

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

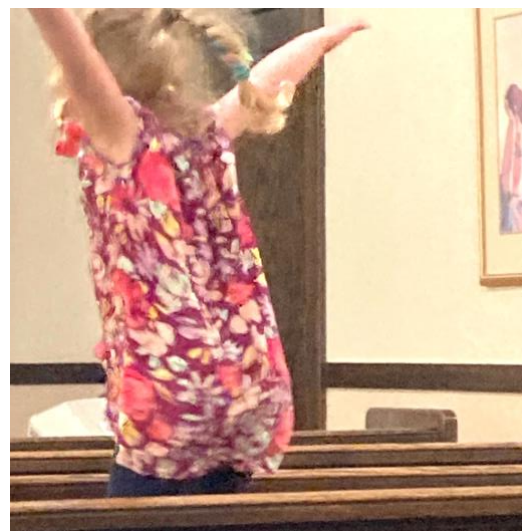
Kid Friendly

Newsletter September 2022

The Lay Ministry Birds
flew in on Sunday worship and chirped their good news...



and Rita flew right along with them...



as we learned more about the experimental new ministry model...

AND another two verses to the tune of: For the Beauty of the Earth

4) Honesty will help us weed; ministries we must let go.
Newer sprouts we'll plant and feed, nurturing spirit in the flow.
In our Garden Ministry, we grow our community.

5) Joining friends on church's site, or in cyber space above.
Jesus' life our guiding light, growing circles of God's love.
In our Garden Ministry, we grow our community.

Loaves & Fishes

Join us Thursday September 1 to feed those needing a meal in this St. Paul community. Our commitment is to serve six times a year, on the first Thursday of odd-numbered months. This service goes on every weekday all year long at St. Matthew's Catholic Church cafeteria.



Please consider volunteering to help prepare the dining area or food, serve, or clean-up. We will need a total of 14 volunteers, 7 for the 3:30-5:30 pm shift and another 7 for the 5:00-7 pm shift. Contact Wayne.

There is parking in the lot adjacent to the entry door and also on the street.

Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Wacipi (powwow) & closing feast

September 9, 10, & 11



Be sure to head to the grounds of St. Peter's Church in Mendota, for the annual MMDTC Wacipi, and watch for eagles circling overhead. If you have never attended, consider expanding your horizons to this wonderful celebration of indigenous community life, music, dance, of

course refreshments and other experiences to touch the body and soul.

The full schedule of the event is available at their website below:

<https://mendotadakota.com/mn/25th-pow-wow-flyer-for-sept-9-10-11-2022/>



Cherokee Park United Church is providing the closing feast in collaboration with friends from Gloria Dei Lutheran and Grove United Methodist in Woodbury. We are seeking volunteers on Saturday, Sept. 10, Sunday, Sept. 11, and Monday, Sept. 12. Plus we need many dozens of chocolate chip cookies, bags of shredded coleslaw, and monetary offerings to support the supplies and foodstuffs we need to purchase. Please consider how you can volunteer to help with the feast and show up for our MMDTC neighbors.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C45AFA72AA1FFC16-powwow1>

From Pastor Matthias

Dear CPUC,

One of my favorite things about summer in Minnesota is sitting outside with a good book, especially a novel.



There is something about summer to me that calls me to take a break from the heaviness of nonfiction and draws me into the deeper waters of a novel, curious to learn who are these people? What is the world they live in and what will become of them?

This also happens to be a potent antidote to the bite-size snippets of people or ideas that social media specializes in. You may get a snapshot of someone's vacation with their grandkids, (which is a special thing and worth celebrating), or a short political opinion tweet, or a glimpse of what some long-lost acquaintance (or total stranger) thinks about.

A novel, on the other hand, stretches out. It gives room to go deeper than just the top of the mind thoughts or the quick update and highlights. Part of that is in-between time. When you stick a bookmark in a chapter and close up the covers, those ideas and characters stick with you as you go through the rest of the day. There is time for them to steep, as it were.

I relate this all back to faith because if faith is just something we do on Sundays for an hour, it is a meager bit of the richness God intends for us. Faith is meant to be lived in, walked around in, often percolating in the background as we do the dishes, or go to the doctor, or read the news.

