



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 ~ April 2025

Wheel of Good Fortunes

Find this wheel in Fellowship Hall and take a spin!! Your selection is always a winner as it brings good fortune to God's creation - either to people in need of charity or justice, or ways to strengthen and support each other in our works to bring forth the Kin-dom.

Our good fortunes include signing up for:

- help with children's time during Lent
- bringing a dish for the Easter breakfast
- learn use of the ADE (automated electronic defibrillator) April 3, 1 pm
- co-host or clean up at a fellowship hour
- join the Growing Season May-Aug Team (guaranteed fun)
- help take up a Sunday collection
- receive a new name tag



Maundy Thursday

We will gather for worship (with Communion) on **Thursday, April 17** at **7pm** in the sanctuary for a worship service remembering Jesus' last supper with his disciples and his command to live lives of service and humility. All are welcome.

Thank you for helping our Easter Garden "grow" this year!

As is our tradition, the sanctuary on Easter Sunday will be our church flower garden for a few hours. There are two ways to contribute to this year's Easter Garden. If you'd like a particular kind of plant, please purchase one, put your name on the bottom of the plant, and **bring it to church by noon on Saturday, April 19th**. **OR**, if you'd like to order a "surprise" plant, please complete a form available at church and place with your check (made out to CPUC) or cash in the box at church or give to Jill Jackson. **Please order by Sunday, April 13th**. The cost is \$10/ plant. A variety of colorful plants and flowers will be purchased at Trader Joe's. After worship, people who ordered plants can pick one out to take home. Jilljacksonmn@comcast.net



COME CELEBRATE EASTER

~ Breakfast 8:30-9:30 am

~ Worship 10:15 am

Dear CPUC,

Imagine being a participant in an early Christian community—in Corinth or Philippi, say—and your little house church group gets a letter from Paul who first gathered you and started your gatherings, teaching and encouraging.



You all gather in the evening around a meal and read the letter aloud, discussing its meaning. You each offer opinions and ideas based on what you know about Jesus, how you experience God, considering what Paul is trying to convey. Maybe there are debates about what he means by this or that phrase. The night wears on, but you are warm spending time with dear ones in a prolonged conversation.

This is, admittedly, an idyllic image of what was surely more gritty in real life. However, the idea of having one shared source of information and ample time to digest and dialogue is an appealing one to me.

These days, information comes at us faster than we can truly absorb it, give it considered thought, process our feelings about it, or really handle it. The human brain and the human spirit is not made to process as much information as we are bombarded with on a daily basis.

I understand the seductive pull to keep up on every latest affront to our democracy, every new degradation of our humanity, every insult and outrage to common decency and fairness.

This belief that I, personally, must track all the terrors and delve into the horrible details of each and every one, forgets that we belong to each other and we are not alone. There are others with expertise in immigration law, in history, in finance, in human rights who are tracking these terrors too. Collectively, we are paying attention and will demand accountability and justice. You do not have to carry it all or exhaust yourself trying to do the work of a whole network of resistance.

Besides, too much bad news, however, is paralyzing. Do the small bit of good that God gives you to do.

Meanwhile, we gather in church to gather around a shared source of sacred Good News. To kindle a fire against the long shadows of Empire. To be reminded that the bad news is not all there is, nor is it the last Word.

Peace,

Pastor Matthias

Notes from the April Council Meeting...



- Pastor Matthias reported on his ministry over the last month. He spent time on the usual demands of being pastor and duties of his job. He also attended several community meetings. He followed through on several actions approved at the February Council meeting. They include –
 - Purchased the Heartsine Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for CPUC. It will be installed in early April.
 - Sent off the \$2250 of CPUC Peace Fund money and special offering collected for The Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Ministries program.
 - Worked with the Personnel Team to hire Eleta Pierce to serve as Sabbatical Administrative support from May until early August.
 - Learned the grant he applied for to help pay sabbatical travel expenses was approved by the Presbyterian Board of Pensions.
- The Council decided Vice-Moderator Jim S. will moderate the May and June Council meeting while Pastor Matthias is away. Jill will help form the agenda. (The Council does not meet in July.)
- The Council approved a draft revision of the By-Law governing the Lay Ministry Team. Since the change doesn't immediately impact the work of the Team, the congregation will vote on this revision at the fall congregational meeting.
- The Council agreed to offer a local chapter of the International Workers of the World the use of our kitchen and fellowship hall for breakfast meetings on Saturday mornings. Pastor Matthias will draft a written agreement and circulate it to the Council for email approval.
- The Council asked Pastor Matthias to work with some adult members to convene a meeting of the children/ youth of CPUC. The goal is to determine norms of behavior to follow during fellowship time to keep them (and all!) safe and happy.
- Lynne, church accountant, will work with another CPUC member to investigate the availability of commercial or open-source software that's easier to use than what the Finance Team uses presently.
- Jim S. reported a new latch is on order and new batteries and charger have been installed in the lift. (This expense--\$1,950--was approved by Council via email vote on March 12)
- Tom M. reported that he and the Tech Team have been working around challenges on Facebook livestream in recent weeks to stream the worship service.

