



# 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 November 2020**

## Laughing in October with the Women's Affinity Group

### Did You hear the one

**about.....**the igloo housewarming that turned into a disaster...a dog walks into a bar....the bad-mouthed parrot put into the freezer... the cow/hippo/punk rocker, etc. crossing the road....a cat's favorite button on a remote (pause)....how Sven got his new truck....the CPUC Sunday Schoolers who asked if Lent is what you find in your naval....the shepherd who ended up with 40 not 37 sheep as he "rounded up." All these answers and more were heard by fifteen women at the October zoom - over an hour and a half of chuckling. Covid? ... what Covid?



## November with the Women's Affinity Group

### Friday, November 6, 7 p.m.

Join us for a friendly gathering of minds and hearts. You are invited to Zoom with us and wear a hat or head covering that has a special meaning, and share that story with us. We all have those in our hall closets and attics – we can't throw them out as they are memories of something significant or unforgettable.

Women's Affinity Group Zoom Meeting link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84994330469?pwd=Ujh1NFhnN1Rlc3U3KzFnU1lzR3VXZz09>

Dial by your location = +1 312 626 6799 US

Meeting ID: 849 9433 0469

Passcode: 119136

## Notes from Pastor Matthias



Dear CPUC Community,

It can be hard to know what or who to believe sometimes these days. Disinformation and misinformation are ever more present as the election season reaches a fever pitch in the midst of the global coronavirus pandemic.

Our president—for instance—recently tweeted out a satirical news by the Babylon Bee article, apparently believing it was real.

Though this example reflects a particular lack of critical thinking and discernment, we are all exposed. Heartfelt Facebook narratives that get shared, but may be made up, political campaigns linking to news stories that favor their perspectives, and posts that prey upon our fears: violence, chaos, and a deeply uncertain future.

Amid this unprecedented election, here are some helpful reminders I have come back to when I am feeling particularly anxious:

- More than likely, we will not know the definitive election results on election night. Because of the pandemic, many people are availing themselves the opportunity to vote early or vote safely from home. These systems are, for the most part, not new. However, the scale will likely mean a longer counting process.
- Be wary of unsubstantiated claims, especially those that are inflammatory. Double check your sources of information and think twice before sharing something on social media. Help correct harmful rumors or conspiracy theories that might undermine public trust.
- Remember, claims of widespread voter fraud have been debunked over and over.
- Denounce voter suppression efforts and give thanks for the diligence and service of election judges and election officials.
- Channel your anxiety into community engagement. Turn off the news if it gets to be too much. Have some tea, do a puzzle, read a book, pray or meditate.

While Jesus' situation in 1st century Palestine was very different from ours, we can see how he responded to the vitriolic politics of the Pharisees: he mostly declined to get involved in mud-slinging, preferring to let his actions speak for him—feeding the hungry thousands, bringing healing to those plagued by illness or ostracism, practicing calm in turbulence, naming and denouncing injustices he saw.

Such is our calling too: denounce violence or intimidation, spread truth, and let our nonviolent actions of care, community, resistance, and justice be part of the Spirit of Christ moving in our world.

Yours in the Spirit,

*Pastor Matthias*

## All Saints Day Remembrances November 1

You are invited to submit names of departed loved ones, to be read during next Sunday's All Saints worship service. Please email them (and how to pronounce them if needed) to Sasha and she will compile into a list for Pastor Matthias. If you do not email them you can still add them in the chat column if you access Facebook live through a FB account.

Auntie Carol  
Grandma Mary  
Brother Bob

## Advent 2020 ~ starts Sunday, November 29

Although we are sad knowing that we will still not be celebrating Advent and Christmas together, in person, the worship ministry has developed some new and interesting additions for our online worship. Some of these plans invite in any interested members, to be part of inserted video segments, which are being organized on zoom or video, so many can take part.

We discussed a possibility during a recent fellowship zoom that might especially appeal to our children and families. In order to participate you need to access fellowship zoom on a Sunday morning, by 11:30 am. (Zooms start a few minutes after worship ends, around 11:15.) Each Sunday we will record a 2- minute zoom segment that will be used in the following Sunday's worship. This will start on fellowship zoom on November 22. On That morning we invite you to appear with one candle (for the upcoming first Sunday of Advent) and during our recorded minutes you are invited to hold it up, and light it, and stay with us until I tell you the recording has ended. The following Sunday you will see it during worship, AND hopefully also come online during fellowship again, this time holding up and lighting two candles - this will continue for the four Advent Sundays. You can use an Advent wreath if you have one, but it is not necessary. Candles can be wax, or battery operated, in a cake in a bagel or whatever strikes your fancy. Just click on zoom connection below.

