



# 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 June 2020**

**Outdoor worship in the park was scheduled for June 28.**  
*However, stay tuned for what is being planned, as it depends upon the latest guidance from the MN Dept of Health.*



### Happy June Birthdays & Celebrations

- 02 - Rita
- 08 - Pastor
- 09 - Winnie
- 19 - Mary
- ♥29 -Tom and Mary
- 30 - Nona

### *During Children's Time*

Pastor Matthias talks about how wearing a mask is a sign of love for everyone.



And the week after that, how wearing heart-shaped glasses can be a reminder to show love to everyone.

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

## Adult Forum Invitation

Since we can no longer hold this at church the hour before worship starts, we continue our discussions via Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 7-x? pm. We are an informal group, teens through seniors, that varies in size from week to week and we discuss a suggested reading or parts of a book or some other topic. You are not required to have done the “homework” to join in; we decide on the topic the week before and will include that in this email as we decide. Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81725210424?pwd=cVrU0NHdHZSWjlBd2ZoMFdBNE1hQT09>

(These might be helpful but we’ve found that we only have to click on the link to get in – be patient, as it takes a few minutes and the organizer needs to click on your request to allow you in. Meeting ID: 817 2521 0424. Password: 056975)



Thank you to all who have sent in butterflies for our environment, a reminder of the new life we anticipate after the longer time in this extended Lenten desert. The Easter season ends with Pentecost, this year on May 31; the butterflies will fly away but watch the newsletter to read where they will find a new home.



## Free Chairs

We hope to be fashioning some new families' and children's programs and spaces but before that occurs we need to find storage room for some items that need to be moved. So, to make that happen, we are clearing out old unsafe tables and 50 unused and ugly (but a coat of purple paint might revive!) metal folding chairs. If you'd like some chairs, you are welcome to them, but need to tell us before June 15, when they go elsewhere. Email Pastor or Susan, [kellystrebig@comcast.net](mailto:kellystrebig@comcast.net)

## *Zoom with Women's Affinity Group June 5*

Sophie LeMeur and Deborah Morse invite all identifying as women to join together Friday at 7 p.m. for a discussion of the Book of Ruth. (Beforehand, please read the book of Ruth - only 4 pages long). The video below will be used as a starting point for discussion.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0h1eoBeR4Jk&feature=youtu.be>

The Zoom link will be in the upcoming weekly e-message from Pastor Matthias. Or you can call in on your phone to participate with the audio portion of the meeting. Thanks to Maria McNamara for hosting the Zoom group. If you have questions about accessing the Zoom meeting, please contact Jill Jackson. We look forward to connecting!

## *At the May 14 (virtual) meeting, the council ...*

-approved continuation of having no church services and meetings of over ten people in the church until after Labor Day, Sept. 7. However, we are working on ways to stay connected over the summer, including the possibility of small numbers of people in outdoor settings, keeping socially distanced. A task force is being set up to find ideas and plans. Anyone interested in joining please contact Pastor Matthias.

-approved consideration of one or more church services to be held outdoors

-approved editing out majority of old folding chairs to make better use of our storage room, offering to members first and disposing of any remaining; and to edit out any unsafe tables from under-stage storage

-approved contracting with Zerorez to clean all carpeted spaces in the church

-heard details on old boiler valves possibly needing replacing and requested more bids for comparison

-approved of Pastor Matthias' request to use six days of his vacation time July 22-28

-approved continuing zoom council meetings with a 90 minute length

## *Cherokee Park United Church 2020 Council*

Tomie Evans, Jerome Graf, Susan Streb, Jan Howe  
Diane Spicer, Jackie Rico, Joy Sorensen Navarre, Curt Fleming  
Mike Bates, Maria McNamara, Tom Murphy, Jim Shatek  
Pastor Matthias Peterson-Brandt

## *Church BINGO!*

Watch our Sunday worship on Facebook Live with your bingo card in hand. Mark off the words that are said or sung. Post "bingo" in the livestream comments when you've won! For adults as well as kids. Bingo cards have been sent in the weekly email; if you'd like a copy by usps mail, contact Jane Peterson.

*From Pastor Matthias,* at home

Dear CPUC Community,

Burnout is real. We don't need to see statistics to know it. Many among us have lived it. We know people who have been through it. Been worn out, emptied out. We feel it in our bones.

It is especially true, in my experience, of people who are dedicated to justice, caring to their core, generous in their living, and humble in their self-regard.

