



# **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

***News-photo-letter May 2020***

*Bubbles* are sometimes essential at worship!



### Happy May Birthdays & Celebrations

- 13 - ❤️ Mike & Lynne
- 16 - Maria
- 21 - ❤️ Michael & Kristin
- 27 - Diane
- 28 - ❤️ Jim & Karen



Earth Day Reminder - Pastor Matthias calls representative Betty McCollum during sermon, to support US House Resolution 763.



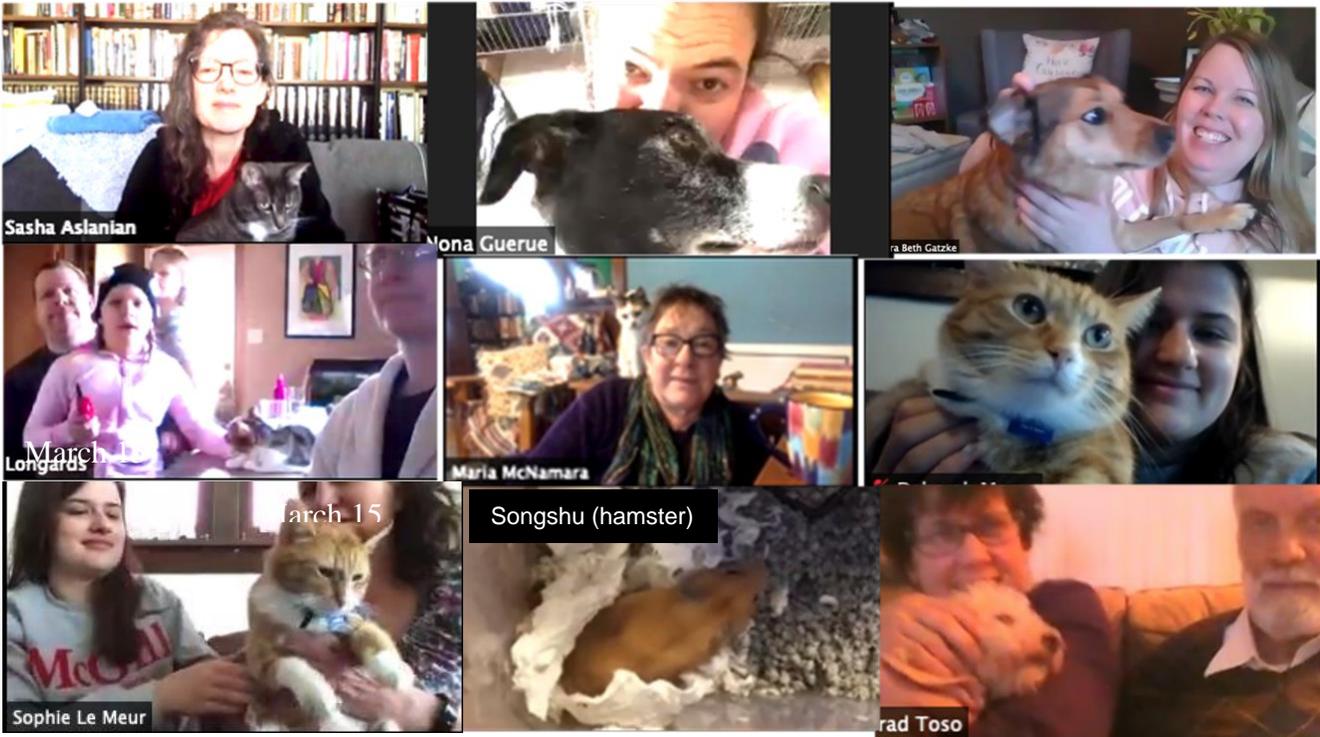
### *Masking our heroes and sheroes*

Pictured is Maya's trusty old Bernina sewing machine, she describes as "built like a tank", a gift from her beloved auntie Catherine. She has sewn about 35 masks for the Fire Station Masks and Elder Lodge as well as for family and friends, using cloth left from her cloth doll making days. Others such as Sasha, Sandy S., Deborah & Karen have also been sewing masks.



*Animal "members" at Fellowship Hour also Zoom*

Overheard shared words of wisdom: how do I know when my dog needs his nails clipped? When you hear them clicking on the keyboard!



*Peony Watch* ~ one sign of Spring, and awaited renewed life ~ new peonies planted last Fall. (May 2 updated photo)

Thanks to Diane, Philip, Russ, Jim, Karen, Mary and Susan, the landscape was cleaned up on May 2, maintaining safe distancing.



mulch by Menards  
mask by Sasha!

*From Pastor Matthias,* at home

Dear CPUC Community,  
Living through a global pandemic is exhausting in all senses: mentally, emotionally, spiritually, physically. Pre-pandemic routines that we relied on to make sense of the days and provide stability are gone. Many of our options for self-care—big family dinners, favorite museums or music venues, going to the gym, meeting a friend for coffee, meeting up with a friend—are not available to us. And it is impossible to be or feel as productive as in pre-pandemic times.



