



# **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 2024***



### *Landscape Refresh - Saturday August 3,*

*9:30 am - 11:30 or whenever*

It would be great to be able to just push a button to refresh; however Mother Nature requires that we put in the work if we want to have anything to say about our habitat. Join us as we trim back a bit of the jungle that the abundance of rain has prompted. We will leave much of the Milkweed to nature's rule, as the Monarchs are said to be down by 50% population this year.

No experience necessary; your help in gathering up the weeds and cuttings into the recyclable lawn bags or bins or carrying to vans is just as important and time consuming as pulling weeds and sawing off branches. If you can, bring your own favorite clippers (tape your name on if you often leave things behind), garden gloves, any favorite tools. We will have extras also available. There are many areas to work on. You will easily find a spot you'd like to love on.

It would be helpful if you could let us know if you will be here. Please contact or leave a message for Diane .

### *Drag Queen Story Time - Saturday August 17 - 2 pm*

Join us as we host this colorful rainbow of self-expression and the joys of reading by The Ladies of the Lake (a chapter of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence). We are inviting in the public to share our progressive commitments and ice cream too!! We will also be joined by members of St. Anne's Episcopal of Mendota Hts.



## Tie-Dye Fun!



Get ready to unleash your inner artist! Join Shannon for Tie-Dye Day on August 11th during fellowship. Shannon is bringing all the colorful dyes you'll need to create your own unique masterpiece. Bring your favorite white t-shirt, a pair of old jeans, socks, or any other item you want to transform. Let's make some colorful memories together!



## CPUC Spirit on Your Favorite Shirt!

Feeling the love for CPUC? Does your current CPUC shirt need a refresh, or have you always wanted one? Here's a chance to personalize a shirt you already love!

Shannon's got a handy cutting machine (think "Cricut!") and will be creating awesome heat-transfer CPUC designs you can put on ANY shirt. Join her during fellowship on August 18th and 25th! Just bring your favorite shirt, and she'll bring the vinyl magic (in either black or white to perfectly match your choice).

To make this a smash hit, Shannon needs a heads-up on design sizes and which color (black or white) will work best. Sign-up sheets will be available in the fellowship hall, or you can email Shannon.

Let's show our CPUC spirit in style! We can't wait to see you there.

## Dear CPUC

The attempted assassination of candidate Trump has left me and many of us unsettled and even more uneasy about what lies ahead this year, regardless of the outcome of the election. The threat of political violence is a frightening and destabilizing prospect. The ground of our democracy feels shakier and shakier.



As shocking as this shooting was, it is worth remembering that political violence is not new. Our country has had assassinations before. We have seen our capitol stormed by a violent mob driven by lies and white entitlement. Elsewhere in the world, we read of coups, gangs, wars, genocide, and escalating tensions. Let us not forget either that oppression and structural racism are also violence of a systemic, spiritual, and psychological kind.

I offer this not to excuse or diminish the rightful shock many of us are feeling presently, but to contextualize it in our national and global history.

It is frightening. For many, there may be feelings of schadenfreude (a sense of happiness at another's misfortune) or a feeling of comeuppance. Or despair. Maybe apathy or anxiousness. Or anger. Whatever your feelings, I encourage you to feel them and acknowledge them. Trying to contort our feelings to be what we think they should be or to be what we think is more "acceptable" is not a healthy response. Tend to your feelings; be curious about what they are telling you; share them and care for one another.

Lastly, I draw us back to Jesus' life and teachings. He healed the wound done to one of his arrestors. His life was lived in accord with God's covenant of love and justice. Nonviolent action is the way out of this.

Congressman John Lewis, in an essay he penned during his final days, wrote: "In my life I have done all I can to demonstrate that the way of peace, the way of love and non-violence is the more excellent way. Now it is your turn to let freedom ring. ... So I say to you, walk with the wind brothers and sister, and let the spirit of peace and the power of ever-lasting love be your guide."

The future is not yet written. It is ours to write together. Let's dip into the inkwell of hope to write a future of justice and peace.

Yours on the journey,

Pastor Matthias

## *By-Law Changes Proposed*

On September 15, we will have a Called Congregational Meeting after worship to consider and vote on proposed changes to our by-laws. Several printed copies of the proposed changes are available in the back of the sanctuary for review, but the summary of proposed changes are:

1. Change our Council make-up from 12 members to “a minimum of six elders,” at least two per class for three-year terms. (Article V, Section 1)
2. Bring our Personnel Policy in line with our current practices. (Article IV)
3. Update some gendered terms to more gender-neutral language. (Throughout)

Q: Why change the Council size?

A: For a congregation of our current size (~70 members on the rolls), a Council of 12 elected members is 17% of our membership. A smaller Council size will help us focus resources of time and energy on other ministry areas. At present, we have one vacancy on Council which we have not been able to fill.

Q: Why go from 12 to “a minimum of 6” Council members?

A: We want to allow room for flexibility. Six Council members is not the required number, just the minimum number. In addition to a minimum of six elected Council members, we have our pastor who is also a member of the Council. This language also allows the Lay Ministry Team and the congregation to discern, nominate, and elect those who feel called to serve on Council and who bring talents and perspectives Council needs in a given time.

Q: How and when will changes happen?

