



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 November 2021



All Saints Day Observation

On November 7th we observe All Saints Day, remembering dear ones who have died. We especially honor members and friends who have passed since last November. **You are invited** to submit the name(s), a picture, or a special memento of dear ones that you'd like included in this service. Please put your name on any objects so they can be returned.

You can email to matthias@cherokeeparkunited.org, send them via US Mail, or bring them to church (call first to make sure Pastor is there!) Please submit them by Monday, November 1. Thank you for helping us continue this important recognition even when we are worshiping virtually.

Loaves & Fishes

Thursday, November 4

We are responsible once again for serving the Loaves and Fishes meal at St Matthew. We will need about 10-12 volunteers, at least 5 for the preparation beginning about 3:30 or 4:00 p.m. and another 5-6 for the serving and clean-up beginning about 5 p.m.. We will provide the bread and the water, while L&F will bring everything else. If more volunteer, the job is less intensive for everyone. We seem to be serving around 175 or more these days, so we are hopping. Please help us. Email Wayne Bjorlie with your offer. Thanks.



Women's Affinity Group

Friday November 5 at 7 p.m.

You are invited to share stories of your favorite holiday celebrations via Zoom. With the end of year holidays drawing near, please join us to share stories of holidays from your life. You could tell of a special food item that gets prepared, a special activity shared, or just a unique story of an unforgettable holiday – positive, or not! Bring a picture or memento to show if you wish.

Join us using the Zoom link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88224263749?pwd=SzBDMHRLVUpVRWE2eUgvNm5YdkpFZz09>

Annual Stewardship Campaign (and pie)

By now you have received a mailed request to consider your pledge of financial support for Cherokee Park United Church for the coming year, 2022. Although pledges are not required of members, they are much appreciated and highly valued as a tool for the Finance Committee to devise a budget. We need to plan out how we will be able to meet our financial obligations, keep the building safe, clean, and ready for safe but minimal use now, and our eventual full return, and continue our ministries in spite of the serious health restrictions of the community and indeed, the world.

Our ministries always come with a dose of humor and sometimes sugar and spice too. When you send in your pledge, you can also send your name (or someone else's!) on the card enclosed with your mailing, for a drawing for a homemade pie. There are



three drawings, November 7 (pecan pie from Chef Jerome), November 14 (apple pie from Chef Lon), & November 21 (pumpkin pie from Chef Karen), and if your pledge is in soon, you will be entered all three times.

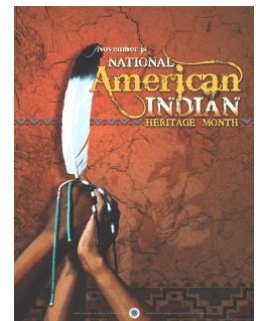
Overcoming Racism Conference

The annual conference, Friday-Saturday, November 12-13, will be fully virtual once again this year. You can learn more about the schedule, the speakers, presenters, and workshops by clicking HERE: <https://overcomingracism.org/programs/conference/>

As a sponsor of the conference, CPUC receives some complimentary registrations for the conference. Reach out to Pastor Matthias if you have interest in attending. We can't guarantee that we will have enough free registrations for everyone interested, but we do want to use up all our registrations.

National Native American Heritage Month

In November we celebrate the culture and heritage of these remarkable Americans who deeply enrich the quality and character of our Nation. Native American Heritage Week (November 23 to 30) was first recognized in 1986 during the Reagan administration. In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 as "National American Indian Heritage Month." This landmark bill honoring America's tribal people represented a major step in the establishment of this celebration which began in 1976 when a Cherokee/Osage Indian named Jerry C. Elliott-High Eagle authored Native American Awareness Week legislation the first historical week of recognition in the nation for native peoples.



Cal Clark: Trust in Change

We mourn the loss of member Cal Clark as he departed this earth on October 1. As many of you know he had experienced declining health and spent his last weeks at Episcopal Church Homes. A service will be held On October 30 at Cherokee Park United Church for family members, limiting numbers to observe safe Covid protocols. It is hoped to provide a Zoom livestream of this service in order that friends can take part in this celebration of Cal's life. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be donated to Cherokee Park United Church.



Cal had been active in many ministries and his knowledge was sought often in areas of finance and management due to his vast experience; at the same time, he was noted for his wonderful welcoming smiles and handshakes as he remembered your name and greeted everyone at Sunday worship. Our church community has been very fortunate to have Cal in our midst as mentor and friend, and hopefully we can continue to carry on his positive attitude. Cal and his wife Phyllis, who has also been an integral part of many ministries, have been members of CPUC since 2005; Cal is survived by his wife, a daughter and son and four grandchildren.

Cal was born in 1938 in Chadron Nebraska, where he attended high school and college, earning Bachelor's and Master's degrees. He started his doctorate in political science at Kansas University, when approached about a job opportunity with the Citizens Conference on State Legislatures. He always wanted his life to make a difference and thought that this was one such opportunity. He ended up in Minnesota, as, a study of states most effective in addressing urban problems revealed that Minnesota was one of two that were highly effective, much due to the Citizens League. Cal's later work in the League showed the value and necessity of involving all who were affected, in the decision-making process, and especially working from the middle to create space for all sides to come to the same table. The expansion in his perception of how he could make a difference was in large part due to a subtle realization of the creative nature of change-making.

