

Cherokee Park 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 2021

Loaves & Fishes

Thursday, July 1

To start off the month of July, Cherokee Park United volunteers will serve meals on Thursday, the First.



We will need about 6 volunteers each for the first shift (3:30-5 p.m.) and the second (5 - 7 p.m.).

After that's over, you can enjoy the Fourth with no worries, and attend IN-PERSON worship! at Cherokee. To volunteer, please notify Wayne Bjorlie.

grace humor p a t i e n c e

As a core team has conversations about this shift in our congregational life, three virtues were lifted up as essential to moving through this planning/preparation and into a new way of worship. We know there will be mistakes and glitches as we live into this next phase in our pandemic journey as a congregation. We are blessed to be together on this unexpected journey.

Worshiping again in the church building!!



Sunday, July 4, 10:15 a.m.

Our long-awaited return to worship in person is about to happen. And there will be wonderful and creative surprises along the way.

You may notice a wall-mounted camera as well as a camera and tech people in the balcony, to continue streaming our services live on Facebook for those unable to be here or even people from other states who started virtually joining us during the pandemic. Your nametags are now all new, and in **color**! Our start time will not go back to the usual earlier summer schedule, to provide more time for our tech support to check and start up equipment.

Temporary changes, are that the pews will be marked and used with social distancing for a time ahead, until most danger is past. Fellowship for now will be outside, with Panera sweets (BYOB) available from a tailgate! With enough for you to also take some home. Look for the balloons. And we won't crowd each other in the main aisle for any sign of peace or for communion distribution (but you will still receive bread and the fruit of the vine - come and see how very creative Pastor Matthias can be!)

Women's Affinity Group ~ Tell us about your best buy

Friday, July 2, 7 p.m. outside at church

We all purchase things. Do you have something that you consider an outstanding purchase? It can be something that fills a need, that you can always count on, or simply sparks joy. Come and tell us about your *Best Buy!* If possible, bring it to show.

In case of inclement weather, we'll move into the church social hall.

Please bring your mask (optional when outside), a chair, and your own beverage.

Please contact Jill Jackson with any questions. (We're open to ways to have Zoom participants when we meet in-person. Ideas for how to include virtual friends are welcome!)

Zoom Meeting link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84994330469?pwd=Ujh1NFhnN1Rlc3U3KzFnU1lzR3VXZz09>
Dial in at 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 849 9433 0469 Passcode: 119136

Men's Group

The CPUC Men's Gatherings will take a pause for the summer. We will look to start meeting again in September on the 3rd Friday of each month for camaraderie, sharing, story-telling, and mutual support.

Adult Forum – will resume in September, although whether at the previous 9 a.m. Sundays or using zoom Wednesdays, is still being discussed. Please contact Pastor Matthias to make your needs/opinion known.



Lay Ministry Team...seeking new ways of living out our mission at CPUC

As we evolve in ministry, the Lay Ministry Team is looking for new frameworks to help us continue and grow as a faith community. The pandemic gave us new opportunities and insights into new points of focus going forward. Our individual and collective enthusiasms and energy levels are part of this assessment time, too. You are welcome to contact any member of the team with insights or ideas.

In seeking to be responsive, the Team is asking all ministry team chairs, members, and those in special roles to stay in place through the end of 2021. If that is not possible, please let someone on Lay Ministries know. We appreciate your patience and continued service as we seek God's will and the ways to live out our mission at Cherokee Park United. Please pray for us in this effort.

In gratitude,

The Lay Ministry Team ~ Mike Bates, Chair

Karolyn Gilbertson, Jaime Dodson, Jill Jackson, Gina DeNardo, and Pastor Matthias



