



# **Cherokee Park (virtually) 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 April 2020***

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
29 KoM	30	31	1 <b>APRIL</b> Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	2	3 Women's group 7 pm	4
5 Palm Sunday	6	7	8 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	9 Maundy Thursday	10 Good Friday 	11
12 Easter Sunday 	13	14	15 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	16	17	18
19 KoM	20	21	22 <b>EARTH DAY</b> Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	23	24 	25 Tie-dye event
26	27	28	29 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	30	1	2 Cinco de Mayo parade
3 <b>MAY</b> KoM	4	5	6 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	7 *Loaves & Fishes	8 Women's group 7 pm 	9
10	11	12	13 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	14	15	16
17 KoM	18	19	20 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	21	22 	23

**All Above Church Events Cancelled Until Social Distancing No Longer Required**  
Participate in Sunday worship via Facebook Live (no Facebook history required)

**KoM** - Kids on the Move



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



- Birthdays remembered; please check the clipboard on back table in worship space to add your birthdays & anniversaries.

**Happy April Birthdays & Celebrations**

- 18 - Laura Beth
- 18 - Dean
- 19 - Tommy
- 25 - ❤️ Gina & Jerome



March 15

## Sunday Worship

Thank you for joining in worship via FB Live. Your feedback is most welcome and invited so we can improve our worship experience over the next Sundays.

Huge thanks to Tom for technical



March 22

magic-making and Sandy for feeding our souls with music!

For any who might have not been able to watch the stream live, the easiest way to find the videos of them seems to be to type into your browser:

*facebook cherokee park united videos*

and it should be the top site on the page, click on that and you'll see all the videos so far.

*"Contagion is real, but it doesn't work just for viruses...it works for kind words and generous thoughts, and acts of selflessness and honesty."*

A reflection from a magazine writer for The Daily/New York Times on her experience interviewing Tom Hanks last fall, and on the generosity he showed her in a difficult personal moment. And we don't need to be movie stars to do this! (And thank you Sasha, for this suggestion via FaceBook.)

**Honestly, I didn't expect to give up THIS MUCH for Lent.**



*Watch this spot ~* Last Fall, we (thanks to Philip) tore out the prickly, pesky, thorny, always-over-growing rose bushes and planted (thanks to Jerome) three peony bushes from those so loved by Lanny Bergthold from his and Kathy's backyard. Watch this spot for one sign of Spring, and renewed life that we await.

## Art Heals!

Galería Paz Jesús is a multigenerational art gallery and artist collective with a Christian & social justice flair! ["Paz" means "peace".] Galería Paz Jesús was founded by CPUC members, Kristin Rafferty, Michael Wood, and Parker Rafferty-Wood. Marla (Kristin's service animal) and her animal siblings help with curation and more.

Normally we participate in the Saint Paul Art Crawl and other events throughout the year. Parker (age 2.5) was really looking forward to having work featured in the Saint Paul Art Crawl; however due to the pandemic this next Art Crawl has been canceled. We have been exploring options to bring our art to the community in a "socially distant" manner. We will share more about our work with you in the future. In the meantime, here are photos of two paintings by Kristin Rafferty ("Risen") and Parker Rafferty-Wood (Holy Spirit").

(Our gallery Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/PeaceJesusArt/>)



*There is nothing more captivating than a child eating cake.*

(Gabriel's 4th birthday at Fellowship Hour.)



## Liddles return

Tom Liddle, an intern here from 2013-14, and his family will conclude their mission work on behalf of the UCC and Disciples of Christ and return to the United States this month. Our members have financially supported them the past years as they lived and worked their appointment in East Timor. They were to be here to lead Adult Forum and help in worship on April 19; however hopefully we can reschedule.

## *Love in the Time of COVID-19*

Dear CPUC Community,

We are all feeling it. The impact from the global COVID-19 pandemic has altered all of our lives. Our daily routines have shifted. Going to the grocery store can be a nerve-wracking experience. The scarcity mindset is hitting even those who normally subsist quite contently with a simple life-style.



It is especially hard for us to not be able to gather as a community, to enjoy one another's company over an unhurried cup of coffee in fellowship hall, to look one another in the eye as we shake hands or hug in passing the peace, to hear our collective voice rise in song or our laughter at our children's surprising wisdom during the children's moment. It is hard because our faith is deeply incarnational. We live it in our bodies, as Jesus did.

