

## **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 February 2022***

## Women's Affinity Group

**February 4, Friday, 7 pm**

The next women's group will be a repeat of the popular Pajama Party; bring your own hot chocolate, and plan to share

either how you keep warm or what comforts you (or both).



Join us using the zoom link below.

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

## CPUC Nursery notes from Rebecca

Although our church worship services and nursery are not presently open for in-person use, we continue to provide lessons and projects for our younger children. We used up our supply of paper towel tubes on our Advent wreaths, so are now needing to replenish that supply for future projects in my 3-year rotation of lessons.

If you empty any at home and will be coming to the church, please leave in the office hallway or on the nursery counter. (If you don't have a key, please call ahead or contact Susan.)

Even though we cannot meet in the nursery, we provide lessons and projects for the children to do in their homes. Currently we have nine children ages one through kindergarten, from six families, involved. Sometimes weekly lessons are mailed and sometimes bags with a month's worth of lessons are delivered if there are items too big to mail, such as bigger craft projects, gifts for birthdays and Christmas. Pastor Matthias kindly helps hand deliver these bags.

Since these are being done at home I try to add things that the family can do, such as ideas for games, songs, drama. Also sent are Youtube links to wonderful books, i.e. *Are You a Boy or Are You a Girl?*; *All Different Now*; *Give Bees A Chance*; *Waiting for Wings*; *What Does It Mean to Be American?*; *Square Cat*; *Our House Is Round*; *I Am Smart, I Am Blessed, I Can Do Anything!*; *Otter B Kind*; *Sky Color*; *Someone New*; *You Matter*; *Lord Help Me*; and *A Family Is a Family Is a Family*.

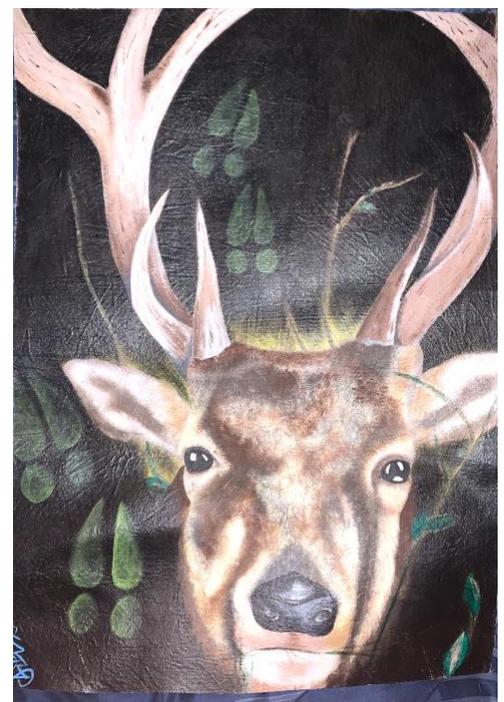


## Reparations Series

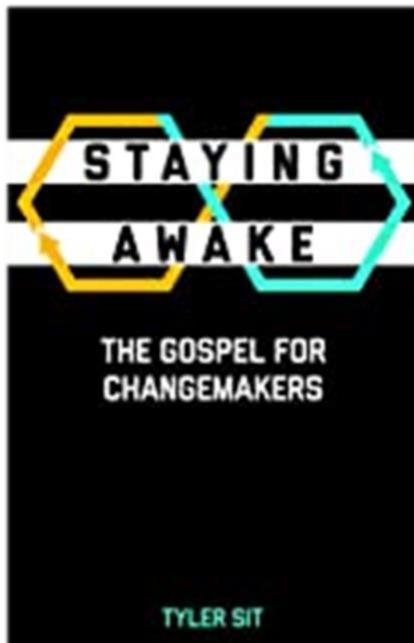
This four-part, once a month Monday evening zoom series will be attended by Pastor Matthias, Maria McNamara, Mary Bren, Mary Murphy, Susan Streb, and... you? If you are interested in joining for one or more evenings please sign-up, asap, to <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf1FBmw2sMfJ2s7ypJNCcJwsMZj8tHhLHcvcmQmngbxPdBogg/viewform?pli=1>

Along this same theme the Adult Forum just read and discussed a small book written by a PA prison inmate, Running River, with whom we became acquainted months back through Pastor Ammon Bailey. Learning facts is one thing, but becoming more acquainted personally on a long-term basis with someone who is incarcerated, is a whole other enlightenment. It makes the need for reparations to Black and indigenous communities, much more urgent.