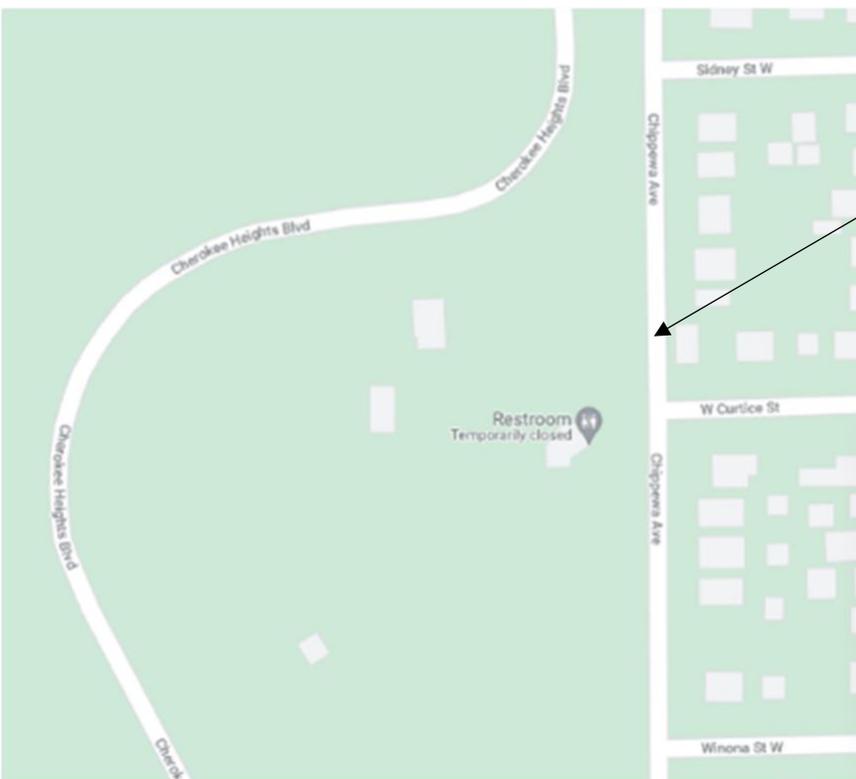
June meeting council notes...

- Clerk's Report – Mike indicated that the Presbytery is preparing a survey for Congregations within the Presbytery, regarding their demographic makeup. To be introduced at the July Council meeting.
- Search for a custodian is ongoing. Council members brought up some ideas of where to look.
- Council approved the Covid -19 Preparedness Plan, with the section on Communion amended to read "On Communion Sundays, we will serve Communion in a manner which accounts for Covid-19 safety."
- Approved the list of Counters for 2021 as follows: Kathy Bergthold, Jerome Graf, Maria McNamara, Russ Settevig, Meliza Thurstin, Karen Shatek, Jim Shatek, Dave Hoppe, Eric Jacobsen.
- Property Management: Jim reported that the new refrigerator has been installed, and that Curt has renovated the storage space below the Baker St entrance, sealing the walls and applying a coating to the floor. Thank you Curt!

Worship in the park

Sunday, July 25, 10:15 a.m.

Join us as we return to our normal but different worship in Cherokee Regional Park pavilion. One difference is the parking area, as the road west of that area that we



normally park on, *Cherokee Heights Blvd.*, **is closed** so bikers and walkers can use it all summer; so now we need to park on the east side, on Chippewa Av., nearer the top of the hill. Another difference is that we will also be streaming live on Facebook!

Newsletter:

- submit articles by the 22nd of preceding month to editor - Susan, at kellystrebig@comcast.net
- proofreaders Phyllis Clark, Mary Murphy

From Pastor Matthias

Dear CPUC Community,

This year July 4th falls on a Sunday. This happenstance of the 2021 calendar has sparked conversations in online pastor forums about how to mark this national holiday in worship, or even whether it should be acknowledged.



We—as a congregation and in both of our denominational affiliations—are a far ways away from the unquestioning nationalism expressed by some of our Christian siblings. We are all familiar with those strains of Christianity that would see a merging of the U.S. political system with a particular understanding of Christianity as the most faithful manifestation of following Jesus.

In such a framework, any criticism of country becomes heresy and any religious thought considered unorthodox becomes grounds for legal repercussions.

I would posit, however, that in order to love one's country entails not just pride, but also must include honest criticism about its many short-comings. What is love without honesty, without growth, without effort?

I am grateful to believe in a God who is bigger than nationalism, and who indeed would warn us against narrowing the scope of who God is, which nations God favors and blesses, and strict categories of “us” and “them.” Indeed, the pandemic has revealed this starkly: we are all interconnected, so there cannot be a “post-pandemic” until we all get there together.

On this year's July 4th, it will be a joy to worship the God of all creation, the Sacred Spirit beyond nations, and for us to have the opportunity to do so both in-person and online.

Yours on the journey,
Pastor Matthias





Spotlight on music

Hello, Members and Friends of Cherokee Park United Church! Happy middle of summer! As our community continues to work towards a reopening of the church building for in-person worship, I hope you will consider what part you may play, as an individual, or as part of a group, in the music program.

