



Cherokee Park United Church

A Progressive Congregation

*Welcoming people of all ages, sexual orientations,
races, and ethnic origins*

Theological Elbow Room

Global Music

Community Connected


Kid Friendly

Newsletter August 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
28 Worship and Picnic in the Park	29	30	31	1 AUG	2	3 
4	5	6 National Night Out! 6-7:30 pm	7	8 Council 7:00pm	9	10 
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 
1 SEPT	2	3	4	5 Loaves & Fishes	6 Women's Group 7 pm	7 
8 Covenanting Sunday						

Future dates:

Mdewankanton Dakota Wacipi Sept 13-15
 Women's Retreat October 12
 Indigenous People's Day Monday October 14

Saturdays 8:30-12:30 
 West Side Farmer's Market
 Stryker & George

Wishing

Happy Birthdays to

August 13 - Kathy Bergthold
 August 14 - Karen Shatek
 August 30 - Jane Peterson

Happy Anniversary to

August 23 - Eric Jacobson & Jane Peterson

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

July council meeting notes

- A special offering will be taken two Sundays in September to support Tom Liddle, (former intern here), and family as they finish out their last year as missionaries in East Timor.
- The Finance committee is looking into information on how endowment funds are organized and used, specifically whether the funds are available for an identified use or if the intention is that only the interest is available as income; we have already received a \$25 K endowment donation as seed money from a generous member.
- Pastor Matthias is working with the UCC to become authorized to be the pastor in our dual denominational congregation. Most of the Presbyterian approval had to be done prior to his hiring. When this very involved process is completed, his installation can be planned, possibly in October.
- Pastor Matthias is helping to seek candidates for the music director position.
- Lay Ministry is meeting to explore the option of establishing a pool of volunteers for ministries rather than filling out all the committees; in the same vein Pastor Matthias may help us re-envision our team structure to reduce committee fatigue as we presently have nine teams which is a large number for the size of our congregation, requiring that many people serve on multiple ministries.
- Members discussed contacting those who have left us in the past three years, with possibly Jan being a point person to be sure all have been covered. Pastor Matthias is open to being part of this process but using our past relationships and ongoing friendships would be key.
- Members have requested that Pastor Matthias' (wonderful) sermons be available on our website, so efforts are being made through Tom and Jill to do so.
- Property Management, in consultation with the Pastor, Finance and the Council, is discussing the pros and cons of renting our spaces to an inquiring church.



Loaves & Fishes

September 5, Thursday, 3:45-6:30 p.m.

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

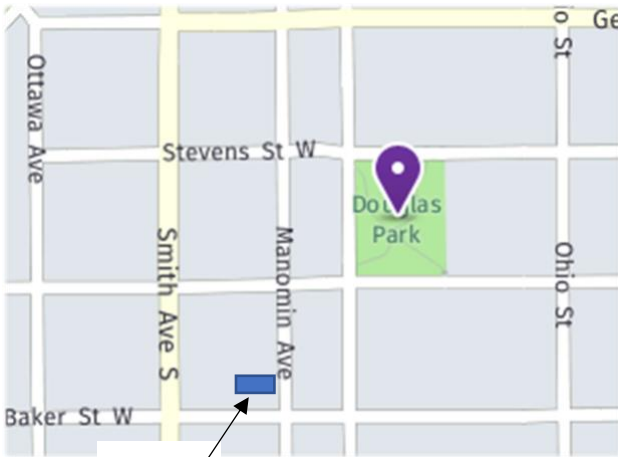
Please contact Stefan if you can help this month.

[Our Loaves & Fishes commitment is for the first Thursday of odd numbered months.]

National Night Out with our neighbors! See you at Douglas Park

Tuesday, August 6

Cherokee Park United will host a **National Night Out** gathering at Douglas Park, two blocks away on Orleans between King and Stevens (rather than at the church as in



past years.) This is a great opportunity to foster connections, build a safe neighborhood, and introduce our new pastor to the community! Ice cream treats, fruit, and beverages will be offered at no cost. We need your help with set-up, serving, overseeing activities, or clean-up that evening. Stay tuned to Sunday bulletins and sign-up opportunities at church. To volunteer or for questions contact Pastor Matthias or Jill Jackson.

Women's Affinity Group resumes in September

Friday, September 6

The Women's Affinity Group begins another program year, meeting at the home of Jill Jackson. We meet at 7 pm to share light refreshments followed by the discussion of a topic. Please join us!

Participants are encouraged to host an upcoming meeting, typically the first Friday of the month. *Or you might offer to plan the topic with someone else being the home hostess.* A signup sheet will be available at the meeting or you can contact Jill Jackson to volunteer. The Women's Retreat will take the place of the October meeting. The other meeting dates needing hosts for the coming year are December 6, January 3, February 7, March 6, April 3, and May 1. Thanks for your consideration.