If you'd like to read this book about life of an indigenous person in prison, contact Pastor or Susan as we have many copies available. And personal updates are available to you through Susan, who maintains a weekly phone and zoom contact with Running River. Even while imprisoned, he, himself, is now advocating for prison reform, especially bringing attention through law suits to allow indigenous spiritual practices, the same way that other religious practices are allowed. He expresses his cultural background through his art, which, as well as commissioned art, is for sale. Here he is pictured in front of a wall mural he painted in the prison.



*Join the class! Save the world! (or at least a little part of it)*



If you join this class you are sure to get an "A" as we all work together. And you can have all the snacks you want, because you just take them out of your own refrigerator! Join the Wednesday evening zoom adult discussion group from 7-8 pm.

Our textbook was written by Tyler Sit, the Church Planter and Pastor of New City Church in South Minneapolis; he states ..."I pass on to you what my community has learned about this revolutionary way of life, what Christians who practice Christianity in the context of social justice in the twenty-first-century paradigm have started to learn." This book available through many bookstores or Amazon.com for around \$15. Or call if you'd like to share a copy.

#### Assignments:

Feb 2, if possible be prepared to sign up for any chapter with another person to guide the discussion; and to conclude each discussion with this question:

"What can we as CPUC do about this?"

Feb 9, Chapter 1 WORSHIP Staying Awake to Love

Feb 16, Chapter 2 Staying Awake to Empire- Marginalized voices

Feb 23, Chapter 3 PRAYER Staying Awake to our Lives

(Mar 2, Ash Wednesday)

Mar 9, Chapter 4 Groups; Staying Awake to Community

Mar 16, Chapter 5 Sabbath; Staying Awake to Stillness

Mar 23, Chapter 6 Leadership Development; Staying Awake to the Movement

Mar 30, Chapter 7 Generosity; Staying Awake to Gratitude

Apr 6, Chapter 8 Planting; Staying Awake to the Future

and Chapter 9 Putting It All Together; Staying Awake to Wholeness

Please contact Joanne Sylvander with any questions, suggestions, or offers to help.

651-373-0885

sylvanderjc@gmail.com

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81725210424?pwd=cVrUONHdHZSWjBd2ZoMFdBNE1hQT09>

Meeting ID: 817 2521 0424

Password: 056975



*From Pastor Matthias*

Dear CPUC,

The last two weeks of January, Minneapolis Public Schools moved to “e-learning” due to staff shortages caused by Omicron quarantines. I feel for school officials who have to make these no-win decisions.

Balancing a kindergartener’s online learning with pastoral responsibilities has been a challenge, to be sure. However, it has been sweet to observe the interactions of students and teachers on virtual meetings. It has been fascinating too, to be that close to my child’s learning.

One piece that has stood out is how much of learning is repetition. So much of learning comes down to practicing again and again: letters, writing, numbers and patterns. Beyond rote learning of facts, letters, and numbers, we learn other skills by practice and repetition too.

In our jobs or in relationships: we gauge what works and try again, perhaps altering a little here or there as needed. That practice hones our skills, or expands our repertoire of how we can relate to others.

Though repetition may have a pejorative connotation to some, it is also a concept we can apply to our life in God. We do refer to it as spiritual practice after all. While some element of the Holy cannot ever be tamed or controlled like a light switch, repeating spiritual practice shapes us.

