



## **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

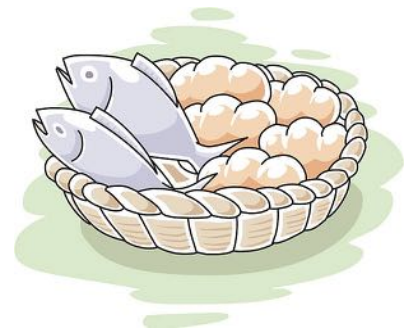
Community Connected

Kid Friendly

## ***Newsletter ~ September 2024***

## Loaves and Fishes

After a long, three-month hiatus, it will again be our turn to help with Loaves and Fishes on **Thursday, September 5** at St. Matt's. Judging by the volume they have experienced in recent weeks, there is still a great need for our contribution of both labor and funds.



Cherokee United Church has regularly given a financial contribution whenever we work. Please consider offering your labor on September 5 at either the first shift (about 3:15 pm) or the second shift (about 5 pm). We will need about 5 people for each shift. Email Wayne. Thank you.

## The Stretch Continues!! Fall session of yoga

Free classes at CPUC Fellowship Hall/lower level: all levels welcome!  
Tuesdays, **September 24-October 29**: 6:15-7:15 pm.

This gentle yoga class will allow us to mindfully flow through low impact poses that improve our posture, strength, flexibility and balance. Enhance mind, body and spirit awareness. Learn breathing techniques that calm, soothe, balance or energize us.

Chair options available or please bring a mat if you prefer floor exercises.  
Questions? Please speak to or email Alicia.



A hint of future plans involving our children:  
God's light shines at CPUC in October.  
Stay tuned.



## Landscape Cleanup

A note from Diane

**September 28th** will be our next cleanup of our church yard. We will concentrate on the rain garden and the picnic table/west side, plus tree and shrub trimming. (The ladder stuff was all completed by Jerome and Philip so no worries.) All are welcome, there's plenty for all, so come join in the fun and hard work.

Our industrious crew made great strides on August 3. We started early, beat the heat, and went home to eat ice cream. (Well, one of us did anyway.) More photos on last pages.



## By-Law Changes Proposed



### 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)

(Explanation of "why's" found in previous newsletter.)

## Notes from August 20th Council Meeting...



Highlights include-

- Pastor Matthias reported on his ministry over the last two months. He spent time on varied activities including joint worship at First Presbyterian of S. St. Paul, CPUC at W. St. Paul Pride, and the Drag Story Hour. He is involved in the creation of a new church logo and website. Pastor finds he is working a lot with the Seasonal Steering Teams. He supported the Growing SST over the summer and is attending meetings of the Harvest SST planning for the fall.
- Accountant Lynne reported that the church budget is behind but doing better than projections considering yearly giving patterns.
- The Council passed a motion to resume collecting some “special offerings” at CPUC. They include Christmas Joy (supporting wider-church’s retired pastors and the CPUC emergency funds), One Great Hour of Sharing (divided between UCC and Presbyterian Church USA during Lent), and the Peace Offering (shared by denominations and CPUC in October.) CPUC will collect special offerings for Loaves and Fishes two times each year. These offerings can be made online as well as via other ways of giving.
- The Council recognized Audrey and Sophie's efforts to gather feedback regarding the CPUC Website over the summer. In July, some Council members met with graphic designer Kathy Albarella who created several possible new church logos. Pastor and the Council are now seeking congregational input on the designs. Once a new logo is chosen, Audrey and Sophie will re-vamp the site, giving it a new look and updated content.
- Pastor Matthias summarized for the Council, current ideas for Worship Leadership for Children and Youth. Several age-related experiences may be tried in the coming months. They include – Communion orientation (ages 6 -7), Acolyte orientation and service (ages 8+), Family communion bread baking (ages 8+), Offering orientation/ helping (ages 10+), Scripture reading (ages 10+), Confirmation process (grades 6 -12, when needed), and contributions to worship through music, art, drama, and dance (all ages!)
- Jim reported the church’s oven/stove is working better than ever after being completely cleaned and retro fitted. Curt cleaned and painted the pipes and walls in the north bathroom. Thank you!

- Tom reported the recently purchased microphone and speaker system worked well for outdoor worship and is proving useful for purposes inside the church, too.
- Jill highlighted the efforts of the Growing Seasonal Steering Team for this summer. A very busy August included tie-dying and printing CPUC T-shirts, a “throwback” fellowship potluck, and a colorfully decorated and well-attended Drag Story Hour. The Harvest SST (the largest team of volunteers yet!) are meeting to plan activities for September through December. Hooray!
- The next scheduled Council meeting is Tuesday, September 17

### Your 2024 Council Members

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



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

### Newsletter

Please submit articles by the 22nd of preceding month.

### September Birthdays and Celebrations

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

(This list was compiled very informally; please let editor know if there are others that we could add.)