Still, we know that the church is not the building, nor has it ever been. We are the Church. Wherever we are, Church is in us and present in the world through us. God's presence is not confined to one place, to one hour on Sunday mornings. Though we know that intellectually, it can be hard to remember under present circumstances. Still, we are not the first to grapple with this. The people of Israel were certain the God's dwelling place was the temple in Jerusalem. When the temple was destroyed by the Babylonians around 586 BCE and most of the Israelite people were taken into exile in Babylon, the people confronted a theological crisis. If God's home is destroyed, then where is God?

Prophets helped channel Holy Wisdom and the people came to discover together that the Sacred presence of God was not absent from them, despite their dire circumstances and deeply felt losses. Similarly, Jesus' ministry was not confined to the temple (rebuilt by the time of his life), nor was it even primarily done in the temple. Jesus preached on the hillsides, gathered where people work, met at the communal well, and went into people's homes. Wherever we are, there too is the Spirit of God with us, even when it is hard to discern.

So what does being the Church look like for us now? We have to be creative. It means calling someone just to check in. It means asking others: "Do you need anything? Do you have enough food, toilet paper, essentials?" It means asking yourself what you can share and offer others who might need it. It means staying home and praying.

I do not have all the answers, but I am grateful for this Cherokee Park United Church community that has continued to show the love of God in unprecedented times. Keep on being the Church, wherever you are. And remember that you are loved.

Peace,

Pastor Matthias



*Events will resume when social distancing  
is no longer required.*

Women's Affinity Group

Men's Group

**IDEA** ~ Intergenerational Drumming Ensemble Activity  
Choir

Easter memorial garden

Kids on the Move - April 19, May 3, 17

CPUC T-shirts tie-dye event ~ Sat April 25

Cinco de Mayo parade participation - Sat May 2, 9:30 a.m.



## Free Coloring Pages

from Ricardo Levins Morales Art Studio, from "What to Do in a Pandemic...Our Cousins Know" series. We are the medicine. Original illustrations by Ricardo Levins Morales - with messages for the difficult times of COVID-19. Adapted for coloring pages by Cory Teshera-Levey. These are free for noncommercial use. If you would like to support the artist with a donation, make a purchase from this site, or send via paypal to [ricardo@rlmartstudio.com](mailto:ricardo@rlmartstudio.com). Go to: [rlmartstudio.com](http://rlmartstudio.com)



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### *At the March 12th meeting, the council ...*

- met to discern and discuss our response to the growing COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.
- decided to suspend our in-person worship and church gatherings until March 31
- decided to stream a shortened worship service through the Cherokee Park United Church's Facebook page at the normal 10:15 a.m. time. (We'll email out a public link for those not on FB.)
- a small team will plan for how we can continue to connect with one another for support and community across other media and communications
- the church sanctuary will be open during the weekdays Monday – Thursday for prayer and contemplation, and Pastor Matthias will continue to be in the church office Mondays – Thursdays. Our custodian will continue to clean and supply the building, and out of our commitment to justice, our staff will continue to be paid.
- encourages all to mail in your contributions, in order to support our ongoing ministries, community, and dedicated staff
- communications will be sent as circumstances change and develop



### *At the March 26th meeting, the council (meeting remotely via phone)...*

- moved to extend the suspension of in-person gathering and worship until April 30. (With the caveat that this will be reevaluated at the next meeting April 16 and the pastor will inform the congregation that the extension will likely go longer.)
- decided that communion will continue as originally scheduled April 5 (first Sunday) April 9 (Maundy Thursday) but virtually; families will be encouraged to provide for/plan to receive communion in their own home settings, with things found in their own cupboards, made holy when used in this way.
- shared the success of congregation's efforts to keep connected via worship shared on FB, cards, phone calls, bakery deliveries (now suspended), Zoom meetings i.e Adult Forum, children's lessons posted on FB, sharings from families on FB; asked Pastor Matthias to continue providing FB worship services if he felt safe to do so.
- placed on next month's agenda two items: discussion of WSCO proposal to help build up a West Side relief fund, and, arrange for online giving through the Presbyterian Foundation as one more option, especially for the younger generation who does everything online and for people reading of our mission and ministries on our website and feeling moved to contribute.



