



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 February 2021

During the January 10 Sunday worship service, four people were installed as council members. The hands that appear on these pages were offered by the congregation, blessing the new members and the council and its work throughout the next year. Blessings are without boundaries ~ they extend beyond one person or occasion; they multiply into the universe. May you also receive these blessings into your lives.



Pajama party with the Women's Affinity Group

Friday, February 5, 7 p.m.

Wear your pajamas, bring your stuffed animal, and a favorite children's book or poem to talk about or read. We might keep you up past your bedtime! Please contact Jill Jackson if you have questions or ideas for future meeting topics.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82585067177?pwd=NzdEU1QOOTB6a3hPODNoSmx6dnNjUT09>

Men's Club (see zoom link above)

Friday, February 19, 7 p.m.

Join us for an hour or two of sharing, humor; Jim will be our leader. We usually have a topic as a focus but are always open to just getting to know one another better and to be of support in these challenging times. Join us for all or just part of our time together.

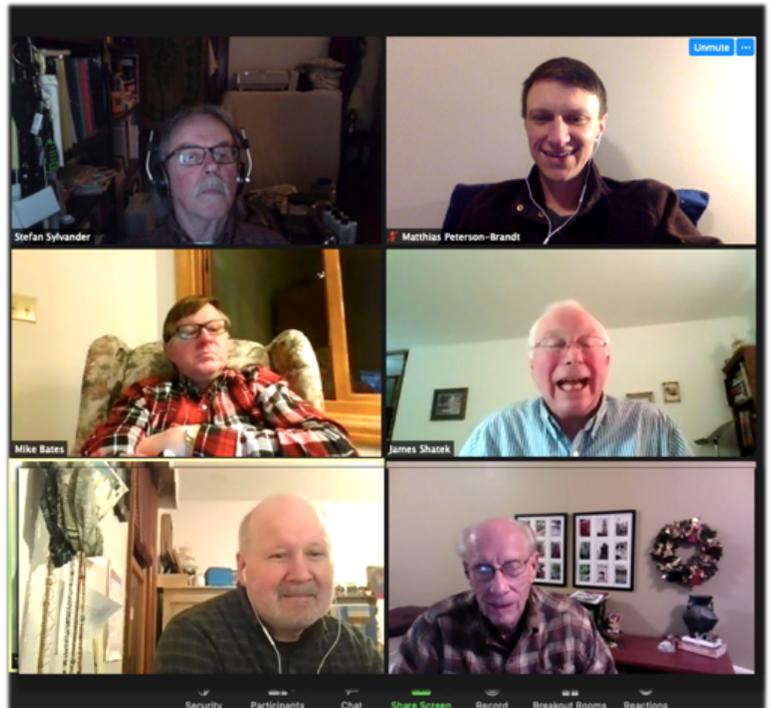
Future Loaves and Fishes

With excitement we receive the volunteer efforts of Wayne Bjorlie to now lead our semi-monthly

commitment to provide the Thursday (first week of odd-numbered months) meal at Loaves and Fishes at St. Matthews Church. Many thanks to previous leaders Michele Johnson, Okogyeamon, and Stefan Sylvander, and all those faithful volunteers who have kept this ministry alive for many years.

Wayne will be meeting with the L & F coordinator to get the details and necessary changes and precautions still in effect during the pandemic. Generally speaking there are about 12 people needed each time, spread over two different shifts so no one person needs to be overtaxed. (overtasked?) The basic meals are now prepared at a central L & F kitchen, then our volunteers mix the salad ingredients, heat the main dish, and portion them into individual to-go containers which are then bagged for guests to easily pick up. Unlike previous years, the guests cannot eat in the cafeteria but must take their meals home; fortunately, not many appear to be homeless.

But Wayne's hope is that eventually we can be together, and he would like to offer conversations and friendship along with food. We all have much to learn from a closer contact with people in need. Wayne's previous experience with L & F was mainly in cleanup and washing lots and lots of pots and pans; he found there were people eating there who wanted to help in any way they could - an exchange of care. Another volunteer had a guest offer her a cute little novelty he had made - one of many he brought to share with all. The example of generosity often begins with those who have least to share, but are willing to share anything. Our hearts both give and receive.



Adult Forum

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. starting January 27

Join us as we start reading and discussing

Parable of the Sower by Octavia E. Butler.

This is a fictional book that speaks to real-life issues people might face in the not-too-distant future. Published in 1993, Ms. Butler writes in gripping prose about truth, faith, and hope in times of mounting crisis.

All are invited to join in the discussion on Wednesdays at 7 pm on Zoom.



The link to the meeting is below. Please obtain your own copy of the book and join us for this ongoing discussion. Contact Pastor Mathias or any Adult Forum member to learn the pages of focus each week.

To join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 817 2521 0424

Password: 056975

Looking forward....

Lent starts on Wednesday, February 17, and we will have a zoom worship that evening at 7:30 p.m.

Do you shop on Amazon.com?



If so, please consider typing in "smile.amazon.com" and it will get you to the same site, even your own account, as usual. The difference is that you can select a charity to receive, directly from Amazon, .5% of most of your purchase amounts. The Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota are currently on the list, and simply selecting them will add to the donations they receive each month. It is an easy and tangible act you can take if you are already using Amazon.

