



## **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 ~ October 2024**

## *Landscape Cleanup and Redo*

### **A note from Diane**

Just a reminder that we will gather SOON - **this Saturday, September 28, 9 am** - to do a final winter clean-up of our church yard. We will need people who can haul away waste and of course cut branches, pull weeds in the rain garden and tidy up the picnic table area on west side. (The ladder stuff was all completed by Jerome and Philip so no worries.) Bring your love for creation, garden gloves, sun hat, favorite clippers, and we will also have extra there.

We are also in the process of redoing the area by the Baker office entrance and have spent several mornings pulling out bushes that were unmanageable. (Thanks much to Bob Hop and Kandy Heiman.) Please also bring tools to cut away the landscape cloth there to ready for new planting in the spring. We look forward to seeing everyone again.



## *CPUC Shares Stories and Poems - It Was a Bright and Shiny Day*

**October 12, Saturday, 2 pm, Douglas Park** (1 block north and 1 block east of CPUC)

Join us in Douglas Park as we share stories and poems. Speak from your heart or read from a book! Or tell a story of who we were, who we are, or who we wish to be. Or. Or. ? We will use the church's new portable speaker system for sharing. Bring your folding chairs, blankets, friends, and family. Hot apple cider and cookies/ bars will be provided. Please bring your own mug to cut down on single-use cups! The park has a playground for little ones who might need to move a bit. Mark this event on your calendar today!



If you'd like to share a story or poem (5 to 10 minutes, please!) sign up at church or talk to Alicia, Tom, or Jill. In the event of inclement weather, we will meet in the fellowship hall at CPUC.

## CPUC Gratitude Sunday

November 17, Sunday at worship

The friends and members at Cherokee Park United give their time, energy, and resources in countless ways. The Lay Ministry Team would like you to help us thank everyone for the blessings they bestow on our faith community. Please think of folks you'd like to name with gratitude.

Appreciations will be expressed anonymously with a slide show on November 17. Please reach out to the Lay Ministry Team if you would prefer to not have your photo included.

"**Thank You**" forms to complete will be **available** at church in **mid-October**. If you prefer email, you can send your e-notes to Shannon by November 10.

The Lay Ministry Team will be thanking the Seasonal Steering Teams of 2024 and other special ministries and roles that day. A festive fellowship hour will follow worship. Mark your calendars now!



## All Souls' Day Altar/ Día de los Muertos Ofrenda

**November 3- November 17**

We are pleased to announce that we will again be celebrating Día de los Muertos this year!

Many Christian churches will celebrate All Saints and All Souls Day on November 1 & 2; similar to this thought is the Mexican celebration of Day of the Dead, from October 31 to November 2.

We invite the congregation to remember and honor our deceased loved ones by bringing in photos that will be placed on an altar/ ofrenda. In addition, we welcome non-perishable favorite treats for our loved ones' spirits to enjoy. Also welcome would be photos and or items for famous people that have died this year, or any famous deceased person you feel a special connection to.

An ofrenda is an offering, an altar laid out to remember, honor and invite the dead back to earth to visit us and enjoy the items that have been offered on the altar. This always includes the four elements of earth, wind, fire and water. A glass or pitcher of water provides the element of water, earth is represented by the food, the brightly colored (wind catching) paper banners represent the wind and the candles signify fire. The altar also typically includes lots of marigolds as the scent is meant to guide the spirits back to earth.

For questions please speak to Alicia, Moe or Nona.

September 15-October 15

### National Hispanic Heritage Month

Started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and expanded in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan, September 15 is significant as the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; in addition Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and 18 respectively.



## *Intergenerational Communion Learning*

**October 6, Sunday, 9 am**

We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall and explore some of the basics of Communion together before working together to prepare the Communion elements for World Communion Sunday.

Communion has many different aspects and ways of understanding what it means, so this isn't intended to be comprehensive, but rather to help create a base from which more nuance and complexity can be built upon.

Let Pastor Matthias know if you plan to attend. It's okay if you don't let me know ahead, it just helps my preparation and supply gathering to have an idea. :-) We look forward to being together!