🎵 **CALL FOR MUSICIANS.** Maybe you have participated in the past, and are excited to get back to weekly choir rehearsals, and/or solo/duet opportunities. Or maybe you have always wanted to sing in the choir, and this year might be the time to start. (We welcome you!) Maybe you enjoyed the Intergenerational Drumming Ensemble Activity ("IDEA") which could now be worked into your schedule. (We welcome you, too!) Consider drumming, a music and dance collaboration, a small ensemble, a music and visual art presentation, and more.

🎵 **AUTUMN STIRRINGS.** Musical contributions to live worship and choir rehearsals (Wed. evenings in the sanctuary, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.) will resume. Even with the option of Hybrid worship watching us remotely at first, you may eventually resume desiring a physical presence in the church building; please consider the music program, to bring your individual energy to our group experience!

🎵 **SUMMER MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT.** I wish to thank Stefan Sylvander for agreeing to serve as a church musician during two Sundays when I will be out of town (July 25 - worship in the park - and August 1).

🎵 **THANK YOU** to Pastor Matthias, and Tom Murphy, and others in the wings, for their ministry and technical support during our many remote worship months, and so many wonderful sanctuary volunteers who come in regularly. They keep our worship space enhanced with flowers, greenery, lanterns, objects on the piano lid, and nearby tables, plus works of art on the walls. This sanctuary enhancement, especially during remote services, helps us focus on scriptural content, CPUC identity and values, and more... even as the big picture keeps changing with regard to dates, recommended safety protocols, and other considerations.

Blessings on your own special musicmaking this month!

Sandy Waterman, CPUC Music Director

July Happy Birthdays
& Celebrations

- ♥ 07 - Valerie and Matthias
- 12 - Carly
- 14 - Tom
- ♥ 20 - Joy and Lon
- 21 - Kristin
- 26 - Sebastian
- 28 - Dave
- 29 - Meliza

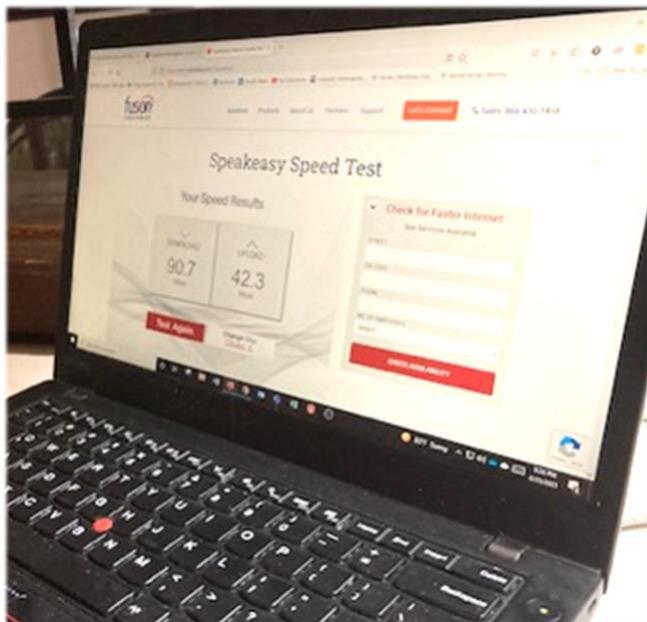
Preparing for hybrid worship...
a little techspeak!

A last piece of work “terminating” to the cable that Jim and Stefan installed, putting the end connectors on it. It’s really finicky work, not easy, and Tommy’s younger eyes and steadier hands did well.

The great news is that the connection worked. It runs all the way from Matthias’s office to the printing office to the peace room and then back to the choir loft. It’s boosted two times on the way.



