



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 July 2020

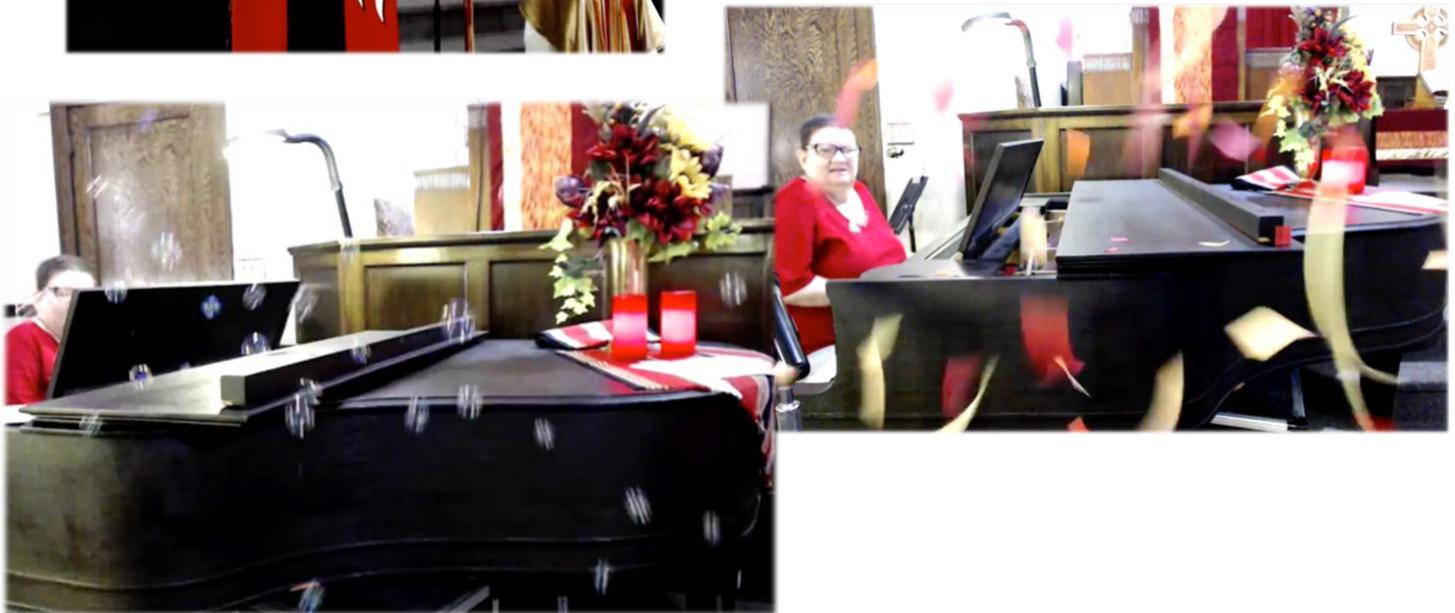
Pentecost Sunday

- ~ During children's time, a hug from Pastor Matthias
- ~ After closing song, confetti and bubbles!



Happy July Birthdays & Celebrations

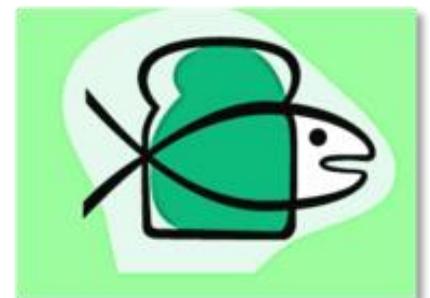
- 07 - ♥ Valerie and Matthias
- 12 - Tomie
- 14 - Tom M
- 20 - ♥ Joy and Lon
- 21 - Kristin
- 26 - Sebastian
- 28 - Dave H



Loaves & Fishes

Thursday, July 2, with shifts from 2:30-4:30 p.m. and 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Our every-other-monthly service to people who are in need of a meal and compassionate neighbors, will be served again at St. Matthew's Church. Join us! Due to health safety reasons we will not cook the meal as in the past but pay for it, premade, by the L & F Central Kitchen. Please wear your mask; gloves and hair cover are provided. Please contact Stefan if you can help serve this month.



