



Magnolias on our east wall - always the first to bud and bloom, with new promise.

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 ~ May 2025

[NOTE: Website version deletes personal information i.e. last names, phone numbers, email addresses]



Loaves and Fishes...because we all need to eat

Thursday, May 1

Inevitably, our workday for Loaves and Fishes arrives again, the first Thursday of each odd-numbered month, at St Matt's.

You will recall that sometime back L&F instituted a new rule that clients must provide their own bags. I was told by Latisha Moening, the L&F volunteer coordinator, that we could donate bags at St Matt's on our workday. They cannot be the usual plastic shopping bags; rather, they should be cloth or that artificial fabric that is commonly given out by businesses and advertisers. I get "Doctors without Borders" bags, for example.

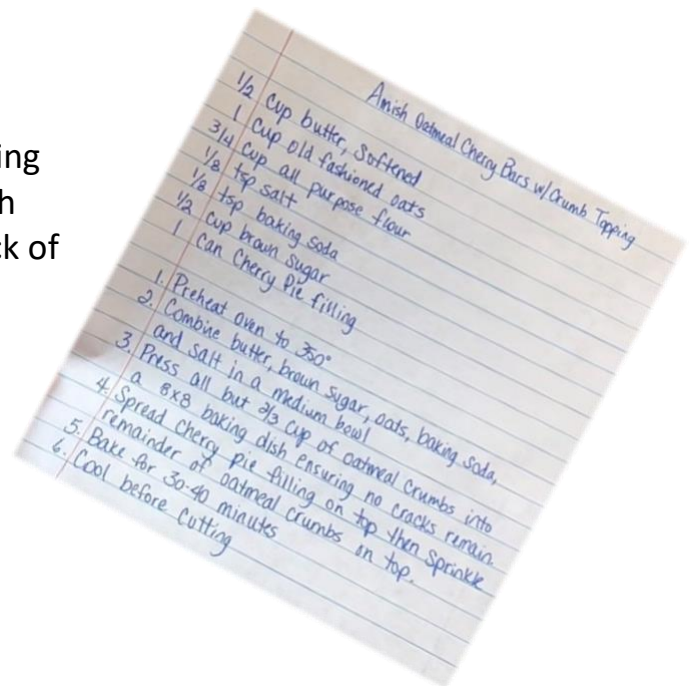
To volunteer to work on May 1, please email Wayne and specify which shift you'd like. Thank you.

Potluck Fellowships

Sunday, May 11

As May shifts us into our Growing Season, the Growing Season Steering Team is rebooting the once-a-month themed fellowship potlucks. The first themed potluck of the season will be on Mothers' Day Sunday.

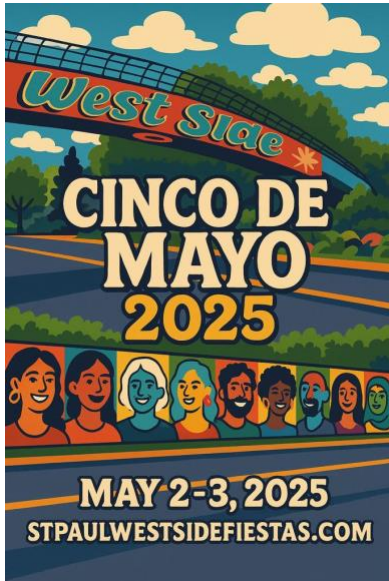
The theme is "Mom's Favorite Potluck" – so you are invited to bring a dish that is a recipe from your mom, her favorite food or specialty, or that connects with the mothers in your life.



Spring Beautification planned

Our beautiful grounds are again ready for our tender loving care. Let's look at the beginning of **June** for our large group gathering, however, everyone is welcome to jump right in and do anything they see that needs attending.

Call Diane with any questions.



*Join our neighbors on the West Side
for Cinco de Mayo*

Book Sale!

