

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 March 2022

(Cover photo credit, Winter Garden, by Sasha Aslanian)

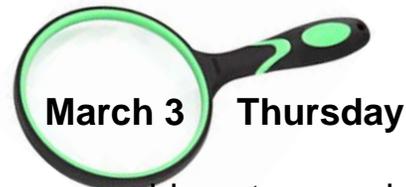
Ash Wednesday

March 2, Wednesday 7 pm

Join us for an Ash Wednesday worship service on zoom. (In place of our normal Adult Forum gathering). We will explore themes of our mortality, connection to earth, and what is most foundationally sacred to us.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81725210424?pwd=cVrU0NHdHZSWjIBd2ZoMFdBNE1hQT09>

Loaves & Fishes date scientifically analyzed



I will not say that March 3 is fast approaching. It is approaching at approximately the same rate that it has approached for many millennia. The significance of March 3 this year is that it is when we will have our next official rendezvous with folks who need our help and whom we will serve through our Loaves and Fishes mission. About 7 of us will once again assemble at St. Matthews church beginning around 3:30 pm to prepare the food. Another 7 will join around 5 pm to serve and clean up, relieving the first group. That's it. By March 3, we are assured of balmy weather. Please consider joining us. Email Wayne Bjorlie (weugbj@yahoo.com) that you will join. Thank you.

Women's Affinity Group - Sharing our "SHE"roes!

March 4, Friday, 7 pm

Since March is Women's History Month, let's talk about our "She"-roes. Come prepared to share about a person who identified or identifies as female who made a difference for you. This could be a person in your life or from world history. She could have marched for equality, sang and played a guitar, or changed a lot of diapers.

Join us using the zoom link below.

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



(photo included withOUT permission)

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](#).

Adult Forum has been reading Tyler Sit's Staying Awake: The Gospel for Changemakers. On February 23, we asked "How do you Pray?" What follows is a found art poem of our answers.

How to Pray

I'm with the Old Man and the Sea – and he talks back. * I feel the spirit.
I pray when folding laundry. * Life as prayer. * I can airmail prayers to arrive.
I hope for things. I don't verbalize it * I stumble into prayer. A moment of wonder.
I'm not alone. * Mostly, I pray by crying. * It's a force that can be used for good.
I've seen what it can do. * It's a conversation with God and I'm touched on the other end. * Help! * Prayers in the car. * Prayer as spaciousness.
Prayer is as much listening as talking. * There is no prayer math. * It's just mystery.

Nona started us off with an opening prayer, one used often by her father, with Lakota beginning and ending, as hands were extended.



Notes from Kirsten Howe: Master Recycler, Trash Talker

We, as a congregation, have been awarded the 2021 Restoring Creation Award from the national Presbyterians for Earth Care group. Since Kirsten, daughter of Jan Howe, is a Dakota County trained and designated Master Recycler, we invited her to give us some new, or often forgotten tips. As a recognized role model in earth care, we need to keep up our efforts to use sustainable practices for good stewardship of God's creation. Read on for Kirsten's thoughts.

I really wanted to become a Master Gardener. It seemed so cool, so much to learn. I did not inherit any green thumb, but I stumbled across Master Recycler training when researching Master Gardener. Fortunately, everyone can be good at trash and recycling! Susan asked me to share a few of my favorite parts of going thru the Master Recycler training and the great recycling programs in our area:

1. Do you really need it?! Step 1 in recycling: don't buy it. Can you borrow it, rent it, live without it? Don't create the need to recycle. Mel Howe was ahead of his time: wrapping paper was a brown bag, a staple, labeled with a Sharpie marker. If your gift was wrapped in the colored comics from the Sunday paper, you knew it was special! My pandemic bad habit: getting lots of "necessities" shipped to the house. My mother Jan called out my huge overuse of packaging: boxes, bubbles, etc., some of it not recyclable. Mask, shopping at non-peak hours, and curbside pick-up eliminated that issue!
2. Check out the county Recycling websites!! They are kept up to date. And contain huge amount of information and suggestions for you.

Dakota: [Recycling Guide | Dakota County](#)

Ramsey: [Recycling & Waste | Ramsey County](#)

Did you know the Recycling Zone in Dakota county has a free give away area? *(Note from Susan: since my middle names are rebate, coupon, and free, this is a fun place for me. I've found silver polish, now-illegal spot removers, gold spray paint which is my favorite of all.)*



3. Organic recycling, aka organic composting. Very easy to do. Step 1: buy only what you can eat.

Dakota: [Organics & Food Waste at Home | Dakota County](#)

Ramsey: [Food Scraps | Ramsey County](#)

The Dakota county drop offs are well maintained: Susan walks to hers! Ramsey county has organic drop offs at their yard waste sites, and designated sites.

Allowables include meat bones and pizza boxes! *(Susan's note: if you can drive to*

Butler and Hwy 52 bring your organics to the Thompson Park parking lot and know that there are free compostable bags there for you too. I store my compostibles in a 5 qt ice cream pail and go every other week with two pails-full. If you are from another county, just pretend it's from me.)