## *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.



*Dear CPUC,*

The scholar, professor, and author Christina Sharpe had a startling realization when looking at the long life spans of several prominent Black elders from U.S. history. Harriet Tubman was born in 1822 or 1823 and lived until 1913; W.E.B. Du Bois was born in 1868 and lived to see the beginning of the Civil Rights movement before he died in 1963. Lining these biographical dates up with her own family, Sharpe realized her father, born in 1911, overlapped for two years with Harriet Tubman. Just shy of 60 herself, the closeness of slavery does not feel that far when one can measure generational overlap like that.



In all likelihood you may well be able to think of similar examples from your own family tree, where the generations collapse and historical events you learned about in school (or should have learned about but were omitted) are in fact only a generation or two removed.

Our faithful struggles for justice and healing in the world today are connected to the struggles of those who have come before. Even if the precise manifestations of injustice are different across generations, at root they are the same poisonous plant of subjugation of some people by others—whether that be white supremacy in the form of chattel slavery, land theft and forced assimilation, patriarchal efforts to control women and their bodies, a war on the poor, or global economics that extract from poorer nations and the earth for the gain of the whiter and wealthier populations.

While this is a sad web of problems and injustices, the flip side of it means that when we make efforts to “loose the bonds of injustice” (as Isaiah says) we help untangle the web as a whole. You do not have to solve every problem and trying to focus on too much at once is overwhelming and paralyzing.

Do the work that is yours to do. Engage with weeding and tending the Kin-dom of God in your own backyard (so to speak), and know that the effort you make is holy, important, and one strain in a much larger song sung by a much larger chorus, a chorus that extends backward and forward in time.

Don’t lose heart. Rest when you need to. Lean on those around you, and let’s keep moving forward together.

Yours in the path of Jesus,

Pastor Matthias

## *Notes from September 17th Council Meeting...*



Highlights include-

- Pastor Matthias reported on his ministry over the last month. He spent time on the usual demands of being pastor and other varied activities. That included the Wacipi feast (organizing, supporting, and serving 200+ people!), preparing for the September 15<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting, working with the Personnel Team, and planning for his upcoming Study Leave (October 16 – 23.) He continued to work on the creation of a new church logo and website. He is attending meetings of the Harvest SST planning for the fall.
- Lynne reported on the Presbytery Meeting on September 12 in Red Wing. She and Mike were the commissioners representing CPUC. The sale of Aldrich Avenue Presbyterian Church to a program serving the community was approved.
- Audrey and Sophie sent a written summary of the feedback they gathered regarding the CPUC website over the summer. The Council discussed their findings and reflected on possible next steps. They identified people Pastor Matthias will contact to invite into a group to help with content and changes on new website.
- The Council reviewed a proposed plan from the Personnel Team for Pastor Matthias' compensation in 2025. The Presbyterian Church USA is no longer providing blanket spousal and dependent insurance coverage in 2025. The Team's proposal includes a recommended cost-of-living salary increase, continuing pension contributions, and medical coverage for Pastor and his children. (Pastor's spouse, Valerie, will get coverage through her employer.) The Finance Team will look at this proposal before Council votes on its recommendation to the congregation. The Congregation will vote on the Pastor's compensation package at a November Congregational Meeting.
- Jim Sh. reported that Arrow Lift did a maintenance check on the lift on September 17. A loose wire that was causing service problems was fixed. The emergency batteries and their charger need replacement. When Jim gets Arrow's estimate for costs the Council will address this decision.
- Jill highlighted the plans of the Harvest SST as their season begins. Many activities are planned for the rest of September and October. She also shared her optimism for the Lay Ministry Team finding two (no longer four) nominees for Council this fall.
- The next scheduled Council meeting is Tuesday, October 15. Pastor Matthias plans to share an outline for his twelve-week sabbatical in 2025.

## Reparations? WHY?

Only intentionally anti-racist wealth return and power restoration can undo the mess that white supremacy has caused. (from Minnesota interfaith Power and Light)

Median household income for African Americans is still lower today than the white median family income in 1963.

If we continue to close the racial *income* gap at the current rate, it will be **513 years** before we reach income parity between Black and White households.

If we continue to close the racial *wealth* gap at the current rate, it will be **780 years** before we reach wealth parity.



Also, wrongful imprisonment almost irreversibly affects the economic status of individuals, families, and communities. Sign up for a website feed to learn about current actual cases.