May 2-3-4, Fri-Sat, 9-am 4 pm; Sun 11-noon

Our neighbors at First Presbyterian Church, South St. Paul, are having a huge book sale. They are also receiving book and media donations at the church office through **May 1st**. Come find a new read in a way that recycles previously enjoyed books and supports our neighboring congregation. FPC South St. Paul is located at 535 20th Ave. North.

Sabbatical Information

Many of you know that our pastor will be taking a 12-week sabbatical from mid-May to early August this summer. This brings with it many temporary shifts in CPUC's congregational and worship life. Such moments can create anxiousness; and one of the best antidotes for that anxiousness is information!

If you miss our informal conversation with Pastor Matthias during coffee hour on April 27, you can still read some of the details from information sheets available on the table in back of the sanctuary pews.

While Pastor Matthias is away, CPUC will have help with some weekly administrative tasks like bulletin creation and the weekly email newsletter. We have hired Eleta to help a few hours a week with these tasks. You can reach her at eleta@cherokeeparkunited.org
(More about Eleta on following page)

Eleta has been serving Presbyterian churches as an office administrator since 2006. She has served Edgcombe Presbyterian Church, Randolph Heights Presbyterian Church, and First Presbyterian Church in South St. Paul, where she has been serving since 2012.

She is a member and ordained Elder at Edgcombe Presbyterian. She views her role in the church as her calling, and enjoys being part of God's ministry by serving others. Eleta is a life-long resident of the West Side of St. Paul where she resides with her partner Zarrick, and has two teenagers and one adult child.

We extend a warm welcome to her from our faith community.

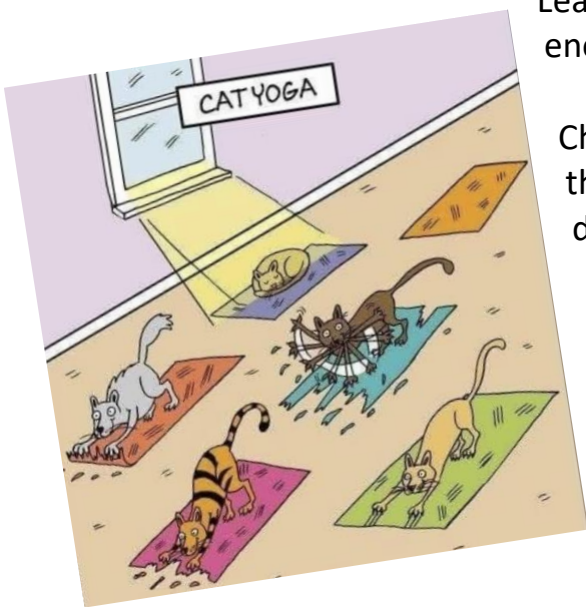


Free yoga classes; all levels welcome!

June 4- July 30: Wednesdays 6:15pm-7:15pm

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.



Chairs are available and there will be seated options throughout practice. For those who are comfortable doing floor exercises, please bring a yoga mat.

Classes will be held in the Fellowship Hall at CPUC.
Class dates and times: June 4- July 30: Wednesdays (No class July 2nd); 6:15pm-7:15pm

Questions? Please speak to or email Alicia

Dear CPUC,

As a kid, my brothers, our best friend, and I were very into Legos (truthfully, I still am). I remember once going down the block to our friend's house to see his newly built Lego submarine set. It was the envy of us all—a huge, complex submarine, complete with mechanical arms collecting imaginary deep ocean treasures. We passed it between us in wonder. Then as it passed to my youngest brother, his hand slipped and this intricate creation that had taken hours to build smashed to bits on the floor, scattering pieces under furniture and even down a nearby floor vent. The scream my friend let out is etched in my memory.



While this was an accident—and one our friendship recovered from—it reveals a pertinent truth: it is far easier to destroy something than to create something. Creation is a process that takes time, intentionality, care, and often entails collaboration. Destruction needs no plans because one pile of rubble is just as good as the next. One configuration of broken bits is all the same as the next.