A: We expect changes will happen over the coming years classes of Council members. It will not happen all at once. We want to authorize the smaller Council size now so that the Lay Ministries Team and Council can begin to implement these new by-laws as they look to nominate the Council members for the class of 2027 (who would be nominated/elected November 2024 and start their term in January 2025).

Q: What does this mean for the current Council members and those who will be nominated and elected in November?



A: Those currently serving will continue with their terms unaffected by these proposed changes, nor will these changes (if approved) affect the length of terms of those elected in November. It will mean that the number of Council Members we are electing this year could be two or it could be more.

### Your 2024 Council Members

Lynne, Kathy B., Sandy D. Sebastian, Barb, Jill, Deborah, Tom, Jackie, Jim, Sandy S.

*Just a few of our members representing the welcome of CPUC at the West St. Paul Pride Celebration on July 13 at the WSP Sports Complex*



*...and then came the rains.*



*The Council* did not meet in July. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, August 19. Any member is welcome to attend. Please contact Pastor Matthias or a council member if you would like to attend in person or via zoom and the link will be sent to you.

## *Logo Change*

For many years, the main logo for Cherokee Park United Church has been a neon-rainbow comma with the church name next to it.



The comma originated with the United Church of Christ's "God is Still Speaking" slogan. It lifts the idea of our theology and our faith not being a static, frozen thing, but one that grows and changes as we discern God's continued movement of love and justice in our world today.

You can see this at the top of our website homepage. While it is a powerful symbol and expression of our faith, it and our website need a refresh in service of keeping our presence welcoming and accessible to those who may come across us online.

This summer, with the Council's blessing, we have begun work on redoing our church's website (thanks to a generous volunteering of time from Audrey and Sophie LeMeur), including working with a designer to create a new logo. These efforts do not mean we are abandoning the theology behind them or the work that has been done to create and maintain the logo and website previously. Rather, this speaks to the need for renewal and keeping one of our most visible touchpoints up-to-date and welcoming.

Your input is welcome. What would you want a CPUC logo to convey? What is most essential to who CPUC is, in your opinion?



Share memory-laden dishes and deepen connections with our upcoming

*fellowship potluck* after worship

**August 11th: "Vintage, Throwback Potluck"** - Dust off your grandma's recipes and bring a dish reminiscent of a bygone era. We

look forward to sharing a delicious journey with you!



## *Seasonal Steering Team Model Update*

Congratulations CPUC! You are rocking the first official year of Seasonal Steering Teams (SSTs) at our church! The model continues to evolve and the ongoing feedback the Lay Ministry Team has received (both from the SST's and the congregation) is positive. Would you like to know some of that feedback? READ ON!

When asked about their favorite parts of being on an SST team, the feedback included

- The planning meetings before and during the season
- Choosing specific programs or service roles for a limited period of time
- Trying and learning something new in a cooperative, collaborative way
- The safe atmosphere in which to share new ideas
- Getting to know other SST members better
- The opportunity for individuals/ groups to organize activities beyond the SST's choices

One volunteer said the SST model is a good way to get things done without too many meetings or too long a commitment. This model allows for calendar flexibility and even letting go of ideas without bad feelings. Sometimes ongoing communications with the congregation have been challenging for the SSTs but they usually figure this out.

Feedback from the congregation has been that the new things done during worship and other activities have been very meaningful to our life together!

If you have an idea in any season, the SSTs would love to hear it!

Thank you to all who have served (or will soon serve!) on a Seasonal Steering Team. The Lay Ministry Team encourages all at CPUC to join an SST soon. You can help our church community "rock on!"

The 2024 Lay Ministries Team – Diane, Shannon, Alicia,  
Sandy D., Pastor Matthias, and Jill





The Mendota Mdewakanton Community annual Wacipi will take place Fri-Sat-Sun, September 13-14-15, on the St. Peter's Church Grounds.

*Adding to our list of special days. Franklin Dempsey-Hess was married to Bia Bianca Condes at Clear Lake State Park, June 28, 2024.*



### *August Birthdays and Celebrations*

- ♥ - Eric Morrison & Mandy Klosterman
- 06 - Curt Fleming
- 07 - Kathy Farnell
- 06 - Bob Hop
- 08 - Mary Bren
- 13 - Kathy Bergthold 1948
- 14 - Karen Shatek, 1946
- 15 - Ted Abdella, 1926
- 16 - Kandy Heiman
- ♥23 - Eric Jacobson & Jane Peterson

### *Newsletter*

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

### *Name Tags*

Do you need a new name tag? We are planning to run a batch of name tags which come in sheets of 8, so this is a good moment to get a new one, if yours is missing, lost, or you never had one to begin with. Let Pastor Matthias know, and remember to wear your name tags on Sundays so we can easily greet one another by name!

Rev. Sandy and the kids talk about God's overflowing love.



Fellowship hour snacks inspired by the baseball fields; a special tribute to Joe Mauer as he was inducted in the 🏆 Hall of Fame. (Just for fun!)



Photography thanks to Jill Jackson.

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 9:30 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

When will the four races learn that we're all hu-man first.  
We all bleed blood, we all need air, water, and food.  
We are all number one and number two  
and nobody wins the race in racism, no body.  
How foolish these mortals be.  
*Maku (Chief) Rainbow Dancer Thunderbird  
incarcerated at Benner PA state prison*