His various involvements included Peace Corps volunteer, Scoutmaster and Eagle Scout, Jaycees, National Guard, teaching government to high school seniors in Chino, California, Citizens League researcher, part owner of a bank in Pine City, Minnesota, and Economic Development Director for a utility covering most of the state of Minnesota. He contributed to weekly local newspaper columns on economic development and later three books, and was on boards of Hazelden, Montessori Schools, the Initiative fund of East Central MN, Chadron State College Trustees.

From Pastor Matthias

Dear CPUC,

It turned out to be a favorably warm Fall day when ten of us from Cherokee Park United Church gathered in the park to share stories on the theme of community. There were stories of meals shared, found communities, neighborhood connections, ultimate frisbee (guess whose story that was ;-), and even the community made up of people who ride the same bus route.

The forms varied too. There was a children's book read, poetry, traditional folk tale, and personal story telling. And as we shared these stories, other experiences and memories of community arose.

There is no shortage to the variety of forms community can take: ad hoc or by design, ephemeral or long-standing, gathered around shared belief, hobby, social category, life experience, or assigned by outside forces.

What does strike me as true of communities across the spectrum of what defines them is: community is where you make it. Sometimes you might more find than make it, but it asks something of us all the same.

To be aware of connections, to purposefully seek to make them, strengthen them, sustain them, grow them are all part of the creative process of what community is. As a church community, we gather around the practices of prayer, worship, sharing of life together, and communal discernment of what our faith demands of us. What are we to do together, having been rooted in the love and justice of God?



As we move into the winter months and continue to weather the impacts of COVID, I would encourage you to ask yourself: where am I finding community? Where am I making it?

Yours on the journey,
Pastor Matthias

Congregational Zoom meeting after worship November 21

A short meeting will be called to elect members for the incoming church council for 2022. Each year four of twelve seats on the council are usually up for election (or re-election if a current member wishes to accept a second term.) Current members are:

Class of 2021: Diane Spicer (2nd term), Jackie Rico, Curt Fleming, Joanne Sylvander

Class of 2022: Tom Murphy, Jim Shatek, Mike Bates (2), Maria McNamara (2)

Class of 2023: Carly Evans (2), Susan Strebig (2), Kay Myhrman-Toso, Karolyn Gilbertson



At the September 10th meeting the Council ...



received the clerk's report; Mike will attend a Presbytery clerk's training and minutes review September 22; and has plans to review our procedures in November to start to create a comprehensive operational handbook.

received the pastor's report including an observation that the pastoral care needs had more urgency than normal in the past month; motion was passed to grant the pastor's request for a week of study leave October 18-24 including a weekend workshop on creativity with a focus on Advent/Christmas.

received a report from Lay Ministries Team which has met over the summer looking for ways to vision the church and implement ideas, with specific questions to chairpeople on what help is needed, what needs to be added, what can be let go how can we invite new or newer members in when we are not meeting in-person weekly and don't know what their gifts or interests are.

received a report from Seeds Ministries that the Wacipi partnering with Gloria Dei was very energizing and with thoughts that this partnership might continue in other social justice activities. Noted that a newer member did help with this and also our Pride table at West St. Paul Pride day.

received a report from Being Church During Covid on various ways we could reach our decisions on when to be in-person, or hybrid or virtual only. There are numbers of valid reporting agencies available for us to watch, and we might serve ourselves well in realizing that this might be a yo-yo back and forth scenario rather than one big shift back to being safe together forever.

received a report from Faith Life that a family outside fun afternoon is being planned for next Sunday.

received a report from Caring Ministries discussing how we can better care for one another during Covid.

At the October 12th meeting the Council ...

received a financial update from the Finance Committee; the balance of funds in the Ruth Circle money were spent on the new kitchen refrigerator, we anticipate a rebate from St. Paul Water, a larger offering total this month has helped make up our red balance, enough foods were donated plus funds donated to cover the added

catered food expense for the Powwow. A special thanks to Maria McNamara for her steadfast commitment and organization of this effort;

☐ received the pastor's report including that his work has been more focused on pastoral care for individuals and families and less on meetings; doing worship preparation has taken lots more energy and time as segments are done in advance but unexplainable technology glitches require more time for do-overs and problem solving; council approved pastor's request to take the first of his 2022 vacation the week of January 31-February 6.

☐ passed a motion to describe the **protocol for shifting between hybrid/all virtual worship** as follows: If cases dip below 70/100k/week and positivity rate below 5% in Ramsey County and trend downward over 3 weeks (based on statistics each Monday via the CDC's COVID County tracker) we will shift to hybrid/in-person that upcoming Sunday. If case numbers surpass 70/100k/week **or** positivity rate goes above 5%, we will return to virtual only worship."

☐ received information from the pastor for plans for Cal Clark's memorial service on Saturday, October 30, which, in order to safely follow Covid precautions, will be by invitation only, as decided by Phyllis and Pastor Matthias. We hope to be able to livestream this via Zoom so any members can feel a part of this service.

