



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 October 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
29	30	1 <i>OCT</i>	2 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	3	4	5 
6 Communion Sunday	7	8	9 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	10 Council meeting 7 pm	11 	12 Women's retreat
13	14 Indigenous People's Day	15 City council candidate forum 7:15 pm	16 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	17	18 Men's Group 6:30 pm	19
20 Pastor Matthias' Installation 3 pm	21	22	23 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	24	25 	26
27 Congregational Meeting following worship	28	29	30 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	31	1 <i>NOV</i> Women's Group 7 pm	2
3	4	5	6 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	7 Loaves & Fishes	8 	9

Future dates:

FREC conference Nov 15-16

MN Transgender Alliance meets every other Friday 6-7:30 pm

Next Loaves & Fishes - November 7 - first Thursday of odd- numbered months.

Happy October Birthdays

- 16 - Mia Morrison
- 16 - Jill Jackson
- 17 - Kelly Strebig
- 18 - Joy Sorensen Navarre
- 20 - Ethan Flodeen
- 25 - Stefan Sylvander

Happy Anniversary to

- 03 - Cal & Phyllis Clark
- 15 - Dave Hoppe & Jackie Rico

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

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,
winters - Kathy Bergthold

September council meeting notes

- ◆ Motion passed to establish a task force to find options for a ministry team restructure to better focus our energy, create space for new possibilities, and prevent member burn-out; Mike, Jan, and Pastor Matthias volunteered; this task force is open to any member who would like to join.
- ◆ Motion passed to adopt by-laws changes designating that the elected moderator of the council needs to be a member who is not the pastor. (However, the pastor will still be designated as moderator of congregational meetings.)
- ◆ Motion passed to announce a congregational meeting to be held after worship on Sunday October 27,
 - a. to vote approval of by-law changes
 - b. to vote approval of year 2020 new council members (a member may not stay on the council more than two consecutive 3-year terms)
- ◆ New (refurbished) computers were purchased for the pastor's office and church office, enabling us to now finally enter the 21st century. Thanks to Tom Murphy for his expertise on this. Pastor Matthias is now at warp speed with a 256 Gig solid state drive and 8 GB of RAM.
- ◆ The Endowment Committee reported that they met with Rick Wagner of the UCC to start formulating policy terms that enable people to make donations now or at various stages of their lives, including those designated through a will.
- ◆ Pastor Matthias related some of the details around his upcoming installation October 20. The PNC and Fellowship Ministry will be asked to help with a light reception following the service.
- ◆ Motion passed to establish a Personnel Handbook subcommittee to look at examples of other congregations' policies and begin writing our own handbook; volunteers are Susan and Jerome.

Council meetings are held the second Thursday of the month, from 7-9 pm in the Parent Room; all are welcome; it is helpful if you let a council member know in advance that you will be attending.



Women's Affinity Group

The Women's Retreat will take the place of the October meeting.

Seeking a Quiet Center in a Noisy World is the theme for the retreat on Saturday, October 12 from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. facilitated by the Rev. Denise Dunbar-Perkins. The November 1st meeting will be led by Karen Shatek and held at the church, and 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.

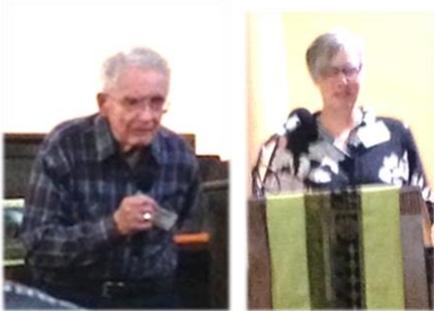
Learn About Genesis

So many of the Bible's most well-known (and most misunderstood!) stories are found in Genesis. From creation, to Eden, Cain and Abel, Noah and the Flood, Tower of Babel, Abraham and Sarah - and the list goes on! We are using the *Listen UP* Bible Study resource for the Adult Forum each Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Parent's Room.

Peace and Global Witness/Neighbors in Need

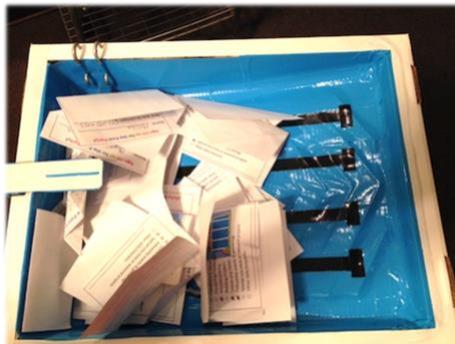
These offerings, sponsored by the Presbyterian USA and UCC denominations, respectively, are usually collected on the first Sunday in October, World Communion Sunday. 50% is given to the UCC to support the Council for American Indian Ministry and other justice initiatives, including grants to congregations with special consideration this year to serving immigrants. About 12% of the amount stays with our congregation for peacemaking work, and the rest is used by the PCUSA for peace and justice works, with special emphasis this year on supporting the National Alliance on Mental Illness to help youth and young adults who are struggling with suicide.

