

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 October 2020



The world's first book club.

Happy October Birthdays & Celebrations

06 -Ethan

♥ 03 - Cal & Phyllis

♥ 15 - Jackie & Dave

16 - Mia

16 - Jill

17 - Kelly

18 - Joy

25 - Stefan

Laugh with the Women's Affinity Group

Friday, October 2, 6:30 p.m.

Last month we traveled via shared memories to Russia, Germany, Italy, France, China and more. This month we travel to West St Paul, unless the weather has us just travel to our computers and Zoom at 7 p.m.

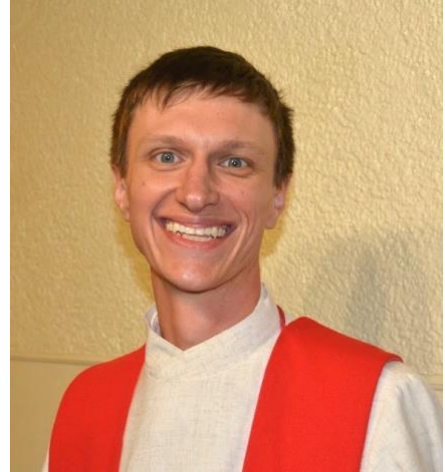
Our focus is sharing the healing power of laughter. Susan invites us to bring at least one favorite joke to share when we gather in her townhome yard. We will meet outside in a safe, physically distant way. Please bring your mask, chair, and own beverage if you wish. Park in her driveway or in lot across (narrow, private) street.

Please let Jill Jackson know if you are coming. She will call you if we need to change our plans for weather reasons.

From Pastor Matthias

Dear CPUC Community,

There has been a push this year to have a new word added to the Merriam Webster's dictionary: "doom-scrolling." Though it has not yet met the terms for inclusion in the dictionary, it might be defined as the "continuously looking through the news feeds, though the news is mostly bad and despair-inspiring."



It is true: much of the news is utterly disheartening these days in particular. Increasingly we read about the erosion of the protections of our democracy (imperfect as it is) that forebode a sense that we are on a doomed trajectory. Yet it is hard to look away. We want to be well-informed citizens. We want to be up to date.

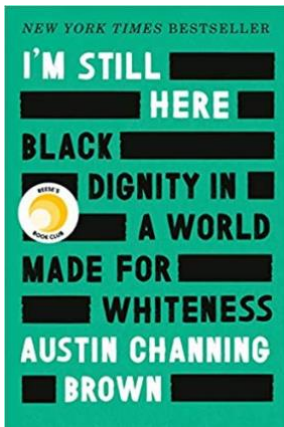
Being informed is good. But only insofar as it moves us to change, to action. If all we do with the information at hand is wallow, feeling defeated, then it is probably time to turn off the news feed.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once wrote: "Today's despair is a poor chisel with which to carve tomorrow's justice." Indeed, our despair is a win for those who seek to consolidate their own power for their own selfish gains, rather than for the good of all. Those who are despairing are less likely to speak up, raise a voice for justice, and proclaim with faith the radical values of Jesus.

Embedded in Dr. King's chisel metaphor is the truth that carving out justice is long work, that usually happens one chip at a time. Though we tend to think of racist, hypocritical tyrants as chipping away our democracy, we ought instead think of how we chip away at the stone of history to shape it towards justice. We must remember that we are made in the image of Creator, so part of our calling is to co-create a world of justice and love with God.

Grace, Love, & Justice

Pastor Matthias



Adult Forum

Wednesdays, 7 p.m. on Zoom

On Wednesday, October 7, the Adult Forum will start discussing *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown. The group met Ms. Brown in *The Next Question* video series this summer. This book tells her story of growing up Black, Christian, and Female in middle class America. Published in 2018, she addresses why our institutional and individual commitments to diversity often

fall short in our actions.

All are invited to join in these discussions. The link to the meeting is below. Please obtain your own copy of the book and join us for this ongoing discussion. Contact Pastor Matthias or any Adult Forum member to learn the chapter or focus each week.



