



A Banner Weekend!

Join us as we celebrate our 51st Anniversary as a Presbyterian-UCC congregation, the futures of our four high school seniors, and the welcome of our pastoral candidate who will preach at Sunday worship. June 2. Details arriving by email and USPS.

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 June 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 JUNE Meet & Greet Pastor Candidate 3-5 pm
2 Anniversary Sunday --Pastor Candidate Preaching --Congr Mtg	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Worship time changes to 9:30 am	10	11	12	13 Council 6:30 pm	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Pride Parade	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1 JULY	2	3	4 *Loaves & Fishes (hunger does not take a holiday)	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Council 6:30 pm	12	13

Future dates:

July 28, Worship and Picnic in the Park

Women's Affinity Group and Men's Group will resume in the Fall.

Newsletter article deadline is the 20th of the month; please submit articles or ideas to editor Susan at kellystrebig@comcast.net
-proofreaders Phyllis Clark, Mary Murphy
-collate/mail team Phyllis & Cal Clark

Introducing our pastor candidate

The Pastor Nominating Committee will introduce Matthias Peterson-Grant, spouse Valerie, and children, at a reception on Saturday June 1 from 3-4 p.m. He has been working with Rev. Sandy Dodson to organize our June 2 Sunday worship and will preach at that service. Following the service, a vote will be taken of the congregation to approve calling him as our new pastor.



After eleven months of working together, the Pastor Nominating Committee chose Matthias as the best fit to pastor our faith community at this time in our history. He has relational gifts of attention, compassion, and authenticity as well as a firm grounding in church scholarship and hands-on involvement in social justice.

Reverend Matthias graduated with honors from San Francisco Theological Seminary, San Anselmo, CA, where he was awarded the Alumni Fellowship for academic excellence, and the Community Life Award for his positive impact on student life. He had earned his BA from Coe College in Cedar Rapids and was ordained in 2015 at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles.

At Immanuel he served 5 years as associate pastor and solo pastor/ acting head of staff. He coordinated the Urban Internship Program that explored diverse approaches to ministry and mission in the LA area. Before that he had led summer youth programs and provided ecumenical outreach to unaccompanied immigrant minors caught up in the legal system; he is fluent in Spanish and has taught Hebrew scripture to Spanish speaking lay leaders.

Most recently, Pastor Matthias has been serving as Campus Pastor at United University Church (Presbyterian and United Methodist) on the University of Southern California campus in Los Angeles. While there he initiated a student-led meal program for students facing food insecurity and hunger and has held a leadership role with Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice in central LA, participating in vigils, trainings, and protests for racial, immigration, and economic justice.

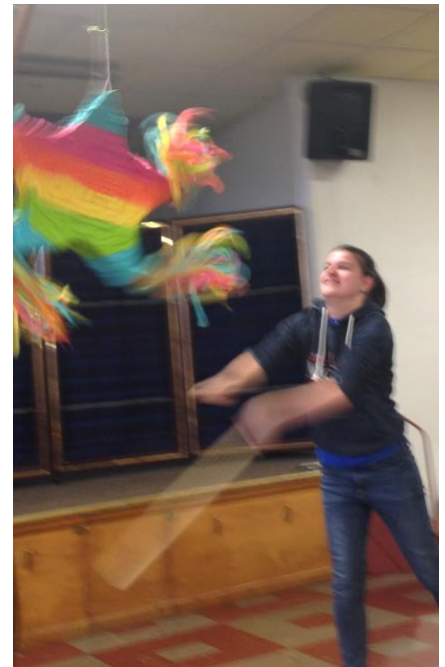
Says Matthias to his new community: *"I am so excited to meet you all and do ministry with you... I have felt inspired by your commitments to anti-racism work, the full belonging of LGBTQ people, and living the gospel of Christ. I believe God has amazing things ahead for us, and I look forward to discovering together what they are."*

June Council Meeting Notes

- ◆ Tom and Maria gave a PNC update on the arrival of the pastor candidate; the PNC is willing to stay together as a unit after the pastor is called, to remain a support group for him.
- ◆ A congregational meeting was set for June 2 to vote on calling a new pastor.
- ◆ June communion was moved from the first to the second weekend due to the large number of events scheduled during and after worship on June 2.
- ◆ Rev. Sandy Dodson has agreed to cover worship services between the departure of Rev. Denise Dunbar Perkins and the (hopeful) arrival of a newly called pastor. Rev. Denise has offered to provide pastoral coverage if Sandy is unavailable.
- ◆ The Personnel Ministry has decided to delay further work on securing a music director until after the new pastor is called and can be involved in this; continued music accompaniment has been arranged through August.
- ◆ The Finance Ministry requested the council ask the Personnel Ministry to begin to write an Employees Handbook. Susan will start this effort.
- ◆ Jerome volunteered to meet with another church group inquiring about renting space from CPUC.
- ◆ All are invited to an open house at Neighborhood House (which we support through our monthly food drive) on Thursday June 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

It was all a blur on Cinco de Mayo!

Jaime, Roxanna, and
Sophie try to burst open
the pinata.



