



## **Cherokee Park United Church**

Fierce Justice ✨ Radical Love ✨ Abundant Grace

A Progressive Congregation

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

Theological Elbow Room

Global Music

Community Connected

Kid Friendly

***Newsletter November 2019***

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
27 Congregational <b>Meeting</b> following worship	28	29	30 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	31	1 <i>NOV</i> Women's Group 7 pm	2
3 <b>Daylight Savings Time Un-Change</b>	4	5	6 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	7 Loaves & Fishes	8 	9
10	11	12	13 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	14 Council 7 pm	15 FREC anti-racism conference	16 FREC anti-racism conference
17	18	19	20 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	21	22 	23
24 2 pm ordination of Laura Beth St AnthPrk UCC	25	26	27 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	28 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	29	30
1 <i>DEC</i>	2	3	4 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	5	6 Women's Group 7 pm 	7

**Future dates:**

MN Transgender Alliance meets every other Friday 6-7:30 p.m. 

Loaves & Fishes - first Thursday of odd- numbered months.

**Happy November**

**Birthdays**

17 - Phyllis Andrews  
26 - Roxanna Jacobsen  
28 - Tim Johnson

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

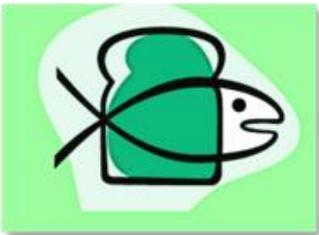
## Women's Affinity Group

**Friday, November 1, 7:00 p.m. at the church**

Karen Shatek is organizing this meeting. We will be making small centerpieces for the dining room tables at Walker Methodist Westwood Ridge; it will be simple to do and all supplies provided but if you could bring a wire-cutters that would be helpful. While working we'll have an upbeat discussion.



The December group will meet at the home of Susan Strebig. Other dates needing hosts (*or maybe just a topic organizer*) for the coming year are January 3, February 7, March 6, April 3, and May 1. Contact: Jill Jackson



## Loaves & Fishes

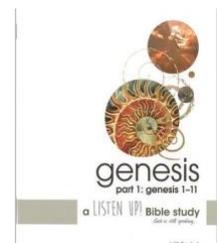
Our every-other-monthly service to people who are in need of a hot meal and compassionate neighbors, will be served Thursday, November 7. Join us at St. Matthew's Church to provide a tasty meal for those in need of nourishment. Help for an hour or more to prepare, serve (3:45 p.m.), and/or clean up (4:45-6:30 p.m.) Please contact Stefan if you can help this month.

## Sunday School

A children's group is being offered on the second and fourth Sundays, in Fellowship Hall, after the Children's Time in worship. Since the children enjoy worship services, we would like them present for the full service especially on communion (first) Sundays and will keep their presence especially in mind on third Sundays also. Fall-Winter leaders are September 8 - Jane, September 22 (focus on Holy Communion) - Susan, October 13 - Sandy D., October 27- Kay, November 10- Jill, November 24 - Joy, December 8 - Jane, December 22 (Advent) - Susan. Please contact Jane if you'd like to try this short focus time with a small group of children. Lesson plan will be available if you wish someone to make one up for you.

## Adult Forum

The Adult Forum has been studying the book of Genesis in recent weeks. In November we may continue to explore these foundational Bible chapters or pursue another focus. Please come Sundays at 9 a.m. to the Parent's Room to find out what we're up to!



## *October council meeting notes*

- ❖ The quarterly financial report was presented by Lynne and Karen; we are living within our budget as, although income is not as high as predicted, we are managing to spend less than budgeted. Larger expenses anticipated soon are a replacement of our (old) commercial grade kitchen garbage disposal, and continuing the replacement of old, drafty windows. Phase three, replacing ten windows, will cost about 10K. Thanks to Curt for again climbing the ladders and doing scraping, repairs, and paint work on some of our more intricate windows.
- ❖ An Endowment Policy was proposed by the Endowment Committee (Lynne Bates, Cal Clark, Joy Sorensen Navarre, Karen Shatek, and Pastor Matthias ) and adopted with a few minor changes. Many thanks for their quick work.
- ❖ Council will formally recognize the dedicated work of members of the PNC and will dissolve that council-designated group, as the new pastor will be installed. Pastor Matthias and Susan will help put together a prayerful thank you card for members and Vice moderator, Jerome, will do the formal recognition with blessing and gratitude at worship on Sunday, October 20.
- ❖ Seeds of Resistance reports that, according to the interest and volunteers gained from the recent Lay Ministries recruitment, Loaves and Fishes will be continued.
- ❖ Fellowship Ministry reports that they have recruited enough people to organize Fellowship Hour through December 15.
- ❖ By -laws changes will be brought to the congregation for approval vote on October 27 with Moderator Joy and Pastor Matthias presenting and presiding. Copies of changes will be available to members October 20. The changes involve designating a council member as moderator (rather than always the pastor) - voted in by the council each year - but the pastor remains moderator of any congregational meeting.