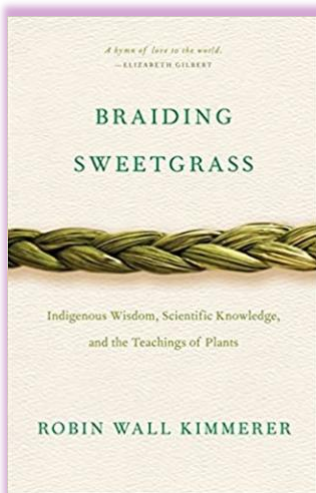
☐ received ministry reports; Outreach organized a gathering in the park to share community stories; Property Management has the new boilers being serviced soon and the new janitor is working out well as he is proactive in watching for areas that need tending to; Lay Ministry will be working on going forward to establish small, safe, pods of members to be able to meet in person; Finance Committee has sent out stewardship letters for 2022 with a pledge drive culminating November 21.

Conversations on the grass

Thanks to those who joined together on a warm and sunny October Saturday to share stories of community. We've met and accepted the challenge of being together in new ways; change is a sign of growth. Thanks to Jill and the Outreach Ministry for organizing this gathering.



Adult Forum Resumes – Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer



[From the Preface] "A sheaf of sweetgrass bound at the end and divided into thirds, is ready to braid. In braiding sweetgrass—so that it is smooth, glossy, and worthy of the gift— a certain amount of tension is needed...the sweetest way is to have someone else hold the end so that you pull gently against each other, all the while leaning in, head to head chatting and laughing, watching each other's hands, one holding steady while the other shifts the slim bundles over one another, each in its turn. Linked by sweetgrass, there is reciprocity between you...the holder as vital as the braider... Will you hold the end of the bundle while I braid?"

Anyone high school age or older is invited to participate in the Adult Forum. Join the discussion as we resume on **Wednesdays at 7 p.m.** Currently we are reading and discussing Braiding Sweetgrass. Get a copy now and start reading; for October 20, we read through page 97. We learn and share a lot together! Please join us on Zoom!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81725210424?pwd=c1VrU0NHdHZSWjlBd2ZoMFdBNE1hQT09>

November Happy Birthdays

17 - Phyllis Andrews
20 - Mary Anderson
18 - Franklin Dempsey Hess
26 - Roxanna Jacobsen
28 - Tim Johnson

Your Church-During- Covid Team

Pastor Matthias
Joanne Sylvander
.lill .Jackson

Newsletter:

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



After worship on Sundays **zoom link** - active from after worship to 12 noonish.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85651173608?pwd=SUh6NmVOUnNhM0xxRGNrekpvVFZ0Zz09>

For those accessing by phone - Meeting ID: 856 5117 3608 Passcode: 620169

Necessity of music: Bumble-B's vibrate at middle C!

Tomato plants need to be vibrated at middle C to release their pollen.
Larger greenhouse tomato producers use laboratory-reared colonies of
bumblebees to achieve this!



I was regretting the past and fearing the future...

Suddenly God was speaking: "My name is 'I am.'" I waited.
God continued,
"When you live in the past, with its mistakes and regrets, it is hard.
I am not there.
My name is not 'I was.'
When you live in the future, with its potential problems and fears, it is hard.
I am not there.
My name is not 'I will be.'
When you live in the moment, it is not hard.
I am here. My name is 'I am.'"

Helen Mellicoat , Ranch Guesthouse Saint Benedict's Monastery, Snowmass, Colorado

Giving Thanks - from Susan

I was hoping to gather, for this newsletter, some instances of unexpected happiness and gratitude in keeping with **Thanks-giving**. I find it permeated my own past month when realizing how many people it would take to get me through a knee-replacement. After a first few days of pain and wondering what I had gotten myself into, I was swept into a world of 50+ strangers rotating into my room and life every few hours, bringing meds, taking vitals, providing therapies, bringing meals, helping me out of bed for embarrassing necessities. I found gratitude, a need to take a few selfie reminders, and also an opportunity to minister back with smiles, questions, humor, recognizing this new family circle. And found a new gratitude for living in a country where many can receive this care; and a reminder to continue to work towards available care for all.



At the same time that these many angels arrived to care for me, another angel team, responding to my MealTrain invite, traveled to our home to provide meals once a day for Kelly, and just as importantly, visit awhile, providing food for the soul. Wish I had photos here also, of the many friends from CPUC, neighbors, their children and even a few pooches who provided care and friendship. We often acknowledge the village it takes to raise a child, but I am now reminded of the village it also takes to care for the older generations. And am *Giving Thanks* to, and for, all of you.

Music from Sandy

Our own Director of Music, Sandy Waterman, will again be entertaining patrons at two Lunds & Byerly stores with her holiday keyboard tunes. Stop in for some musical cheer and often free food samples. Edina store Dec 17, 2-5 pm and Dec 19, 11-3 pm, or White Bear store Dec 18 & 23, noon-5 pm and Dec 24, 10-2 pm. She will be wearing one of her signature, creative headpieces.

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