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81725210424?pwd=clVrU0NHdHZSWjlBd2ZoMFdBNE1hQT09>

Meeting ID: 817 2521 0424

Password: 056975

From Lay Ministry

Thank you to everyone who has committed to serving on a Ministry Team or Special Role during the program year 2020-2021. We are also grateful to Tom Murphy, Susan Strebig, and Sandy Waterman who used their graphics expertise and musical talent to create the lovely video shared during worship on Covenanting Sunday. CPUC folks look good when doing what is needed to support our church and its ministries!

We know many of our usual activities have taken on a different feel or are not happening while we are not gathering in person. We thank everyone for their flexibility and understanding these days. When our in-person life resumes, we will have most teams and roles ready to go. Help is still needed on several teams: Faith Life, Fellowship/ Caring, Outreach, and Seeds of Resistance. Please consider joining one of these vital ministries. In the coming months we will also be looking for people to serve on Council and for a representative to Lay Ministry starting in January 2021. Please put possible service in these roles on your heart and in your prayers. If you are interested in serving on a team or one of the 2021 positions, please contact Pastor Matthias or anyone on the Lay Ministry Team – Curt, Jaime, Jan, and Jill.

Looking for something in the supply room? Just ask Jaime!

One of the many areas being cleaned out is the supply room to the right of the stage. Officially it is the Faith Life supply room, but it also is the place everyone rushes to quickly, to find pens, pencils, markers, paper, etc. These items will be easily found on the yellow shelf to the right. Supplies for classes and bigger projects will be in the metal cabinet. The Easter eggs are now in a bin on top the cabinet, and have been washed and sanitized, all 288 of them!



Sometimes landscaping comes with lunch, if you pick your own beans (on the boulevard). Be sure to pick any you find this year or next, so the energy can go into developing more beans.



September Council Notes

At the September meeting, the council....

---accepted the Pastor's report which included: a request (granted) for a study leave week October 12-18 which will involve, among other things, a class on *Design Thinking* which can be applied to planning directions for ministries; and a decision to delay the concept of accepting a seminary intern as this is not a good time to do this.

---agreed to move forward with helping Rev. Ammon Bailey in his prison chaplaincy work; we will hold and disburse funds donated from a law suit, to fund indigenous religious ceremonies, previously denied in Pennsylvania state prisons. More information to follow as we find other ways to support this mission.

---received a Property Management update including reports on a very successful landscape trimming and weeding, progress in creating a much-updated storage space in the boiler room plus major clean-ups in all storage spaces, plans to take down two solar panels that receive much less sunlight and keep one for a spare and toss out the one that has been damaged.

---received the Lay Ministry report; Jerome has agreed to be co-chair of Finance; still need a co-chair for Fellowship/Caring.

--considered a request from Payshee's Popcorn to list our kitchen as its available licensed kitchen; found out later that our kitchen may have commercial grade equipment but is not licensed; discussion as to how we might support this local business in the future.

----request from Joy to be relieved of council moderator position as she is now a caregiver for her mother. Members agreed to share duties for the next three months - Tom, Maria, and Jim.

---spent time sharing how we have felt supported by/connected to CPUC during the pandemic and how we have supported others whether church-connected or not.

---"posed" for a zoom photo to be used where ever a council photo is needed in the near future, such as in the photo montage being created for next Sunday's Covenanting worship service.

CPUC members are invited to all (virtual via zoom) council meetings, second Tuesdays 7 p.m. Contact the pastor for access.



CPUC COUNCIL



Covenanting/Landscaping Sunday

Thanks to Curt for organizing our virtual Covenanting Sunday. He went from tie and mike, to work clothes & clippers. 11 a.m. worship... then 8 p.m. church tree-trimming.



(for anyone who missed this in our weekly updates)

What I did on my summer vacation



Hello CPUC family and friends!

I am writing this newsletter update to let everyone know what I did this summer at Clearwater Forest! Clearwater is the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s summer camp owned by several presbyteries in the area (including the Twin Cities) and the synod. I have been coming to Clearwater since 2012 and committed to work there this summer.