Member news

A senior highlight

On Anniversary Sunday, among other observances, we honor our high school seniors. Afghans (crocheted by Kathy Bergthold) will be given to each at the June 1 worship service, to remind them of the warm thoughts and prayers we send with them as they move on to the next adventures in their lives. Kaia will graduate from St. Paul Academy and Summit School on June 9th. In August she'll head to Norway to spend a gap year studying *Friluftsliv* (outdoor life) at a Folk School in Hardanger, Norway. In the fall of 2020, she'll attend Davidson College in North Carolina where she plans to study political science. Kaia first began attending CPUC as a toddler. Her favorite CPUC memory was the confirmation mission trip to Georgia led by Pastor Tim and getting to hang out with her fellow confirmands while doing service projects.

Her mom, Sasha says, "Thank you to CPUC for your loving support of our children all these years: from tolerating them dancing in the aisles with Lois, to enlisting them in cookie baking with The Ruth Circle, to giving them memorable and creative lessons in faith life. CPUC has always been a place where they are surrounded by unconditional love and that spirit is like a song that will stay in their bones forever."



More music! Some of our members attended the recent Central High School Orchestra concert in which Sophie played the Beethoven Violin Romance in F. They were amazed at the professional sounding talent of Sophie and her fellow musicians. She, and possibly her friends, are also giving a senior recital at CPUC on Saturday, June 8 at 1 p.m. You are invited!

Life of Christ: Cycle of Life Sculpture



Philip Rickey, public sculpture artist, shares his video of the culmination of his four-year project on the Notre Dame campus in South Bend. A winding path features seven events in Christ's life, translated through 100 tons of stone. The video referenced below, one of three available, is narrated by his daughter Nora; she, and some of her student artist friends were also invited/allowed to work on the finishing of the stone surfaces.

Link to download video:

[Life of Christ Video Two](#)

or <https://vimeo.com/318506882>

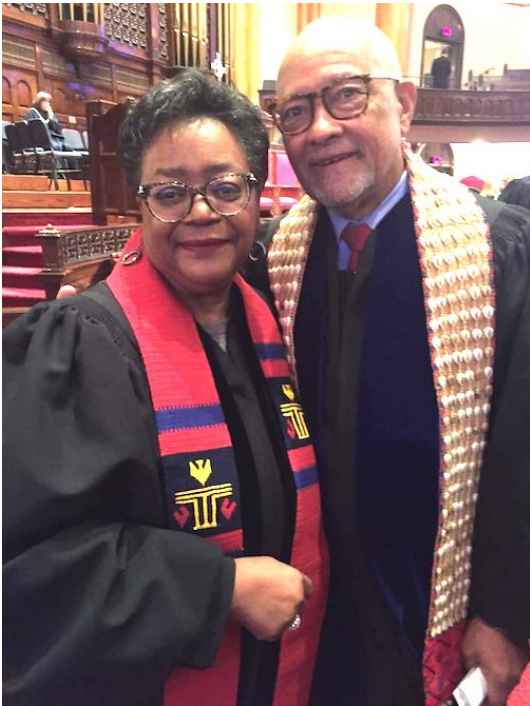


From Okogyeamon

Friends, I thank you for the 14 years I've had with you at Cherokee Park United Church community. I became a member in 2005. Over these years, I have enjoyed the close friendships with many associated with the CPUC ministries that I've been a part of -- The Justice and Witness, Outreach, Anti-Racism Team, Seeds of Resistance, Fellowship, and Church Council. I've especially enjoyed those occasions where at I've had opportunities to prepare and offer worship services, cook, dance, and barbecue with you! I've appreciated the ways that you as a congregation have supported my social justice and education ministries, especially as they have related to ASDIC Metamorphosis and FREC (Facilitation Racial Equity Collaborative). Thank you for all of this!

Now as I join First Congregational Church, UCC, Montevideo, and set up secondary housing in Granite Falls, I am required to withdraw my church membership. Though I have preached at my new congregation for some five Sundays and participated in community events, I begin as pastor on May 17. The UCC installation service shall be July 21st with Rev. Rick Wagner presiding.

Though I leave my CPUC membership, I do not abandon the Westside community or my involvement in ASDIC, Seeds, or FREC. Therefore, my personal relationship continues with many of you. Denise and I shall continue to own and reside in our Westside home -- no change. I shall divide my week between St Paul and Montevideo. So, do not be surprised to see me around about the community and at the home of one of the Seeds of Resistance members for our monthly meeting.



Perhaps, we need to put a date for a big backyard barbecue at our home in July or August. Look for this as an upcoming event.

Blessing and well wishes to all of you.
Herb/Okogyeamon

And from Pastor Denise - A parting blessing

My dear friends of Cherokee Park United Church, I want to say, thank you. Thank you for allowing me to be a tiny part of your journey of the past three years. Thank you for your welcoming hospitality and for your trust that I would bring my best self in order for you to find the best path forward. You've trusted me with your thoughts and concerns your struggles, your fears, but also your joys and your enthusiasm and anticipation of your future life. It was not an easy path to walk, believe me, but I know that, in the end, "all shall be well" as Julian of Norwich would say. You have worked through many issues of separation, grief, disappointments, and plain old hurt. However, being able to express all of that in the venues where you needed to do so, I believe has helped you to come to the point where with your new path before you will be able to do the work of renewing and the re-defining who you are as a community. What is so good about that type of work is that you don't have to totally lose who you've been and what made you who you are today but you get that get to add a little bit more new spices to the recipe of that wonderful casserole which is CPUC!

