



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 September 2021

grace humor p a t i e n c e

As a core team has conversations about the shift in our congregational life, three virtues were lifted up as essential to moving through a new way of worshipping both in person and online together. 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.

Loaves & Fishes

Thursday, September 2

Our Cherokee Park United member volunteer turnout on July 1 was not exactly overwhelming, so I hope we can do better this month. (Maybe let's shoot for over-whelming?) With the help of some volunteers from Loaves and Fishes itself we served 185 meals last time. We are not responsible for cooking but mainly for setting up, serving, and clean-up. Please consider helping for a few hours this month; we only volunteer six time a year. Contact Wayne Bjorlie.



Introvert and extrovert alert ... virtual worship greeters needed



The Outreach Ministry Team is looking for volunteers to “greet” for our online Sunday worship services. We need one virtual greeter each Sunday.

Be the thoughtful **welcomer and host** you are without the stress of having to be around a lot of people. Welcome people to our Sunday service online, and “cut and paste” the hymns and the responses from the digital bulletin into the “comments” section when that time comes.

This means being on the livestream and using the “comments” section to welcome all, including people new to CPUC who identify themselves in the chat column. This greeter can be anywhere with a computer – home (near or far), at the lake – as long as they have internet access!

Please sign up using [the Sign-UpGenius link found here](#). (Scroll down to the current dates.) We are scheduling virtual greeters through mid-September. If you have questions, please contact Jill, Mike, or Pastor Matthias. Thank you for being a part of this adventure in ministry at CPUC!

(A second way to access the sign-up link below.)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C45AFA72AA1FFC16-worship>

Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Powwow

Friday-Saturday-Sunday, September 10-11-12

CPUC has been again invited to prepare and serve the closing feast on Sunday, September 12, on the grounds of St. Peter's Church in Mendota. This year we will have Gloria Dei Lutheran Church partnering with us in this endeavor. With COVID cases rising, this presents a number of health and logistical concerns.



As such, we are pursuing having the main dish and a wild rice side provided by a caterer, to limit the prolonged time needed for volunteers to be in close proximity in the kitchen. Taking a page from Loaves and Fishes, this year we will prepackage the feast in compostable to-go containers, in order to reduce the normal crowding of the serving line.

So, how can you help?

- **Prepare Food at Home!** –
 - 12 volunteers are needed to bake 3 dozen chocolate chip cookies each, and drop them off at church. (No nuts, please).
 - 10 donations of 2 lbs. prepared coleslaw mix are needed. These can be store bought or home-prepared. (No dressing; we'll add a vegan dressing at church to avoid dairy sitting out too long).
 - **DROP OFF at CPUC Saturday, Sept. 11, between 10am - 12pm**
- **Volunteer!** -- Anyone who is fully vaccinated can volunteer; masks will be required.
 - Sunday, Sept. 12, after church: 1 – 4 p.m.; 15 volunteers to come help assemble the boxed feast meals. We will use the fellowship hall, spread out, and keep fans running.
 - Sunday, Sept. 12, at CPUC at 4:30 p.m.; 10 volunteers are needed to transport the feast to the Powwow grounds, and serve it. (Usually serve around 5:30pm)
- **Make a special offering toward the feast!**
 - You can support the closing feast with a special offering. Drop it off, mail it in. Just list "Powwow Feast" in the memo line.

Sign up below - to bring cookies, coleslaw, prepare feast boxes, or transport and serve the feast.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C45AFA72AA1FFC16-powwow>

From Pastor Matthias

Dear CPUC,

In July, I had the joy of attending the baptism of one of my dearest friend's infant daughter. I was asked to be one of her baptismal sponsors, or god-parents, which is a first for me. The ceremony was held in the courtyard of the church where this friend and I met and grew up together.

While I was (and am) honored to be asked to be a godparent, going into the baptism itself I felt a bit ambivalent. Of course, I was excited to be there and for the baptism. But I also had my own two kids with me on a solo parenting adventure in a new place for them. I will confess too, that despite theological training and my experiences in ministry, I don't fully understand baptism.