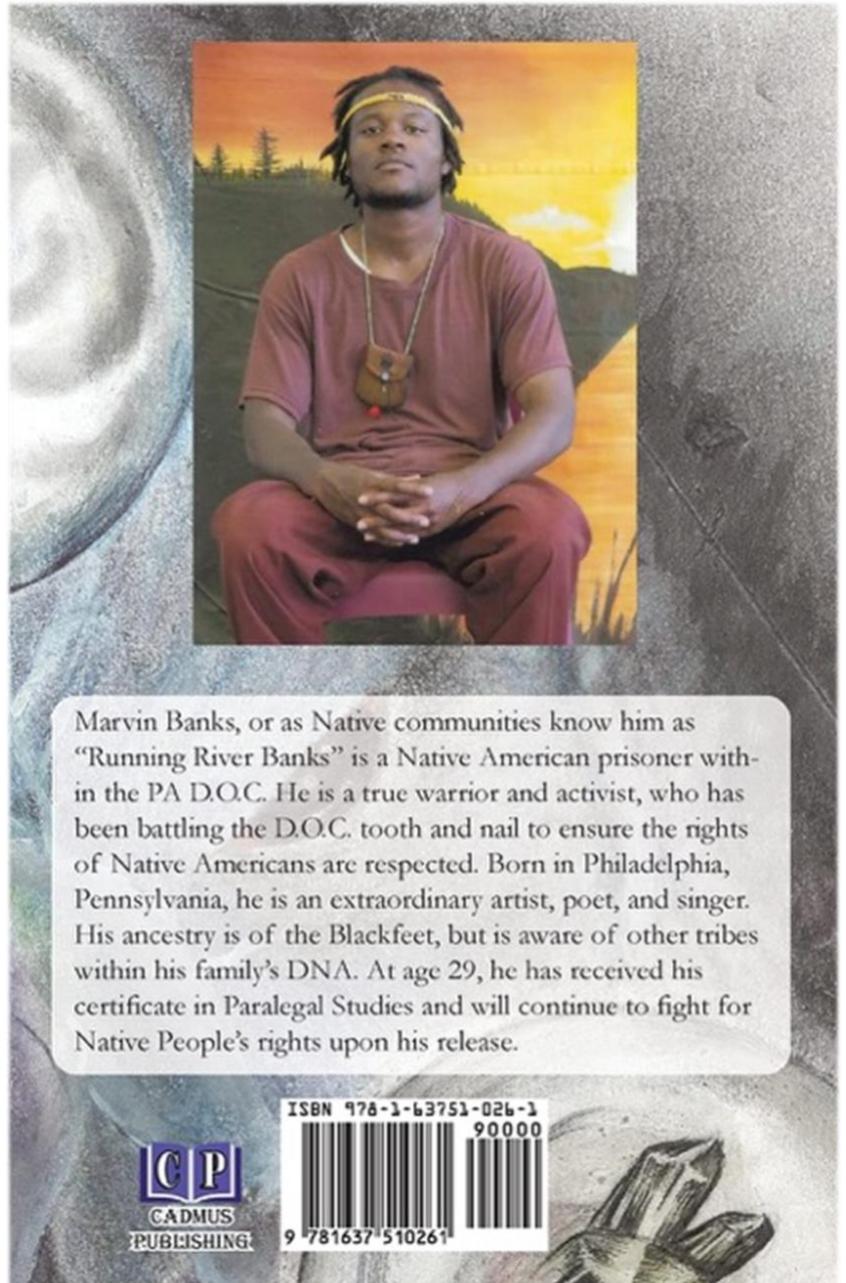
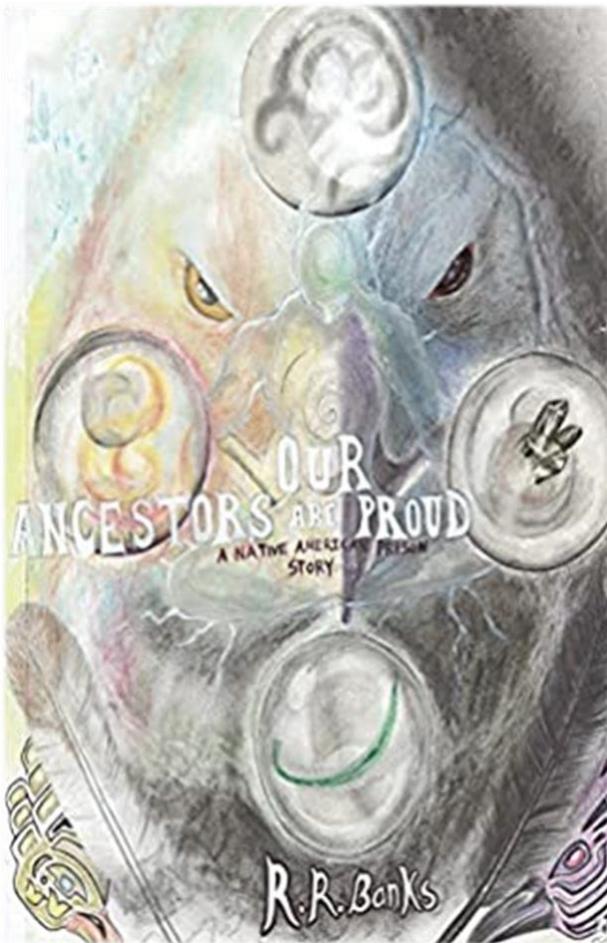
Tom and Tommy, working on the last link from the peace room to the loft, got very high data speed which should give us a good “broadcast” to the Internet.



