



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*

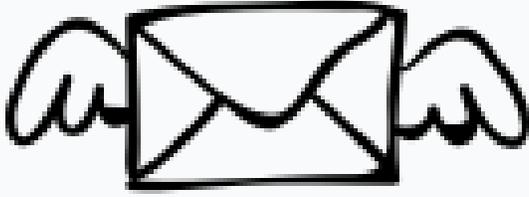
Theological Elbow Room

Global Music

Community Connected

Kid Friendly

Newsletter June 2021



Your weekly email announcements

Pastor Matthias sends out a weekly email, on Thursdays, with announcements and reminders of coming events, and also a quick Sunday reminder of worship services.

If you have not been receiving them, or possibly were receiving them but not in the past month or so, please contact us so we can work around this. The email always has the (same) link to FB live worship services and the following fellowship zooms, as well as connections to ministry groups or upcoming CPUC opportunities.

Save the date

Our next opportunity to support the local Loaves and Fishes program is (always first Thursday of odd-numbered months) **Thursday, July 1**.

Join in with other members to safely prepare (involves mostly re-heating, assembling salads, boxing meals) and extending friendly smiles and greetings with our WestSide neighbors, and others, sometimes homeless, who experience a food shortage.



Dreamcatcher

created by Marvin Running River, in constant prayer, in gratitude for our support of native inmates in the PA prison system, expressing a connection between two faiths; with his request to be placed where it can collect the sun and moon's power, and encouraging us to blow on the feathers with our own breath and touch the circle and cross to connect with kinetic energy from our soul/being.

June Happy Birthdays & Celebrations

02 - Rita
08 - Pastor Matthias
09 - Winnie
19 - Mary M
♥ 29 - Tom and Mary
30 - Nona

Newsletter:

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

At the May meeting the council...



- ◆ accepted the **Pastor's report**; Pastor Matthias spent the majority of his time working with various ministries to get their projects up and running again, which he calls a joy.
- ◆ received a report from the Being Church during Covid Team; the **survey** netted a good feedback to give a current picture on how people feel so we can go forward; the vast majority of members have been immunized. Jill and Pastor are working on a draft of a congregational COVID-19 plan which the State of MN requires for faith communities. This plan will be presented to Council at their June meeting.
- ◆ discussed the pros and cons of starting our new hybrid **online/in-person worship** services on Sunday, July 4. We will move towards that date for our first "hybrid" worship, with the decision to be confirmed at the June council meeting, consulting the MN Dept of Health current population health status report and restrictions. It is assumed we will not be able to run a nursery that soon.

An interesting fact on attendance at worship is that last Sunday, 21 households were attending on FB live, but an additional 140 viewed the service at a later time.

A team of technically knowledgeable people (rather than just the one person we have now) is needed to ensure that the online portion of the service can happen every week.

- ◆ discussed the possibility of **meeting in person** for the next council meeting *; we would meet observing the CDC and state guidelines existing by that time.

- ◆ received reports from:

Property Management: All the kitchen knives are sharpened and coffee pots are cleaned. Irrigation valves are checked and repaired; a new refrigerator is ordered; a landscape cleanup is scheduled for May 29;

Faith Life: Organized an Earth Day outing on May 1 with a small number of children and a larger number of very tall adult size children.

Finance: Mike reports for Lynne that we applied for this round of PPP federal payments but are informed that fund is out of money.

Seeds of Resistance: The group is planning to regroup and get running again soon.

*Next meeting will be Tuesday, June 8, 7 p.m.

Celebrating our high school graduates



Liv

will graduate from St. Paul Academy & Summit School on June 6th and spend a gap year next year at Fana Folkehøgskule (Folk High School) in Bergen, Norway, studying photography. Starting in the Fall of 2022, Liv will head to Grinnell College (with Eli)! This also happens to be the alma mater of both her parents, Sasha and Leif.

Eli

will be taking a gap year next year, spending the first half of the year in the Twin Cities working and volunteering, and the second half studying in Toulouse, France. He will be attending Grinnell college in the fall of 2022 but does not know what area of study yet; hopefully this will be figured out over his gap-year.



