



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 May 2022

Women's Affinity Group - What is "load-bearing" in your life?

May 6, Friday, 7 pm.

Carly Evans shared this idea in recent months. Load-bearing elements are the things in our lives (routines, places, resources) that help us thrive. The link below discusses them and what happens when we lose these sometimes small but often important anchors. If time and your own load bearing structures allow, you are invited to read the short article and reflect on your life. All are welcome to come and share as you are. If you need a printed copy of the article, contact Jill Jackson at 612 308-6746 (talk/text).



<https://theunitofcaring.tumblr.com/post/174283682391/load-bearing/amp>

If the weather is nice, we will meet outside at church. Please bring your own chair and beverage. Masks are welcome but not required. If the weather is cold and/or wet, we will meet on Zoom. (Use link below.) An announcement will be sent to all identifying as female and on the Women's Affinity Group email list early on the afternoon of May 6 announcing our venue. If you aren't on the email list but would like to be, email Jill at jilljacksonmn@comcast.net. Please join us! Zoom link below: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88224263749?pwd=SzBDMHRLVUpVRWE2eUgvNm5YdkpFZz09>

Co-Host Fellowship Request

As we ease back into being in-person for worship and offer a more low-key fellowship of coffee and possibly Panera goodies, we need some hosts to help make it happen. It works best if two people sign up each time, (ask if you would like to team up with an experienced person) and makes for much more fun. Briefly, the duties are (but you can also add your own touch to this):

- ♥ Arrive by 9:45 to set up pitchers of water, cups, at coffee station (coffee urn will already be set up.)
- ♥ Put out napkins if there are goodies. We usually have free Panera pastries on hand, but you may purchase anything else and be reimbursed from the free will offering.
- ♥ After worship turn dishwasher on to heat water (just a push of the red button)
- ♥ After fellowship place cups in rack and slide into dishwasher, close door, and voila, they will be washed and dried automatically within minutes. Put cups back on rack.
- ♥ Put away any supplies you got out.
- ♥ Wipe down tables for crumbs or drips.



You will find a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall on the refreshment table, or contact Meliza Thursten, mthurstin@earthlink.net



Verily, verily...

...the oracle of all that is good and true from Cherokee Park has foreseen the coming of the next **Loaves and Fishes Day** for Cherokee volunteers, and it is **Thursday, May 5**, when those who will need our help will, again, receive it and be grateful. The first shift is from about

3:30 to 5:30 for preparation, and the second shift is from about 5:30 to 7:00 for serving and clean-up. Please help. Contact Wayne Bjorlie. weugbj@yahoo.com

FLOWER WATCH

Watch for these blooming perennials, and more, around our church.

April: Magnolia

May: Bleeding heart, flowering redbud, crab-apple, forget-me-not, azalea

June: spirea, dwarf rose, daylily, karmina geranium, dwarf lilac, peony

July: milkweed

Aug: coneflower, astor

Sept: brown-eyed Susan

Oct: Chinese astilbe, coral bell

May-Sept: weeds!!



From Pastor Matthias

Dear CPUC Community,



I read a blessing by Rev. Emily DeTar Birt the other morning that contained this line that just walloped me with its beauty and truth:

“You are so much more than all the stories you tell about yourself.”

Too often we have to reduce things to their simplest version. Give me the headline because there isn't time to read the whole story. This is sometimes borne out of necessity: our brains can only process and retain so much information.

But it can also work against us, chopping down immensely complex things in ways that lose important nuance, beauty, mystery, and messiness. We turn things into black-and-white binaries where God means for us to see the full spectrum of color.

This is true when we aim our reductionism at others, equating a person with their most salient trait or two in our mind. This can be true when we look at our own selves: we believe a Cliff's Notes version of the vast volumes that make us up.

So in the vein of that blessing, I would remind you:

You are more than your worst day and lowest moment.

You are more than the baddest mistake you have made.

You are not the meanest comment someone has made to you.

You are not reducible to any one label or identifier. You get to be all that you are, in all the glory that is you, even if some of it seems contradictory.

You are a wonderful and complex and constantly-healing-and-growing human being, made in the beloved image of a loving Creator.

Easter blessings,
Pastor Matthias

Note: I will be away May 26 - May 31.

Easter Garden

Thank you to Mary Murphy for selecting the lovely array of flowers for our altar garden, and to all who purchased them as an extension of church to home.

Earth Day Worship

On April 24, the Sunday closest to the annual Earth Day observance, one focus was on care for our Earth. Special mention was made in gratitude for the courageous leadership that indigenous people have taken as water protectors and land protectors.

This photo shows Running River, currently incarcerated in a Pennsylvania prison, and artwork he created to promote creation care.



Pastor Matthias, borrowing from a friend of his, gave a loose biblical interpretation of St. Paul's exhortation about the three great things. "These three things remain: reduce, reuse, and recycle. But the greatest of these is reduce." So drawing on that for inspiration, May God reduce your self-importance that we might see ourselves in proper perspective; May Christ, the great recycler bring transformation to all; and may the Spirit be with you, that Great Spirit that can always find a new

use for something and never lets anything go to waste."