Marvin Running River Banks' book!

As you may know, we have been raising funds for, and supporting the tribal inmates in Pennsylvania to help fund the establishing of a sweat lodge. Throughout this, we have been in correspondence with Marvin R.R. Banks, who leads the tribal inmate group. In an early letter, he mentioned looking for a publisher for his book. Well, that book is now available!

You can purchase it for \$7.99 on Amazon. *Our Ancestors Are Proud* by R.R. Banks.



Marvin Banks, or as Native communities know him as “Running River Banks” is a Native American prisoner within the PA D.O.C. He is a true warrior and activist, who has been battling the D.O.C. tooth and nail to ensure the rights of Native Americans are respected. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he is an extraordinary artist, poet, and singer. His ancestry is of the Blackfeet, but is aware of other tribes within his family’s DNA. At age 29, he has received his certificate in Paralegal Studies and will continue to fight for Native People’s rights upon his release.

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ISBN 978-1-63751-026-1
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Spring Landscape clean-up

It was a clear and brisk morning, with energetic friends greeting each other and actually able to see their smiles, and hugs were exchanged! We are grateful for our Immunizations so we can cautiously move ahead and plan to be back at the church, enjoying nature in its finest on the church grounds. Huge weeds out, dead tree out, sidewalk edges trimmed; we worked from 10 am to noon, but one enthusiastic gardener

stayed until 5 p.m. (thanks Sandy!)





Help tend the Garden of Good Hearts

This summer, the community garden—The Garden of Good Hearts—is partnering with organizations all around the West Side to tend the garden for a week. **Cherokee Park United Church's** week to care for the Garden of Good Hearts is August 1 – August 7.

During that week, we'll pick a day to meet one of the garden curators and spend an hour gardening together. Let Pastor Matthias know if you'd be interested in helping out. We need at least 5 volunteers for 1 hour—which is time that will be well-spent together and in care for our wider community.

Located at 456 Wabasha St S., south of Wabasha Brewery

Celebrating our high school graduates

Adrien Morrison

Adrien has graduated from Henry Sibley High School and will attend St. Cloud State University in the fall, with a possible major in education.



Hadrian Biehn

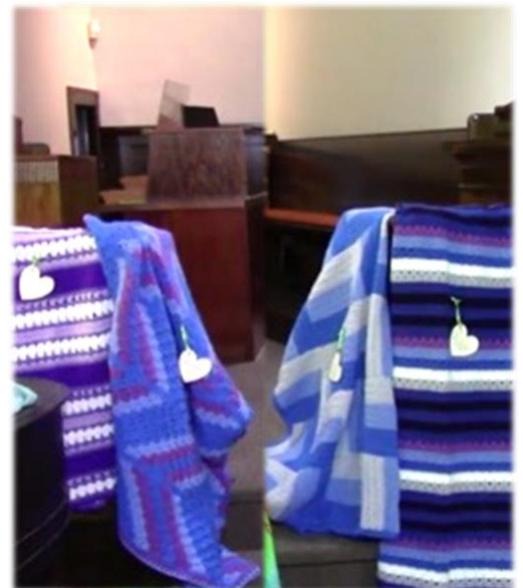
Hadrian, with his parents Sander and Laurie and sister Ella, moved from St. Paul to Atlanta in 2011. The whole family had been very active in many areas at Cherokee Park United and we started missing them immediately. Friendships were renewed when the Biehn's hosted the 2015 Confirmation youth group, on a service trip led by Pastor Tim. During the pandemic, the Biehns reunited with us online, and Laurie even returned to her role as remote liturgist! We enjoyed her scripture readings from warmer climates, and Sander also Zoomed from a beach for Adult Forum.



Hadrian is a good artist and musician will be studying Design at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC in the fall, surrounded by mountains. He loves the outdoors and is going on a two-week Outward Bound trip in the Rockies this summer.

Wrapped up in love

Afghans created for this year's high school graduates, to remember the love and warmth from their faith family.



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

Coordinates of Love

Latitude 44.9267

Longitude -93.1012

Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.
online AND in-person starting July 4

Pastor: Rev. Matthias Peterson-Brandt
651-227-4275
cpuc@usfamily.net
cherokeeparkunited.org