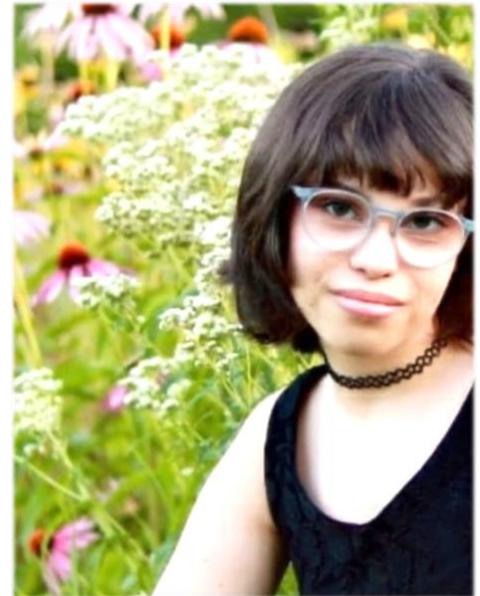
Jaime

will graduate from Henry Sibley High School June 6th. She has been accepted at Inver Hills Community College for the fall semester; she intends to complete her general class requirements and then transfer to a small college or university in the area. Jaime has dreamed of being a teacher since second grade. Teaching secondary education students is her current focus, subject to be determined.



Jaime will work this summer at the Eagan YMCA as lifeguard and swim instructor. You may also see her poolside now and then at the West St. Paul outdoor pool managed by the Y.

Thank you CPUC, from her mom, Sandy, for the loving and steady friendship you provide. As is evident, Jaime loves her church family! (Editor's note: Jaime has a distinction of participating in every available role during worship, and in many other ministries; she has been an acolyte, violinist, liturgist, distributed communion, collected offerings, as well as helped in many projects on Faith Life, Fellowship/Caring, and is a member of the Lay Ministry team.)



Adrien

(Information on Adrien to follow in next month's newsletter.)

Wrapped up in love

An annual CPUC tradition is to present our high school seniors with a quilt or afghan to remember that the members of CPUC continue to hold them close, even as they may leave the area in their next pursuits. For the past three years the afghans were created by Kathy Bergthold, who also creates many of our paraments. These are usually presented in person at worship on the first Sunday in June; during covid restrictions they are personally delivered by Pastor Matthias. Photos will appear in the next newsletter.

Women's Affinity Group Zoom ~ "spread kindness like confetti"

Friday, June 4, 7 p.m. outside church weather-permitting

We will share stories of kindness we've received, given, or know of from others.

BYOBMC (beverage mask, chair) (Zoom lovers – We're open to ways to have Zoom participants when we meet in-person. Ideas for how to include virtual friends are welcome!). Please let Jill Jackson know you are coming; she will notify folks if we need to move to a Zoom gathering for weather or other reasons.

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

Dial by your location = +1 312 626 6799 US.

Meeting ID: 849 9433 0469

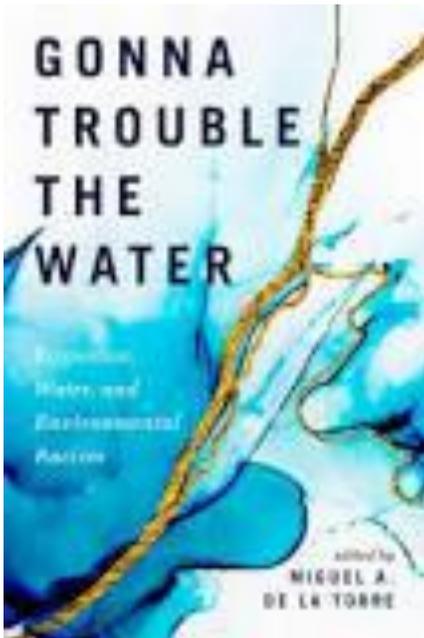
Passcode: 119136

We love our Earth

Faith Life organized a Saturday afternoon celebration of love for our sacred earth and all creation. Children and adult-sized children played a game, walked to Cherokee Park to observe and appreciate nature, and were encouraged to write to our congress people at all levels of government, to pass bills to save the planet. It was suggested to write our concerns on alternative "stationery" such as paper plates, to make our mail stand out from other letters.