- The Renewing SST is getting ready for the remainder of Lent, Palm Sunday, a Maundy Thursday evening service, and Easter breakfast and worship. Work continues to incorporate our new logo into our materials and website.
- The next Council meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2025.

If you would like to know more about any of these items in detail, the Council members would be glad to talk with you. The current Council members are :
Jill, Sebastian, Barb, Kathy B., Tom M., Jim S., Maria, Sandy D., and Lynne.

Unforgettable summer!!

Let's make this summer unforgettable!

Join the *Growing Seasonal Team*

and help us plan a season of fun and fellowship.



We need your creative energy and enthusiasm to make our May-August events a success. Contact Shannon to sign up or ask any questions.

Member fun from the past

Who has been in a women's canoeing group regularly enjoying trips in the BWCA. And very proud to be able to carry her canoe all by herself?



Known MPLS Choir

Pastor Matthias and members Alicia, Jill, Jackie, Susan, and Nona brought supper to this wonderful choir of young women and men, and in return were fed by their youthful spirits and uplifting harmonies. We are enthusiastic about continuing this support.

All provided food as well as Glen, & Mary M., for a feast of tacos - tortillas and chips, four crockpots of different meats & all the toppings - three kinds of bars and cookies., bottled water. The choir was wonderfully thankful - the young women shown below with Alicia, said over and over, "You MADE these carnitas?! YOU made these carnitas?!" And then happily took extras home.

Watch for future announcements to join in and journey to a land of music and support for the future leaders of our country.



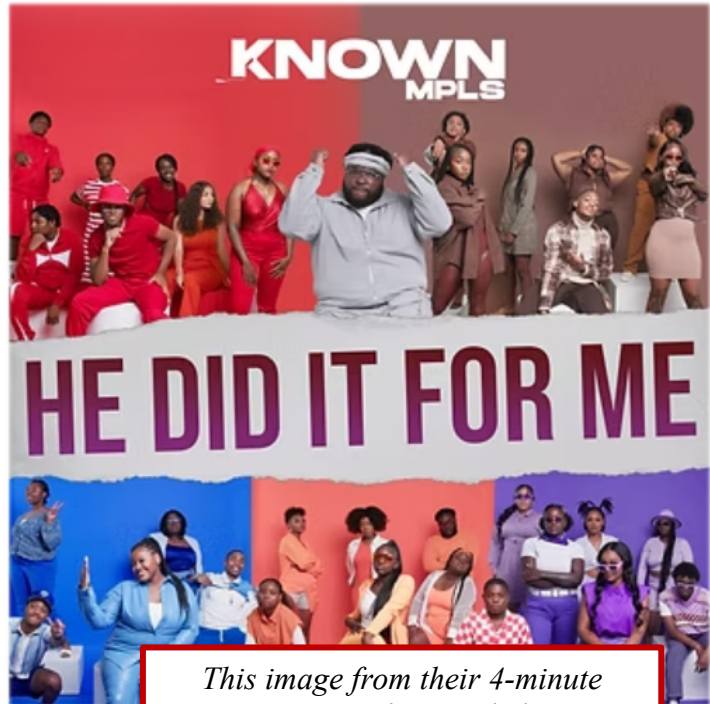
Choir Director Courtland Pickens



More about Known MPLS

Known - to be recognized, understood, or validated. Jer. 29:11

Known MPLS is a passionate choir dedicated to uplifting voices and uniting communities through the power of music. Rooted in a deep love for gospel and urban music traditions, we create powerful performances that inspire, encourage, and bring people together. Our ensemble, diverse and talented, celebrates both individuality and unity, always aiming to reflect the strength and spirit of our community. As part of Voicez Inc., Known MPLS believes in using music as a force for positive change, building a legacy of artistry, faith, and resilience.



This image from their 4-minute music video entitled, "He Did It For Me." To listen to their inspiring sound, go to youtube.com. and type in Known MPLS. The intro is a bit confusing but keep watching! To be further lifted and inspired, watch their next video showing the personal interaction between members and director at their 2024 celebration of Known Person of the Year.

April Birthdays and Celebrations

13 - Barb

18 - Laura Beth

18 - Dean

19 - Tommy M.

♥ 25 - Gina & Jerome

(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 to: kellystrebig@comcast.net

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

❖ darkness is a beautiful thing ❖
darkness gives way to the stars.
darkness of the earth is
what allows the seed to grow into bountiful crops.
darkness and times of uneasiness make way
for change and invention,
together with God,
we can wander into the darkest ...parts of life.
❖ we are never alone. ❖

Laura Beth Gatzke, former intern at CPUC