The church is not closed

Greeting each other during the quarantine has moved from in-person touch, to personal touch using electronics but also just good old usps mail. Pastor Matthias has organized four rounds of card-writing. He puts out the call for folks willing to write cards and uses a spreadsheet to divvy up CPUC folks among the volunteer card-writers so that everyone is accounted for.

Then card writers do their thing! Some folks make cards by hand, others use cards they have on hand. No real instructions are given about the content of the cards; each writer puts their own personality and message into the cards. The loose guideline and idea is to bring a bit of hope, encouragement, care, and a reminder of our connection during times we can't gather in person.



Many thanks to our past and current letter-writers: Sasha, Jill, Kathy B, Sandy W, Jackie, Maya, Mary M, Diane, Kay, Maria, Sarah E, Philip, Karen S, Susan, and Pastor Matthias.

New signs

Three new signs have been placed on our property, inviting people to join us for Facebook Live worship, during these months that they cannot join us in person. We are finding scores and sometimes hundreds of people avail themselves of this

opportunity for spiritual comfort.



BUILDING CLOSED
CHURCH OPEN (VIRTUALLY)
Online worship 10:15 Sundays on Facebook Live
<https://www.facebook.com/cherokeeparkchurch/live>
as well as videos of past services
Church email & phones are answered
651-227-4275 cpuc@usfamily.net

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



Congratulations Duncan!

As is our tradition, on the first Sunday of June we recognize several occasions, including that of our young adults who are graduating from high school. This year we celebrate with Duncan; as is also our tradition we gifted the graduate with a cozy afghan (hand made by Kathy B) as a reminder that his faith community still enfolds him. He graduated from St. Paul Academy on June 20 and his plans include attending Gustavus Adolphus College in the fall.

As is the case with schools around the country during the Covid health restrictions, the ceremony was a virtual one, finishing up with a car parade around the school so they could receive congratulations from the faculty and say their goodbyes.

Former member Sander Biehn has these recollections from Duncan's earlier years here. "Ever since Duncan was born he has been the guy with the "at-the-ready" smile. During Sunday he could be mischievous, especially when he teamed up with his brother and my son Hadrian; a real wild ride. Maybe it

shaped him just a bit that he was under the watchful eye of Nate who knew how to keep him focused. In Sunday school he got to know what it was like being in even a bigger family due to the fact that not only did he have his big brother in the class, but also a half dozen girls who couldn't wait to read the lesson, chat about what was happening and then move on to the art project. I remember Duncan and his brother in their Cub Scout uniforms up on the stage behind the dividers at Sunday School as Deborah Morse and I muddled by another crazy day with the crew. We made an especially fun skull candy sculpture on All Saints Day (Dios de Muertos); it was made of solid sugar and it decreased substantially in size that morning. This has been a strange year, but if there is anyone who can handle it with a smile and make the best of it, it's Mr. Duncan Fleming."

We have confidence that Duncan and other young people of today will integrate their faith journeys into their daily lives and become the leaders that the community, and world, so need. For his confirmation statement of faith, Duncan had written a belief that can continue to strengthen him, and all of us. " The Holy Spirit is a sign of hope that surrounds us even during the hardest times. It might not always make a grand spectacle of its appearance, but it's always there as a sign of a better tomorrow."



Free food pop up

Second Harvest Heartland, through a program called *The Open Door* (TOD) offers free food to **anyone** in need, occasionally at the Dakota County Northern Service Center, 1 West Mendota Rd., W. St Paul, parking lot. Bags

of food are placed right in your car/trunk for you.

The next opportunity is July 6, from 12 noon to 3 p.m.

