



be a beacon in the dark

## **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 ~ February 2024***

*Who's hungry? All God's children!*

**Neighborhood House Food Market:** Cherokee Park United members donated 42 pounds of food for the food shelf at Neighborhood House in January, including shelf stable items and culturally important foods. People also contributed their gently used grocery bags, which the participants can use to bag their groceries.

Our contributions were gratefully accepted! It was a good start to the resumption of our partnership with Neighborhood House. Please bring your contributions of food to church on Sundays and place them in the shopping cart in the narthex at the back of the church. No fresh foods, please; see the list of shelf stable items and culturally

appropriate foods when you make your selections.

February donations will be picked up by Pat Peterson on February 11, so please make your contribution by then. This is such a practical and concrete way to help our neighbors! Thank you.



## Food Market ● Wish List ●

### Shelf-stable staples:

- ☐ Rice
- ☐ Flour
- ☐ Oil
- ☐ Sugar
- ☐ Canned tuna
- ☐ Canned chicken
- ☐ Oatmeal
- ☐ Coffee (ground beans)
- ☐ Tea

### Culturally specific items:

- ☐ Canned bamboo
- ☐ Rice noodles
- ☐ Rice flour
- ☐ Corn flour (masa, maseca)
- ☐ Dry beans (black or pinto)
- ☐ Canned chiles (chipotle, jalapeño, green chiles)
- ☐ Nopales (jarred cactus)
- ☐ Dates
- ☐ Fish sauce
- ☐ Soy sauce
- ☐ Canned coconut milk
- ☐ Curry paste
- ☐ Canned sardines

### Miscellaneous:

- ☐ Paper shopping bags with handles, not ripped
- ☐ Plastic shopping bags in good condition
- ☐ Reusable bags, in good condition
- ☐ Gallon Ziploc Bags

### Donations can be accepted at the following:

#### Wellstone Food Market

179 Robie St, Saint Paul  
651-789-3630

Mondays-Fridays | 9 am – 12 pm and 1 – 4 pm

Drive around to the back of the Wellstone Center and call 651-789-3630 and someone will come out and assist you.

#### Francis Basket Food Market

(located in Sibley Manor Apartments)  
1293 Maynard Dr #410, Saint Paul

Mondays | 9 – 11:30 am

Tuesdays and Fridays | 9 – 11:30 am and 1 – 1:30 pm

Park in the spaces in front of the apartment building.  
When you arrive at the Francis Basket Food Market,  
ring the doorbell and our staff will assist you.

[neighborhoodhousemn.org](http://neighborhoodhousemn.org)



*And now that we've fed our neighbors, let's share with each other!*

The Renewing Seasonal Team would like to invite you to join others for a small gathering to share a meal. The **Gathering Meals** are a time for small groups to gather, share conversation with each other and meet new friends. We would like to have the meals hosted between February to early April. and are looking for people who are interested in participating and/or hosting a meal.



If you are interested in **attending or hosting** a meal, please let Gina know during fellowship hour, give me a call/text, send an email or message by February 15th. Once we have hosts lined up we will help pair groups. When responding, we ask that you let us know if you have children that would be joining and if there are any food/animal allergies or food preferences that would need to be considered or if you would like to join a meal over Zoom. If you are **interested in hosting** a meal in your home or on Zoom, please let us know how many people you would like to host, if children can be invited, if you have dates and times in mind for your meal and if you would like to prepare the full meal or would like to host a potluck.

*"Cooking is all about people. Food is maybe the only universal thing that really has the power to bring everyone together. No matter what culture, everywhere around the world, people eat together."* Guy Fieri



*And more food:* We all enjoy our fellowship time together after Sunday worship. Seems no one wants to leave! But this miracle of welcome also depends upon individuals who will take a turn at setting up the Panera goodies that arrive before worship, and possibly supplementing with a few things. (Purchases are easily reimbursed.)

See the signup sheet in Fellowship Hall and volunteer and/or partner with someone else who has already signed up to organize the food or to help with clean-up afterwards.

Jan 21 *Maria & Philip*; Jan 28 *Guerues and Jill*; Feb 4 *Lynne & Mike, & Eric*; **Feb 11 open**; Feb 18 *Wayne and Pat*; Feb 25 *Susan* **and need help for cleanup**; March 3 *Jackie & Dave*;

Dear CPUC,

A key spiritual practice for the Christian faith is remembering. When Jesus shared a final meal with his disciples, he instructed them to “remember” and to “do in remembrance.” Many of the times where trouble befalls the Israelite people in the Hebrew Scriptures, it can be attributed to the people’s forgetting—forgetting God’s covenant, God’s faithfulness, their own responsibilities to do justice in their midst. We join in the tradition shared by many other Christians of remembering the saints who have gone before us on All Saints’ Day.



But what we remember and what is worth remembering is an important question to ask. In her book *Resurrection Hope: A Future Where Black Lives Matter*, Kelly Brown Douglas points out that there are seven times more confederate monuments (remembrances) in the United States than there are monuments to the so-called “founding fathers.” Seven times!

Meanwhile, the city of Minneapolis fought tooth and nail to prevent the George Floyd Memorial Square from becoming a permanent fixture and monument to a Black man killed by the white supremacy given cover by a badge.

Remembering, Brown Douglas argues, is a key practice in combating white supremacy. By attending carefully to what and who is remembered (and who is honored in memory), the Church (especially the predominantly white church) helps disrupt narratives of whiteness that preserve power and thus perpetuate injustice. Is it any wonder then that restricting what history can be taught and what books can be accessed is a major effort for white supremacist movements?