Exoneration Project:

<https://www.exonerationproject.org>

(select news or sign up for newsletters)

Innocence Project: <https://innocenceproject.org>

(select cases)

The Marshall Project: [themarshallproject.org](http://themarshallproject.org)

(select newsletters)

## An easy and interesting way to learn a bit about Reparations

**October 5, Saturday, 10:30-noon** at House of Hope Presbyterian Church

(Contact Susan if you would like to car pool.)

\*Rev. Jermaine Ross-Allam, the PC(USA)'s Director of the Center for the Repair of Historic Harms will lead a panel discussion to learn about this work at the local, state, national, and international levels from experts working in the field.

\*Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart will be moderating the conversation with

\*Rev. Ross-Allam, Trahern Crews, Chair of the St. Paul Reparations Commission, and

\*Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs, Co-Director of Racial Justice at the Minnesota Council of Churches (and Co-Chair of MNIPL's Board of Directors).

Registration is free but required for an accurate count for a light lunch that will follow the presentation. Please register by Friday, September 27 for the lunch.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-state-of-repair-and-reparations-work-featuring-rev-jermaine-ross-allam-tickets-1003090630077>





## *Mendota Mdewakanton Community Annual Wacipi*

This year marked the 30th annual Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal Community Wacipi.

CPUC has provided the closing feast for at least a decade and maybe closer to two as a way of tangibly supporting the Native community closest to us. On Saturday, a dozen or so folks gathered at CPUC at 9 a.m. to chop vegetables, prep chicken, cook wild rice, and clean as they went.



This crew represented folks from Gloria Dei Lutheran, The Grove United Methodist, and Cherokee Park United. Sunday, several volunteers stayed after worship to warm up food in the ovens and see that everything for the feast was ready to go.

At the Powwow grounds themselves, a Spirit Plate was prepared and offered first. Then the elders were served - followed by any who were hungry. In all we served over 200 plates of chicken, pork, and jackfruit sandwiches, wild rice, roasted vegetables, fruit salad, and cookies. We had just the right amount of food. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make it happen!



## CPUC E-Directory updates welcome!

If you received an email asking for information or picture updates, please respond before September 30.

If you are new to CPUC we invite you to send your contact info. and picture (optional) for this annual e-publication.

Please send your submission to Jill by the end of the month.

Thank you for helping CPUC stay connected!

### October Birthdays and Celebrations

06 -Ethan

♥️ 13 - Brad & Kay

♥️ 15 - Jackie & Dave

16 - Adrien

16 - Jill J

17 - Kelly

18 - Joy

♥️ 20 - Shannon & Derek

25 - Kay

25 - Stefan

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

### Newsletter

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

October 14

## Indigenous Peoples' Day

(originally designated as Columbus Day)

June 11, 2020. The Columbus statue on MN state capitol grounds was torn down by a group of protesters. They had advised the government they were going to do so as Columbus was a conqueror, not an explorer, and were told they would not be arrested. This came in the wake of the public murder of George Floyd on May 25 by a police officer. The spokesperson was Mike Forcia, current head of AIMTC (American Indian Movement, Twin Cities). He was later given a sentence for his involvement.



Help Rescue Our **Mother Earth** from Plastic Poisoning ---

*Contacting your Senators is easy! Ask them to support the REDUCE Act (a levy on manufacturers of virgin plastics) and the Energy Permitting Reform Act (reduces pollution, increases green/clean energy projects).*

*Sen. Amy Klobuchar*

*Call: 612-727-5220*

*Sen. Tina Smith*

*Call: (651) 221-1016*

*Look up your congressional Representative here:*

*<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>*

*Angie Craig (MN-2): (651) 846-2120*

*Betty McCollum (MN-4): (651) 224-9191*

*Sample script:* Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, calling from \_\_\_\_\_ (your city and Cherokee Park United Church). I am reaching out today to express my concern about climate change. This is important to me because \_\_\_\_\_ (briefly give a reason this matters to you). So, I am asking you to please support REDUCE Act/Energy Permitting Reform Act. We need to act on climate change now! Thank you for your listening, and thank you for your service.

*Bonus: Contact U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken asking that the U.S. make a strong commitment to reducing plastic production and addressing plastics pollution at the United Nations' upcoming Global Plastics Treaty in Busan, South Korea.*

*<https://register.state.gov/contactus/contactusform>*

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