### September Reminders

- Sept 1 Sun: special offering collection for Loaves & Fishes
- Sept 5 Thu: serve neighbors at Loaves and Fishes
- Sept 8 Sun: worship start time changes to 10:15 am
- Sept 13-15 Fri-Sun: join celebration at MMDTC wacipi
- Sept 15 Sun: short congregational meeting
- Sept 17 Tue: council meeting
- Sept 24 Tue: free yoga classes start
- Sept 28 Sat: trim and clean up church landscape
- Sept 30: directory family updates due

Dear CPUC,

For many of us in the U.S., our religious and spiritual histories are anything but a straight line. Faith traditions or denominations we grew up in may not be the same ones we still adhere to today. Even in cases where we do continue in the faith we grew up in, there is likely a lot more nuance to it. Faith is not a straight line.



In nominees for both major political parties, we see this reality of complex religious identities reflected. Vice President Kamala Harris grew up Hindu with her mother, who was from Chennai, India. She also often attended church with a neighbor. Now she is a member of a Baptist church in San Francisco. Her husband, meanwhile grew up in and identifies with Reformed Judaism. As Vice President, she has held Diwali celebrations (the Hindu festival of lights) at the White House, as well as lit a menorah in observance of Hannukkah with her husband.

On the Republican side, J.D. Vance grew up Protestant, identified himself as an atheist for a time, married a Hindu woman, and converted to Catholicism in 2019.

I do not offer this as an endorsement of either party or its candidates; nor do I think their stories, lives, and values are equivalent.

The reality of our country is that our cultural and religious diversity are a tremendous gift. To be able to respect and even see the beauty in the faith traditions of others is a key way of living Jesus' command to love your neighbor as yourself, and even, I would argue, a way of loving God with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Values of respect, justice, equality, and peace can be found in every religious tradition. So too, I would wager that every faith tradition has those who contort its theology or traditions for their own gain or less-than-honorable purposes.

As we head into the thick of the election season, I would invite you to a contemplative exercise. Write down three important political issues to you. Spend a few minutes writing down what your faith leads you to believe about those topics; how your faith guides and grounds your position. Then look up each presidential candidate's stated platform on the issues. See which most closely aligns with your values.

Perhaps, if we are each discerning and compassionate in bringing our faith to bear on our politics, we may yet see our nation live more fully into its stated ideals.

Yours in faith

Pastor Matthias

## *CPUC E-Directory updates welcome!*

Our electronic directory of church members and friends needs updating. If you are new to CPUC we'd love to include you in our directory. If you have new or changed contact information from the past year, please send it to Jill Jackson before September 30.

We welcome submissions of recent/updated pictures of you/your family to publish with your entry. The updated directory will be headed your way later in the fall. Thank you for helping us stay connected!

## *Welcome to Fall, Y'all, from the Harvest Seasonal Steering Team!*



September marks the beginning of the final third of our SST year at CPUC. We have lots of special things planned for the rest of 2024. There will be more details provided in a separate email soon.

Highlights for this month include Loaves and Fishes (Thursday, Sept.5), returning to 10:15 am worship (Sunday, Sept. 8), the Wacipi feast - preparation and serving (Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 14 & 15), and a Fall Clean-Up Day (Saturday, Sept.28) We hope you're ready to sign up to help set-up and clean-up for

Fellowship Hours and some other volunteer opportunities you'll hear about. Alicia Juarez is offering another round of her drop-in Yoga classes starting Tuesday, Sept. 24 through Oct. 29. Updates for the CPUC e-directory will be sought soon, too. Please engage in these activities as you are able!

This Harvest SST is the largest in our time of using this model. (It has been said we are the "biggest and baddest!") We look forward to a season of meaningful moments with y'all this fall.

Harvest SST - Mike, Kathy B., Wayne , Moe, Nona, Mary, Jackie. Lay Ministry guides - Alicia, Jill , Pastor Matthias

*THANK  
to our many landscape workers on August 3...*





YOU

...with plans to continue in Fall on September 28



the "JimBird",  
rarely seen  
sitting down



July Annual Worship in the Park  
Celebrating the Gift of Trees

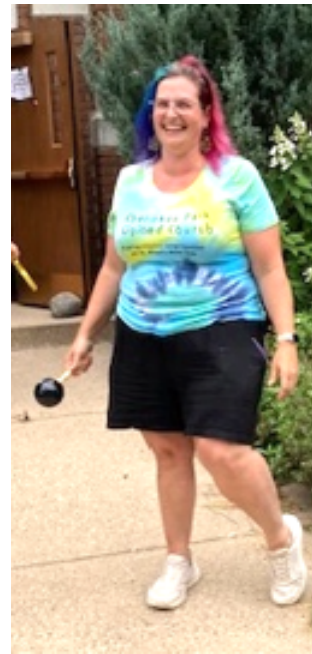
No paper worship bulletins needed; songs found on tables and floor!



August 17  
Drag Story Hour!



*Shannon Calls Us In for Stories*



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. (starting Sept 8) 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)