More information at 651-686-0787, theopendoorpantry.org



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 mikes. 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, followed by the Zoom fellowship and Facebook. So, we want to ensure that this can continue.

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. Tom will be patient with you, as he teaches technology to high school students.

We are also grateful to Pastor Matthias and music director Sandy W for continuing to provide this from the church; many other churches also do online services, but most are from their homes via a Zoom platform so have more of a "talking head" appearance. We are so blessed.

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

From Pastor Matthias, at home

Dear CPUC Community,

As we pass the one-year mark since our family moved from Los Angeles to Minnesota, one of the most notable differences we have often remarked upon in our household over the past year has been the seasons.



Of course, that would be the case! Beyond the obvious differences—snow, ice, humidity, rain—we noticed that spring and fall seem less like full seasons unto themselves and more like bridge seasons between winter and summer, summer and winter. Valerie articulated it that with four seasons, one would perhaps assume that each one had equal calendar duration to the others. Not so.

With the return of warmer weather, the regrowth of full foliage and plant life, the whole landscape looks different. There is incredible spiritual wisdom and richness to be gleaned from nature. As God's creation, all the earth in some way reflects the Creator.

In the fall—that brief colorful, cool season leading into winter—Dr. Kathleen Allen spoke at a Presbytery meeting about lessons we can learn from nature. One that strikes a particular chord is her observation that “Nothing in nature lives for itself.”

She went on to elaborate with examples. The sun does not just shine for itself, but in so doing, warms the planet, give fuel to plants' photosynthesis, sets rhythms for living creatures. The trees fruits do not just serve as distributors for seeds, but feed other animals, generate new life and renewal with the birth of new plants. Rivers offer the profligate waters to nourish animal and plant life. Flowers give away their prodigal aroma, and serve up pollen for bees and birds.

In our lives and our faith, this truth is also borne out. No one lives just for themselves. Even those who think most selfishly do not subsist alone. Even those of us who feel we could be or ought to be more generous, or who sometimes struggle to see what contribution we make to the whole, we give of ourselves to one another.

I wonder about reading Jesus' notoriously challenging words through this lens: “Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it.” Life is meant to be shared. And in giving of ourselves to those around us, we do not lose life, but rather find our life enriched, preserved, and made sacred.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Matthias



At the June 11 (virtual) meeting, the council ...

Passed motions to:

- permit in person gatherings if outdoors, less than ten people, observing safe practices
- approve Pastor's request to use vacation time Wed. July 29 through Tues. Aug. 4
- reduce nursery director's hours per her suggestion based on actual hours worked, and conclude choir nursery help hours over the summer
- permit Maria to accept offer from Beans on the Boulevard to plant some beans on our boulevard! (see article next page)
- to not have a council meeting in July, per usual practice

Had discussion or received updates on:

- Pastor Matthias is on the WSCO relief fund committee to approve grants of \$500 each to families in need from the \$36,535 fund. 53 families have been helped and possibly 20 more will be helped. Our own church emergency funds were used to help a few people who did not qualify as they live across a street border into WSP.
- We received a thank you from WSCO for our generous contributions to the fund.
- Kelly reported on two more bids to replace five old boiler valves; although the bids were lower than Snelling Co., he felt they did not have the expertise to deal with all the anomalies of our converted system. He did get Snelling to reduce their bid somewhat to \$9700. Council members agreed with the reasoning and agree to use the capital improvement funds for this (which will deplete that fund.) Since the moderator was absent, it was decided to wait until she can also hear these details, and then take a final vote via email within the week.
- Pastor Matthias will organize an anti-racism discussion for the benefit of the council at the next meeting.
- Pastor, Jim and Tom will virtually attend the MN UCC Conference on Sat., June 13.
- Tomie reports that the national Citizen's Climate Lobby has requested to use a portion/clip of Pastor Matthias' Earth Day sermon at a break-out session at the national council conference June 13/14.

