



Cherokee Park (virtually) United Church

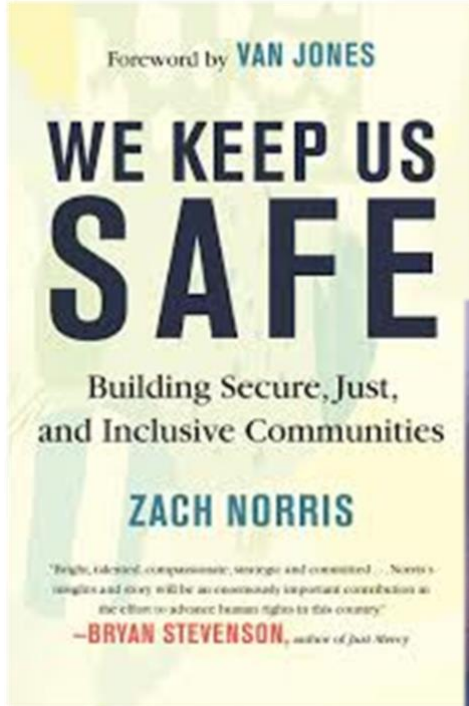
Fierce Justice ✨ Radical Love ✨ Abundant Grace

A Progressive Congregation
*Welcoming people of all ages, sexual orientations,
races, and ethnic origins*

Theological Elbow Room
Global Music
Community Connected
Kid Friendly

Newsletter August 2020

Adult Forum gathering—Wednesdays at 7pm



Reading *We Keep Us Safe* —
Seeds of Resistance and Adult Forum book group

In the wake of the June uprisings and the ongoing protests, and calls to defund the police, the Seeds of Resistance ministry team is exploring community safety models and alternate ways communities have conceived of providing for the safety and care of residents.



To that end, we invite all at CPUC to join us in a dialogue about the book *We Keep Us Safe* by Zach Norris. In it, Norris, a longtime community organizer in Oakland, CA explores what community looks like “when we lead with empathy and seek restoration rather than retribution.”

The Adult Forum will start focusing on this book on Wednesday, August 5 at 7 pm on Zoom. Please obtain your own copy of the book and join us for this ongoing discussion. Link to the meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 817 2521 0424

Password: 056975

We Keep Us Safe is also the focus of a community-wide reading event sponsored by Root and Restore, a St. Paul coalition dedicated to community-based solutions to public safety. Their book club is welcoming all of St. Paul to read this book, too. More details for their event can be found on their Facebook page.

Thanks to all the artists....

...children and adults who beautified our sidewalks July 12, with messages of love and hope. Thanks to adults Jane, Alex, Shannon, and Carly for making this happen.



Join our small group visits

Let's get together - safely - this summer! CPUC had its first outdoor, physically-distanced gathering by Jan Howe's patio in July. It was lots of fun! Please consider if you would like to host or attend a small group (less than 10 friends) get-together. These outings will be at people's accessible yards, patios, driveways, decks, at a specific time and date. Attendees will need to bring their own mask, beverage, and lawn chair. They can be inter-generational, too. We encourage no food or indoor visits at these gatherings. If you are interested in hosting or taking part in one of these events, please talk to Pastor Matthias or contact Jill Jackson. See you soon at a small group gathering!



From Pastor Matthias, at home

Dear CPUC Community,



On July 7, I joined in the final zoom call of the West Side Solidarity Fund team. Each week since late April, this small group had met on zoom to document the names of West Side neighbors who had applied for and would receive a relief fund check. Between each zoom call, applications were received and myself and other volunteers called each applicant to listen to their stories and confirm details of their application. Many, many neighbors spoke of lost jobs or reduced hours, the challenges of children being home and remote learning. Often, they were surprised at how simply the Solidarity Fund worked: no mountain of paperwork, just an application, a phone call, and a check.

