



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 March 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			26 Ash Wed	27	28	29
1 MARCH	2	3	4 (NO Choir practice)	5 * L & F	6 Women's group 7 pm	7
Children's musical Unity Unitarian Church						
8 Daylight Savings Time starts 2 am IDEA KoM practice 9:45	9	10	11 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	12 Council 7 pm	13	14
15 IDEA  practice 9:45 Choir 9:30	16	17	18 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	19	20 Men's group 6:30 pm	21
22 Celebrating Saint Romero KoM	23	24	25 Choir practice 6:30-8 pm	26	27	28 Earth Hour 8:30-9:30 pm Lights OFF
29 KoM	30	31	1 APRIL 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



40 Days of Lent

KoM - Kids on the Move (page 5)



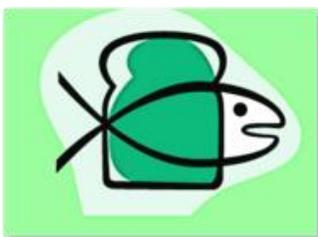
- Choir sings

- Sat. April 25 T-shirt Tie-Dye party



- 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.



Loaves & Fishes

Thursday, March 5, 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, March 6, 7 p.m.

The next Women's Affinity Group will be a puzzle and game night. Please bring a snack/ dessert to share and a game or puzzle you'd like to offer for people to consider. Join us for a relaxing and fun-filled evening!



Men's Group

(third) Friday, March 20, 6:30 p.m.

We are meeting at the home of Tom Murphy, starting with food and then a discussion around 7 p.m. Keep your eyes open for shamrocks, a pot of gold (or decaf coffee) at the end of a rainbow, and a few wayward leprechauns.

Sandy Waterman has an IDEA

Intergenerational **D**rumming **E**nsemble **A**ctivity

Please join us, (no experience necessary) for a rehearsal on March 8, at 9:45 in the sanctuary, and the same time for a warm-up on our performance day, March 15. Bring your own percussion instruments, or use one of ours. (Instruments from home can be stored at the church on March 8 if you wish, and then taken home after the service on March 15.) Join us! All ages and experience levels are welcome.

Choir

There will be no rehearsal the first week in March, March 4. There will be a choir warm-up Sunday, March 15 from 9:30 to 9:45 (followed by IDEA rehearsal.)



At the February meeting, the council ...



--approved the annual agreement with FREC which provides that CPUC is the fiscal agent for them and for the annual Overcoming Racism Conference. The agreement provides for a donation of \$4100 in cash plus 5 conference scholarships to CPUC. Lynne Bates continues to provide the financial work on this and Mary Bren has stepped down as liaison between FREC and CPUC.

--approved Pastor Matthias' request to take vacation time from March 28-April 1
--toured the Rainbow Room and Faith Life supply room to determine how to respond to the request for ASDIC's use of space which was considerably more than originally described.

--passed a motion "That the council solicit 1 or 2 members from Faith Life, Property Management, and Pastor Matthias to gather with ASDIC to negotiate a rental agreement so that the Rainbow Room and Supply area be returned to being inviting space for Children's Ministry. This to be done within a period of 2 weeks from this council meeting."

All are welcome to meetings, held the second Thursday of the month, from 7-9 p.m. in the Parent Room.

Order a plant for the Easter memorial garden

Once again, you can order a plant for the Easter Memorial Garden. The Worship Ministry Team invites you to complete the form on the last page (page 11) and submit it with cash or your check between March 8 and April 5 (Palm Sunday). Each plant will cost \$15. Please make your check payable to CPUC with a memo line note of "Easter Memorial Garden"; orders can be placed in the Easter garden order box in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays or given it to Jill Jackson any other time.

A variety of colorful plants and flowers will be purchased. You are welcome to take one of the plants home after the worship service on Easter Sunday.

Thank you for "growing" our garden!



Kids on the Move - March 8, 22, 29, April 19, May 3, 17

As we gain more families and children, our activities have been changing with them. We are always interested in hearing what our newer families would like to see provided for and with them, so please do not hesitate to call, email, or ask anyone at Fellowship who to chat with.

Our children are always invited to the sanctuary to interact with Pastor Matthias at worship Children's Time, after which the elementary age children are invited to be

Kids on the Move and move downstairs for a group activity.

Currently this just happens about every other week (and some children also really enjoy being part of the whole worship service.)