In a world that often looks for the headline, the one tweet, the pithy summary, God invites us to linger longer, to savor that which is good, to let our minds wander further, and to let faith be a deeper well, where God's love never runs dry.

Peace to you and yours,
Pastor Matthias



at the August meeting the Council...

...received the **financial report**. from Lynne. Members donated enough in the per capita offerings to offset those who did not pay anything. We no longer have access to accounting software which was used from a previous employer but have now received a donated subscription of Quick Books from a friend of Lynne's. She will be sent a thank you note from Pastor Matthias on behalf of council and congregation and possibly a gift certificate.

...received the **clerk's report** from Mike. We have received a letter from Mary Kay resigning from the council and from CPUC.

...received the **pastor's report** which includes working with the Seasonal Ministry committee to get this new venture launched. Also CPUC will be hosting a guest preacher later in August, being a neutral pulpit for the pastor nominating committee of a sister congregation in the Presbytery. The council approved the Pastor's request for a study week September 19-25 and a vacation day October 20 to attend a wedding.

...received a report from the **Lay Ministry** Seasonal Ministry committee, which had offered a whole series of informational announcements during worship time; Jill, Diane, and Karolyn will sit in on the first team for planning help. There are currently four people signed up with a hope for 2-6 more. By January they will review who has signed up for later seasons. At next Lay Ministries Team meeting we will begin talking about the need for new council members for 2023.

...shared feelings about the present way we do worship while observing **Covid precautions**. Are we doing enough or too much? Many stories were shared about people still getting Covid through family and church group contacts, as well as feelings of less caution and urgency for renewed physical presences. Council discussed the realities of the cantors singing with or without a mask, and possibility of looking into air filtration units to make the worship space safer; and also shared feelings about the possibility of going to a hybrid mode for council meetings. Some members really want the personal interaction and the numerous positives that offers. Council listened to one another respectfully across differences of opinion.

...received a report from Property Management Chair Jim that all the fire bottles are now recertified and the annual fire marshall inspection resulted in a perfect report.

2022 Council Members

Class of 2022: Mike (2nd term), Maria (2), Tom, Jim Class of 2023: Carly (2), Karolyn G, Kay, Susan (2) Class of 2024: Sebastian, Jackie (2), Sandy S., (plus one unfilled seat)



Greeters needed at CPUC!

There are many opportunities to greet at church in July! Greeters can be in-person or virtual (for Facebook Livestream worshippers). If you are available and willing to help, please sign up using the **Sign-Up Genius link below**.

We don't generally give pineapples to our guests, (sometimes we serve it at fellowship) but this is a universal symbol of hospitality!

There may be services in the future where greeters are not present at church or online. We ask your cooperation and extra attentiveness to fellow worshippers on those occasions. If you would like more information, contact Jill. Thank you!

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

Free Running River from Susan

Many of you already have received personal invitations to help fund a legal defense for Running River to free him from a Pennsylvania prison on the grounds that he was illegally incarcerated.

We presume that people who cannot afford a lawyer will be provided one by the court. An overwhelming majority are people more likely to be accused, convicted, and sentenced because of their skin color - if they had been white they may not have suffered the same consequences. And if they had income or support for a lawyer at the start, they more likely would not have been convicted.



The dockets are so full that court-appointed lawyers have little more than minutes to look over the defendant's case and form an opinion and give good advice. They cannot do an adequate job, much less an outstanding job. One reason that caseloads are high is that the U.S.A. imprisons more people per capita than any other democracy in the world.

Our **Go Fund Me** effort can be found on his Facebook (Running River - Banks), my own Facebook, or copy & paste the link below. Quite a few people have sent a check directly to me to avoid the 3% charge that GoFundMe takes; also be aware that they "invite" people to include a tip, and their tip meter is automatically set at 15% so you need to set that at zero if you do not want to tip. Paste this into your browser to access River's **Go Fund Me** effort. <https://gofund.me/d6873be1>

Backstory: We first became acquainted with Running River when our church was asked to hold funds from a settlement earned from his law suit against the prison for refusing the indigenous inmates their rights to worship practices, namely, the sweat lodge. Pastor Matthias also created a Go Fund Me account for others to contribute, and he is in contact with the prison chaplain for indigenous inmates. Running River had also written a book "Our Ancestors are Proud - a native american prison story" which I purchased and discovered more facts about this industrious and interesting young man. That began our eleven-month journey of shared dreams and goals.

