



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 April 2022

Women's Affinity Group - The experience of prayer in your life

April 1, Friday, 7 pm.

As the Adult Forum group recently discovered, prayer takes many different forms in our lives. The Women's Affinity Group will delve deeper into sharing our experience of these connections with the divine when we gather on Zoom. We'll start with Nona Guerue's questions - "Have you had a prayer answered? How was it answered?" We'll see where our sharing, and the spirit, take us! Please join us.

The Zoom link is below. We are hoping to gather in person for our May meeting. Stay tuned...

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88224263749?pwd=SzBDMHRLVUpVRWE2eUgyNm5YdkpFZz09>

Adult Forum leads Lenten prayer group

Tuesdays at Noon and Thursdays at 8 pm

All are invited to join us for either or both on Zoom for some camaraderie, followed by silent prayer, then voice the prayers that are on our hearts. We'll use the Adult Forum [Zoom link](#)



The Easter garden returns to Cherokee Park United Church for Easter 2022. If you'd like to sponsor a plant, please email Mary Murphy mlmurphymn@gmail.com

Suggested donation of \$10 can be mailed or dropped off at the church with "Easter Garden" on the subject line.) Mary will purchase an assortment of potted tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and lilies or whatever lights up her gardener's eye and after the service you can take one home!

Lent to Easter sanctuaries of the home and of the church

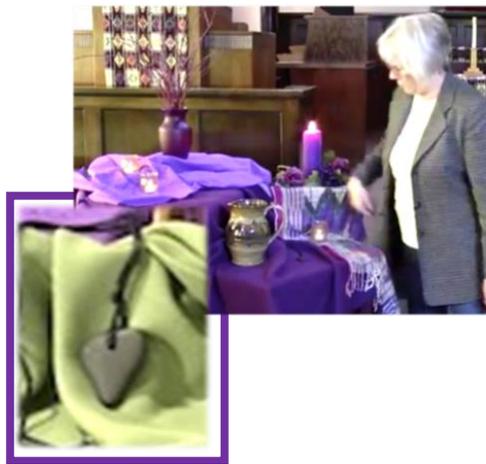
You are encouraged to provide a small altar space in your home, adding objects each Sunday corresponding with our sanctuary environment.

Items placed during March Sundays included: picking an altar space/nook, candle, dirt/earth/rock, item from each person in the household, Item representing family/ancestors. In April we will add:

Sunday 4/3--Some vessel like a cup, plate, bowl--think sacraments -water, wine, bread

Palm Sunday 4/10-- an item representing God, trinity, or the divine

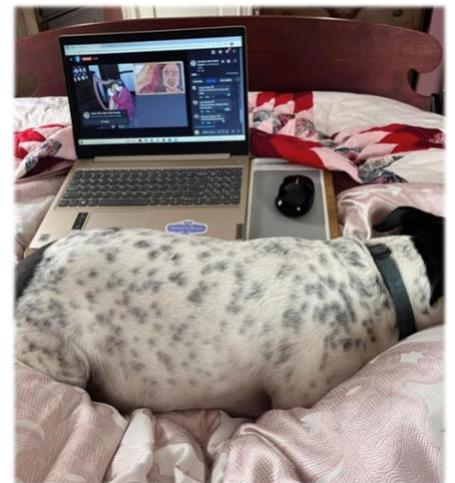
Easter Sunday 4/17-- an item representing resurrection/new life.



Myhrman-Toso altar

Murphy altar

Guerue dog praying



Covid Update - returning to hybrid worship Palm Sunday, April 10

- Worship will be live-streamed so folks can continue to join from home.
- For those worshipping in-person, we will continue a pre-sign up and physical distancing in the pews.
- Enter at the Manomin St. door to better monitor sanctuary capacity.
- Masks will be required; we will have some surgical masks on hand at the greeter table.
- Congregational singing will resume! Hallelujah!
- We will offer fellowship time after worship in Fellowship Hall for those who wish, starting with beverages.
- Outdoor fellowship encouraged when weather permits.



We will have the opportunity to practice grace with one another and ourselves, honoring the fact we have many different levels of comfort and caution within the congregation as a whole.

