas will banish all the bad that weighs heavy.

Since I promised to keep this article sweet and short, here is a story that gives me ridiculous hope.

In Colonial America there was an eclipse of the sun that caught everybody off guard. Many of the state legislators in New England were afraid . . . they thought it was the end of the world. Several legislators moved quickly to adjourn, but before the presiding officer could call for a vote, another Colonialist stood and said, "Mr. Speaker, if it is not the end of the world and we adjourn, we will appear to be fools. If it is the end of the world, I should choose to be found doing my duty. I move you, sir, let the candles be brought." (Lamar Williamson, *Interpretation*.)

The future, Peter Gomes asserts, is a "blessing of God . . . The future is God's time." That has enormous implications for how we live and it has deep and powerful implications for you and me personally. Our future—our time—the time we have left to live, whatever that happens to be, is time inhabited by God. Wherever we go, God will be there. Whatever happens to us, God will be there.

"O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light."

May it be so with us.

### *Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)*

We have found our responses pretty much in sync with one another. Presently we are calling references for candidates that we find the best fit (exciting!) for CPUC. It is inspiring to feel God's Spirit moving through the applicant's faith expressions and our conversations. Thank you for your prayers as we move forward.



*May We Carry Forth the Light of Christmas into the New Year*

### *Interesting Tidbit from Past Council Minutes*

Sept. 1977: Motion made and carried to shut down sanctuary heat to 50° and worship in Fellowship Hall; we will heat up the sanctuary for Christmas Eve and Christmas. Moved and carried to establish "no smoking" areas in the sanctuary and all carpeted areas in the church.

### *A Serious Sabbath Thought*

100 people are shot in the U.S.A. on an average Sunday. What can we do about this?  
Reference from The Soul Box Project, UCC News, December 18, 2018



### *Winter Parking*

Johnson Funeral Home graciously allows us to use their parking lot; with entrances both on Manomin Av. and King St.

### *Miscellaneous Items Desired:*

- ♥ for the kitchen a **toaster**, esp. a 4-slice and **small microwave** as ours is ancient
- ♥ tall **artificial tree or plant** for seasonal use in the front entry way alcove
- ♥ dried **pampas grass** to use in arrangements



## **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)

*Race isn't a black and white issue.  
Biologically, humans are 99.9% identical.*

Human Genome Project, 2003