



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 January 2020

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 29 (no nursery staff but may be used with parental supervision) | 30 | 31 | 1 JAN (no choir practice) | 2 Loaves & Fishes | 3 Women's Group 7 pm | 4 |
| 5 after worship, unhang the greens | 6 | 7 | 8 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm | 9 Council 7 pm | 10  | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Choir practice 6:30 -8 pm | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Worship at Clark Grace SSP  | 20 | 21 | 22 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm | 23 | 24  | 25 |
| 26 Annual meeting after worship | 27 | 28 | 29 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm | 30 | 31 | 1 FEB |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm | 6 | 7 Women's Group 7 pm | 8  |
| 9 Pancake breakfast  | | | | 13 Council 7 pm | | |

Choir sings 

-Sunday, January 19th, worship at Clark Grace, SSP; choir will participate.

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

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

-February 26, Ash Wednesday, Lent begins

-March 22, celebration of Oscar Romero

Happy January Birthdays

- 05 - Sandy Settevig
- 05 - Bjorn Peterson-Brandt
- 08 - Sandy Waterman
- 12 - Bob Lockwood

Happy Anniversary 

- 31 - Russ & Sandy, 1959

Before we go any further....a holiday de-stresser for you...

Take the care and love of these pictures into your hearts
to set the tone for days ahead.



Thank you to Pastor Matthias, Kay Myhrman Toso, and all who participated to bring smiles to our faces and hearts on Dec. 22.



Loaves & Fishes

January 2, Thursday 3:00 - 6:30 p.m.

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

Women's Affinity Group

Friday, January 3, 7:00 p.m.

The January group will meet at the church and will be led by Phyllis Andrews; the topic is "New Year's Resolutions - Do they work for you?". Please join us for a lively discussion on setting and achieving goals. Light refreshments will be served. There are still a small number of dates needing hosts (*or maybe just a topic organizer*) for the coming year.

Ministry reports due

All those who want or need to submit items for the 2019 Annual Report will need to do so by **Sunday, January 12**. The Annual Meeting will be on January 26. Please submit them to the church email. This enables us to prepare the reports, and have them available a week before the meeting.

Men's Group

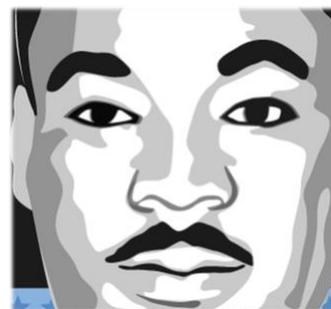
January 17, 6:30 p.m.

Jim Shatek will host the next men's group, starting with a light meal followed by discussion.

Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 19, Sunday, 10 a.m.

We will meet for worship with our sister church, Clark Grace UCC in South Saint Paul, 779 15th Av North, celebrating the life of Martin Luther King Jr. Worship will be followed by a potluck meal. (no worship service at CPUC)



Adult Forum - what's next for 2020?

January 26, Sunday, 9-10 a.m.

We will enjoy a special talk and slide presentation by Wayne Bjorlie, friend of CPUC, who traveled with a UCC group to Guatemala in July of 2019. This group has a history of visiting this area and is sensitive to the indigenous people there and how they are affected by racism and government-sponsored discrimination. The goal for the trip was to learn some of the causes of people in Guatemala choosing to migrate to the U.S.



February 2, Sunday, 9-10 a.m.

The Forum will start reading and discussing Anne Lamott's book, *Almost Everything; Notes on Hope*. Lamott mixes her stories and faith reflections to encourage us to rediscover the hope and wisdom buried within us. Please purchase your own copy of this book for discussion.

All people high school age or above are invited to attend Adult Forum.



Faith Life

Our kid count is growing and we're growing with them! We've had 5+ kids pretty consistently in our school-aged programs in the last month. We're at the point that we could use two adults present.

