



## **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 November 2022***



*Greetings from the Seasonal Steering Team (SST)* for the Harvest Season 2022.

In November we are looking forward to CPUC participation in Loaves and Fishes and the FREC Conference.

We are planning some new experiences for our congregation, too. Several SST members are taking the lead on making Caring Connections phone calls to the friends and members of CPUC. Those calls will happen around Thanksgiving time. Please answer your phone (or call back!) to chat with the callers and stay connected to our caring community.

Pastor Matthias will also be sharing a special sermon series on Stewardship Sundays this month.

The Harvest SST feels the responsibility to mark the beginning of Advent at the end of November and to foster an appropriate celebration of it among church members. We will, of course, assure that the paraments of the season adorn the sanctuary. However, to date, no one has stepped up to carry forward the traditions of Hanging the Greens or the Christmas Dinner and Caroling we have offered in past years. This SST welcomes a response from any church members and/or friends to help us carry these traditions forward.

The Team is sensing interest in re-starting the Adult Forum meetings.

Looking into December, the Harvest SST is hosting a Christmas cookie baking event at church on Saturday, December 10 in the afternoon. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details on how to sign up for this sweet event.

We'd also like to continue our historic ministry of supporting a family at Christmas time.

Your help is needed to make these important connections happen! Please be in touch with the SST with your interests and availability. The Team is open to your new ideas, as well. Thank you for your support as we live out our faith commitments in community at CPUC.

Sincerely,  
Harvest Seasonal Steering Team 2022 - Wayne, Sandy D.,  
Mary M., Joanne  
Lay Ministry Team support - Karolyn, Jill, Diane



## Loaves & Fishes



### November 3, Thursday

Our chance to help with hunger will come again as we Cherokee Park folks host and staff a Loaves and Fishes offering at St Matthew's Church, corner of Robie St. and Hall Ave. We have been faithful workers for many years at Loaves and Fishes, and we contribute financially, as well.

Our recent experience has been that the need is increasing. We have been serving an ever-greater number of meals. Please consider joining our team of 7 workers for the 3:30-5:00 preparation shift and another 7 for the 5:00-7:00 serving and clean-up shift. We have been fortunate in always having enough volunteers to do our job, but if you have not volunteered in the past, we could use you, and you could become part of this important Cherokee Park mission. Please contact Wayne Bjorlie.

## All Saints Celebration

**November 6, Sunday** (also the end of Daylight Saving Time- set clocks back)

On the first Sunday in November, CPUC observes All Saints day by remembering dear ones who have died. We especially honor members and friends who have passed since last November. In worship we will have a saints' altar in the front of the sanctuary. During worship, all will be invited to bring forward photos or mementos of departed loved ones. We will also have some slips of paper for you to write the names to add to the altar as well. If you are worshipping virtually or won't be in-person that Sunday, feel free to submit the name(s), a picture, or a special memento of dear ones that you'd like included in this service. You can email them to

[matthias@cherokeeparkunited.org](mailto:matthias@cherokeeparkunited.org) or bring them to church. (Call first to make sure Pastor is there!)



**CHOCOLATE!!** Now that we have your attention, please consider sharing your smile and attention for a few minutes before worship on a convenient Sunday. Greet people as they arrive, and if a newcomer, extend our hospitality along with a bulletin, answer any questions, invite to refreshments after the service. Sign up at:

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

or contact Jill.

## Annual Stewardship Campaign (and pie)

By now you have received a letter inviting you to consider your pledge of financial support for Cherokee Park United Church for the coming year, 2023. Although pledges are not required of members, they are much appreciated and highly valued as a tool for the Finance Committee to plan our budget. Your pledge helps us plan for our ministries and expenses in the year ahead.

Our ministries always come with a dose of humor and sometimes sugar and spice too. When you send in your pledge, you can also send your name (or someone else's!) on the card enclosed with your mailing, for a drawing for a homemade pie. During worship over the first three Sundays of November (6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, & 20<sup>th</sup>) we will explore themes of stewardship in our worship and draw a name for a pie each Sunday. In worship on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, we will dedicate our pledge and ask God's blessing on our ministry in the year ahead. Thank you for your support and faithfulness.



### November Birthdays & Celebrations

17 - Phyllis A.  
18 - Franklin  
26 - Roxanna  
28 - Tim

## Sign up for the "Preparing" Seasonal Steering Team!

The next season in our Garden Ministry is "Preparing." This covers the months of January, February, and March. This Seasonal Steering Team will share their leadership with the congregation in the ministries of fellowship, caring, outreach, worship, justice, and faith life.