In late June, the council (unanimously) approved, through email voting...

- to contract with Snelling Co. to replace 5 old boiler valves
- submission of a request to the Presbytery for a technology grant for providing online worship services webcasts (we currently borrow equipment)
- to move monthly meetings from second Thursdays to second Tuesdays



Beans on the Boulevard

Beans on the Boulevard is a collaborative project between Growing West Side and the West Side Community Organization. The benefits are many!

- Draws attention to food justice issues on the West Side, including lack of access to healthy food sources
- Demonstrates the ease and joy of growing local food (a climate resiliency issue)
- Creates a sense of community as we see the visual representation (the rebar and beans) all over the neighborhood.

Do you have a couple square feet of space on your boulevard or front yard to grow delicious beans? We'll provide the compost, beans, and three pieces of rebar to form a tripod for the beans to grow on. You provide some water and a little love. Then enjoy your delicious beans and share the bounty with your neighbors! Contact: Maureen Hark from Growing West Side @ 651-253-1903 or bluehousegarlic@gmail.com.

Or contact Maria if you'd like to help tend our little beanery along Baker St.

Meet Fiona!



Last month you met Maureen. This month you can read about Sandy's smaller lap harp Fiona, an early "Oladian" model, built in Washington state, near Seattle, in 1999. She is named for the daughter of American harper Patrick Ball, who tours internationally with his electrified Celtic harp. Fiona was built by Philip and Pam Boulding, who run a harp building business called Magical Strings. She is made of cherry wood, which has the tendency to darken with age. A master harp builder, Gary Stone, added levers to Fiona at his shop in Red Wing, after market. Levers are another way to help a harp player achieve the sharps and flats as in the black keys of the piano. While classical harps are used on the concert stage for classical music, Celtic harps, also known as folk or Irish harps, are used in the traditions of Irish, Finnish, Norwegian, Swedish, Brazilian, and other folk

music styles. Sandy is still a harp student of Shari Latz Rothman, who teaches at MacPhail Center for Music.

Let's get together -safely- this summer!

The Council has okayed outdoor, physically-distanced gatherings of no more than 10 people. Please consider if you'd like to host or attend a CPUC small group get-together! These outings will be at people's homes (on accessible yards, patios, driveways, decks) at a specific time and date. Attendees will need to bring their own mask, beverage, and lawn chair. 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 at 651 224-9209 (home) or jilljacksonmn@comcast.net. Hope to see you at a small group gathering soon!



Gabriel was one of the younger "clergy" attending the clergy vigil for George Floyd.



X marks the spot

Bob was able to visit Wendy on her birthday, as long as they stay on their designated x's! Of course, it would be great if we could see our smiles, and better yet give a hug, but we are grateful that we have progressed a little bit in that direction.



Gotta love that Covid humor!

Annapolis near S. Robert



Sandy D's Covid therapy



Wyoming near Manomin



June blooms at cpuc ~

lady's mantle

karmina geranium

dwarf pavement rose.

lilac on standard



new peonies



goldmound spirea and happy bee





Gabriel enjoys his dad's surprise birthday car parade

The greatest strength is
gentleness.
Jill Jackson

My Grand Promenade

poem, and hatched Monarch assist by Mary Murphy

I hear it is a perfect day and so I stop my work
and go out for a walk by the pond.

I come upon warm sun mixing just right with a breeze that sends
the water lapping gently against the shore.

The ducks on the lake are taking their afternoon nap,
rocked by the gentle motion of the water.

A blue bird darts around me and warns me
away from her nearby nest.

Milkweed flowers tempt the monarch to come drink.

I notice the scent of flowers lingering in the warm air.

The long grass waves to me as I walk by,
and the leaves of the Birch tree seem to be applauding
with branches swaying and bowing down to me
as if I am royalty.



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



Online giving now available through the CPUC website above. See "Give Now" button. There is a 2% fee per transaction, but also an option for givers to choose to off-set that fee.