Please consider signing up to help! The commitment is small - only one Sunday every 6-8 weeks, during the service after children's time. You can be an assisting teacher with no preparatory responsibilities or a planning teacher who will prepare the lesson - we will provide curriculum and activity suggestions.

Please contact Jane Peterson if interested.

Correction from December newsletter. A reference to a painting by Nora Murphy gave an incorrect description, perhaps due to the editor's haste or her lack of anatomical knowledge! It is brain, not lung.

Choir Notes



Greetings to all as we begin an exciting new year of music at Cherokee Park United Church! November saw the premiere of IDEA, the Intergenerational Drumming Ensemble Activity, with children, youth, and adults bringing their excitement and talents to a percussion instrument format. IDEA is a pop-up musical endeavor that will reappear from time to time throughout the church year. Even if you did not participate with us the first time, you are always welcome to join us in the future!

The choir performed two Native American songs (beautifully) at the ecumenical worship service on Thanksgiving Eve at the Church of Saint Matthew in St. Paul, accompanied by drum and rain sticks. This collaborative service has not taken place for about ten years, and the chances are good it will continue next year. There are so many positive ways to connect with others in our community, and this is one way to focus on values we have in common with others.

The choir will begin singing two Sundays per month (generally) during the nine-month choir season, beginning in February 2020. Choir members also provide leadership in worship by serving as cantors and as soloists or duet singers, when not performing as a choir. I wish to thank our choir members for their enthusiastic commitment to our music program at Cherokee!

On January 12, Bob Lockwood is celebrating a special birthday. He has requested organ music on that Sunday at church, and Jerry Bonstrom will be our featured guest artist on that Sunday.

On January 19, we observe Martin Luther King Sunday, in collaboration with Clark Grace Church, joining with them in worship at (time? 10:15 was mentioned in a recent meeting, but that would need to be confirmed). Detailed plans for the liturgy and music are developing and will be announced as soon as they are finalized.

All choir rehearsals will meet as scheduled, after a holiday hiatus, beginning again on Wednesday, January 8.

Sandy Waterman
Director of Music

**Everyone thought this
was a very good IDEA!**



December council meeting notes

—A report from our accountant shows that we will meet our expenses this year using the monies on hand and income received to date. Any income received after December 10 can be used for 2020; it should be noted that we started 2019 with a fund of 20K, which is our usual comfortable "buffer." We hope to replace part or all of that to start the coming year. We have also lost a number of members (death/moving) so there will be some impact of less income.

—There will be a congregational meeting on December 22 to vote in the new council member class of 2022. The council thanks outgoing council members Karen Shatek and Mary Murphy for their commitment to the council these past six years.

—There will be a congregational meeting on January 26 to receive the ministry reports, and approve the 2020 budget and terms of call of the pastor.

—Council thanks the Caring Ministry for bringing the community together for Helma's memorial and luncheon, with almost double the expected turnout considering the winter weather. It was almost a loaves and fishes experience!

—Members shared their conversations with congregational members and their own thoughts on what our goals should be for 2021; many thoughts focused on how we help our children and youth, as well as focusing on social justice needs urgently needing attention on the West Side. An overall arch seemed to be to always look beyond, to how our actions impact the future of all.

—Council observed, but could not account for, the large numbers of new families with children that have come through our doors in the last few weeks.

—Council requests your prayers as they seek God's will for our church. Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month, from 7-9 pm in the Parent Room; all are welcome.

We remember Helma



Dear CPUC family and friends,

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation for your kind words and deeds following the passing our mother, Helma. As you know, she was a member of the church for over 60 years and would have been right next to everyone in the kitchen preparing the next send-off meal, including the delicious salads and casseroles. Instead, she was probably looking down and giving her blessings. Pastor Matthias lifted our hearts with stories and insights about our mom, Jill read the

heartwarming story of the fork, Karolyn read the verses, Sandy played mom's favorite songs on the piano. Your love and support during this difficult time means the world to us. It is a blessing to see God' work in action.