This program also could be expanded if we would have a greater number of adults/young adults to help. You do not have to be a teacher to do this; being the assistant is also a vital part. If you might be interested in helping, please contact Jane Peterson or ask where to find her during Fellowship Hour.

Children's lessons and themes are planned as well in advance as possible; however, we remain flexible to the nudging of the Holy One who may tell us of an urgent need. As was the case this past Sunday, when a lesson on Transfiguration was altered to "How do we 'see' Jesus?" This was prompted by several children telling Joy, not too long ago, that Jesus was white, and they were certain of it. So out come all the cultural depictions of Jesus, along with what would be our best guess of people living in that region at the time, and currently. Definitely, not white!



Mystery Manor Musical

www.unityunitarian.org

Friday/Saturday, March 5/6, at 7 p.m. & Saturday, March 7 at 5:30 p.m.

Sandy Waterman, music director of Cherokee Park United Church, is preparing the youth at Unity Church-Unitarian, 733 Holly Av.

(Portland and Grotto) in St. Paul, to present this 31st annual children's musical.

Nineteen youth are acting, singing, and dancing up a storm in this original show by Mary Blouin Auffert, with music and lyrics by Sandy. The story centers on a famous (fictional) artist and a commissioned piece of artwork which is stolen, and the finger-pointing begins! The kids wish to be of help to the adults, but the adults aren't listening very well. The show is about learning to communicate and to be part of a community to solve problems. Tickets are available at the door with children's and family group tickets also available. Wheelchair space is available as well as hearing aid technology.

From Pastor Matthias

Dear CPUC Friends,

We have entered into the church season of Lent, the 40 days (not counting Sundays) that lead us to Resurrection Sunday. Through the centuries, Christians have often observed some form of fasting or spiritual discipline during Lent. While I have never done a strict fast (and I know for some people it is not possible to do so), I do think that taking on a Lenten discipline can be good for our spiritual health and deepening relationship with God. If you are thinking of observing a spiritual practice for Lent, I offer some ideas you might consider:



- God speaks to Isaiah: “Is not this the fast I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice...to let the oppressed go free?” How about a Lenten practice that is outward facing? For example, you might consider a Lenten practice of intentionally seeking to read news, opinions, culture, and art created all by people of color. Try colorlines.com or theroot.com or remezcla.com.
- You might commit to keeping a Lenten journal, jotting down a couple sentences of observation about each day. If you want to get more creative (and destructive) you might check out this idea for a “Wreck this Journal” from Rev. Teresa Cho. <https://theresaecho.com/2014/03/09/a-wrecked-lenten-journal/>
- Social Media and the News is everywhere. For Lent, consider limiting your social media time or your reading/watching the news each day. You might grant yourself 15 minutes in the morning and 15 minutes in the evening (or adjust to what makes sense for you). See how your mind responds to less time online, less time paying attention to the news outside and more time paying attention to the news inside.
- People often focus their fasting on food, either in traditional ways (i.e. giving up meat on Fridays) or other ways like no soda or desserts. If that works for you: no rain on that parade. Another alternative might be to fast from meat altogether for Lent as a means of caring for creation, since meat production emits a lot of methane gas. Or, take an idea from Church of England and fast from single-use plastic. (<http://www.greenanglicans.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Final-Calendar.pdf>)

By the time you read this, Lent will already be underway. The purpose of a Lenten spiritual practice is not about perfection, but about how it helps us see the world and God in a new way, as we journey with Jesus towards the cross and beyond.

Yours in faith,

Pastor Matthias





New CPUC T-shirts tie-dye event

Saturday, April 25

Cherokee Park United is sponsoring a CPUC T-shirt Tie-Dye Event. The shirts have the CPUC name printed on the front and the UCC "Be the Church" graphics are printed on the back.

You can order your shirt tie-dyed and ready to wear, or you can join us and dye your own shirt on April 25, from 1 to 3 p.m. (You may also bring another article to tie dye.) If you already have a T-shirt, consider making a second one or buying one as a gift for someone. We will once again learn tie-dye techniques from Sue Rutford, fellow Presbyterian, fabric artist, and tie-dyer extraordinaire.

We hope these colorful t-shirts continue to show the world what CPUC is about as we live, serve, and volunteer in our community and beyond.

The last day to order shirts is Sunday, April 5. Order forms are available at church. Checks can be made out to Cherokee Park United with the word "T-shirt" in the memo line. Shirts can also be ordered online at: <http://cherokeeparkunited.org/tshirts/>. (Online there is a link to the shirt styles and size charts.) Questions? Contact Jill Jackson.