These same traits that are huge gift to the world and communities and loved ones, are also ones that make it tougher to say "no" when an opportunity to help comes along. Our desire to see the world be a better place, to help others, to devote our time to worthy causes, tug at our hearts to say yes when any chance comes along.

On top of the innate desire to please others and do good in the world, there are other compounding factors. Technology makes it so hard to unplug and say no. The ways we are accustomed to judging or feeling judged on how much we do or have done make it hard to say no. The fear of missing out if we turn down an opportunity that may not come around again.

Saying "No," however, is an important spiritual practice. The writer Barbara Brown Taylor connects this idea to the sabbath, noting that even God said "no" on the seventh day. No to working, no to needing to do anything more. Just rest.

If it was a good idea for God, it is sure a good idea for us too. Where are the areas in your life where you might say "no" for now? Not "no" forever, but "no" for now. Maybe it is saying no to a worthwhile commitment but one that feels like a burden. Maybe it is saying no to the news or Facebook for a whole day. Maybe try out "saying no as a spiritual practice" for a week. See how it feels and what you notice.

Whatever it might be for you, I encourage you to be free in setting your own limits and caring for yourself in this way.

I hope that this finds you well, in body and spirit.

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Matthias





*Now serving:*

### *loaves & fishes & masks*

Church members and friends contributed 114 masks to give away to guests at Loaves and Fishes on May 7. Sasha (right) offered masks to diners as they queued up outside St. Matthew's Church. The first woman in line (left) happily selected a mask and said she had been wondering where to find a one. Many people picked up masks for family members as well. We hope they will continue to wear them to keep everyone safe at Loaves and Fishes. We left extras with Loaves and Fishes Coordinator Ruffo to offer to those who missed Thursday's meal. Thanks again to

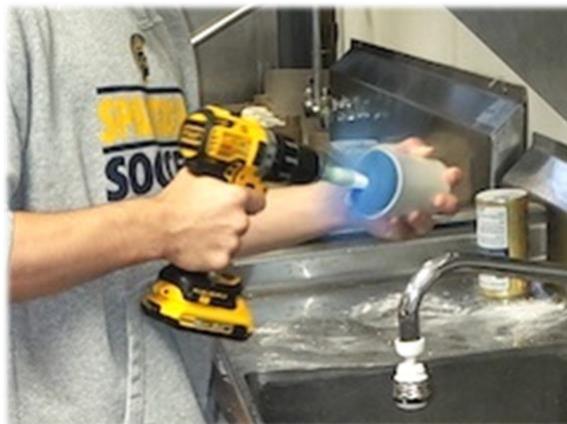
Sandy S., Deborah, Karen S., Jen's mom and a bunch of Sasha's Facebook friends for pitching in! If any CPUC members need masks, let us know!



*May meal* served: chicken fajita



### *Quarantine Kitchen Clean-Up*



Duncan and his dad Curt included CPUC as a stay-at-home location and cleaned all our coffee cups with a power tool!

Blooming at cpuc this month...



red baron crabapple



azalea



brunnera



(you are invited to email in photos of what is growing in your backyard)

Spring landscape re-mulching

(neighbor cat supervising)



## Landscaping while maintaining a six-foot separation



Some kind friend left this message on our sidewalk.

### *"Give Now" electronically*



In addition to worshipping online, we can now share our financial offerings online! The Council researched and chose a service available through the Presbyterian Foundation. The "Give Now" button is located on the top of the church website. <https://cherokeeparkunited.org/> You can set up an account, select the fund(s) for your donation, and name the frequency of your giving. The money will be deposited at the end of each month into our church account. *Note: There is a 2% transaction fee on each donation. We encourage you to check the box for "Give additional 2.0% to help offset the processing fee."*

We still welcome checks mailed to the church during this time when we are not gathering in-person. We are mindful of the financial stresses the pandemic has brought to many lives and understand if other choices need to be made with your resources. We deeply appreciate all the gifts and offerings sent both in the mail and electronically. A huge, huge thank you to Karen, Lynne, Tom, and Jill for helping make this happen!

## What members are doing while sheltering-at-home

**Jill**~ On Sunday afternoons, I have Zoom time with my friend Anna, her grown daughters, Kate and Elizabeth (and their families), and Anna's sister, Elaine, and Elaine's husband. Elaine and I are Godmothers to Anna's daughters. We connect from Woodbury, Shoreview, Rochester, and Inver Grove in MN and San Diego, CA. For the Zoom call on Mother's Day, I asked the husbands to help me create a special celebration for the "mothers" that we could do when together virtually. They are all good sports and joined right in. (I created Anna's and my "gifts.") We put together three numbered boxes for each woman. We kept these gifts secret from our dear ones until we were on the call.