February is Black History Month, and while Black History cannot nor should not be contained to just one month, I wonder what each of us might do to honor the dignity of Black lives, to learn history that has been hidden from view.

My kid came home from school the other day amazed at a story he’d heard of a Black man who escaped slavery by shipping himself in a crate to a free state. There is always more to learn, more history to re-member, piece back together, honor and share.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Matthias



## Notes from January's Council Meeting...

At their meeting on January 16, the Council welcomed new members Lynne B., Kathy B., and Sandy D. Highlights include-

- Approval of Pastor Matthias' report, including three of his four weeks of vacation (March 8-15, April 1-7, and July 30-August 6.)
- People volunteered for special roles Council members fill throughout the year. The 2024 financial officers and counters were named and approved. The role of the Clerk of Council will rotate among the members until someone chooses to fill the role. Many thanks to Mike Bates who covered this position during 2023.
- Offering plates will once again be passed during worship starting with the January 28 service. It is hoped the counters (or other willing volunteers) will take up the collection each Sunday.
- Pastor Matthias is planning a one-day Leader's Retreat in February. Possible focus topics were discussed. All those interested are welcome to attend. Details will be shared soon.
- Lynne Bates shared the impressive news that year-end contributions of \$42,000 allowed CPUC to meet our 2023 budget and start 2024 in the black! The Council celebrated the inspired generosity of the members and friends of our faith community.
- Pastor Matthias ended the evening with a practice the Council has shared at recent January meetings. Most people connected to CPUC were named aloud and lifted in prayer.



*Thank you to Jill who will be providing*

*a summary of council meetings each month.*



Installing Sandy, Lynne, and Kathy -  
new council members for 2024

## Release, Keep, Hope

### Looking back, then ahead....

During a January worship service we were invited to pick up several items to use during an interactive sermon.... including the items pictured below.

...We thought of the past year and wrote on a rock, that which we wished to leave behind us, and placed the rock in a bowl already filled to the brim with water. As the rock descended, the water overflowed into a container below - gone - dealt with - not to bring more worry - we move on.

...We then thought of what we wished to keep and take with us from last year - plans, good memories, and wrote them on paper to be placed in a tiny envelope and tucked into our pocket.

...And finally, we each lit a candle and placed it upon the altar, surrounding a larger candle, symbolizing our hopes for the future, strengthened by the Creator, and our community, as we support one another in these hopes.



**Thank you** to members of our current seasonal steering team for their many ministry efforts this Renewing season: Alicia, Mary M., Pat P., and Karen - with support from Lay Ministry Team members Gina, Diane, Jill and Pastor Matthias.

And **thank you** to many members and friends who stop in during the week to accomplish various tasks for our DIY church! (Hmmm. Lots of Jim on there!)

Weekdays, Please Sign In (+out) - Thank!

TODAY!	Names:	TIME IN/OUT:
9/22	Jim + Tom	1 PM / 1:50 PM
9/26	Jim + Karen	2:30 - 3 PM
9/28	Jill	12 PM - 12:30
9/28	Maria	2:30 - 2:40
9/28	Sandy + Tom	2:40 - 4:15
9/29	Kathy + Susan	10:10 - 10:45
9/29	Jim + Tom	10:30 - 11:05
9/29	Jim	3:30 PM - 4:05 PM
9/30	Tom + Jill	12: PM - 1 PM
9/30	Susan	3:30 - 4:30

Weekdays, Please Sign In (+out) - Thank!

TODAY!	Names:	TIME IN/OUT:
11/17	Jim + Tom	3:45 PM - 4:55
11/18	Jim + Karen	3:15 PM - 3:45 PM
11/22	Jim + Sandy	4:30 PM - 5:35
11/22	Tom	4:45 - 5:15
11/29	ES + Sandy	6:30 - 9:00
11/29	Glorette + Ha	6:30 - 8:20
11/30	Susan + Kathy	9:00 - 10:30
11/30	Alicia	1:30 - 10:30

Weekdays, Please Sign In (+out) - Thank!

TODAY!	Names:	TIME IN/OUT:
12/18	Jill	10:30 - 11:15
12/20	Ensemble Singers	6:20 - 8 PM
12/22	Jim + Tom	10:30 - 12:30
12/23	Jim	1:30 PM - 2:05 PM
12/29	Jill	11:55 - 12:30
12/29	Jim + Tom	1:00 PM - 1:45
1/3/24	Ensemble	6:20 - 8 PM
1/5	Jim + Tom	10:00 - 10:45
1/5	Tom + Jim	1:15 PM -

## February ~ Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of "Negro History Week in 1926," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. and endorsed a specific theme. The Black History Month 2024 theme, "African Americans and the Arts," explores the key influence African Americans have had in the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression.



*If art doesn't make us better, then what on earth is it for?*  
Alice Walker - author, poet, activist



*Not everything that is faced can be changed; but  
nothing can be changed until it is faced.* James  
Baldwin - novelist, essayist, playwright, poet,  
social critic



From *The Hill We Climb*: *When day comes, we ask ourselves, where can we find light in this never-ending shade?... We are striving to forge our union with purpose. To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man... We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another... For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it.*

Amanda Gorman, 22, youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history, at President Joe Biden's inaugural ceremony in 2020.

**Newsletter** – please submit  
articles by the 22nd of preceding  
month to [kellystrebig@comcast.net](mailto:kellystrebig@comcast.net)

**February  
Birthdays**

13 - Eric J.  
26 - Jackie

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](mailto:cpuc@usfamily.net)  
[cherokeeparkunited.org](http://cherokeeparkunited.org)

*Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.*  
Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.