<https://zoom.us/j/544010625?pwd=dWJWVzFrWkN5eUM4bHIEcVZ4anpmQT09>



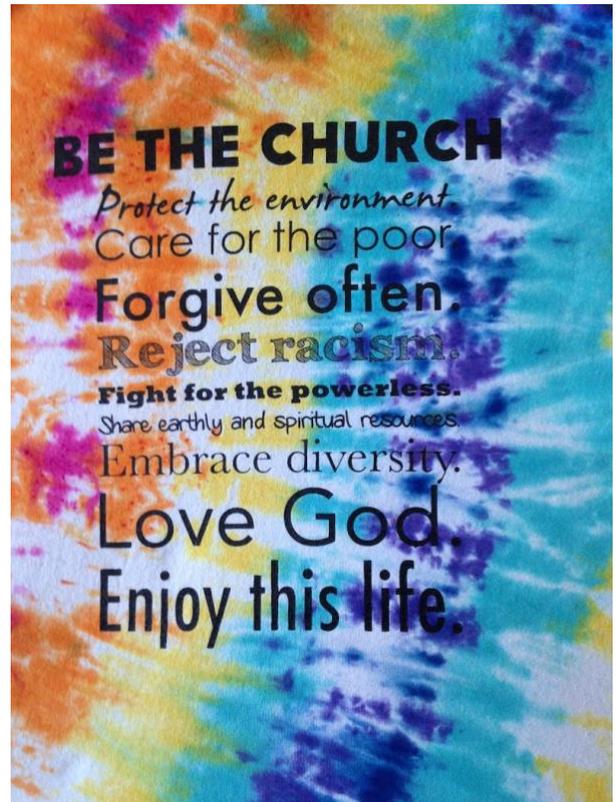
Please contact Susan if you have questions. We trust that all will be pleasantly surprised at what the Spirit brings forth.

*We Want to Hear from YOU! Complete the Be the Church 2020 Survey*

How are you doing? How is CPUC doing in maintaining church mission and connections while we are apart from each other during the world-wide pandemic?

You can help us know by completing the [Be the Church 2020 Survey!](#) You will receive it via email or US Mail soon - if you have not already. The online link is also below.

Please send in your individual or family responses by Sunday, November 15. If you prefer completing the survey over the phone or would like a paper form, please contact Jill. She or one of the other *Be the Church* Task Force members will call you. Thank you for your time and thoughtfulness in responding!



Survey link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc3nKCdpKN-XjeGTipmjBei6q1u\\_tqDSkmmvvgzIZmc\\_SkQow/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc3nKCdpKN-XjeGTipmjBei6q1u_tqDSkmmvvgzIZmc_SkQow/viewform)

Task Force members – Maria McNamara, Joanne Sylvander, Jill Jackson, Pastor Matthias Peterson-Brandt

## Council Notes

At the October meeting, the council....

- ❖ received the Pastor's report on highlights of his study week, and on his visiting of former members as well as members of CPUC
- ❖ set a tentative date for the next congregational meeting (virtual) for Sunday, November 29
- ❖ approved a motion from the Finance Committee to suspend requiring payments from the two renting congregations, and, in the spirit of justice, amended the motion to include refunding of payments made while the building was closed due to Covid-19
- ❖ received various comments from members appreciating the live and interactive worship services through Facebook, appreciating the depth and value of Pastor Matthias' leadership, appreciating the work and expertise offered by Tom Murphy
- ❖ received a report from Property Management Ministry that the new boiler valves are now installed and the heat is on in the building, although a few older valves in two rooms are not operating as needed and are still under repair.
- ❖ received a report from Creation Care committee that the video of Pastor Matthias showing how advocacy and prayer are partners, is still being used by congregations around the country.



CPUC members are invited to all (virtual via zoom) council meetings, second Tuesdays 7 p.m. Contact the pastor for access. The next meeting is November 10, 7-8:30 p.m.



CPUC  
COUNCIL

## What are we doing ~ still mostly at home?



*Many of us are reading more books! Here are a few ideas from avid reader, Mary. And the book club mentioned is open to more participants - originally organized with an open invitation listed at Cafe Amore where the group met, pre-covid.*

My favorite books from this summer included the following:

“Late Migrations” by Margaret Renkl – this is a nonfiction memoir from this opinion writer for the New York Times. This was her first (and only) book that she has written so far, but I understand she is working on another one. I felt very drawn to her writing. She writes about nature, including birds, monarch butterflies, plants and animals and she interweaves these thoughts and writings with thoughts and feelings about her family and loved ones. How she relates to her world touched me in so many ways!