Watching the news and the rampant, swift, and multi-faceted destruction of many essential institutions, agencies, rights, and frameworks in our country, I feel that same primal scream as my childhood friend did. The harms and dismantlings we are witnessing will take a long time to repair, or, in some cases, may be irreparable.

So in light of the crushing weight of bearing witness to destructions, I invite us to ask ourselves: what are we creating? Where are we investing our time in deliberate, and faithful ways that may not pay off for a long time or whose end we may never see?

How are we creating community and relationships that will help see us through? How are we creating resistance, or documentation of other ways of being, other ways the world can be? How are we creating joy and cultivating hope in our midst?

One theological interpretation of what it means that humans are “created in the image and likeness of God” holds that one of the first things the Bible tells us about God is that God creates. Therefore, the thinking goes, to be like God means to be creative, to create, to cultivate.

Amid the rubble, let's continue our commitment to doing the faithful, slow work of creating, knowing that to do so is divine.

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. This month included preparations for Holy Week and plans for his upcoming sabbatical (5/14 – 8/6) He followed through on several actions approved at the March Council meeting. They include –
 - Organized delivery and training session for new Heartsine Automated External Defibrillator (AED) installed on April 3.
 - Coordinated and attended Trans Day of Visibility rally on March 31 at MN Capital with CPUC folks.
 - Met with children and parents to list and pledge ways to keep all safe at CPUC, especially in “the coffee place” during fellowship time.
- Discussion was held of some details surrounding Pastor Matthias’ sabbatical. In addition to confirming Eleta working 5 to 10 hours per week on administrative matters, the Council helped discern some details. They included-
 - Monthly message writers for CPUC newsletter
 - Maria volunteered to be the contact person for several non-CPUC guest preachers
 - Approved honorariums/ pay for both guest and CPUC people leading worship during sabbatical
- Pastor Matthias drafted and the Council approved a written agreement with a local chapter of the International Workers of the World for use of our kitchen and fellowship hall for breakfast meetings on Saturday mornings. The IWW folks will sign the agreement when they are ready to start these gatherings. Jim S. will be their CPUC contact person.
- Lynne, church accountant, recommended CPUC sign up for an online service that will make the Financial Secretary’s job easier. The service costs \$80/ month. It simplifies entry of the weekly offering and generates reports. Lynne suggested starting this service in January 2026.
- Jim S. reported that parts are still on order for the lift. As soon as they arrive Jim will make an appointment for them to be installed. Jim fixed a malfunctioning toilet that was wasting water.
- Tom reported that Quantum (Century Link) is now CPUC’s internet provider. Our past provider quit service in our area. Problems with CPUC’s landline are being addressed. A working landline is needed for the emergency phone in the lift.

- The Growing SST is getting ready for their season from May through August. Already planned are some “themed” potlucks for fellowship hours.
- The next Council meeting is scheduled for May 20, 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, Tom, Jim S., Maria, Sandy D., and Lynne.

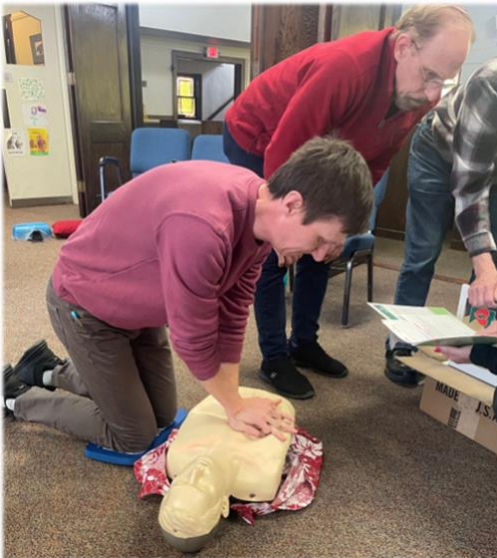
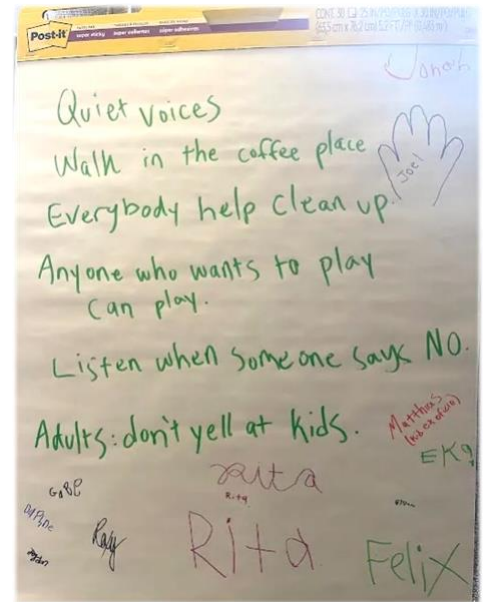
Lenten children's groups led by a rotation of adults