Do we really need a ritual for God to claim us as God's own? If it is understood as a rebirth of sorts, or dying to sin and rising anew, then what does that have to do with infants who know only the holy basics of life: touch, sleep, eating, and wonder?

Though baptism is one of two sacraments in our Protestant tradition, it often feels like it goes under the radar compared to Communion, which we celebrate every month in our Sunday worship services. I would guess that most of us have far fewer experiences of witnessing or participating in Baptisms than we do Communion. As a result, there are fewer natural invitations for us to think about and experience baptism.

And yet, as I stood there and watched the minister sprinkle the water and speak the words, surrounded by a small church of family and friends, something sacred stirred among us, something beyond explaining or encapsulating in a tidy theological box.

In life and in death, we belong to God through the love of Christ. Throughout that journey, there are times where God just shows up, not like clicking on a favorite show, but wild, and free, and ineffable love that claims us.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Matthias



At the August 10th meeting the Council ...



received the quarterly financial update from Lynne Bates, reporting that we are under budget in the expense column due to the pandemic causing a church slow down, but also offerings are less than anticipated so we are about \$1300 in the red on the budget.

approved the request from Nancy Swanson to transfer from St. Peter's UCC in Stillwater to CPUC. (welcome back!)

◆ received the Pastor's report including news of the hire of a new custodian, Jair Aguilar Vasquez (pronounced like: high-EAR) and approved Pastor's request for a week of vacation (third of the four allotted) from September 20-26.

◆ received the report from Mike Bates that the Lay Ministry Team is meeting with program chairs on August 17 to discuss; what is the scope of your ministry team, what is the role of the chairperson; how is it going; what support would help you; what would help the team be most effective; what might we let go of; what might we add. A suggestion was made to consider the Presbyterian model of representation and coordination achieved by the chairpeople being members of the council, which promotes easier sharing of information. A question was raised about how are we engaging the families who had just joined us before the pandemic, which eliminated so many interactions made possible by programs.

◆ spent the majority of the meeting, including 30 minutes past the planned meeting time, to discuss whether keeping our in-person worship should continue as the Covid cases are now again escalating. Strong opinions varied from those finding a Christian call to care for those most vulnerable - those unable to be vaccinated because of age, compromised health, or just unwillingness to be vaccinated - to a feeling that a personal presence in the building with others was such a strong spiritual connection that it warranted being together but with keeping all the safety precautions in place. Council was not able to reach consensus; a motion to suspend in-person worship was tabled for 5 days, to allow for further thought and the Council agreed to reconvene Sunday night, August 15, to discuss and vote on this issue.

◆ *At the August 15th meeting the Council ...*

again discussed at length the safety ramifications of continuing an in-person option for worship. A motion was passed, unanimously, to move our worship back to only virtual, beginning the following Sunday, August 22. Small groups are advised to meet virtually; if a small group (e.g. Women's Affinity Group, ministry team, etc.) opts to meet in-person inside, all persons must be vaccinated, wear masks and take other precautions as possible; and a virtual option must be available.

Your 2021 Council

With the serious topics of the day and year, there is always humor to lift our spirits.



Editor's note: If you know anyone who has no internet service so only receives the usps mailed hard copy of this newsletter, you might, please, advise them of the details of the **powwow feast** preparation. Those copies were mailed before the much-changed update was received.



Adult Forum Resumes September 15 – Join us on Zoom!

Anyone high school age or older is invited to participate in the Adult Forum at CPUC. Join the discussion as we resume on Wednesday, September 15 at 7 p.m. (use the Zoom link below) Please bring ideas for possible topics and resources for our focus.