There were no campers this year due to COVID. Clearwater was so kind to keep our jobs for fourteen college-aged summer staff. Over the six weeks we worked, we spent two of those weeks doing regular staff training about how to run camp. For the other four weeks of work, we created content and worked to improve camp, including painting, cleaning, and camp maintenance. Personally, I learned how to use a chainsaw and drive a tractor!

During the first couple weeks of camp, we worked on writing a statement to address racism and police brutality. This was a laborious process and it was several weeks before we came up with the final draft.

In July, we ran a "Virtual Camp". We filmed worship songs, performed skits, made how-to videos and led prayers. All of these videos are available on the Clearwater YouTube channel. Even if you or your family have never been to Clearwater, these videos are very fun to watch! Here are some of my favorite videos (I play violin in the songs!):

Everlasting God (song): <https://youtu.be/97nLbpOvCBU>

Build My Life (song): <https://youtu.be/qO0pC-ogKH4>

Gifts from God (skit): <https://youtu.be/DNJmjdTEvig>

How to Play Gaga Ball (how-to): <https://youtu.be/WBCo2bLAWow>

Another focus of this summer was personal and spiritual development. We had several zoom calls with Paul Young (author of *The Shack*) and Kelli Gotthardt (a spiritual leader in California). Our theme verse for this summer was Luke 10:27, which is "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself". One of the biggest takeaways from this summer was having relational instead of transactional interactions with others.

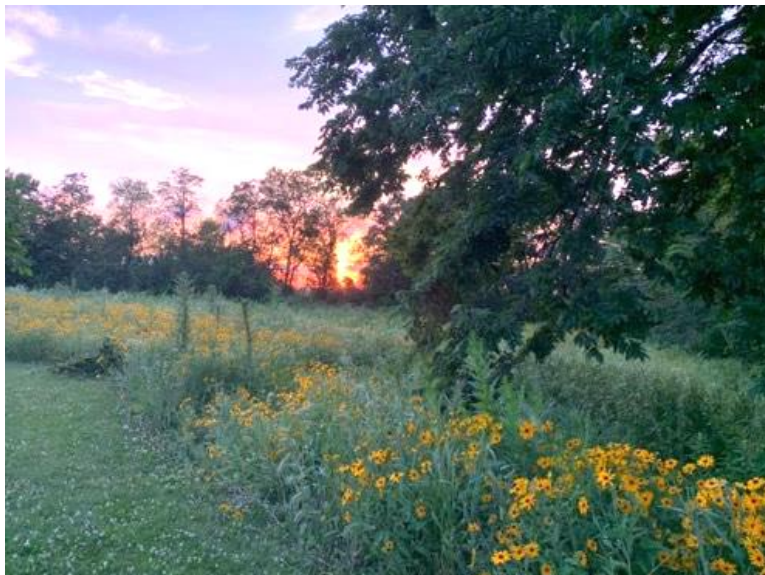
I am very grateful for this summer. I loved working with everyone on staff. I hope to return to Clearwater for another summer with campers.

After this summer, I would love to see more CPUC representation at Clearwater! I encourage everyone at CPUC to check out their spaces and programs. There are campgrounds, cabins (winter and summer), and houses available for rental. Over the summer, summer camps available for elementary to high school ages. In addition, there are camps for families and grandparents with grandchildren. I had so much fun at camp and I want others to experience that too! For more information check out: www.clearwaterforest.org or contact me on the CPUC Facebook group.

Wishing everyone peace and blessings for this upcoming year,
Sophie

TP tips from Karen

Free toilet paper! Would you like a sample of Karen's new way to save mother earth's resources? You may have seen ads on FB or elsewhere for "Who Gives a Crap" brand, which is made from 100% renewable bamboo. It's spendy, a bit over \$1 per 3-ply, 370 sheet roll, a bit less for paper made from recycled paper, and you buy it in bulk - 48 rolls – online, often including postage; for the visually motivated, it comes wrapped in paper so pretty you can use it as gift wrap, in a big cardboard box. Re: softness, it's reportedly softer than a unicorn's mane, and 50% of profits are donated to build toilets and improve sanitation in the developing world. Ask Karen for a roll. Also comes with free toilet jokes.