Women's Retreat Day

Saturday, October 12

The annual Women's Affinity Group Retreat will be held at church, facilitated by the Rev. Denise Dunbar-Perkins. Topic information and registration materials will be available soon. Mark your calendars now for this enjoyable time together!

From Pastor Matthias

One of my favorite parts of the Bible is the book of Psalms. It is the longest book in the Christian Bible, and it spans the exact middle of the Bible (in terms of number of verses before and after). Neither of those facts is what I love about it, though.

The Psalms are expressive and poetic. They don't tell stories—at least not in a direct narrative way. They don't proscribe theology or argue about doctrine.

Each Psalm expresses the faith, desires, struggles, and hopes of its author. Some are raw with weariness and heartache, as in Psalm 69:

Save me, O God,
for the waters have come up to my neck.
² I sink in the miry depths,
where there is no foothold.
I have come into the deep waters;
the floods engulf me.

Other passages are practically giddy with joy and exuberance, like in Psalm 150 which calls for music, instruments, singing, and praise. This is fitting since the Psalms were set to music originally.

Often intertwined in the Psalms are calls for justice, with some even voicing anger at the cruelty wrecked by corrupt leaders. “Justice—do you rulers know the meaning of the word? ... No! You plot injustice in your hearts. You spread violence throughout the land.” (Psalm 58:1-2).

Whatever you are feeling, chances are high that there is a Psalm to match.

Beyond what the Psalms express, they give us a model for faith. In each Psalm, the author takes their life and the experiences they are going through and creatively weaves it together with their faith. The Psalms are a written representation of what we all are called to do: look at our lives and our faith as inseparable. Whatever daily routines, disappointments or sadness, joys or triumphs, hopes or despairs, the Psalms show us that we can hold these feelings and life moments up to God, and that indeed to do so is as genuine an act of faith as any.

Peace,

Pastor Matthias



*Minneapolis
Pride Parade
and
West St. Paul
Pride in the
Park*



*Two groups
of house plants
were brought*



*in to give away in June.; the
Aloe inspired our statue of
liberty. No doubt we'll see
sharings of tomatoes,
zucchini, and rhubarb in the
future.*