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

As in the past few years, we will provide space by late October to bring and place photos or other remembrances of loved ones who have passed on. The small shelves on the back wall of the worship space will provide room for these; you will find small post-it notes if you'd like to identify the person (or pet) and feel free to light a votive when you place anything there.

This year we may also bring these forward on our All Saints remembrance on Sunday, November 3. (After that they will go back to the display shelves until mid-November.) As we remember our loved ones, they stay briefly in sight, shared with our church family, as they also remain in our hearts.





## *Seasons of Love*

Dear CPUC Friends,

After a tumultuous first act where characters wrestled with disease, questions of meaning and purpose, creativity, poverty, and relationships, the cast of the musical *RENT* find themselves on the cusp of New Year's Eve. The second act opens with the number "Seasons of Love."

"How do you measure, measure a year?" they ask. Rather than counting the days, as we so often do, they offer a number of less conventional measures: minutes, cups of coffee, sunsets, laughter, strife. At last, in the chorus, they hit on the idea of measuring our life in love.

Cherokee Park United Church, too, has been through some turbulence and transition this past year (or years, plural). I know there are some hurts that linger, and healing can take time. God calls to us still: to move towards healing, to step out in faith, to anticipate and celebrate joy, and to continue with Jesus the creative work of love.

We have the choice on how we choose to measure our lives—both individually and collectively. Will we choose to let love be the measure of our time together?

When I arrived at Cherokee Park United Church, the warmth and welcome were palpable. This is a congregation that strives to live the love of God and discern what that looks like in each new season of our communal life.

As we prepare for stewardship and pledge season in November, I would invite us to consider the many places in our lives we have been shown love and the people with whom we have shared our love. Each of our financial support of CPUC supports many amazing ministries, the spirit of loving community, the sacredness of our space and worship, and our dedication to the work of justice.

I, for one, cannot wait to explore together how we continue to live the radical love, fierce justice, and abundant grace of God in the year ahead. I hope you will join in sharing your gifts of time, talents, pledges, and love.

May God continue to bless us with an abundant measure of love.

Peace,

*Pastor Matthias*

## *Pies ahead*

You will soon receive a letter announcing our annual pledge drive which precedes and enables the formulating of next year's budget. And you will also have heard about PIE!

If you like pie, you won't want to miss worship on November 10, 17, & 24. Your name will go into a drawing for a home-made delight IF you turn in your annual pledge by one of those days.



Our faith community is comprised of about 50 family units; however only 2/3 of them inform us of what amount of support might be received from them. As the majority of our (small) operating budget is used on salaries/wages, that's like asking employees to turn up even though they are not assured of their contracted pay. Or asking them to not expect pay from August through December 15 when hopefully we might catch up with the many donations that arrive in that last month. On the other hand, we all automatically expect that when we arrive that there will be heat, light, a nursery, a worship bulletin, a minister, and music.

Our Finance Team works hard every year to draft the budget and plan for the coming year; the more pledges we receive, the easier this makes it for them to plan and project our budget!

Our goal is to be able to live within our means and not borrow any money; paying interest on a loan is just pushing off problems to the future, and those problems are even then multiplied. And true, we always have met our budgeted needs with last-minute donations or unexpected under-spending, (and because two households, stepping out in faith, donate their entire pledge for the year in advance in January.) Being thoughtful about what you can contribute and making a pledge goes a long way to supporting our ministry, community, and mission in the coming year!

## *Uncle Sam can help our finances*

If you own appreciated (increased in value since you bought them) stocks or mutual funds, a tax-savings option is to donate shares directly to the church. Usually the appreciation would be counted as taxable income - but when donated directly, the entire amount goes to the church, with no tax consequence to you or the church. Have your financial advisor do this for you, and do it sooner rather than later as it takes time for it to be completed and counted in this year's statements.

