



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 February 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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 	10	11	12 Worship Ministry 7 pm Parent Rm Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	13 Council 7 pm	14	15
16	17	18	19 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	20	21 Men's group 6:30 pm	22
23	24	25	26 ASH WEDNESDAY	27	28	29
1 MAR	2	3	4 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	5 * L & F	6 Women's group 7 pm	7
8	9	10	11 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	12 Council 7 pm	13	14

-  - Choir sings
-  - MN Transgender Alliance meets every other Friday, from 6-7:30 p.m.
- *Loaves & Fishes - first Thursday of odd- numbered months
- March 22, celebration of Archbishop Oscar Romero
- Birthdays remembered; please check the clipboard on back table in worship space to add your birthdays & anniversaries.

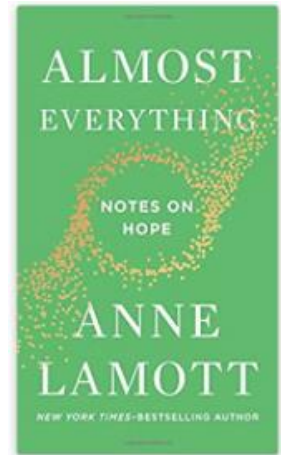
**Happy February
Birthdays**
 13 - Jan
 13 - Eric J

Adult Forum

Sunday(s), February 2, 9-10 a.m.

The Forum meets at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings to learn, discuss and grow in our faith; all people high school age or older are invited to join us. It does not usually meet on holiday weekends or in the summer.

We will start reading and discussing *Almost Everything; Notes on Hope*, by Anne Lamott. The author 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.



Women's Affinity Group

Friday, February 7, 7 p.m.

The February meeting will be held at the church and will include an evening potluck. Please bring a snack/dessert to share and a CPUC story to tell. Join us for what will be a lively discussion and delicious food. Contact Jill: 612-308-6746

Faith Life

Get to know our young worshippers! NO TIME COMMITMENT OUTSIDE OF WORSHIP TIME! NO PLANNING RESPONSIBILITIES! We need some helper teachers for our school-aged kids on March 8 and 22nd. Lessons will be planned by your co-teacher, we just need another adult presence. Contact Jane Peterson if you are interested in helping, we'll also have opportunities in April and May.

Children's Time gathered 'round the baptismal font; then after the children's lesson, acting out baptisms on the stage in Fellowship Hall.



Panera goodies

Cherokee Park United Church has been accepted into the West St. Paul Panera's "Day End Dough-Nation" charity program on Saturday nights. We typically pick up several boxes of breads, bagels and pastries at the end of the night (9:40 p.m.). Our first priority is to get it to neighbors in need, so Stefan Sylvander picks up the breads and bagels from CPUC on Mondays to deliver to Loaves & Fishes. (Thank you, Stefan!) Loaves & Fishes cannot accept sweets, so like Jack Sprat and his wife, we'll divide the goodies and use the pastries, scones, muffins, cookies and coffee breads for our coffee hour at church. We hope this new relationship will:

- help us deliver more food to community members at Loaves & Fishes, the Wacipi, National Night Out and other community outreach
- supplement our weekly coffee hours
- prevent food waste (Panera employees Kaia and Liv Larsen were horrified that there was no charity pick-up on Saturday nights so excellent food was going into the dumpster)

If you have signed up for a coffee hour, there's a good chance Panera will come through with treats. If you bring a healthy side, like veggies or fruit we'll be in great shape. If you are available to help with the occasional Saturday night food pickup on nights when Sasha/Liv can't, please let Sasha know. If you can help fill in for Stefan on Mondays when he needs a back-up, please let him know. Thanks!

Loaves and Fishes

Our next bimonthly commitment to serve our neighbors at Loaves and Fishes will be in March. This is not a difficult task, but can use a few more willing hands, teens through adults.