The women opened box #1 together. Inside was a wearable "crown" created with the wearer in mind! We put them on immediately with lots of laughs. Next the women opened box #2. Inside were bags with different kinds of flours in them- white, wheat, cornmeal, etc. We told them they now had a gift of "flours" for Mother's Day. Finally, the women opened box #3. It had a piece of toast in it. As you can see in the screen shot, we "toasted" to their happiness, that day and always.



It was fun being creative with words and objects no one needed to leave home to procure. I hope the good time we shared will be remembered by us all. And my friend Anna, whose last name starts with a "B," plans to get lots of uses out of her appropriately decorated crown in the future.

**Mary** ~ Wearing a mask and checking for antibacterial hand wipes in all the stores

**Susan** ~ Googling how to tune my ukulele and remember basic chords  
Baking bread with beer when no yeast was available  
Learning how to set up Zoom gatherings  
Gaining the "quarantine fifteen"  
Finally finishing up reading Sunday newspapers dating back to March 8!

**Pastor** ~ Baking sweets with a much higher frequency  
Potty-training Bjorn  
Daily walks



## Meet Maureen

You've met our music director Sandy, and now are invited to meet her harp, "Maureen", named in memory of the late Irish movie actress, Maureen O'Hara. Sandy had seen Maureen's Facebook website and let Maureen know that she had named her harp after her; the site administrator communicated back that Maureen was very touched to have the harp named after her, and that she missed her sisters, one of whom (Florrie), played the harp. Maureen was born in Dublin, Ireland, became popular as a screen and television actress, and died in Boise, Idaho in 2015 at the age of 95.

Maureen, a floor harp, is a 34-string Lyon & Healy "Ogden" pedal harp, meaning one can access the sharps and flats, as in the black keys of the piano, by using various positions of the pedals located at the bottom of the harp. Now over 150 years old, Lyon & Healy continually manufactures and sells harps at its Chicago premises, and the name of the street on which the manufacturing company resides is Ogden.

Maureen and Sandy will continue to offer a soothing moment of contemplation during the Prelude, on our Sunday webcam services.

Maureen(right) and sisters Margot and Florrie

Next month, you can meet *Fiona*!



## Shop In Place MSP

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Sebastian set up a website called "**Shop in Place MSP**" as a community resource to help struggling local restaurants and other businesses hit hard by the stay-at-home order, to help us find and patronize them or purchase gift cards for later. The listing includes their website, hours, whether they deliver, online ordering, etc.

Go to: [www.shopinplacemsp.com](http://www.shopinplacemsp.com) You can also add a listing yourself by clicking on "add business" and make a note on the bottom that you had added it so Sebastian knows that it was not the business itself adding it.



## *Church building "closed" but still active*

We are not meeting as a congregation yet, but much activity is still going on. As you saw in earlier pages, on the outside, landscape upkeep is almost done.

Inside, Fellowship Hall is now a staging area; many storage spaces are being cleaned out, edited, and repaired. Thanks to Curt, Duncan, Philip, Jim, Karen for moving 100's of pounds of stuff, at different times. The back yard was full of old (and rusty) metal shelves and cabinets from the coal room, aka dungeon, and our metal salvage guy picked it all up to recycle. Susan and Kelly's trunk is full of dried-up gallons of paint to safely dispose of.

Carpeted areas are being cleared out so that a professional carpet cleaning can be done on June 9 – long overdue. We'll use Zerorez as it is most environmentally-friendly and friendly to any people who have allergy sensitivities, although a bit more expensive.

To save on any expenses possible, the 12 pilot lights on the gas stove have been turned off, the room temperatures had been turned way down a few months ago, and the boiler will soon be off also.

So we do have some major expenditures coming up with the carpet cleaning; a large expense is being considered to replace five old boiler valves.



*The impeded stream is the one that sings.*

*It may be that when we no longer know what to do,  
we have come to our real work  
and when we no longer know which way to go,  
we have begun our real journey.*

*The mind that is not baffled is not employed.  
The impeded stream is the one that sings.*

Wendell Berry



Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m., ~~online only~~, until further notice

Pastor: Rev. Matthias Peterson-Brandt

651-227-4275.     [cpuc@usfamily.net](mailto:cpuc@usfamily.net)     [cherokeeparkunited.org](http://cherokeeparkunited.org)

**Cherokee Park United Church**

United Church of Christ/Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Open & Affirming, Multicultural, Antiracist

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