For those of us who had saved for retirement, there is another tax-saving option. If you put money into Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA's), starting at age 70 1/2 you can withdraw any of it (limit of 100K), and actually, a certain percentage, usually (cont'd)

counted as taxable income, is required to be drawn out. Instead of using other income to donate, use this as it will not be taxed as income IF you have the check made out to the church. Your financial advisor or tax preparer can assist you on this, and the entire amount is counted as a charitable donation - a double savings. A notice is usually sent to your address in the Fall to remind you of the minimum amount due that year. Better yet, anticipate this in advance and make this donation earlier in the year.

Several of our members take advantage of this tax strategy thereby stretching their giving dollars. See Lynne Bates or Ingrid Fleming for more information.

### *Ordination & Installation*

You are invited to Laura Beth Gatzke's Ordination and Installation Sunday, November 24 at 2 p.m. at Saint Anthony Park UCC\*. Laura Beth, a much-loved intern at Cherokee Park United Church during the 2012-2013 school year, has desired ordination for many years. After her years ministering in various capacities on the prairie, she returned to the Twin Cities and soon was called as an associate minister with Living Table UCC in Minneapolis with Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe. She will continue to work full time as a mental health therapist at Tapestry, a women's chemical dependency treatment center in Saint Paul while working part time at Living Table.



Laura will be wearing a stole previously owned by Brian Stienstra. Rev. Tim Johnson, pastor and mentor when Laura Beth interned here, inherited a robe and set of stoles from Brian who was a member with us from 2005 to 2010. Brian had long felt the call to ministry, beginning in the Episcopal Church, where he was ordained as a deacon. However, the Episcopalian Church at that time was unwilling to ordain LGBTQ members as priests - a painful experience of exclusion for Brian. He found his way to United Theological Seminary in order to answer his call into ordained ministry; however he passed away from cancer at the end of his studies. Brian wanted his stoles passed along to future ministers who were committed to working for social justice, particularly LGBTQ inclusion. Laura was the recipient of one, as she has risked losing friends and employment as a faithful advocate for the LGBTQ community.

Laura invites all to attend the service and reception. There will be cake! Contact Kay or Susan if you would like to carpool and/or if you might be willing to help provide finger foods or donate to the reception.

\*2129 Commonwealth Ave, between Como and Cleveland Av.

## *Charge to Pastor Matthias Peterson-Brandt,*

by Rev. Sandy Dodson, on the occasion of his installation

Brother Matthias, I charge you with one thing. It is not a small thing, neither is it overwhelming.

I charge you to follow the one who has called you, the one who formed you in your mother's womb and continues forming you until your last breath. As pastor, teacher, leader and servant, FOLLOW THE ONE WHO HAS CALLED YOU.

You inherit a rich history of a long pastorate and a bumpy interim period. May you honor the past and lead us into the future. All the while, bringing the love of the Mighty One who has called you, called you by name. God has called you to ordained ministry and to this congregation. You dwell in the paradox of being one of us and a leader for us. Jesus will inspire you, the Holy Spirit will embolden you.

In your ministry, through God's leading, you will lead by example. People are watching you. That can be annoying, intimidating and also a great teaching tool. As parent and pastor, you understand the importance of being mindful of your message. Actions speak louder than words. You will lead by example. How you deal with challenge and seize opportunities; how you model speaking truth to power and asking forgiveness when you fall short (as we all do); how you honor your family and have a life beyond these walls; I charge you to lead by example.

You will do this, with uneven success but with success, because you follow the One who has called you.

In everything you do, listen for, invite in, and surrender to the love of God.

May it be so!

### *Installation - Successful!*

Many of us attended this wonderful occasion here at Cherokee Park United - truly a day of thanksgiving for our church family. We'll include photos next month as we receive them. Pictured is the surprise gift presented to Pastor Matthias as memento of the day - a custom-made stole with his favorite Spirit symbol, the hummingbird.





*Landscape crew*

After being rained out on Saturday, a small crew arrived on Sunday Oct. 6 to tame the large trees and shrubs. Philip's dog Lulu patiently waited in the van.



*Magnolia buds in October* - a good reminder that wonderful things ahead are already forming



More last-minute repairs by Curt, using the last days of Fall weather.