Covenanting Sunday turned into a pool party!



Thank you to Bob Lockwood and Joy Sorensen Navarre for sharing their experiences of the Cherokee Park United Church family for our sermon on Covenanting Sunday. Bob shared how important his many decades (over 60!) of involvement were, and his continued enjoyment of this, his extended family. Joy shared how her experience in the Dakota tradition melded with that of our own church in

recognizing the strength of the feminine to guard the sacred in all...creating a circle of power and love and protection around our men and children.



The focus took a humorous turn when Lay Ministry invited all into the pool...the pool of volunteers to join in various projects and efforts. Diving-in forms are found on the back table in the worship space or contact Mike Bates, Curt Fleming, or Karolyn Gilbertson. Pool construction by Curt; note the cool diving board, ladder, and (unseen at this angle) life preservers on the sides.



Pastor Matthias' Installation

Plan to join in celebration on Sunday, October 20 at 3:00 p.m. We will be hosting many representatives from various churches who will come together with us on this wonderful occasion. If you could help with the reception, please contact Susan; set-up will be after Fellowship Hour that day (12 noon), your special finger food would be a welcome addition, or help with the reception/clean-up (4-5 p.m.)



Wacipi feast prepared

Thanks to the organizing of Maria and Karen, and many volunteers, another great closing feast was prepared in our kitchen and served on the wacipi grounds.

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.



From Pastor Matthias

Therefore walk in the way of the good, and keep to the paths of the just. *Proverbs 2:20*

As we head into Fall, it means different things to different people. One of those things is the return of Football season. I have a confession: I don't watch Football and don't care for it. It started because for a lot of years in my early/mid 20s I didn't have live TV. The longer I went without watching, the less I missed it.

Then came stories about the covering up of high rates of chronic traumatic encephalopathy among players and former players, the high rate of domestic violence, sexual assault, and suicide, and then the black-listing of Colin Kaepernick for exercising his first amendment rights in a way that harmed no one and caused no actual disruption. Or the loads of money the U.S. military gives the NFL to put on displays of patriotism.

I understand the appeal though. It is exciting to see the feats of athleticism the players accomplish. It is enjoyable to find common ground with people who root for the same team as you; that sense of camaraderie is valuable. And there is allure in the brutalist and violent nature at the core of the sport itself that passes as more acceptable because it is confined to a field and played with rules (though I suspect many would not openly admit this piece holds allure).

Connection over shared fandom and being wowed by displays of physical prowess I'm all for. Spectacle too has its place.

For me, however, there are just too many downsides. What if the billions spent on the Super Bowl each year were put toward other causes--hunger, homelessness, education, reparations?

If football is your thing and you love it: great! I'm not here to take that away.

I think it bears reflecting critically on to whom and what we give our attention, interest, money, and time. Each of us has to make our own decisions about what is important and worthwhile and good and just in life; best that we be discerning in how we go about it and seek out conversation with others to help us along the way.

I pray you have a refreshing Fall season. See you in worship!

Peace, +Pastor Matthias



Our new music director

Sandy Waterman was born into a German-American family, with some touches of Irish, Scottish, and English heritage, in North Minneapolis, and lived there till 1985. The oldest of four children, she has always been proud of her maintenance engineer father and her teacher's aide mother, both of whom worked very hard all their lives. She began piano lessons at age 9, which marked the start of a lifelong love affair with the piano. She has branched out in recent years to embrace learning ukulele, Celtic harp, and world drums, and also collecting a set of Tibetan singing

bowls for use in meditation, yoga, and worship settings. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Music Education degree from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, with piano as her major instrument, studying with Martha Ivory.

She has taught early childhood music group classes to young children, ages infant to age eight years, at MacPhail Center for Music, in Minneapolis, since 1995, as well as serving as a partnerships artist in the greater Twin Cities area through MacPhail. She also teaches piano and ukulele lessons, Broadway singing classes, at the Saint Paul Conservatory of Music, since 2004, and offers freelance lessons in students' homes. She writes a children's musical, with original lyrics and music, on commission annually for Unity Church-Unitarian, in St. Paul, together with her writing partner, Mary Blouin Auffert. (The March 2020 show will be the 31st musical at the church.)

She speaks and writes German, and writes to several penpals internationally, to keep up her language skills, and to continue to learn about other countries and the people who live there. She lives in Vadnais Heights, since 1985, next to a marshland, sharing her home with pet birds: two white doves, named Bogey and Bacall; three small zebra finches, named the Marx Brothers; and one red/orange canary, named Tony Bennett. (And, boy, can he sing!)