Diane Spicer and family



From Pastor Matthias

Dear CPUC Friends,

There is a New Year's Eve game some people play where each person writes their resolution for the new year on a paper. All the papers are gathered in a hat, and as each is drawn out, everyone attempts to guess which resolution belongs to whom.

Perhaps you make annual resolutions and resiliently stick to them the whole year, or perhaps you find such a practice to be over-hyped, superficial, and a way for companies to try to sell you things; perhaps you are somewhere in between.

Regardless of what you think about "New Year's Resolutions", the practice of seeking to improve oneself is one that aligns with our faith tradition and many of the stories of Biblical and historical figures of faith. Jesus never gave up on anyone, even when they seemed to fail or flail about. Indeed, much of his message and ministry was about seeking to live a life of justice, compassion, and peace.

Now, we do not worship at the High Holy Church of Self Improvement. We worship God, the Holy One, together. It is our experience of Grace and Love that encourage us and empower us to seek to live in ways that grow in goodness and align more and more with the Gospel of Christ.

As with individuals, so too can communities discern and set their direction together, make goals, and strive to meet them. The Council has been discussing and discerning how God might be calling us to be and what God might be calling us to do in the year ahead. Stay tuned as we share these ideas and goals in the early part of 2020. There is a lot that is exciting about where God might lead us together.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Matthias



Installation Joy

On November 24 family and friends gathered for the ordination of Laura Beth Gatzke (former intern at CPUC) and her installation as associate minister at Living Table UCC. We witnessed a supportive gathering of clergy, the outpouring of the Spirit through the laying on of hands, and of course, beautiful decorations made by Kay Myhrman Toso!

Laura Beth was ordained using the stole gifted to her by Brian Stienstra, a member at CPUC until 2010, through Pastor Tim Johnson. As Kay explained, Brian came to Minnesota seeking the ordination he had been denied in his former denomination because he was gay. He passed away at a young age and wanted his stoles given to future ministers who were committed to working for social justice, particularly LGBTQ inclusion. Laura's work and sacrifice is a sure demonstration of that commitment.

The offering taken that day was donated to "Reclaim", an organization which increases access to mental health support so that queer and trans youth ages 12-26 may reclaim their lives from oppression in all its forms.



St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ
2129 Commonwealth Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55109
651 646-7173 ♦ sapucc.org

Ordination & Installation of Laura Beth Gatzke
Sunday, November 24, 2019
2:00 PM

*The Congregation is invited to stand
The Prelude is a time of quiet preparation

Prelude
Words of Welcome
Processional Hymn

Rev. Victoria Wilg
All Are Welcome

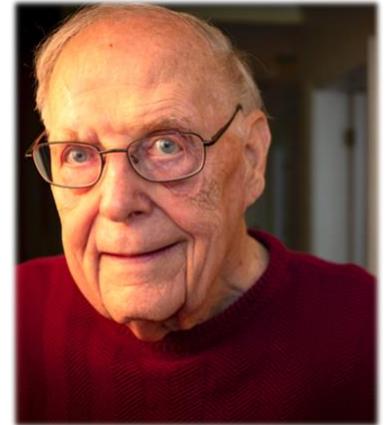
left: Laura's worship bulletin cover shows a picture she drew around age five, stating, "I like to play church."

Members in the News

...an excerpt from the Citizens League blog (<https://citizensleague.org/blog/>) featuring our own member Cal Clark.

Trust In Change: Cal Clark

Cal Clark spent his childhood and college years in Chadron, Nebraska, then came to Minnesota to join the Citizens League where he worked from 1970-1980 to streamline the organization's approach to addressing civil issues. He was with the League officially from 1970-1980, though returned later in an unofficial capacity to focus on fundraising for the League, eventually creating the Citizens League endowment.