All told, we distributed over \$50,000 to around 75 families on the West Side. It is an incredible show of neighborly solidarity and pulling together during tough times.

And yet, the pandemic's impact continues and even grows. This illustrates the need for justice, for systemic change beyond individual generosity and local community efforts.

We see this too in many areas of our socio-political life: personal work dismantling racism and biases in us is important, and systems that perpetuate racism at a large scale need transformation; household efforts to reduce energy consumption and improve energy efficiency are good, and corporations that produce magnitudes more in carbon-emissions must invest in dramatically dropping their contributions to global warming and climate change.

But the individual and the corporate are linked. The personal and the collective are not unrelated. This was part of the genius of Jesus' ministry. He realized that if enough people decided to opt out and resist systems that fail to care for the most vulnerable, or that in fact crush and oppress them; if enough people seek to live differently, find creative new ways of being and living together; if enough people who are healed and seeking wholeness also start to seek that for communities beyond just themselves; if enough people raise their voices against systems that don't work, leaders must listen.

We live into our calling as the Body of Christ in the world when we gather our voices as one and seek change together, trusting the Spirit is alive and stirring among us for our collective transformation.

Thank you for whatever ways you heed the Spirit's call and participate in this vocation together.

In gratitude,

Pastor Matthias



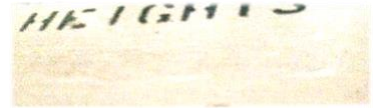
Sweet connections

If you've been a member of CPUC at least ten years you may recognize the back of the heads of most of these people. Thanks to Kay Myhrman-Toso for keeping this wonderful photo taken by Tom in 2010; it shows the 150 rainbow colored stoles made by members to contribute to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in Minneapolis, and first brought to church to be blessed; all assembly attendees were invited to wear them in support of the amendment inviting LGBTQ people to full, open leadership. Pastor Matthias referred to it in his sermon June 7 as he also attended this meeting, possibly wearing one of our stoles! Our stoles were made by adult, teens, and even younger children.



Boiler Room clean-up treasures found...

...A very sturdy wooden box to hold and transport the darts, schedule and scorecards used by the men's baseball darts league circa 1954.



WEST ST. PAUL & RIVERVIEW DARTBALL SCHEDULE 1954-1955			
Beginning of 1st Round			
<u>October 8th</u>			
	at	Holy Trinity	
St. John & Nazarene	at	Ascension	
St. Stephen's Lutheran	at	Augustana	
Faith Evangelical	at	Cherokee Hts. Pres.	
Riverview Baptist	at	St. Paul's Methodist	

More looking back, from Pastor Matthias

In June I had a woman call the church to ask if we used to be Cherokee Heights Presbyterian. Turns out a dear friend of her's, Marvel Olson, recently died at age 94. Among Marvel's things was this picture from 1930! You can tell that it is taken on the stage in the fellowship hall. They performed a "Tom Thumb Wedding" (which I had to look up what that was). Marvel is the front row, first one from the left.



Meanwhile, what are people doing?



Spirit Song Choir: **Winnie and Jerry** (second from bottom row right & bottom row left) are singing - and signing - in this virtual choir which can be seen at <https://youtu.be/Wxru5Rta208> to raise funds for the Christian Cupboard Emergency Food Shelf <http://ccefs.org/donatenow>

Glowing in the dark: **Kristen:** I tried to make DIY glow-in-the dark chalk for the children's small group activity and ended up with painting jeans that glow in the dark.

Garden of Eden: **Sandy S** enjoys the side yard flower garden that Russ so diligently tends.

