

All doors now
OPEN!



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 August 2022

PRIDE Celebration 2022

Thank you for making CPUC's presence possible at the WSP Pride Fest at the West St. Paul Sports Center on Saturday, July 9. The participants, venue, and weather all cooperated for a wonderful celebration of community! There seems to be a special spirit at this event each year. Love and acceptance are in the air! (Plus the aroma of those yummy and free hot dogs!)

Thanks again for being the heart and hands of CPUC in so many ways.



CPUC T-shirt survey says Yes?

Are you interested in buying and tie-dying a new church T-shirt? We need to know if there is enough demand to order shirts and ask our artist friend to help us with this project. Please let us know of your interest and how many shirts you and your family plan to order/make. Contact Jill by August 7 **OR** sign up on the survey form at church. If the survey says "Yes!," more details will follow. Thank you!

THANK YOU ☆

to our Lay Ministries Team for their efforts to creatively reorganize our ministry efforts this year. The new seasonal concept is expressed during worship through these new original song lyrics from our in-house poet, Jill Jackson. Many of us have previously enjoyed hearing or even being recipients of her work to celebrate various birthdays and occasions. We always look forward to learning more verses; perhaps as the year progresses? Jill shared that this was the Spirit working, as it only took an hour to write.

In Our Garden Ministry

TUNE: For the Beauty of the Earth

1) In each season of the year, we tend to our church's growth.
Seeking God with listening ear, hearts and minds we treasure both.

Refrain:

In our Garden Ministry, we grow our community.

2) Winter is Preparing time; Spring the season to Awake.
Growing summer is divine; Fall the blessed Harvest take. **Refrain**

3) Teams of people, mission bold, choose the opportunities.
Service by both young and old, whether hard or done with ease. **REFRAIN**

Coming this Fall!

Our Ministry Team configuration will look a little different as we try out a new way of ministry together, through seasonal ministry teams that lead our congregational life for a quarter, after which the next seasonal team will lead our ministries, and so on. The hope is that the shorter scope of time commitment and the ability to try new ideas will encourage more broad participation. Our previous model of having several standing ministry teams had become unsustainable with many consisting of one or two members, which makes living out those ministries much more challenging.



The first seasonal team, which will first gather for planning in mid-August, will lead us through the Harvest season (October-December). Our hope would be that all would consider serving on at least one seasonal team during the course of the year, though we know that may not be possible for all. We encourage you to begin praying and contemplating whether you feel called to serve on the first Seasonal Team this Fall, and help us live into a new thing that God is doing within our midst!

From Pastor Matthias

Dear CPUC,

During a workshop this spring, we were asked to picture the world as we hope it to be seven generations from now (drawing on the principle from the Iroquois Confederacy that all decisions by chiefs should consider the sustainability of the decision seven generations down the line). I found this exercise extremely challenging and struggled to come up with ideas. I got hung up on all the unknowns that would impact whether my vision was realistic or achievable.



I am amused with myself in hindsight, because the prompt was not meant to get hung up on what is most likely or what could be, but what we hope the world will be like and how we hope the world will be transformed for the better. The exercise was not to devise a plan to make it happen, but simply to picture it.

It is good to stretch our imaginations that far into the future, a time far beyond our lifetimes, to envision the world as we hope it will be. Whether our wildest hopes will come to fruition or not, we cannot say. However, if we do not even try to envision a better world, there is definitely **no** chance it will come to be.

This is the gift of prophetic imagination. It is the gift of science fiction writers. It is the gift of dreamers across the world. To dream such a world is the first step toward such a world.

At the Presbyterian General Assembly this year (the national gathering of the denomination) a resolution was passed that the PCUSA divest from the five largest fossil fuel companies. This uncoupling of our denominational financial resources from fossil fuel companies would not have occurred without many previous saints believing it could be so.

Keep practicing prophetic hope.