Just as friendship or love is built over many interactions, so our relationship with God grows as we repeat practices of our faith: prayer, worship, attentive listening, extending care to others, pursuing justice.

Faith is an ongoing journey of learning. It cannot be memorized, but it can be deepened with practice over time.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Matthias

## *At the January meeting the Council ...*



-set the communion dates for the coming year as the first Sunday of each month plus Maundy Thursday and/or other dates that may be required by superseding events, pandemics, emergencies, etc.

-received the financial report: due to generous last-minute donations we did not dip into the general fund for budget shortfalls. One sizeable donation of apple stock was received through the bank with no name indicated on who donated it. (Please let Karen know if it was you.)

-received the proposed 2022 budget but it needed a few additional pieces of information; the Finance Team would meet soon, advise the council by email, and the council will do a zoom the following Sunday to vote on the final budget, to be presented at the upcoming annual congregational meeting, Sunday January 30 via zoom.

-received the pastor's report; pastor will be away Jan. 31-Feb. 6; Rev. Eily Marlow will be leading worship and preaching. She has been on our live facebook worship with her children. Rev. Glen Herrington-Hall will be available for pastoral care needs.

-received the clerk's report; Mike led the discussion to fill the various liaison and representative positions as follows: Church Treasurer: Phyllis Clark, Financial Secretary: Karen Shatek, Accountant: Lynne Bates, Counters: Jim & Karen, Auditor: asking Ingrid or Jerome, Presbytery Commissioners: Mike, Kay, Carly, Mary Kay, Minnesota Conference UCC Annual Meeting Delegates: (2) Maria, Karolyn, Carly, Delegates to Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul: (2) Lay Ministry Chair: Mike, Lay Ministry: Karolyn, Moderator: Pastor, Vice Moderator: Jim, Clerk of Council: Mike, Personnel Ministry: Jim

-changed the date of the February council meeting from the second, to the third Tuesday, Feb. 15

-prayed for each member or known friend of the congregation, as named by Pastor Matthias. A very moving spiritual experience.

*Council met for a special called meeting on Sunday, January 23 to approve the church budget for 2022. Thanks to the leg work of the Finance Team, the budget was well-thought-out and approved unanimously.*

## 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

*Class of 2024 council members being installed/ordained*



After worship on Sundays, visit with each other using the **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

*February Happy Birthdays*

13 - Jan Howe  
 13 - Eric Jacobsen  
 26 - Jackie Rico

*Newsletter:*

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

*Your Church-During-Covid Team*

Pastor Matthias  
 Joanne Sylvander  
 Jill Jackson  
 Maria McNamara

We may not be worshipping at the building, but it continues to be made ready! Here Joe, who has shoveled our walks for four years, is ever vigilant. And when we do arrive it is always interesting to see who else has been in the building, doing their thing!



*Weekdays, Please Sign In (+out) - Thank!*

TODAY!	Name(s):	IN (time)	OUT (time)
MLK	Susan	1:30	2 pm
MLK	MIKE	3:30	3:35
1/17	Tom	6:30	7:10p
1/19	STEFAN	12:30p	15:30
1/19	MIKE	12:50p	2:00p
1/19	Sandy	1:00	2:40
1/21	SUSAN	1:30	2:00
1/22	Jim + Karon	3:00	3:10
1/24	Sasha	9:00 am	9:10

*1/25 Susan 10:25-11*

*While God must no doubt delight in this depth of commitment to a place, it's clear God seeks breadth for us, as well, if for no other reason than to push against the limits of our horizons and the ease of our prejudices. Time spent in the wilderness makes real for us God's loving provision of both comfort and challenge -*

of food and drink for the body, and demons, beasts, and angels for the soul. Time in the wilderness reminds us that we are citizens not of any particular place or people, but of all places and of all people - we are citizens not just of 'here', but also of 'there.'

*The Very Rev Paul J. Lebens - England, Thin Places, March 2018*

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

*You were not created to be perfect;  
You were created to be loved.*