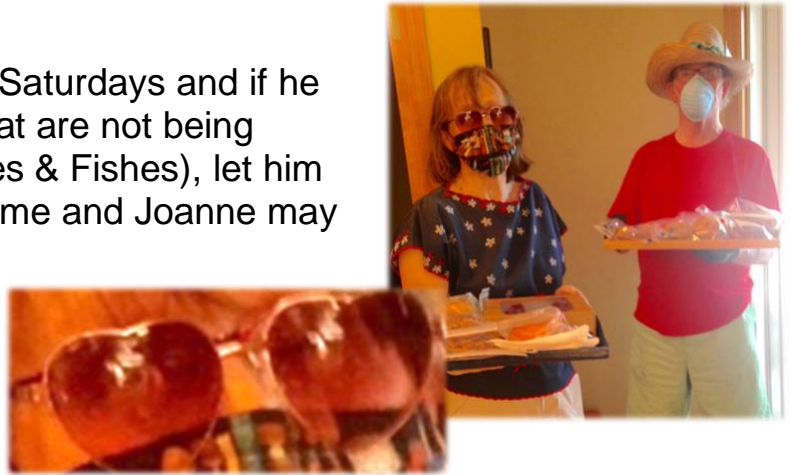
Sing-a-long: Wednesday evenings, 5:30 p.m. for children (and children at heart) facebook group led by Jane, Eric, and Roxanna.

Books read for children: online, by Miss Rebecca and others; contact Pastor Matthias if you'd like to be added to the list.



Panera Doughnations

are still being picked up by Stefan on Saturdays and if he knows you'd like some of the items that are not being donated, (only the breads go to Loaves & Fishes), let him know and some may arrive at your home and Joanne may be wearing her heart shaped glasses.



Behind the scenes

The Facebook Live online worship services have been greatly appreciated and many more people than our own members are online with us. However, it only happens with the volunteer time and ability of a tech person to run the camera and mics. We need a few more people who can learn this part so that Tom can have a respite sometimes, or even in case Tom cannot be with us on any particular Sunday. Right now this is possibly the greatest way that we feel we are still together spiritually.



If you have any technical experience or are interested in learning how to do this, the whole congregation would greatly appreciate it, so that we don't have to miss any Sundays of worship and being together in this very enriching way. We are so blessed.

Please contact Pastor Matthias if you might help us continue this vital ministry.

Also behind the scenes...

Pastor's water, cushion, candle lighter, chimes, bubbles, heart shaped glasses!



Online giving is now live on the CPUC website! Woohoo! You can check it out by going to cherokeeparkunited.org. At the top is a "Give Now" button. There is a 2% fee per transaction, but there is an option for givers to choose to off-set the 2% fee which we'll encourage folks to do. A huge thank you to Karen, Lynne, Tom, and Jill for helping make this happen!

(No council notes as it usually does not meet in July)



Members in the news

The work of four Minnesota chaplains, including our very own Sandy D., were featured in the July 15 issue of COMMAntary. Sandy shares thoughts about her work as chaplain at Bethesda, a hospital serving only patients with Covid-19. Sandy said someone grabbed this 18-year-old photo to use, (but really, she has not aged since then!)

If you might be interested in receiving weekly e-newsletters from the

Minnesota Conference UCC (COMMAntary)

or biweekly from the *Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area (EMerge)*

please request it from info@uccmn.org or office@ptcaweb.org



For families & children: the July issues of the Minnesota Conference UCC newsletter, COMMAntary, contains a wonderful series of family faith activities entitled Family Toolkit. Although they are designated for particular weeks, they could be used at any time, or sections of them at any time, according to what you think your family would enjoy. See above to subscribe.

**One of eight *Covid jokes* from Sandy.
Request if you'd like the rest!**

New MONTHLY Budget
Gas \$0
Entertainment \$0
Clothes \$0
GROCERIES \$1624

What does your mask say?

Email a picture of you in your favorite mask, that says something about you. We know the smile is behind, but enjoy the message in front too!



Which one are you? (Buttons from RLMArtStudio.com)



Cherokee Park United Church has a couple of donated two-sided Black Lives Matter signs which includes an image of a painting by Kristin. The signs are, evidently, very attractive to robins also!

July blooms around the church

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



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