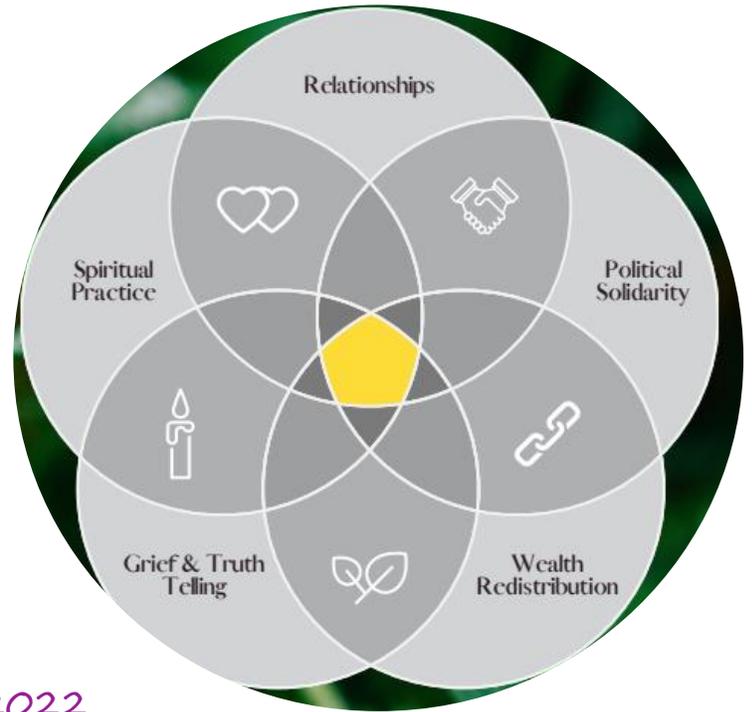
Adult Forum - we will resume on Wednesday, April 27 and discern what we may pursue together next. One idea has been to further explore the themes from our reading Staying Awake, and ponder if and how they might be applicable to CPUC. Other ideas welcome!

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, Susan Strebig, Stefan Sylvander. If you are interested in joining the last evening, May 23, you might possibly check in at :

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

One of the learnings was this possible framework for thinking about a holistic approach to reparative work. It may take generations to undo the compound harm that has been done, but we can begin, now, with us. When we can arrive, together, at the middle, we will succeed.



Save the dates - PRIDE celebrations 2022

You are invited to join us in representing CPUC at two PRIDE events this summer.



More details available in June!

- June 26, Sunday –
Minneapolis PRIDE Parade – 11 am
- July 9, Saturday –
West St. Paul PRIDE
at the West St. Paul Sports Center

May Birthdays & Celebrations

- ♡ 13 - Mike & Lynne Bates
- 16 - Maria McNamara
- 21 - Sasha Aslanian
- 27 - Diane Spicer
- ♡ 28 - Jim & Karen Shatek



At the April meeting the Council ...

--passed a motion to approve appointing Mary Bren as our auditor, to conduct a financial review of our 2021 books. This is a standard requirement and good policy. Once concluded, this report will be shared (with a vote to receive the report) at the next congregational meeting in late May or early June. Thank you, Mary!

-- accepted the **pastor's report** of the past month's activities, of which much was used with the Being Church During Covid Team to plan how worship would be offered in the future; and approved the pastor's request for vacation time (as prescribed by the council as Rx!): Monday June 13 through Sunday, June 19 and Monday, July 18 through Sunday, July 24.

-- received the **Personnel Team** Report describing the painful process of concluding our nursery supervisor's employment at CPUC as she opted not to be vaccinated against COVID-19, which Council has required of all CPUC staff. Take-aways from this include an observance that discussions and conclusions of this nature need to be followed up in writing, and our recent Personnel team (which is a committee of Council plus pastor) is all cisgender males and more inclusivity would be better.

--**tabled** a motion suggested by the Being Church During Covid Team that if case numbers & positivity rates remain below our thresholds, we can remove pre-sign up and distancing in worship on Sunday, May 1 and if case numbers & positivity rate remain below our thresholds, make masks optional/encouraged on Sunday, May 15. Since in Ramsey County, the positivity and case rates are up, the BCDCT was thanked for their diligence and asked that the motion be brought back when numbers are again on a decline. It was noted that distancing in the sanctuary during Palm Sunday was disregarded during the Passing of the Peace, so an announcement will be made to stay in pews during this time, and use Fellowship Time as the place for closer interaction for those who desire it.

--passed a motion suggested by the **Lay Ministry** Team to create a **Tech Team** for the handling of virtual worship, church tech equipment, virtual file storage, website needs, etc.

--received a report from the **Lay Ministries** Team that Diane Spicer has offered to be on this team (no one was available in January); this will be brought up for a vote at the next congregational meeting.

--received a heads-up from the **Faith Life** Team that they are planning a trial run of a portion of the Peace Room as a **children's annex worship space**. More information on this coming to Council in May for possible approval.

--received notice that Jair, our **custodian**, may be off for a month for health reasons; council approves that he use sick leave to cover this absence.

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

Newsletter

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

We make the road by walking.
Maria McNamara