Under Chef Okogyeamon, the newer menu includes El Salvador Drunken (non-alcoholic though) chicken, along with the usual salad, fresh fruit (in this case melon and blueberries), and some Panera bread. Extra Panera bread from their "Day-End Dough-Nation" program is put out on a table for anyone to select and take home. Sweets are consumed at our Sunday fellowship hour as the L & F nutrition plan does not allow to give it out, although they sometimes have desserts planned. Tempting photo taken by Stefan who recruits our volunteers.





Pancake breakfast ~

*Seeds of Resistance fundraiser for social justice projects
Sunday, February 7, after worship.*



Loaves & Fishes smiles (those aren't hairnets, they are haloes!)





From Pastor Matthias

Dear CPUC Friends,

The month of February is federally recognized in the United States (and Canada) as Black History Month. Though President Gerald Ford brought Black History Month to a wider audience with his recognition in 1976, some version of celebrating and commemorating black history had been ongoing for decades.

Black History Month grew out of Carter G. Woodson's original idea for a Black History Week, designed to draw attention to the value of contributions to our world made by African Americans, and to acknowledge the ways that the experience of African Americans was often misrepresented or omitted from educational curricula.

The idea of Black History Month is admittedly complicated. Complicated not because there is any legitimate debate about whether to celebrate and center the accomplishments of black people, their impact on our nation's history, and the weight of the suffering they have historically (and presently) endured. Rather, it is complicated because there is a question of whether a month does justice to the centuries of omission of black people from official history. Or does having a specific Black History Month just segregate them further, suggesting that black folks are still a footnote to (white) American history, rather than integral to it?

The better remedy is, I believe, a fuller, more comprehensive inclusion and visibility of black people in our curricula. For white people, it also means paying attention to black artists, thinkers, public figures, and innovators, even though that often means we have to seek out their stories intentionally.

In spite of the above-mentioned problems with Black History Month, it is nevertheless an opportunity for us to learn about amazing African Americans, of whom we have perhaps never heard. Each Sunday in February, we will have an insert with two bios of accomplished African American individuals, in an effort to build our collective awareness and celebrate their often, over-looked achievements.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Matthias



At the January meeting, the council ...

- accepted and approved the 2020 budget presented by accountant Lynne Bates. It will be presented to the congregation for a vote on January 26.
- accepted the financial update from Lynne; the final numbers show that in 2019, we spent less than the previous year, (largely due to not having a full-time pastor or a music director for numbers of months), and coupled with an increase in donations, we have 20K more than we had at the end of last year. These numbers are not predictable as a great amount, 26K this year, was received in the last half of December.
- accepted thank you notes for our annual donations to United Theological Seminary (\$300) and the Interfaith Action Council of Greater St. Paul (\$200)
- approved the scheduling of the six times in 2020 that special donations are invited.
- approved the communion schedule (every first Sunday plus Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday.)
- approved a request to rent the Rainbow Room to ASDIC for \$75/month. They will use the office about 5 hours a week plus the Saturdays the groups meet here; they are advised this is an unlocked, shared space and we will make accommodations for that to work. (They also use the Parent Room, Peace Room, and kitchen for those groups.)
- approved to setting a theme for 2020 of "Caring for our Future," which invites us to focus on how our ministry impacts the future of our children, all peoples, and creation. A specific goal within this theme is for each ministry team to intentionally and creatively involve and engage our children in the life and various ministries of the congregation.
- approved the payment in full of the street seal-coating bill from St. Paul, \$1400, rather than defer any payment which would accrue interest payments.
- Ministry reports: Seeds of Resistance received a request from Clouds in Water Zen to host a civil rights group at CPUC on a September Friday and Saturday; the Endowment Committee reports another large donation was made, bringing our fund to 110K;
- discussed how soon new visiting families could be asked/invited into our work without seeming pushy
- approved holding a congregational meeting on Sunday, January 26, for the purpose of receiving the annual budget, approving the pastor's terms of call, and receiving the annual reports from the ministry teams.

Closing thought; Children have a wisdom all their own.

All are welcome to meetings, held the second Thursday of the month, from 7-9 p.m. in the Parent Room. Council members and contact info is found on page 9 and on take-home notes on the clipboard on back wall of the worship space.