Children + costumes + stage + cookies =  
*Spontaneous eruption of drama*

*Thank you Joy* - The last of Joy's dahlia blooms graced our sanctuary in October.



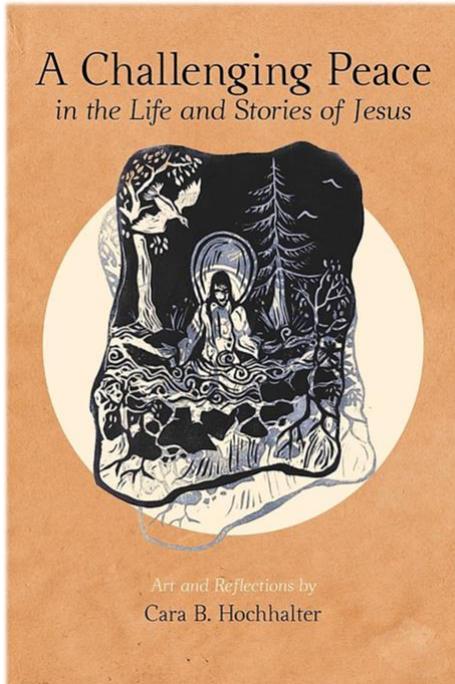
## We need your data.

With our newly installed pastor, it seems a good juncture to create a data base/ spreadsheet for Cherokee Park United. This would be useful to various ministries and the leadership at CPUC. The information will be available only to CPUC people. The data base/ spreadsheet will help with planning, communications, and things like name tags in the future.

Starting November 3, you will have an opportunity to enter or submit your information during fellowship hours. The church laptop computer will be set up so you can enter your data easily. If you'd rather fill out a paper form, those will be available, too. The Outreach Team will assist you in this process. Pastor Matthias and the team will work to keep this up to date – with your cooperation! Thank you for helping us in this “census” for our faith community.

### *Our interns*

This seems to be the time of remembering those who have gifted us with their seminary internships in the past. Last month we collected donations to support Tom & Monica Liddle's missionary work in East Timor. Tom was our intern in 2013-14. This month we are invited to celebrate the ordination and installation of Laura Beth Gatzke, our intern here in 2012-2013 (see page 7) and following is information from Cara Hochhalter, an intern here in 2007. Her black and white prints are often on display in the Parent Room, left of door, and there is one in the pastor's office.



## ***A Challenging Peace in the Life and Stories of Jesus***

Art and Reflections by  
Cara B. Hochhalter

*A Challenging Peace* is for anyone curious about the stories of Jesus, yearns for peace in their own lives and in the world today, or appreciates the intersections of art, story, faith and justice.

The book interprets forty stories, thirty-nine from the Gospels and one from Isaiah, through block print images created by the author, along with their Biblical texts.

It also includes the author's own reflections that draw on the story, the art-making process, and how it all speaks to the challenge of making peace in our times. The author believes there are universal truths in the stories around Jesus that reach beyond the limits of Christianity, and may unite us all in creating a more peace-filled world.

Book available by sending a check for \$15.95 plus \$5. shipping to: Cara B. Hochhalter, P.O. Box 211, Hyde Park, NY 12538 and include your address. (also available through Amazon Books, Barnes and Noble, etc.) For information about programs and workshops, contact [hochhalter.cara@gmail.com](mailto:hochhalter.cara@gmail.com)



### *To visitors and new members*

Other than during Sunday worship services, the side entrance Manomin door is usually locked. Unless told otherwise, for meetings etc. please use the Baker Street office door (past the rainbow flag.)

## **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.

Pastor: Rev. Matthias Peterson-Brandt

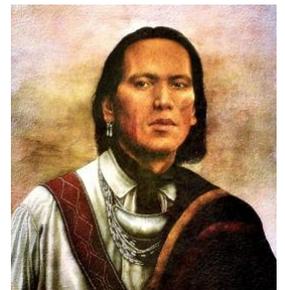
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cherokeeparkunited.org

*When you arise in the morning,  
give thanks for the morning light,  
for your life and strength.  
Give thanks for your food,  
and the joy of living.*

Tecumseh



1768 - 1813, Shawnee Indian chief, orator, military leader,  
and advocate of intertribal Indian alliance who directed  
Indian resistance to white rule in the Ohio River valley