4. And lastly but not least: Fix it clinics! Repair it, don't need to buy new. In Dakota and Ramsey counties, they will fix just about anything. For free. Lamps, vacuum cleaners, broken drawers, sewing machines, broken zippers, clothing.....

Dakota: [Reduce & Reuse| Dakota County](#) Ramsey: [Fix-It Clinics | Ramsey County](#)

Amazing dedicated knowledgeable volunteers. This is my favorite volunteer op: I bring my sewing machine. Repairing saves money too! Due to COVID, Ramsey county clinics are still suspended. Dakota county's are happening – please wear a mask!

The Dakota county Master Recycling training class was a huge eye opener for me. And the day-long tour was fabulous: touring Recycling Zone, Recycling center, the Mulch store, the landfill and more. There is so much more to our trash system than the bins at the end of your driveway on trash day.

[Master Recycler/Composter Program| Dakota County](#)

If you live in Dakota county, there is a new Master Recycling class starting on March 15. I highly recommend it. There is volunteer requirement with the class: we need to keep educating people on recycling! I found the requirement easy to complete – there is lots to do, and great people to meet!!

Coming soon: Trash haulers in Dakota county will be required to offer weekly recycling pick up. (for an increased fee, I would expect). No more having to cram your recycling into that little bin for two weeks. Our goal is to increase recycling: weekly pick up is an easy start!!

Please do check out your county recycling website: they give you current status of what can be recycled: it does change depending on the global recycling market. If you have any questions or just want to talk trash, please feel free to email me!

kirstenhowe@ymail.com

And congratulations CPUC on your Presbyterians for Earth Care award! Keep up the great recycling work!!





Speaking of recycling, the Property Management Ministry, with Council approval, has decided to discontinue, for the next 26 weeks or until our building is back in regular use, the pickup of trash and recyclables. With no worship or fellowship in the building, the amount of trash/recyclables is minimal, and we create more environmental damage having



the trucks stop by for little or no pick-up; plus it will save us some money. Anything accumulating each week will be taken home by two volunteers to add to their residential trash or recycle bins. And any group meeting will be asked to take home anything they brought in (like the BWCA!).

Master Master Recycler: Of course, we should note that our master, master of all recyclers, is Sasha Aslanian. She drives free breakfast treats leftover from Panera to members Sunday mornings, she posts and delivers free meals left from Loaves and Fishes, sometimes out of a box she is carrying down the street to passing cars.

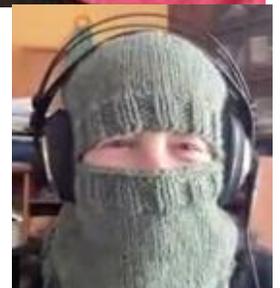


She even picked up a huge bunch of children's clothing strewn on the street, laundered it, posted on FB, and found the perfect, very grateful person who really needed the clothing.

She is also sewing fleece mittens from a pattern from Karen & Sandy, which are taken to Loaves and Fishes (mittens, not Karen & Sandy) when Ruffo calls her in when he needs another volunteer there.



Her hands are always busy; join us on zoom after worship and you will see what she is knitting or crocheting, and sometimes she'll model it. A recent item was a warm balaclava head warmer, but not pretty enough for her daughters, so she left it in the mailbox for the mailman who surely appreciated the warmth.



Something Happened in Our Town

Beginning February 27, Children's Theatre Company is presenting this world premiere play by Cheryl L. West, based on the book of the same title. When an unarmed Black man is killed by a White police officer, best friends Josh and Emma don't know how to react or make sense of it. As they talk to their respective families, audiences will gain perspective on the important conversations that might be happening next door, across the street, or down the block, and how those conversations can help inform the way we talk to our own kids.

On May 25, 2020, our community was rocked when George Floyd, a Black man, was killed by a White police officer. Tragically, this was not the first nor the last death of an unarmed Black person at the hands of the police. The names of Daunte Wright, Jamar Clark, Philando Castile, and many others stand as reminders of the challenge of police violence and accountability in our community.

Tickets and Information childrenstheatre.org/town.

SOMETHING HAPPENED IN OUR TOWN

FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 27, 2022

Best for everyone ages 7 and up
UnitedHealth Group Stage

Written by **Cheryl L. West**
Directed by **Timothy Douglas**
Based on the book
Something Happened in Our Town by
Marianne Celano, Ph.D., ABPP;
Marietta Collins, Ph.D.;
Ann Hazzard, Ph.D., ABPP

Proudly Supported by **WELLS FARGO** **NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS** With additional support from **THOMSON REUTERS**

Throughout Minnesota, families are having important conversations about racism and how it affects their families, communities, and our country. What we may not realize is how those conversations differ, depending on the street, the home, or the family. How are people with a different lived experience talking about how race impacts all of us? What can we learn from others about how to have these difficult conversations with our kids?

...a call to action to facilitate the much-needed discussion about inclusion, compassion, and what it really means to be peace makers in our homes, schools, and communities.”..._ “a great educational resource for parents ... to talk to children about race and racism and trauma, [and] how to identify and counter racial injustice.”