Unfortunately, it was too hot (87°) for some of the planned activities. The event had been postponed from the week before, when it snowed, but that's Minnesota! it was also an opportunity to see, and physically hug some much loved grandparents, not possible during the Covid quarantines!





Adult Forum

Wednesdays, 7 pm Zooms June (not the 2nd) 9 & 16
Gonna Trouble the Water: Ecojustice, Water, and Environmental Racism.

Different topics from the book are discussed each week, organized by volunteer leaders. Chapters 1 & 2 discussed the differences between the euro-centric worldview (that most of us grew up with) contrasted with the indigenous worldview, and how each affects the viability of our planet, both human, and non-human life-sustaining resources.

Adult Forum will then take its usual summer break.

EURO-CENTRIC WORLDVIEW	INDIGENOUS WORLDVIEW
Anthropocentric (overemphasis upon humans)	“Water is a relative”
Extraction of a resource/commodity	Reciprocity between kindred
Individualism (private property, personal salvation)	Being a good relative; communal spirituality
Prosperity as key value	“...connection between humans, plants, animals, the earth, and water. No one had the right to cede these relations to the land, water, plants, and animals—because those relations were grounded in the first compact, the first treaty [with <i>Pte Ska Win</i> , the White Buffalo Calf Woman]”—Nick Estes
God creates everything and tells humans: “be fruitful, fill the earth, subdue it, have dominion over it.”	Rivers, oceans, rain, lakes are deities in themselves or have their own specific deities associated with them.
Hierarchy	“A chief is not valued above people; nor are two-legged valued above the animal nations, the birds, or even trees and rocks.” - George “Tink” Tinker

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81725210424?pwd=c1VrU0NHdHZSWjIBd2ZoMFdBNE1hQT09>

Meeting ID: 817 2521 0424

Password: 056975

Why Pride?

June is celebrated as Pride Month, a time of joyfully honoring Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ folks.

Cherokee Park United Church has long joined in the festivities, marching in the Minneapolis Pride Parade and having a pride-themed worship on the same Sunday as the parade. As the name “Pride” suggests, the celebration invites the feelings of joy at being authentically one’s queer self and laying claim to one’s full human dignity.

In the church, we echo this acclamation with the theological slant, blessing LGBTQ+ folks as fully beloved children of God, no asterisk, caveat, or exception.

Pride has often in our faith tradition been described as a sin (“pride goeth before the fall,” etc.); when arrogance and ego puff up, it is easy to see the harm pride can cause.

However, the truth is that pride can also be holy and healing. When for ages the Church has done violence towards LGBTQ+ folks, pride can be part of the process of healing, wholeness, integrity, and dignity. Our faith in the boundless love of God leads us to rejoice with our LGBTQ+ members, neighbors, friends, and people all over and joyfully affirm their pride.



CPUC E-Directory updates welcome!

In December 2020, Cherokee Park published an electronic directory of church members and friends (with paper copies available). Contact information and other important changes happen regularly. If you have new, up-to-date information to share, or would like to add a simple, fun, or otherwise photo of yourself/family, please send/email it to Jill Jackson.

If enough changes are submitted, we’ll send out a revised e-directory in July. Thank you for helping us keep in touch! (If just a few revisions are made, we will still make them and you can request an updated copy anytime.)

From Pastor Matthias

Dear CPUC Community,

Matthew 25 has experienced a public surge in popularity over the past several years. In this chapter of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus recites a list of vulnerable people—the imprisoned, the sick, the hungry, the stranger, the naked—and concludes by stating “whatever you have done for the least of these my siblings, you have done for me.”



These verses can get twisted to support a detached sort of charity that is toxic and disempowering. But in essence, Jesus is pointing his followers to the primacy of caring for the most vulnerable. Some Liberation Theologians use the phrase “God's preferential option for the poor.” I have been thinking about these verses in light of our evolving COVID-19 circumstances.