The team will meet in mid-November to listen to each other and dream about possibilities for the quarter. They will meet again in December to focus on where the Spirit is calling, and then gather other volunteers from the congregation to help in fulfilling the shared tasks of congregational life.

You can sign up using the link below. Thank you for being part of the Seasonal Steering Team adventure at CPUC!



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

## *A letter from Sasha*

Dear Cherokee Park United Church,

I wanted to send a little farewell note as Leif and I are leaving this month to spend a few years living in New York City. I'm keeping my membership at CPUC and we intend to return! This church has found its way into my heart.

My attendance was flaky for years as I made it through those years of early parenthood. You fed us, mounted holiday events and embraced our kids. I could see your light and I drew closer: baking an apple cake for coffee hour, serving as a liturgist, training to lead middle schoolers through the Our Whole Lives (sex ed) curriculum.

Before long, I had a "job" each Sunday --greeter, collecting offerings, coffee hour volunteer--and my attendance became exemplary! I caught your joy. This is the secret to a small church: we all contribute our gifts; whether singing, accounting, videography, spackling or ordination....and amazing things happen.

I could go through our whole church family and say what I love, appreciate and admire about each one of you. How you showed up for the confirmation kids' pancake breakfasts, spaghetti dinners and carnivals and made them feel like superstars. How you tenderly touched the seniors at Cerenity after singing them Christmas carols that awakened joy deep in their memories. How Pastor Matthias walked through an empty sanctuary one Sunday during Covid and introduced us to the saints in our world transformed from our old puppets.

The spirit is still speaking...through you.

Thank you for being such an important part of my life.

Wishing blessings upon you and our small yet mighty CPUC.

With love,

Sasha



*Sasha, in a hot tub, but as usual, knitting; here possibly a rainbow stole for the More Light Presbyterian Project.*

## *From Pastor Matthias*

Dear CPUC,

In seminary, I had a classmate and friend who had a wealth of experience in improv acting. He had been part of a weekly show at the large state school where he went to undergrad. In the interest of exploring the overlap between faith and improvisation, he got permission from the seminary to offer a partial credit, student-led course. I and a handful of others from various walks of life signed up, not knowing what we were in for.



When you think of Improvisation, you might think of comedy shows where everything is made up on the spot and the humor is zany and outrageous. Watching professional improv actors perform makes me marvel at the way they come up with such witty things, scene after scene.

But at its basic level, the goal of improv is not to be funny, but to co-create something by trusting your collaborators. There are very few rules, but one of them is “Yes, and...” The idea is when your collaborator offers an idea, you say “Yes” and you add to it.

Imagine two actors setting up a scene where one says: “Look a space ship!” If the scene partner says: “There’s no space ship!” then the offering of the first partner is negated and the scene returns to square one. Meanwhile, the partners’ trust is shaky. What if the next thing I propose is shut down too?

Hence the rule of “Yes, and...” Of course, there are important moments to say “no” and have that honored. But the idea of “Yes, and...” is also a rich one for creating community and being church together.

It is a way to affirm the gifts each person offers to share with the community and for us to each offer gifts, ideas, and talents knowing that others will add to them and help improve them. And through it all, the creative Spirit of God is there, saying “Yes, and...” to our efforts to faithfully follow Jesus.

Yours on the way,



### *At the October Meeting the Council . . .*

- received the Clerk's report; We have just made our third quarterly payment to charities to whom we donate through our Mission Fund. The council should do its annual review of membership rolls soon; this had been put on hold for two years due to the Covid pandemic disruption.
- received the pastor's report (details on programs are covered in articles in this newsletter.) Four people are attending the FREC conference and there are two free registrations left. (normally \$250 each)
- received the financial update from Lynne. We are somewhat under income to this date but also under on expenses which covers most of that, and we do have a savings account "cushion" that could be accessed. Historically we receive a few large contributions in December which brings our income totals up to cover expenses. There is a Youth Endowment 10K C maturing in January which we need a decision on for future investment
- received a proposal from Lay Ministries Team to set a Congregational Meeting for after worship.
- passed a motion to hold a Congregational Meeting on November 20 to elect the next class of council members who will be on council from 2023-2025.
- received a policy outline from Jim to consider for granting use of our building to outside requests.
- received an idea that might provide for virtual socialization: As we may be in hybrid mode for a lengthy time, should we consider finding a way to bring equipment into Fellowship Hall to make possible a Zoom interaction between people at church and at home, after worship, and other times?

### *Three laptops and a speaker...*

Council has started to meet in person at church but anyone who prefers to attend by zoom is able to do so. Our Tech Team and Pastor Matthias have set up three laptops and a speaker to capture the video and audio of everyone present.



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

November is national AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH



**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY is the  
Friday immediately following  
Thanksgiving day**