His course was charted. Cal Clark had just finished his masters program and was beginning his doctorate in political science at Kansas University when one evening, he was approached about a job opportunity. It was a job with the Citizens Conference on State Legislatures, an opportunity to help state legislatures be more effective in meeting urban problems. He turned it down. He believed his course was charted and this wasn't part of the path. But as the thought of the opportunity percolated overnight, he began to realize the influence that state legislatures have to make a difference. It fit perfectly with his mission.

The next morning he returned to say he'd changed his mind. He took the job.

“To succeed in life is to **leave the world a little better than you found it**. Everything that I've ever done has been geared around how I can have the most impact to make a difference in the world around me.”

Cal grew up soaked in the spirit of innovation and civic engagement with his father being a serial entrepreneur and a multi-term mayor of his small town, Chadron, Nebraska. Ever since he was young, he wanted to figure out where and how he could make the most significant impact. For years this meant running for office and working from the political realm. This goal changed with the advent of his new job. The expansion in his perception of how he could make a difference was in large part due to a subtle realization of the creative nature of change-making. As part of his work with the Citizens Conference, he participated in a study, which was focused on finding out which states were most effective in addressing urban problems. Two states stuck out: California. Minnesota.

Much of what made Minnesota so effective was due to a group called the Citizens League. If there was such a thing as creative work in addressing matters of public

discourse, the Citizens League was a prime example. In tackling issues as large as health care and criminal justice, perspective is key to affecting change.

Cal's work eventually led him into a career at the League so he's seen this idea in action first hand. Starting a study or project on such large topics can seem a daunting task but Cal talks about how the first step is to convene a wide variety of people with knowledge about the topic who could weigh in, who could contribute their perspectives. It's perhaps easier said than done but still, simple in principle. Cal says that only after we can agree on what is, can we move on to what ought to be. It may seem obvious but if we know what is (the nature of the current situation) and subsequently what ought to be, then we can think of creative ways to move from where we are to where we ought to be.

No doubt this phase of understanding can be a messy process. "It was always good to have both liberal and conservative minds on the study committees" Cal says. The Citizens League is a nonpartisan organization and is highly intentional about remaining this way. It works from the middle, creating a space for a variety of side to come to the same table. With a chuckle Cal speculates that at some points, "maybe everyone [involved in the project] thought the Citizens League was more closely affiliated with the other part."... "I always felt real comfortable with the fact that nobody knew whether I was a Democrat or a Republican." The important part was that everyone felt heard and furthermore, understood.

It's one thing to come into a community, see a need, and then work toward changing it. It's another to begin by understanding the needs from the community member' perspectives and listening to what they want. As Cal says, "the easiest way to accomplish something is to work on other people's ideas. I found the way to make a difference was not to try to be the originator of ideas but to try to find out what people really want to have happen and then be the person that helps give them ideas on the best way to proceed." An endeavor is much more likely to be successful, sustainable, and holistic if the methods of change are on the same page as the people most affected by them. We need trust in each other, trust in the institutions that propel our society forward, and trust in the process by which that progress is made.

Times have changed, which means the work of the League has in some ways changed as well. But the vitality of the process remains constant. In a world often not conducive to providing reasons to hope, this constant gives Cal hope. With our world as crazy as it is, Cal likes to think that perhaps "we're just laying a foundation for the revival of optimism and civic responsibility." There's always hope when we choose to live in a way that proclaims we want to make a difference.

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



It is not you who shapes God, it is God who shapes you.
If then you are the work of God,
await the hand of the artist who does all things in due season.
Offer God your heart, soft and tractable.
And keep the form in which the artist has fashioned you.
Let your clay be moist, lest you grow hard
and lose the imprint of God's fingers.
Second Century Bishop Ireneaus

Newsletter article deadline is the 20th of the month; please submit articles or ideas to editor Susan Strebig.

-proofreaders Phyllis Clark, Mary Murphy

-collate/mail team Phyllis & Cal Clark,

winters - Kathy Bergthold, Kandy Heiman