One effect of all this that I have noticed is that it makes it so much easier for our inner critics to take over. We all have this inner voice, and it often leads us towards growth, change, and striving for our goals.

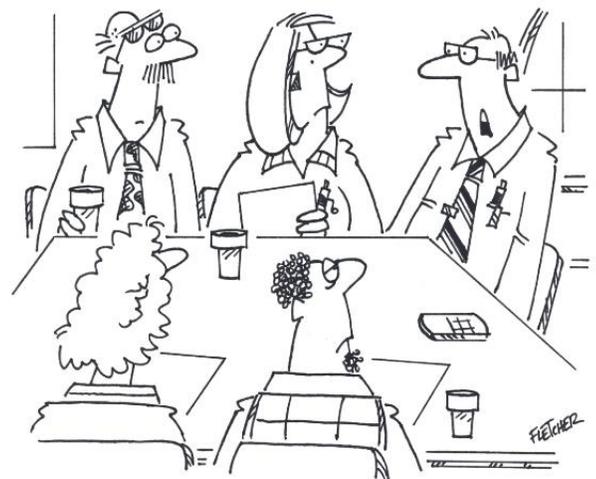
However, with the world upside down and our old metrics and rhythms off-kilter, that critical voice needs to be recalibrated.

I had a brain-fuzz moment last week. I began preparing a pasta dish for dinner only to realize when the water was boiling that I have forgotten to buy the pasta when I did my weekly grocery run. My inner monologue turned on me, and I felt stupid for such a simple mistake. Definitely heightened by the overall stress of our present-day circumstances.

But then something amazing happened: I wondered “What would Jesus say to me right now?” And while I can’t be certain what the exact words might be, the tone was nothing like the self-talk that was going on in my head.

We have heard it plenty already during this pandemic: “give yourself grace,” “be gentle with yourself.” Okay. Yeah. But how!?

I would invite you, the next time you are feeling down on yourself for not being more productive, for making a simple mistake, for feeling you’ve failed, ask yourself what Jesus would say to you. Channel that voice of the Spirit, and let it help guide you to a more forgiving place. Take care. Stay well.



“SINCE NO ONE CAN REMEMBER THE ORIGIN OF THIS PARTICULAR CHURCH HABIT, I MOVE THAT IT BE UPGRADED TO A TRADITION.”

In peace,  
Pastor Matthias

*At the April 26 special (virtual) meeting, the council ...*

-passed a motion to have CPUC apply for any funds available through the federal Payroll Protection Program.



### *Council Members*

#### **Class of 2020**

Tomie Evans  
Jerome Graf  
Susan Strebig  
Jan Howe

#### **Class of 2021:**

Diane Spicer  
Jackie Rico  
Joy Sorensen Navarre  
Curt Fleming

#### **Class of 2022:**

Mike Bates  
Maria McNamara  
Tom Murphy  
Jim Shatek

**Pastor Matthias Peterson-Brandt**

### *More Good News!!*

Our friend from Crow Creek (S.D.) Reservation, Peter Lengkeek, has been elected chairperson of the tribal council. Many of us prepared and brought food to serve them a number of years, along their route as they traveled the 16-day, annual 300-mile memorial horseback ride to Mankato, arriving Dec 26. (Learn about this on Youtube; search for "Dakota-38" documentary, partially narrated by Peter.)



Peter was a council member in years past and had worked hard to bring in economic benefits through justice but others on the council thwarted his efforts. Hopefully he can continue his path. He has been Kelly's hunting guide for over a decade and Kelly was pleased when his grandchildren were old enough to go along, to be in Peter's presence and absorb some of his wisdom and Spirit.

To watch this short inauguration and Peter's very inspiring acceptance speech, go to Youtube and Search "2020 CCST Inauguration" (English starts minute 4.) Please note his first and last words, which are the same.

*Goodness increases and spreads ~ thank you to our generous members*

In spite of a significant economic downturn, our members have stepped up to share what they have with those who have been harder hit by the pandemic. Some donated their stimulus checks, some just gave up so they can give out. Extra donations were invited to replenish two emergency funds, and our Loaves & Fishes commitment which feeds hungry people every other first Thursday; our cost now has increased greatly as we have chosen to purchase it from a restaurant to support local businesses.

In the past few weeks the funds donated were:

\$ 970 to Loaves and Fishes, \$ 1425 to the Pastor's Emergency Fund, and \$ 6175 to the West Side Relief Fund. Pastor Matthias was invited to be included on the WSCO review group for application calls as a community partner, West Side resident, and non-WSCO presence for transparency and accountability's sake.

*Earth Care Climate Change Zoom*



Sometimes for inspiration we can look  down



Check out the sidewalks around Cherokee Park and on Wyoming between Manomin and Ohio (before a rain!) or on a walk around Cherokee Regional Park.

One member's Easter Sunday "church"... virtual church, candle, stained glass windows?



**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.

651-227-4275

cpuc@usfamily.net

cherokeeparkunited.org



*The Church is not closed.  
The building is closed.  
You are the Church.  
You are open.*

*Now budding and flowering around the church*

*magnolia  
bleeding heart  
redbud*