Cherokee Park United Church.....A Safe Place to Be

Children sign a covenant to behave in ways that safeguard our elders at fellowship and ensure that all can visit well. (and they request that adults do not yell at them!)

Volunteers train on our new life-saving AED (automated external defibrillator). It is now found ready for quick use in the northeast corner of the sanctuary behind the pews.



Lent, Easter, and Beyond

Maundy Thursday



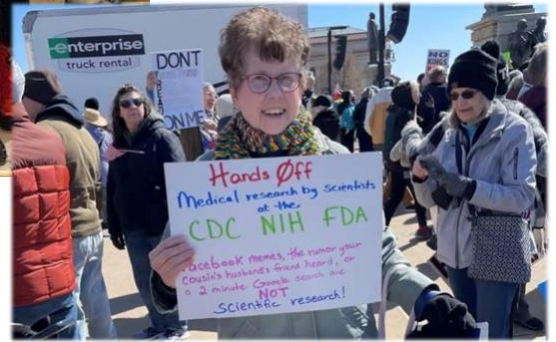
Easter Sunday: Breakfast & Worship



Let's Look in the Tomb (children reported, "empty", except for a few cobwebs.)

Children continue worship outside, finding caves where insects have been resting over the winter, waiting to resurrect/emerge in Spring

We rally for justice at the capitol



Emergency....even the introverts show up!

Future Citizen Rallies

April 30, Wed., 1-3 pm: Senior Caucus Rally
May 1: Thurs, 4:30 pm: Immigrants and Workers' Day
Contact Ellie or Pat for more dates and rallies scheduled

Member Fun

When **Sasha** comes back to visit, a 6-person table turns into an 11-person table



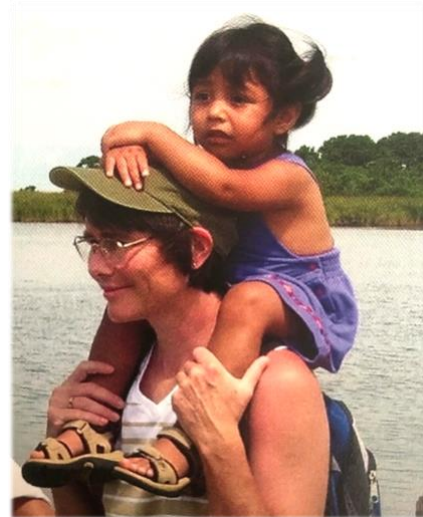
Sophie has become the new owner of the Norwegian knit sweater started by Jan Howe, (rest in peace), and handed on through Kathy, then finished by Sasha. It has traveled back and forth thousands of miles before completion!

Before we knew them!
Now so lucky to have them in our church family.

May Birthdays and Celebrations

- ♥ 13 - Mike & Lynne
- 16 - Maria
- 21 - Sasha
- 27 - Diane
- ♥ 28 - Jim & Karen

(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 (or contact me for a possible extension)

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Cherokee Park United Church
United Church of Christ/Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Open & Affirming, Multicultural, Antiracist
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Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m. online and in person
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cpuc@usfamily.net
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