As we have begun planning for a return to some in-person gatherings and worship, the drafts of those plans maintain more COVID-19 precautions than are mandated by local and state officials. Many of us are vaccinated and eager to see loved ones, to hug, to partake in activities that have long been on pause, including gathering for worship together.

Continuing to wear masks and observe distancing takes into account the more vulnerable among us. Some among us may be immunocompromised, for example. I've read accounts of the anxiety that the newest CDC mask guidelines and the repeal of mask mandates is causing for people who are immunocompromised. Children under age 12 are not yet able to get vaccinated. While infections in children tend to be less severe than in adults, it is not at all risk-free.

I am so looking forward to being able to see one another in-person, and it will take time for us to get used to the transitions. We will pay attention to infection and vaccine rates, our own comfort levels, and the voice of Christ who emphasizes our obligation to one another and to the most vulnerable in among us.

Yours on the journey,

Pastor Matthias

An update about web streaming ~ Worship Ministry Team



Joining together at worship time on our digital devices has been an adjustment, but it has also unleashed some creativity (Children's Time outdoors! Advent candles glowing from many homes, the Easter Garden slideshow) and allowed us to become more accessible and interact with those far and wide: Sophie joined us with violin duets from Canada. Laurie read us a scripture from a windswept beach in the southeastern United States. People who were sick or homebound were included.

As we transition back to in-person worship July 4 we hope to preserve the best parts of our digital expansion but it will be a work-in-progress.

Moving forward: --We will offer a live-stream option indefinitely

--We will add the role of a live-stream "ambassador" so those in the virtual space can have their prayers read aloud during the service and they'll receive the words and lyrics needed to participate (what Sasha does now)

--Once our tech team is comfortable with the live-streaming (two cameras!), they hope to incorporate recorded elements so people in the sanctuary will watch along with our virtual congregation.

None of this could happen without our phenomenal tech team led by Tom with Mike. Stefan and Jim. Thank you all!

If you have ideas or feedback, please contact Pastor Matthias or Sasha. Additional details about in-person worship coming soon so please check your email!

The Panera route ~ behind the scenes

As you may remember, Sasha secured us a place in the Panera Doughnation program in 2019, to receive their leftover bakery Saturday nights. She would drive over to pick it up after closing, and then bring it to church on Sundays so that we could eat the sweets as part of our fellowship table. The breads and bagels were destined to go to the Monday evening Loaves and Fishes meal served at St. Matthew's. (They are not allowed to distribute sweets.)

With the pandemic safety restrictions, our church building closed and we continued to divide up sweets and deliver them to a few WestSide homes, and the breads continued to go to L & F. Soon safety precautions started including food handling so the delivery was discontinued for a time. When it became known that the virus was not shown to be a big food-borne problem, Susan started to pick up the bakery as Panera is only two blocks from her home, and then safely divide out the sweets and deliver them on Sunday mornings. But with the arrival of snow and slippery surfaces, she no longer could do the pickup and delivery, so Sandy volunteered to do the pickup, and Sasha volunteered to do the deliveries.

Then, another added task, when L & F requested that we cut up the breads and wrap each 2-3 pieces in individual bags to give away. Cutting 30+ loaves of bread required more help, and soon Jaime and her friend Jasmine started to help with both pickups and cutting. (A few band-aids were required.)

On Sunday mornings Sasha picks up all, takes the breads to Stefan who delivers them to L & F. on Mondays, and delivers sweets to a few WestSide homes. An email is sent out Saturday nights after the bakery is sorted, to tell which households might expect a delivery on Sunday and few people stop by to pick up sweets at Susan's home.



Bakery is picked up at Panera ... breads are cut...and with bagels are packaged...



and boxed...sweets are divided into delivery bags and tagged... then



picked up and delivered on Sunday...with the last step being the breads delivered to St. Matthew's on Monday.



Coordinates of Love

Latitude 44.93

Longitude -93.10

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
(in-person/online hybrid service planned soon)

Pastor: Rev. Matthias Peterson-Brandt

651-227-4275

cpuc@usfamily.net

cherokeeparkunited.org

Never be so focused on what you are looking for
that you overlook the thing you actually find.

Dr. Rapp, in Ann Patchett's *State of Wonder*