This is been a learning experience for me - learning to hear all voices and to always give room for those to be heard. I truly pray that is what you've experienced. However, if you did not experience that with me that is certainly okay because God was there in the middle of this to make all things right for all people. As individuals, each and every one of you has the right to define who you've been and will be within this community. Yes, I do believe there is more work for you to do, to mend old relationships and build new friendships, but I believe that you have the spirit of God in you to do those things. As you welcome the new pastor, make him aware of who you've been in the past as a community that has fed the hungry, helped the poor, stood with the marginalized, visited the imprisoned and the sick. And you've always strived to look past disagreements and build the community Christ intended.

This is who I feel you really are and with the help of God, the new pastor, and the members of an embolden, hardworking Council I believe that even bigger and better things are in your future! God bless you, keep you and surround you with the spirit of love.

Blessings, Pastor Denise

Creation Care is everyone caring for... everyone

We are now recognized as a Presbyterian Earth Care Congregation!

We join nine locally and over two hundred more as a certified Presbyterian Earth Care (PEC) congregation. PEC recognizes our past efforts and expects ongoing work, including infrastructure, advocacy, educational / outreach, and creation care centered worship. We celebrate a long and continuing commitment (Solar Panels since 2012!), and next January's annual recertification will share 2019's good works in all categories! On May 17 we joined eight other PEC congregations to each share our successes – and there were a lot!



Partners: After some informal collaboration, I am happy to extend Cherokee Park's creation care ministry as a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church's (WPC) Eco-Justice team. On Mother's Day I offered the WPC forum presentation: A call to advocacy care for Mother Earth.

This call to action was well received by the 20+ attending, with Eco-Justice fielding questions while I ran back to Cherokee Park for Rev. Denise's closing Sunday. Thank you Rev. Denise! (Honorably Retired or working harder than ever? Both!)

My prayer is that WPC's fledgling advocacy program (30 more signed from last Sunday's outreach) becomes a force for nature and a resource for at least Twin Cities congregations.

Gratitude, Prayers, and progress for national climate action.

I am grateful for the prayers and support from Cherokee Park. Thank you Moderator Joy for helping with my St. Louis hotel stay last year - and thanks to Council and Pastor Rev. Joy Smith for their financial support enabling advocacy for climate at the General Assembly right after last year's DC trip.

Holy Spirit Stamps: It's time to start air mailing prayers for delivery on June 11th to Washington. I'll be back to join 1200 volunteers for 500+ meetings with our representatives, and we *are* making progress.

We're asking Congress to enact the recently introduced **Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act**(www.energyinnovationact.org, the first **bi-partisan** (yes really!) climate legislation in nearly ten years. I'll connect with other Presbyterian Action Team members and we hope to meet with our Presbyterian Office of Public Witness.

Thank you all for your acts and prayers for all creation, Tomie



PRIDE parade participation

Cherokee Park United Church often marches in the annual Pride Parade, this year taking place on **Sunday, June 23** at 11:00 am in downtown Minneapolis, marching with representatives from UCC churches in Minnesota. Marchers wear their CPUC T-shirts and carry one of our welcoming church banners. **If you are interested in marching in the PRIDE Parade please contact Jill Jackson or Tomie Evans.**

Many thanks for considering and communicating about this community outreach event.

Backpack survival

Members Karen & Jim Shatek have been serving homeless people, encountered on our city streets, by handing out backpacks full of survival items. If you visit garage sales, could you watch for used but serviceable, **Large or Extra Large/ adult backpacks** for their ministry? (New packs are not used as they are more likely to be noticed and stolen.) In the past few years well over 50 packs have been given out. Packs with many zippered pockets are especially appreciated.



Protecting our church community from exploitation and abuse

Our insurance company has asked us to develop a more comprehensive policy to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation within our congregation, focused on but not limited to protecting our children and youth. **We are asking for members interested to join a task force to work on this important matter.** If interested please contact Jane Peterson..

Council Contacts 2019

(2) denotes second consecutive 3-year term.

Class of 2019

Mike Bates

Maria McNamara

Mary Murphy (2)

Karen Shatek (2)

Class of 2020

Tomie Evans

Jerome Graf (2), vice-moderator

Susan Strebig

Jan Howe

Class of 2021

Diane Spicer (2)

Jackie Rico

Joy Sorensen Navarre, moderator

Curt Fleming

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: June 2 10:15 a.m.

Summer Worship starts June 9, 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Sandy Dodson, Interim

651-227-4275

cpuc@usfamily.net

cherokeeparkunited.org



*Our rainbow flag stands as
an antenna of love.*

Tomie Evans