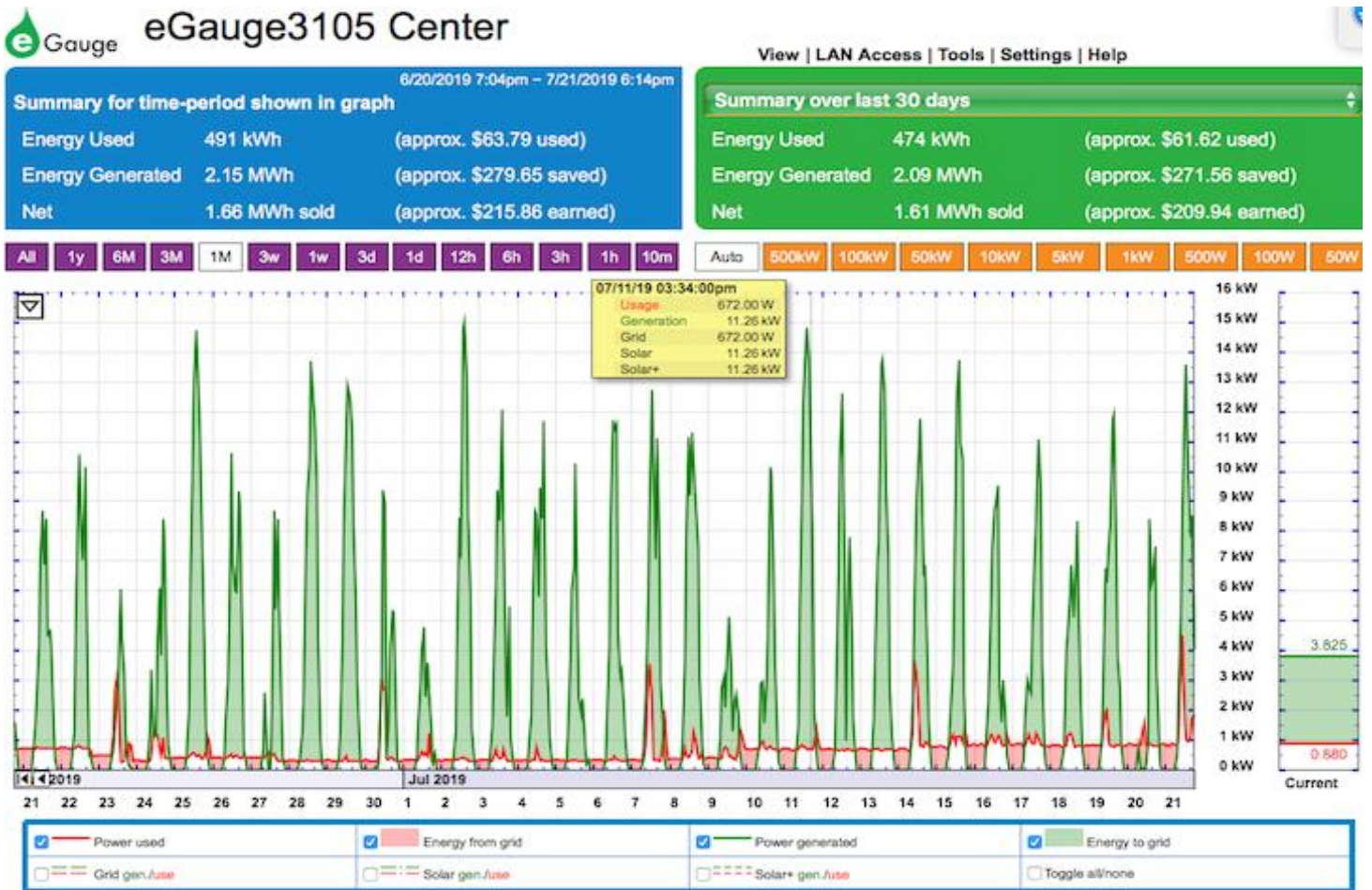


Making money on our roof

The solar panels on our roof produce enough electricity on a sunny day to provide for our own electric needs plus excess kWh to sell back to Xcel. Check this website for a live picture of the energy being used and generated and a handy computation of the income for we are being credited. Starting on January 2017 we owned the panels and any excess kWh generated are now credited to us. Thanks to Tom Murphy and the Property Management Ministry for the hundreds of hours they volunteered in 2012 to hire Sundial Solar Co. and supervise this project. This snapshot shows our last month of generated electricity (green) and our usage (red). In the past year we generated 20 MWh, only used about 6 MWh, and were paid \$1,813 for the excess. At this rate, by the end of the year 2121, the solar roof will have paid for itself.



<http://egauge3105.egaug.es>



Congratulations and blessings to Okogyeamon

upon his installation at First Congregational, Montevideo.



Happy Birthday (add your name here)

A few weeks ago, before worship, we passed around a clipboard and invited members and friends to list their days of celebrations, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. We do often remember people's birthdays but realize we also miss many. The list is currently on the worship space back table. Please add yours. And if you were absent in mid-July you missed another of Jill Jackson's musical creations, a special song she wrote for Tom Murphy's birthday, "Go Down Murphy", (and let my people "Mow!") set to the tune of "Go Down Moses."



Hungry? Eat a sandwich of justice

"All Square" a grilled cheese sandwich shop, was created to give jobs and second chances to people who were formerly incarcerated. Part of a 12-month criminal justice reform and re-entry program course at All Square Institute and Dream Lab, a job at the shop guarantees a steady income along with training for future entrepreneurship and support for schooling. Founder Emily Hunt Turner, 35, is a civil rights attorney and hockey coach who worked for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, tackling issues of fair housing and segregation after seeing how policies denied tenancy to people with criminal records, regardless of the record's age, relevance or accuracy - affecting a lot of people who should not have been imprisoned in the first place. Released felons face an unemployment rate five times that of the general population, often causing a future of just existing and surviving.

Pay by the sandwich or purchase a Grilled Cheese for Life membership for \$1000, and eat for the rest of your life! Try the apple-brie-pecan, BBQ grilled cheese, or "Did My Thyme" with feta, hummus, and thyme butter. Star Tribune 5-5-19

Wed-Sun 11 am - 9 pm 4047 Minnehaha Av S, 612-787-7164. allsquarempls.com

Landscape improvement

Thanks to a loyal and energetic crew of volunteers, our plantings received much needed love and attention in July. In spite of 102° heat index one day and rain the next, we persevered (and knew to quit when our bodies said to). In a few months we will tackle the larger shrub and tree trimming.



Underneath the layer of weeds in the rain garden we found Purple Coneflowers!

We worked high and we worked low.



*Rain Garden transformation
before.....*



.....and after



Toy story

Our toy cabinet is in need of some TLC. An organizer volunteer has been found, but an assistant/co-organizer is needed to make this a pleasant experience rather than a task. Coffee or treats could be part of the bargain!

Also, the most popular items seemed to have disappeared so please let us know if you find them, or if you can find/donate replacements - if you are a garage-saler keep this in mind. We'd like Legos and any little toy people, Legos or not. (Oh, how nice, there is even a grandma lego!)



Please contact Susan.

Council Contacts 2019

(2) - denotes second consecutive 3-year term

Class of 2019:

Mike Bates
Maria McNamara
Mary Murphy
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

Summer Worship 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Matthias Peterson-Brandt

651-227-4275

cpuc@usfamily.net

cherokeeparkunited.org



*If you get the inside right,
the outside will fall into place.*

Eckhart Tolle