Sandy looks forward to an eclectic musical existence, framed in love and social justice, at Cherokee Park United Church, as the new music director. She appreciates all the wonderful people she has met there, and continues to meet there.

Hobbies include coloring books, attending English horse shows, dog shows, and hiking the beautiful hills surrounding Lake Superior in northeast Minnesota.



What's new? Check out the Baker office entry, Rainbow Room, restrooms and hall and you'll find seven new windows - some replacing windows that were 114 years old! Beissel, a local company, also replaced six windows three years ago and will do phase three in the future. They create a more attractive look and insulate us against heat loss in the winter.

before- this window actually had weeds growing up inside it!



after



Also new is the base of the Little Free Library which was provided by the St. Paul Mennonite Fellowship that meets here on Sunday afternoons - it now has weathered 4 winters and has had the roof refurbished by Stefan Sylvander and the floor and new latch by Jim Shatek.



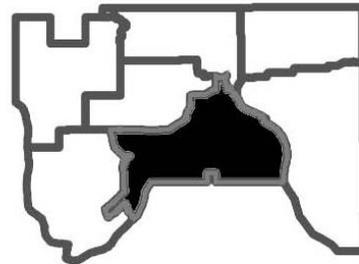
And unless you walk around the west side of the building you would not notice the replacement of a few transparent window well covers by Kelly Strebbig; all efforts to keep our building as solid as possible.



Cherokee Park United Church is partnering with the League of Women Voters, St. Paul to promote a Ward 2 City Council candidate forum. Tuesday, October 15 from 7:15pm to 8:45pm at the Villa del Sol Community Room. 88 Cesar Chavez Ave. All five candidates have said they will attend. Help spread the word and show up for this great opportunity to engage with our community. *(poster design by Sandy Settevig)*



WARD 2 CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM



OCTOBER 15, 7:15 - 8:45PM

**Villa Del Sol Community Room
88 Cesar Chaves Street**

St. Paul League of Women Voters
In Partnership With
Cherokee Park United Church

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES FOR WARD 2

Helen Meyers

Rebecca Noecker

Bill Hosko

Lindsay Ferris Martin

Sharon Anderson



Members in the newspaper

Member Sebastian Ellefson recently had his opinion published in the Star Tribune. In the face of a nation, and indeed a world, of disagreements, he points out that agreement cannot be had without first an agreed upon frame of reasoning.

DISCOURSE

Library fee debate, and others, are happening on different planes

The recent debate over whether or not to charge overdue library fees (“Let’s shelve overdue fees,” Sept. 3, and “Overdue charges don’t discriminate,” Sept. 4) is a perfect example of arguing from different ethical frames. In moral foundations theory, first proposed by psychologist Jonathan Haidt and several colleagues, humans use combinations of up to six different ethical axioms from which to judge the world. Because of this, the participants of many arguments are essentially using different values that talk past one another.

In the present situation, the side for overdue fees is arguing from the position of fairness (“the rules are unbiased on their face, and those who break the rules should face consequences”), while the side against overdue fees is arguing from the position of care (“the effect of the rules disproportionately harm the poor and minorities”), a classic conservative/liberal split. Both sides are correct, from within their own frame of reasoning.

When confronted with such a dilemma, you can either a) convince the other side to switch to your frame of reasoning (or a third frame) using an analogous situation, or b) argue convincingly within *their* frame that you are still correct. It will do you no good to continue to harp on the correctness of your position without doing one of the above actions. Your opponent is not using your vocabulary and will not understand you.

I thank all Minnesotans for the passion of their beliefs, and I wish us arguments that are productive and free of vindictiveness.

SEBASTIAN ELLEFSON, ST. PAUL

Happy Birthday (add your name here)

We do often remember people’s birthdays but realize we also miss many. There is a clipboard list on the back table in the worship space; please check this and add yours if you do not find it already included.



*New music director
inspired dancing in the
aisles!*



Toy story

Thanks to Lynne, Kathy, and Susan for reorganizing the Kid's Corner toy and crafts cabinet. We discovered wonderful things including the missing Legos, but still need Lego people.

Council Members 2019

Class of 2019: Mike Bates
Maria McNamara
Mary Murphy
Karen Shatek

Class of 2020: Tomie Evans
Jerome Graf
Susan Strebis
Jan Howe

Class of 2021: Diane Spicer
Jackie Rico
Joy Sorensen Navarre
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 10:15 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Matthias Peterson-Brandt

651-227-4275

cpuc@usfamily.net

cherokeeparkunited.org

Do not seek illumination
unless you seek it
as a person whose hair is on fire
seeks a pond.
Sri Ramakrishna

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.)