[excerpt from] **The Art of Blessing the Day** by Marge Piercy

This is the blessing for a political victory:
Although I shall not forget that things
work in increments and epicycles and sometime
leaps that half the time fall back down,
let's not relinquish dancing while the music
fits into our hips and bounces our heels.
We must never forget, pleasure is real as pain.....

But the discipline of blessings is to taste
each moment, the bitter, the sour, the sweet
and the salty, and be glad for what does not
hurt.

The art is in compressing attention
to each little and big blossom of the tree
of life, to let the tongue sing each fruit,
its savor, its aroma and its use.

Attention is love, what we must give
children, mothers, fathers, pets,
our friends, the news, the woes of others.

What we want to change we curse and then
pick up a tool. Bless whatever you can
with eyes and hands and tongue. If you
can't bless it, get ready to make it new.

September Birthdays & Celebrations

02 - Lynne
06 - Phyllis C
07 - Gina
❤️ 10 - Kelly & Susan
18 - Nora
26 - Jayden
26 - Ellen
28 - Mike
29 - Susan
30 - Joanne

Newsletter

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



We enjoy the beauty of the hydrangea blooming at the Manomin entrance, when we arrive to seek comfort within; as the bees seek nourishment in these blossoms.





Art for Justice

Local artist/activist Ricardo Levins Morales recently offered on his website (www.RLMartStudio.com) this poster featured in August for half price. His free online newsletter always contains some new well-thought-through information on issues of social and creation justice. This poster is accompanied by the words:

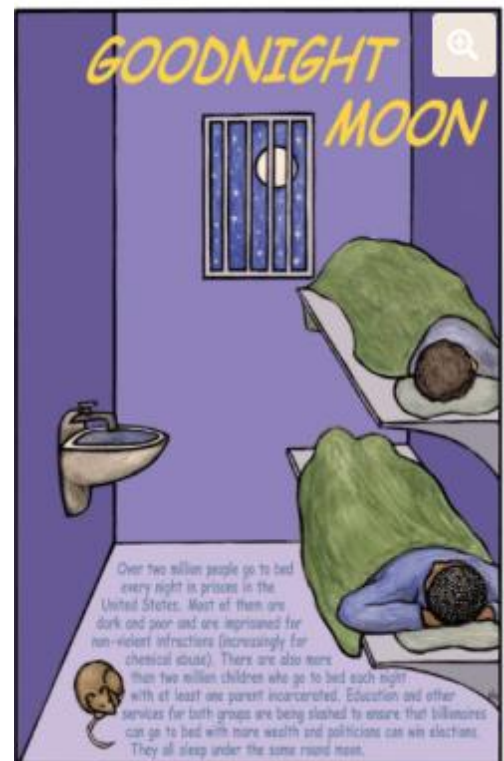
Prison Walls Can't Stop Love

In the U.S., 2.3 million people are imprisoned in the sprawling system of prisons, local jails, juvenile detention, ICE jails and more that make up the mass incarceration gulag. This system relies on caging, traumatizing and isolating people into submission. But freedom, healing and connection are the real pathway to a brighter, safer and kinder world. Whether we are

inside, outside or in between, our bonds of love will outshine and outlast those of steel.

Another prison reform poster created by Ricardo contains the words:

Over two million people go to bed every night in prisons in the United States. Most of them are dark and poor and are imprisoned for non-violent infractions (increasingly for chemical abuse.) There are also more than two million children who go to bed each night with at least one parent incarcerated. Education and other services for both groups are being slashed to ensure that billionaires can go to bed with more wealth and politicians can win elections. They all sleep under the same round moon as the prisoners. (This poster fails to show that the sink on the wall is actually over the toilet. Prisoners in PA all must eat their meals in their cells, within feet of an open toilet.)



CPUC owns two posters created by Ricardo, both of "Seeds of Justice" which are hanging on the wall next to the sanctuary piano and also on the east wall of Fellowship Hall.

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

*Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief.
Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now.
You are not obligated to complete the work,
but neither are you free to abandon it.*

Rabbi Tarfo/The Talmud