We have a fairly high level of confidence that CPUC was not a vector for COVID spread, and have pride in ways we have sustained our sense of community and connection to God over this time.

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to Pastor Matthias, any member of Council, or the Being Church in COVID team. (page 9)

Making a positive change in the world

Is this even possible? What can just a small church do? I'm already overwhelmed; how would this work?

Adult Forum has been reading Tyler Sit's Staying Awake: The Gospel for Changemakers for possible clues. Each chapter stands on its own so you can join in any time, even without reading the book! Zoom in on **Wednesdays from 7-8 pm** and the time will just zip by. Minds enriched.

Friendships forged. Trusts emerging and growing.

For questions contact Joanne Sylvander.

651-776-6311 Home

651-373-0885 mobile/vm/txt

[Zoom link.](#)

Past chapter topics have included: what is worship (can it really be defined?), mapping our own privilege or marginalization (and surprise, this is not just white privilege!), what is community?, how do we develop leaders - what is a leader?, generosity and gratitude, and in April, what about the future ?





Candy jar now full again

When you are working in the building, feel free to take a sweet or two or three from the candy jar in the office. Apologies to those who recently only found candy kisses from 2020.

Sacred Solidarity Reparations Circle

This four-part, once a month Monday evening (late Feb, Mar, Apr, May) zoom series is being attended by Pastor Matthias, Maria McNamara, Mary Bren, Mary Murphy, Stefan Sylvander, Susan Strebog. If you are interested in joining for one or more evenings please check in at

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf1FBmw2sMfJ2s7ypJNCcJwsMZj8tHhLHcvcmQmngbxPdBogg/viewform?pli=1>

In March the focus was the history of (broken) treaties between the original Dakota inhabitants of our lands, as any reparation work needs to be preceded by truth-telling. In April the focus was sharing how our groups are presently involved and supportive of Black and indigenous people, leaders, and communities.

Interesting fact: the early government took land from indigenous tribes to give to soldiers in payment for their service, as there were no taxes

or funds with which to pay them.



this church stands on stolen land





From Pastor Matthias

Dear CPUC,

As many of you know, our congregation has developed a relationship with the Native Inmates in the Pennsylvania prison systems. We are a steward for funds to build a sweat lodge, and through this connection, many of us have come to know Running River Banks. The adult forum read his book *Our Ancestors are Proud*.

Last week I had the privilege of meeting Running River on zoom (thanks, Susan!). At one point in our conversation, I asked him about the importance of the drum as part of Native Spirituality. He asked me to put my right hand to my chest. To feel the beating of our heart is to feel connection to the Creator, as he explained it. The rhythm of the drum too. draws our attention to that sacredness that beats in our chests.

While this articulation of the spirituality of drum-heart-creation is particular to Native spirituality, the universality of it resonates. We all have a beating heart. There is a sacredness to the rhythms of life. Sometimes the tempo feels loud and fast. Other times more at ease.

I love how at the entrance to our sanctuary at CPUC, we have baskets of percussion instruments folks can use to participate in worship. Don't we each long for our rhythm, our beating, loving hearts to contribute to the symphony of the whole? Whether the kinetic ring of the tambourine, quiet shake of a small maraca, the slow gentleness of a rain-stick, or the loud staccato of a hand drum.

As we look forward to the option for worship to happen in-person and virtually starting April 10th, may we continue to be drawn deeper into the rhythms of God's grace, that our lives might echo the heartbeat of God. Listen.
It beats, love-love, love-love, love-love.

Yours on the journey,
Pastor Matthias



At the March meeting the Council ...

--received the clerk's report on annual funds being donated by CPUC to various organizations as follows: PCUSA \$1600, UCC \$1600, Interfaith action of St Paul \$800, United Seminary \$300, The Coalition (UCC GLBTQ) \$200, More Light Presbyterians (LGBTQ) \$200, Per Capita PCUSA (\$36.50 Per Member x 39 members) = \$1423.50, Per Capita UCC (\$10.00 Per Member x 39 members) = \$390.00. At the Presbytery meeting the Creation Award given to CPUC was noted, and Carly gave links to our 2020 Earth Day service where Pastor Matthias demonstrated, during the sermon, how easy it is to leave a constituent's message to legislators.