“Such a Fun Age” by Kiley Reid – this fiction book was both humorous but also very serious. It is fiction but it tells a very real story about privilege and the ways in which privilege plays a role in our lives, sometimes in ways that we are naïve about or perhaps we ignore. It is about a young African American woman, Emira, who is a nanny and works for a white family, and in particular, the relationship between Emira and the mother of the child.

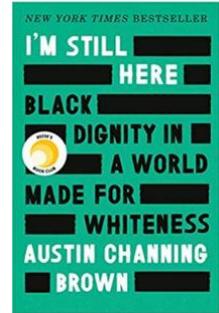
One more book that I recently read is titled “All the Devils are Here” by Louise Penny. I mustn’t give any spoilers on this one because I know of one person, in particular, who is a big fan of this author (as am I) who plans to read this book (her first name is Susan). Louise Penny is the author of several mystery books that are located in the fictional village of Three Pines in Quebec, Canada. The main character is inspector Armand Gamache. There are several beloved characters from her mysteries that appear in all of the books and I look forward to reading about all of them with each book. This latest one is her 16<sup>th</sup> of the series, and even though this one takes place mostly in Paris, several characters are in it from the series, including the main character, Inspector Gamache. It is a really, really good book! [editor's note: my favorite series of all; I once admitted it was as deep and more useful than the Bible!]

Our book club meets once a month and lately we have been meeting socially distanced in my driveway or on Zoom. The last book we read is called “March” by Geraldine Brooks. This is about the March family from Little Women. It is fiction with some truth to it, and it is from the viewpoint of the father of the March family during his time in the Civil War.

## The Adult Forum

### Wednesdays, 7 p.m. on Zoom

We are discussing *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown; she tells her story of growing up Black, Christian, and Female in middle class America, addressing 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 although you are certainly welcome to join us even if you have not been able to read the book. Contact Pastor Matthias or any Adult Forum member to learn the chapter or focus each week.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81725210424?pwd=cU0NHdHZSWjBd2ZoMFdBNE1hQT09>

Meeting ID: 817 2521 0424

Password: 056975

Happy November  
Birthdays

17- Phyllis  
26-Roxanna  
28-Tim



*If you hear music in the air...*

You may be hearing Sandy's familiar piano touch while you are shopping at Lunds/Byerlys stores. Stop in and say hi; Sandy's been hired to play at two locations during December, creating atmosphere and calming the jangled nerves of stressed-out shoppers.

7171 France Av S Edina on Dec 19, 21  
White Bear Dec 22 and 23 all 1 pm to 4pm or later  
Christmas Eve 10 - 2 at France.



## *Voting with our grocery lists*

Sometimes it seems we can't do much to turn the tide, but we can let sellers of items we purchase know our important moral convictions and invite them to consider a change to continue to receive our buying power. A UCC newsletter, "Keeping You Posted", encourages us to "Pass on Poppin'fresh (No Dough), an effort to pass up Pillsbury products and tell them why.

This is in objection to illegal Israeli settlements in Palestinian territories. Wider Church Ministries – citing a 2015 UCC General Synod resolution – is calling for a boycott of Pillsbury, a U.S. maker of baking products that range from flour to pre-made pie crusts and dessert doughs. The company has a manufacturing plant in occupied East Jerusalem.

The UCC boycott campaign will use the slogan, "No Dough for the Occupation," and will encourage people to boycott Pillsbury until the company stops its manufacturing activities in any illegal settlement on Palestinian territory.

Pillsbury produces frozen baked goods in a factory in the Atarot Industrial Zone, which violates international law by exploiting land, water and other resources that were captured by force from their legal Palestinian owners. Boycotting Pillsbury – known internationally by its "doughboy" mascot, "Poppin' Fresh," and its star-encircled brand name – is one way to live out a [2015 UCC General Synod resolution](#) calling for "actions toward a just peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,"

The Quaker-affiliated [AFSC](#) and [Jewish Voice for Peace](#) are two religious organizations already boycotting Pillsbury.

Protestors argue that, by doing business in occupied Palestinian territories, General Mills and [seven other U.S. companies](#) are economically supporting settlements that have been [declared illegal by the United Nations](#).



### **Pass on Poppin' Fresh (No Dough)**

This holiday season, for Palestine's sake, pass up Pillsbury products, UCC advocates urge.

*A lovely Fall gift from the camera of Nora Murphy; Thompson Lake Park  
(even though Fall sort of deserted us)*



**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](mailto:cpuc@usfamily.net)

[cherokeeparkunited.org](http://cherokeeparkunited.org)