Cinco de Mayo parade participation



Cherokee Park United has participated in the West Side Cinco de Mayo Parade for many years. In the past that included someone with a vehicle equipped with a trailer hitch pulling our small church float, as well as other members and friends marching with puppets together up Cesar Chavez St. Marchers often wear their CPUC T-shirts.

The Outreach Ministry Team is determining if we have people willing to tow the float and march in the parade this year. The parade is scheduled for Saturday, May 2 at 9:30 am. If you are interested in participating, please let Pastor Matthias or Jill Jackson know. Or you can sign up on the interest form on the table in the Social Hall by March 22. We need to register by April 1 this year. Thank you for considering and communicating about this enjoyable community event!

New member profile

As new members join our faith community, they are invited to share a bit of information about themselves so we get to know each other more quickly. (Any other member is also invited to do so.) Maya Rose just joined us recently and here is her own note of introduction.

Hi everyone! I would like to express my gratitude to you all for the warm welcome you have extended to me. Since moving to the West Side three years ago, I began exploring ways I could connect with a faith community in my neighborhood, and I am really grateful God has led me to CPUC! A little bit about me: My husband Rick and I have two daughters, a son, and three beautiful grandchildren. I retired a few years ago from working at the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis for approximately 27 years. Some activities I enjoy are gardening, painting, cooking, being out in nature, and just living life as fully as I can each day with a grateful heart. I look forward to getting to know everyone and participating in the faith life of this community.

Maya states that she enjoys painting, and here you see one of her latest pieces, entitled "Hidden Falls Magic ". I asked her to explain the title, and she said " *Hidden Falls is one of my favorite places. It's always seemed so magical and peaceful to me. When I finished the painting, I knew right away it was all about Hidden Falls and the title came right to me.*"



New name tags are coming! New name tags are coming!

Cherokee Park United name tags have a new look, featuring the rainbow comma and the church Vision Statement. The Outreach Ministry Team will be issuing them in March, with people currently serving on the Church Council having tags with a yellow background for easy recognition. Thanks to Susan for the new graphics handiwork. New pouch-style holders will replace the open-sided versions now in use.



For those who completed the on-line or paper data survey, the name tag will feature the name and if you requested, the pronouns you indicated. If your new tag needs changes, please let anyone on the Outreach Team know or use the name tag sign-up sheet on the back table of the worship space. Enjoy wearing the new and colorful tags!

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 will be in Minnesota April 10-30 and possibly we will see them here.



water, no straw please

Have you memorized this mantra from Tomie yet? It takes a bit of work, but you can pat yourself on the back if you've done it.

Plastic straws take energy and resources to create, which means creating pollution and sacrificing dwindling resources such as water and fossil fuels. Many thin plastic items are meant to be used once; it's better for the environment to make and buy products that last a long time. Also, straws don't decompose, or biodegrade when we toss them - they can stay in landfills for hundreds of years. And plastic in the ocean



floats around as small pieces (called microplastics) that can poison animals and hurt the environment. It is estimated that by 2050, there will be more plastics than fish (by weight) in the oceans.

If you need a straw for on-the-go slurping in your car, just rinse out and keep one above your visor. You'll feel good about yourself today!

Join the Earth Hour movement

We live in an interconnected world. Every action we take impacts life around us, and increasingly those impacts are harmful. Our every-growing demand for food, water, and energy is changing the climate faster than predicted-and it comes at a cost for wildlife, wild places, and people everywhere.

This Earth Hour, millions of people around the world will turn off their lights for one hour to show their steadfast commitment to protecting nature. Together we'll speak up for wildlife and forests. We'll show our support for rivers and oceans. And we'll rally around crucial actions needed to our climate change.



Life is resilient when we give it the chance to bounce back.

Please join us in turning off our lights for one hour at 8:30 p.m. your local time on Saturday, March 28, 2020, to show your support for a healthy planet.

Cherokee Park United Church 2020 Council

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

Tomie Evans
Jerome Graf (2)
Susan Strebig
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



Please talk to one of your representatives about your concerns, question, or ideas; you may also attend any monthly meeting, (and speak if you give advance notice).



Easter Plant Order Form

Your name _____

Number of plants ordered _____ Total \$ _____
(\$15/ per plant - cash, or check made out to CPUC)

Whom do you wish to remember?

Would you like their name(s) included in a list prepared for Easter? _____

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



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, Kandy Heiman

Almost everything will work again,
if you unplug it for a few minutes,
including you.

Anne Lamott