--passed a motion to give robust support of St. Paul and Minneapolis educators and authorize Pastor Matthias to voice support on behalf of CPUC and share other opportunities for supporting SPFE/MFT with the congregation as they arise. Sebastian suggests we reach out to some teachers and ask what we can do. There is already a list of requests which Pastor Matthias can share through the weekly bulletin, worship chat column, i.e. strike fund; we are fairly close to the capitol so could possibly be a rest location.

--received and affirmed a request from Rev. Nancy Swanson to develop a three-way covenant with CPUC and the MN Conference of the UCC.

--received and approved a proposal from the Being Church Team to return to hybrid worship services starting Palm Sunday, April 10, allowing singing but continuing masking, distancing, pre-sign up list, use of just the Manomin entrance, and offering beverages only in Fellowship Hall and Peace Room after the service for those feeling comfortable with closer seating/standing. This plan is contingent on COVID trends continuing to cooperate and decline.

--Pastor will communicate with MN Transgender Alliance about whether they would like to resume meetings hosted at CPUC (suspended since the start of the pandemic).

--discussed how to approach again opening up our nursery during worship; Faith Life and Personnel team will tag team the how and when of this.

2022 Council Members

Class of 2022: Mike Bates (2nd term), Maria McNamara (2), Tom Murphy, Jim Shatek
Class of 2023: Carly Evans (2), Karolyn Gilbertson, Kay Myhrman-Toso, Susan Strebig (2)
Class of 2024: Mary Anderson, Sebastian Ellefson, Jackie Rico (2), Sandy Settevig

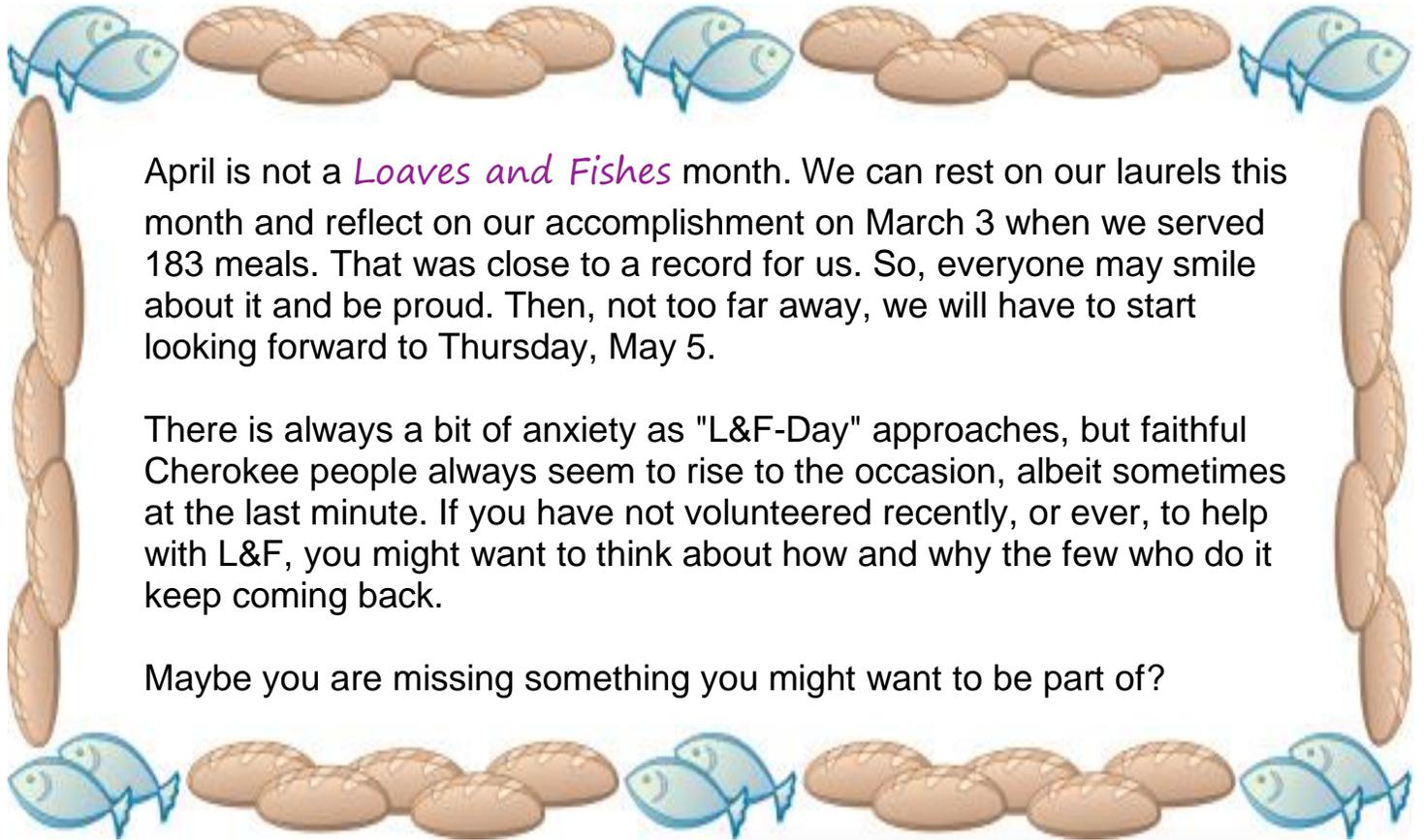
Children's sermon March 20...