Men's Group

(as usual, the third) Friday, February 21

Our host this month is Stefan Sylvander and we will meet at his home, starting at 6:30 with a light meal.



In March we will meet at the home of Tom Murphy, who always claims this month of the Irish!

Welcoming a new member

On January 26 the congregation welcomed Maya. She has been joining us in worship and other events for quite a few months, but her membership was made "official" at worship so we could all share in this happiness. We hope she finds the faith family she desires here, and we look forward to getting to know her and experience her many gifts, first of which you can see here, her sparkly smile!

Sharing from the heart

Dear Church Family,

During our worship services, Prayers of the People are offered, and I am always praying silently. This is mostly because I am an introvert, but also because I know if I tried to express out loud how much this church and the people of this church have meant to me and our family over the past few months, I would get pretty emotional. So, I sit in silence and I thank God for you all, and for the amazing grace of this church.

Mary M



Thank you, Curt (again!)

Karen and Jim discovered, in their pretty much, daily, trip to the church, that the Little Free Library door was damaged and the clear plastic front broken so that books could be damaged by the elements. They contacted Curt and he came right over and repaired it. It's so great to have talented and willing people here.

Special offerings in 2020

Throughout the year we are invited to join in various efforts to share our financial resources towards charity and justice concerns. Charity addresses immediate needs of people made vulnerable by society's inadequacies; justice seeks to address and correct the causes of those inadequacies.

Feb: *Per capita* - required by UCC and Presbytery (paid out of church funds if not fully paid by members)

Mar: *Food Shelf* donation to Neighborhood House—this is a matching funds month

Apr : *One Great Hour of Sharing*, for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger Program and Self-Development of People ministries as well as UCC programs.

May: *Loaves and Fishes* funding (also in Nov if needed)

Oct : *Peace Offering*, split between UCC, Presbytery, and CPUC (25%), used for peace-making efforts.

Dec: *Christmas Joy*, designated as assistance for retired church workers who have encountered special needs and are on limited incomes and also for educational scholarships for youth and racial ethnic schools affiliated with the PC (USA).

Various Months: Offering boxes contain six *envelopes* labeled “Communion” which are used as an emergency fund, distributed by the pastor. Funds have been requested and shared with both members and non-members and have truly pulled individuals and families out of very bad financial situations in times of unanticipated medical bills, unemployment, etc.

Cherokee Park United Church 2020 Council

Class of 2020: (2-denotes second 3-year term)

Tomie Evans

Jerome Graf (2)

Susan Strebog

Jan Howe

Class of 2021:

Diane Spicer (2)

Jackie Rico

Joy Sorensen Navarre (Moderator)

Curt Fleming

Class of 2022:

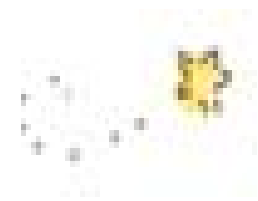
Mike Bates (2)

Maria McNamara (2)

Tom Murphy

Jim Shatek

Pastor Matthias Peterson-Brandt



Caring for our future

from Pastor Matthias

Over the course of their meetings in November, December, and January, the Council has been discussing and discerning a focus for our life together in 2020. We are a dynamic congregation with passion for engaging many different areas.



After synthesizing the many ideas that came up, the Council settled on a theme of "Caring for our Future." This encapsulated both inward and outward hopes and aims; it is a theme wide enough to embrace a host of different activities and ideas in the year ahead. In particular, the Council homed in on a goal of seeking to include and engage the wealth of children that have become more and more present in our worship life.

Sometimes the Spirit is not subtle, as in this case where the growing need and opportunity have merged in holy ways. To that end, the Council is asking each Ministry Team to find a way to thoughtfully engage our children in the year ahead. This goal recognizes both our responsibility to care for and offer spiritual nurture to the children present among us, as well as acknowledging that they have a wisdom all their own and much to teach us.



A December Sunday when we experienced
a Very Cool Worship!

.....so we wore our coats and then discovered later that the emergency shut-off switch for the boilers had been pushed.

Just hang on to gratitude.
Sandy Waterman