From Pastor Matthias

Dear CPUC Friends,

Last Sunday, as I was preparing to join the fellowship zoom, my children ran up to me insisting that they needed my help. When I asked what they needed help with, one responded, “playing pirates!” while the other said “building a tent in the living room.”



It was not the emergency of injury or need for a snack. It was an emergency of play; a hunger for imagining and creating something new together.

Too often, as we grow we look more and more at play as frivolous children’s activities. We focus on work, the news, serious conversation. (Each important in their own right). Our entertainment can shift to more passive forms—television, movies, games on our phones.

Play has been studied and shown to have amazing benefits to children. From narrative and language acquisition, to social-emotional development, to fostering of creativity and confidence and resilience. Though we are not as neurologically open to change as when we are children (seriously, their brains are sponges!), I suspect finding continued avenues for play as adults continues to open some of those same benefits to us.

Scriptures do not mention play very much, and they certainly did not have the same psychological and child development lenses we have today. Still, the prophet Zechariah speaks of a vision of the exiled peoples of Israel being restored. This hopeful vision includes: “the streets of the city shall be full of children playing in its streets.” This is a vision in which play is an essential component of a thriving and faithful people.

Where do you find room to play in your life? Really play in ways that let you explore new ideas or stories?

Especially as the pandemic continues and a few more months of winter loom ahead, some channels of play will remain closed off—no in-person or outdoor games. But perhaps there are word or story games that can be played over zoom. Maybe there is a card game app you can connect to with friends. Or even the play of getting some play-doh or craft supplies and allowing yourself to create something.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Matthias

At the January meeting, the council...



--approved the pastor's report which included a request to take a study leave from March 1-8, and plans being made for the annual MLK Sunday worship/celebration January 17 via a joint zoom with Clark-Grace congregation.

--received the clerk's report, including this year's anticipated request for a Per Capita donation to the Presbytery at \$36.50 per person, and to the UCC Conference at \$10 each, with each counting as half of our 78 members.

--added to the upcoming congregational meeting agenda, the approval of Joanne Sylvander to fill the remaining year of Joy Sorenson-Navarre's term on Council.

--filled the council volunteer roles for representatives to three area conferences, and council assignments to Lay Ministry, Personnel Ministry, council Clerk and Moderator.

--approved the request from Cherokee Heights Elementary School to use CPUC as an emergency evacuation location, once our church can be safely opened after pandemic conditions.

--approved a 2021 2% raise for the four CPUC employees; the terms of call regarding the pastor **are considered and voted on** at the congregational meeting.

--received a Property Management Ministry report that the valve problems with the new boiler system have now been solved.

--scheduled the council training and visioning for Saturday January 23 on zoom from 9-11 a.m.

Next meeting February 11, 2021

February Happy Birthdays & Celebrations

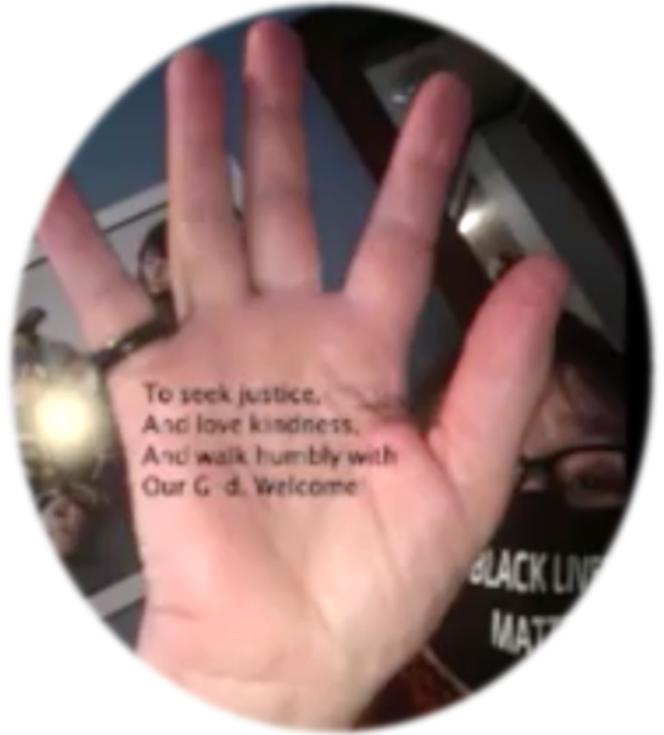
13 - Jan

13 - Eric J.

26 - Jackie

E-Directory for CPUC Members and Friends now available!

Cherokee Park United has gathered names and contact information for an electronic directory. We expect anyone who gets one to keep information confidential and not share with anyone not listed. A few directories are printed for people who do not use computers. Updates will be done from time to time. For more information contact Jill and the Outreach Ministry.



**Class of 2023
Council Members
Installed January 10**



Zooming with 50+ more friends

CPUC joined with Clark-Grace UCC for their 31st annual time together celebrating the life of *Martin Luther King Jr.* While unable to enjoy each other in person, and share the usual feast, we could still share hearts, song, and much humor, electronically.



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

Newsletter articles:

submit by the 22nd of preceding month

to Susan

...we lay down our arms

so we can reach out our arms

to one another....

Amanda Gorman, National Youth Poet Laureate

2021 Presidential Inaugural Address