focused on how our best plans may sometimes fall apart.
(but keep on going! Love will prevail!!)



Fourth Sunday of Lent March 27





April is not a *Loaves and Fishes* month. We can rest on our laurels this month and reflect on our accomplishment on March 3 when we served 183 meals. That was close to a record for us. So, everyone may smile about it and be proud. Then, not too far away, we will have to start looking forward to Thursday, May 5.

There is always a bit of anxiety as "L&F-Day" approaches, but faithful Cherokee people always seem to rise to the occasion, albeit sometimes at the last minute. If you have not volunteered recently, or ever, to help with L&F, you might want to think about how and why the few who do it keep coming back.

Maybe you are missing something you might want to be part of?

April Happy Birthdays

- 18 - Laura Beth Gatzke
- 18 - Dean Mudgett
- 19 - Tommy Murphy
- ♥ 25 - Gina & Jerome DeNardo Graf

Newsletter

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



Your Church-During-Covid Team

- Pastor Matthias
- Joanne Sylvander
- Maria McNamara
- Jill Jackson

After worship on Sundays **zoom link** - active from after worship to 12 noonish.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85651173608?pwd=SUh6NmVOUNhM0xxRGNrekpvVFZ0Zz09>
 For those accessing by phone - Meeting ID: 856 5117 3608 Passcode: 620169

*Sandy and Stefan
make beautiful music at
Cherokee Park United Church
and
Unity Unitarian annual children's musical*



A Healed Leg Bone – The Sign of a Civilized Society – Margaret Mead



A broken femur that has healed is evidence that another person has taken time to stay with the fallen, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended them through recovery.

Years ago, the anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about clay pots, tools for hunting, grinding-stones, or religious artifacts.

But no. Mead said that the first evidence of civilization was a 15,000 years old fractured femur found in an archaeological site. A femur is the longest bone in the body, linking hip to knee. In societies without the benefits of modern medicine, it takes about six weeks of rest for a fractured femur to heal. This particular bone had been broken and had healed.

Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. You cannot run from danger, you cannot drink or hunt for food. Wounded in this way, you are meat for your predators. No creature survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal. You are eaten first.

A broken femur that has healed is evidence that another person has taken time to stay with the fallen, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended them through recovery. A healed femur indicates that someone has helped a fellow human, rather than abandoning them to save their own life.

“Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts,” Margaret Mead said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; For, indeed, that's all who ever have.”

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

*I am here to get it right,
not to be right.
Brené Brown*