Last year we explored a variety of materials including books (memoirs, a work of dystopian fiction, and one on community safety and restorative justice), a video series focused on race and equity, and discussions on ecojustice issues around water. We learn and share a lot together! Please join us!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82639450670?pwd=K2dYUjVEV3dVVnBzNUIFNDB1MWprZz09>

September Happy Birthdays & Celebrations

02 - Lynne
06 - Phyllis
07 - Gina
♥ 10 - Kelly & Susan
18 - Nora
25 - Cal
26 - Jayden
26 - Ellen
28 - Mike
29 - Susan
30 - Joanne

Your Church-During-Covid Team

Pastor Matthias
Joanne
.lill

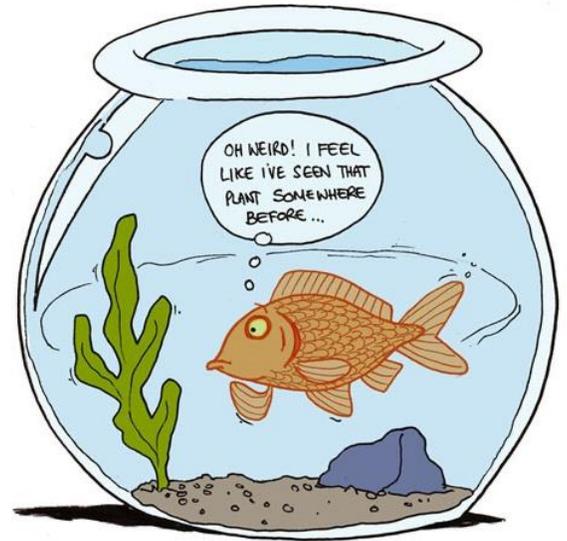
Newsletter:

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

It's Deja Vu all over again

Just when we thought we turned the corner and could enjoy each other in person, we are again challenged to **grace**, **humor**, and **patience**. Since we are being as cautious and responsible as possible, we will give up personal interaction in the immediate future so we can survive to enjoy the later future. This is not quite so bad news for those of us (and our cats) who are introverts and have enjoyed learning how to zoom.

After worship on Sundays, the **zoom link** is again our friend; be sure to use the **new link** which provides for being together without a host; it is active from after worship to 12 noonish.



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85651173608?pwd=SUh6NmVVOUnNhM0xxRGNrekpvVFZ0Zz09>

(Only people accessing by phone need the ID or passcode)

Meeting ID: 856 5117 3608 Passcode: 620169

Fellowship on the lawn



Before we were able to safely fellowship inside, we took our togetherness outside after worship. Sasha brought the Panera sweets up on trays to the picnic table where there are always people interested in a bite or two or in taking some home. Unfortunately, this was short-lived, and now we are back to being patient until a safer environment evolves.

CPUC at West St Paul Pride in the Park 2021



This gathering has grown from 3 booths to 15 in its three years of existence, even while addressing the pandemic safety concerns...and in spite of two years of the rain challenge to keep the information dry. <https://www.facebook.com/wsppride/>

(below: left, WSP Council person Wendy Berry, and right, state representative Rick Hansen)



Cookie Cart

This wonderful organization came to mind when seeing special Pride cookies created for the occasion. This bakery was started in the kitchen of Sister Jean Thuerauf with one cookie cart rolling down the streets of North Minneapolis in 1988, taking a creative, engaged teaching approach in an “earn as you learn” job training program for 15-18-year-olds. This year they will engage 210 youths, helping them connect to new communities, strengthen their goals, improve interpersonal skills, enhance critical thinking and employment readiness skills. Their St. Paul Bakery is located at 946 Payne Avenue. They will make custom cookies for your special occasion, as well as the many varieties they have come to be known for.



Techs in the balcony ...a "lofty" crew



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 only
<https://www.facebook.com/cherokeeparkchurch/live>
Pastor: Rev. Matthias Peterson-Brandt
651-227-4275
cpuc@usfamily.net
cherokeeparkunited.org

TREE STUMP &
HUMAN FINGERPRINT



WE ARE EARTH