*A peaceful scene ~ photo taken
at Cherokee Regional Park by
Sasha*

CPUC members artwork

The display on the piano seen during Sunday worship changes with the liturgical seasons and other themes running through our church family life. September 20th you may have noticed a new flower painting; our own artist Maya created it, one of a set of four, to be a permanent home for the butterflies that members made and brought to church for our Easter setting. They now remain as a symbol of our time during the pandemic, working together to preserve our relationships with each other and the people that we serve. You may discover the others appearing in backgrounds or elsewhere.



Masks needed

Project Home (through Interfaith Action) received a wonderful outpouring of support with their first call for masks just before the Shelter In Place mandate. Now, the majority of those families have been housed AND they've doubled their capacity, expanding from 40 to 80 beds of family emergency shelter. The initial supply of homemade masks is depleted. ANY STYLE FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS ARE WELCOME!

They can be given to Joanne, dropped off at the temporary shelter space at 340 Cedar Street, or mailed to Project Home, 340 Cedar Street, Saint Paul, MN 55101. Contact to schedule a drop off is Program Assistant, Colleen O'Brien-Berglund, at 651-789-3865.

Eight holidays in October?

Most of our children will tell you there is one holiday in October - Halloween! But in our multi-cultural country, and particularly in urban areas, that answer will greatly expand. Note the list compiled by the Interfaith Coalition of the Twin Cities, identifying holidays - those that involve obligations - celebrated by citizens here.

● Baha'i ● Buddhism ● Christianity ● Hinduism ● Islam ● Judaism ● National Holidays

2020 HOLIDAYS

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Jan 1 | New Year's Day | Jul 29 | Haji (ends Aug 2)* |
| Jan 20 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day | Jul 30 | Day of Arafat* |
| Feb 15 | Buddha's Death | Jul 31 | Eid al-Adha* |
| Feb 17 | President's Day | Aug 22 | Muharram (New Year)* |
| Feb 26 | Ash Wednesday | Aug 22 | Ganesh Chaturti |
| Mar 10 | Holi | Aug 29 | Ashura* |
| Mar 20 | Naw-Ruz (New Year)* | Sep 7 | Labor Day |
| Apr 8 | Buddha's Birthday | Sep 19-20 | Rosh Hashana* |
| Apr 9-10 | First and Second Day of Passover* | Sep 28 | Yom Kippur* |
| Apr 10 | Good Friday | Oct 3-4 | Sukkot* |
| Apr 12 | Easter | Oct 10 | Shemini Atzeret* |
| Apr 15-16 | Seventh and Eighth Day of Passover* | Oct 11 | Simchat Torah* |
| Apr 20 | First Day of Ridvan* | Oct 12 | Indigenous Peoples' Day |
| Apr 24 | Ramadan (ends May 23)* | Oct 17 | Navratri (ends Oct 24) |
| Apr 28 | Ninth Day of Ridvan* | Oct 18-19 | Twin Births of the Bab and Baha'u'llah (respectively)* |
| May 1 | Twelfth Day of Ridvan* | Oct 25 | Dussehra |
| May 23 | Declaration of the Bab* | Oct 29 | Mawlid an-Nabi* |
| May 24 | Eid al-Fitr* | Nov 14 | Diwali |
| May 25 | Memorial Day | Nov 26 | Thanksgiving Day |
| May 28 | Ascension of the Baha'u'llah* | Dec 8 | Buddha's Enlightenment |
| May 29-30 | Shavuot* | Dec 25 | Christmas |
| May 31 | Pentecost Sunday | | |
| Jul 4 | Independence Day | | |
| Jul 9 | Martyrdom of the Bab* | | |

* Holidays begin at sundown the day before

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



Be joyful
though you have considered all the facts.

Wendell Berry