Sacred Solidarity *Reparations Circle*

by Multifaith Anti-Racism,
Change & Healing (MARCH
Minnesota)

This four-part, once a month (last Monday evenings Feb, Mar, Apr, May) zoom series will be attended by Pastor Matthias, Maria McNamara, Mary Bren, Mary Murphy, Susan Strebig, and... you? If you are interested please contact us if you'd like to be kept abreast of our progress.



*What else are we doing
while still staying home?*

Kathy Bergthold, well- known for her sewing of church paraments and creating afghans for our graduating high school seniors, keeps her sewing machine humming and her needles busy. She learned that the nearby Cerenity assisted living and nursing home needed warm items for residents who could not afford them. Below see a collection of caps and lap blankets recently donated to keep her neighbors warm and cozy, both in body and in spirit.



From Pastor Matthias

Dear CPUC,



In some circles of Christianity (mostly evangelical ones, from what I can tell) there has been much talk lately about “deconstruction” of one’s faith. Typically, these are either people sharing their personal narratives of coming to terms with toxic and harmful Christian beliefs and “deconstructing” them or warnings from some church leaders about the spiritual perils of deconstructing. This latter category usually seems to have a position of power and thus a vested interest in peddling a certain brand of belief.

Even for those who don’t undergo such a dramatic shift in beliefs, change in how we experience the Sacred or what we believe about God, Jesus, or other elements of Christianity are a natural part of having a faith life.

For me, one such shift in my life has happened around how I think about the season of Lent—the 40 days leading up to Easter.

Drawing on Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness fasting and praying, the Lenten tradition I grew up with proposed “giving up” something for Lent as a sort of fast. I still think this can be a fruitful spiritual practice for the season of Lent when done in a healthy and thoughtful way.

However, at some point “giving up” something stopped feeling like a spiritual practice for me and started to feel spiritually punitive, with the additional feelings of guilt when I, inevitably, messed up.

Examining this led me into a more spacious place of faith. Instead of asking “what shall I forego for Lent?” I now tend to ask “What spiritual practice am I curious to try?” or “What spiritual practice might draw me closer to God in this season?”

This year during Lent, I invite you to journey through the season together by creating your own sacred space at home. Drawing on an idea from House of Mercy in St. Paul, each week we will add another component to our home altars, hopefully find a renewed way to meet God in our daily living.

Yours on the way,
Pastor Matthias



At the February meeting the Council ...

- received the Facilitating Racial Equity Collaborative budget and overview of programming explained by Sarah Gleason, FREC liaison.
- passed a motion to continue to be the fiscal sponsor for FREC in 2022; thank you to Lynne for doing the majority of work involved in this, along with Pastor Matthias. CPUC receives a 6K payment for this work and is credited with a \$6,000 in-kind contribution of time and talent; any liabilities are covered by our insurance.
- approved the Pastor's report including plans/ideas for Lenten worship services, a request for time off May 26-31, the possibility of the Being Church committee making plans to return to hybrid services as the trend of new cases continues to go downward.
- approved the clerk's report including a request for Glen and Barb Herrington-Hall to transfer to CPUC, and a reminder that we need to have elder training done each year.
- approved a proposal from Jim that Property Management Ministry suspend trash and recycling service/expenses for 26 weeks since so little is generated
- shared a visioning of hopes for 2022, with each member offering one hope and what that individual can do, personally, to help bring that about.

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



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

A Fairy Good Friend

The 33rd musical at Unity Church-Unitarian, starring fourteen 12- to 14-year-old actors, singers, and dancers, will have three performances in March: 3/10, 3/11, and 3/12.

This year's show, the first in-person show since March 2020, is called "A Fairy Good Friend." Friendships, and stereotypes about them, are examined as a forest fairy and a dragon become friends. Themes include following one's dreams, looking outside of the box, and forgiveness.



Book by Mary Blouin Auffert, and music/lyrics by **Sandy Waterman**. CPUC's own **Stefan Sylvander** is guest percussionist.

For more information, please look under "Grow" at Unity's website, www.unityunitarian.org. (Unity is located at Portland and Grotto in St. Paul, the congregation declared, in 1968, its support for, and warm welcome of GLBTQ people. A recent photo exhibit on gender fluidity; an anti-racism committee; and neighborhood partnerships with social service agencies are just some of Unity's social and spiritual commitments.)

March Happy Birthdays

08 - Valerie Peterson-Brandt
(08 - Michael Woods,
rest in peace)
09 - Jim Shatek
20 - Gabriel Peterson-Brandt
21 - Philip Rickey
23 - Sarah Ellefson
♥ 24 - Dean and Meliza
31 - Sandy Dodson

Your Church-During- Covid Team

Pastor Matthias
Joanne Sylvander
Jill Jackson
Maria McNamara

Newsletter:

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

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

*We pray that we learn to love what holds us back,
whatever makes life hard,
until it cracks
and we can move on.*

Carly