Yours on the way,

Pastor Matthias

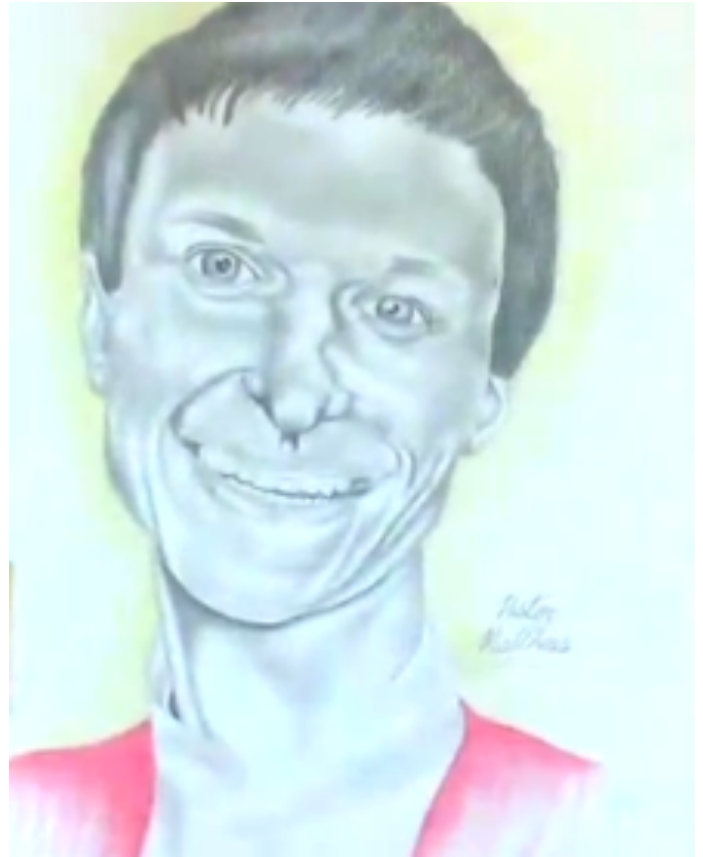
Do you enjoy making others comfortable? You possibly are being called to volunteer as a greeter before Sunday worship. It's not hard; do what you usually do - smile, extend the warmth of our community, show new-comers what they might like to know. Sign up on the link below or call Jill with any questions.



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C45AFA72AA1FFC16-worship>

Look familiar?

This is a portrait drawn, using as a model, the photo of Pastor Matthias that often accompanies his column. (See previous page.) It was drawn on cloth by warrior artist Marvin Running River Banks, who is incarcerated at Benner State Prison in PA.



We have a one-year acquaintance with him and his work to bring justice to the inmates in prisons, especially those who are Indian or black Indians and more discriminated against than others. Running River is not exactly popular to the prison administration as he has mounted, and is winning, two law suits against them that require them to allow indigenous men access to meaningful worship, through a sweat lodge and a sacred bundle of worship items. Although the inmates themselves have to raise money for any expenses involved, and are prepared to do so, the prison is still stalling on these permissions. (source: Susan Strebog)



Council Notes

There was no council meeting in July, hence, no notes! However some issues that come up between meetings are voted on by email so they can be dealt with in a timely manner. If there is unanimous consent, the motion passes.

Such is the case with a recent request from Barb Rose whom many of you know or know of her from FREC. She has been involved with a west side organization called GROWS that plants and supports community gardens; they had a big harvest of basil and requested use the CPUC kitchen for 2 hours on July 23 to prepare pesto to give away at the free farm stand in Parque Castillo at the end of July. They bring their own supplies, do not use the stove and will clean up; and one leader has a cottage food license.



The motion was passed, in agreement that this is good stewardship of our building to share it in this way. It also brought up the idea of forming a list of criteria for how to handle one-time use requests like this, so in the future, they need not go through the council and we can also handle requests on short notice.



Welcome Recovery Dharma!

Cherokee Park United Church is delighted to welcome a meeting of the Recovery Dharma group into the building for their weekly meeting. Recovery Dharma is a recovery group that is grounded in Buddhist principles (such as the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path). They began meeting in July and gather weekly on Tuesdays from 7-8 pm. Since they sit on the floor or meditation cushions, their meetings will happen on the Fellowship Hall stage, where a lack of furniture makes for a conducive environment.

We are grateful for our church building and the opportunities to practice stewardship and hospitality to other groups looking for a space to meet. And we give thanks for all those who walk the challenging, healing path of recovery.

August Birthdays & Celebrations

06 - Curt
07 - Kathy
06 - Bob
08 - Mary B
11 - Parker
13 - Kathy B
14 - Karen S
15 - Ted
16 - Kandy
♥ 23 - Eric & Jane
30 - Jane

CPUC E-Directory updates welcome!

We have gathered quite a few “updates” for our electronic directory of church members and friends. If you have new or changed contact information to share (or wish to opt out of the directory), please contact Jill before September 5.

We welcome submissions of recent pictures of you/your family to publish with your entry. We will send out the updated directory later in September. Thank you for helping us stay connected!

Loaves & Fishes

August is an off-month for Loaves and Fishes. Our next opportunity will be on Thursday, September 1. Our work on July 7 provided meals for about 200 people.



Change of address

Please note that Stefan and Joanne's address, effective July 31, has changed. No change in phone numbers or emails.

Newsletter

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

Worship in the Park – bounty of music, bubbles, prayer, food, love



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

*Hope is not like a lottery ticket you can sit on the sofa and clutch...
Hope is an ax you break down doors with in an emergency.*

*Rebecca Solnit
Sojourners Newsletter*