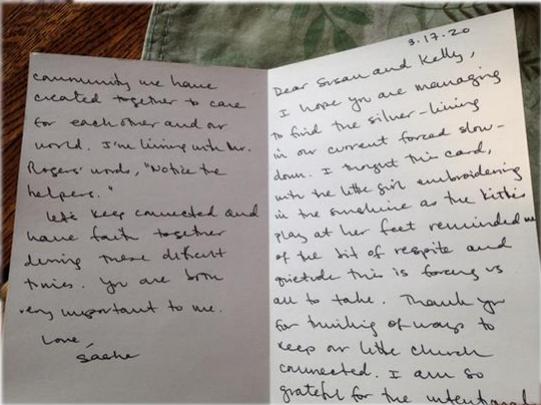
Keeping in touch...



Bakery Ninja Sasha shares Panera Bakery for in-home fellowship hour; departs from the Strebig bakery-mobile, moves quietly and quickly, dropping bags of sweets on members' doorsteps on Sunday. Many then join together for worship and visiting via FaceBook.



Friendly notes mailed



Folk music from Tom!

Jonah & the Whale artwork



Songs from Jane, Eric, & Roxanna (tune in FB Wed 6:30)



...remotely



Story time from Pastor Matthias



Story time from Sim & Isaac

Zacchaeus lesson at home sent from Kay and Miss Rebecca

Is there *Something Interesting* to see outside your home? We can create a driving list, as car tours can be a good entertainment. For starters, drive by Joy and Lon's home and see the beautiful waterfall mural by Yuya Negishi. Email your address and item of interest in to add to the tour.



*Holy goosebumps* – An interesting story to pass along

Since September of 2019, our church has been a location for every-other-week meetings of the Minnesota Transgender Alliance. (The other weeks they meet in a Minneapolis location.) A member of that group walked around our worship space and discovered a possible name of a relative on one of the large stained glass windows.

Pastor Matthias checked into our archives file cabinet, and reported back, that indeed, that great-great-grandparent was the person who paid for and dedicated that window. We like to think that these coincidences may point to the Spirit, guiding us and encouraging us along our various paths.

## Earth Day 2020 ~ Bi-partisan inspiration from 50 years past



### THE IDEA FOR THE FIRST EARTH DAY

Earth Day founder, Wisconsin senator, Gaylord Nelson came up with the idea for a national day to focus on the environment after he witnessed the ravages of a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California, in 1969. Inspired by the student anti-war movement, he realized that if he could infuse the energy of anti-war protests with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution, it would force environmental protection onto the national political agenda.

Senator Nelson announced the idea for a “national teach-in on the environment” and then persuaded Pete McCloskey, a conservation-minded Republican Congressman, to serve as his co-chair and recruited 25-year-old Denis Hayes from Harvard as national coordinator. April 22, falling between Spring break and final exams, was selected as the date, and on that day, 20 million Americans — 10% of the total population of the United States — took to the streets, parks and university auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies.

Groups that had been fighting individually against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness and the extinction of wildlife united on Earth Day around these shared common values. Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, urban dwellers and farmers, business and labor leaders. By the end of 1970, the first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts. “It was a gamble,” Senator Gaylord recalled, “but it worked.”

### 1990: EARTH DAY GOES GLOBAL

As 1990 approached, a group of environmental leaders approached Denis Hayes to organize a global Earth Day, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries, giving a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. It also prompted President Bill Clinton to award Senator Nelson the Presidential Medal of Freedom — the highest honor given to civilians in the United States — for his role as Earth Day founder. The theme for Earth Day 2020 is climate action. The enormous challenge — but also the vast opportunities — of action on climate change have distinguished the issue as the most pressing topic for the 50th anniversary.

Climate change represents the biggest challenge to the future of humanity and the life-support systems that make our world habitable.

## **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., ~~online only~~, until further notice

Pastor: Rev. Matthias Peterson-Brandt

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cherokeeparkunited.org

### **Qu'ran Reflection (Bukhari)**

*"The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him said,  
'If you hear of an outbreak of plague in a place,  
do not enter it;  
but if the plague breaks out where you are,  
do not leave that place.'*

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, Kandy Heiman  
Note: Newsletter posted on our website has been edited to remove most personal information i.e. last names, addresses, phone numbers.