Worship starting time changes September 13 to 10:15 am

# 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 2026

*This newsletter is also posted on our website; for safety and privacy, last names and personal contact information are omitted there. That version is also sent, upon request, to various native inmates in Pennsylvania who greatly appreciate our attention, respect, and our work for rights to their spiritual practices.*

## Loaves & Fishes

**September 3, Thursday**

Loaves and Fishes will need our help again bringing food and hope to those in need. Please volunteer for the prep session at 3:15-5:00 or the serve session at 5:00-6:30 by emailing word of your gracious generosity to Wayne. Thank you.

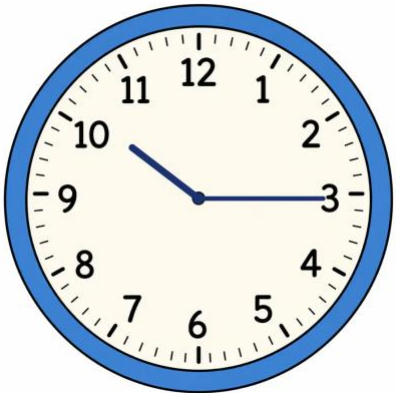
## Fall Landscape Upgrade

**September 12, Saturday 9 to noon**

Join us to finish up any last-minute weeding and laying down of cedar mulch to further discourage the weed population. (Or if you only have time some other day previous, talk to Susan about how and where you could help.) We plan to have bagged mulch delivered, so there will be no shoveling up or wheel-borrowing; we just carry the bags to the areas, empty, and spread around evenly; may store any unused bags on west side of bldg.

## Worship starting time changes to 10:15 am

**September 13, Sunday**



## Stories in the Park ~ on the theme of Peace, Love & Unity

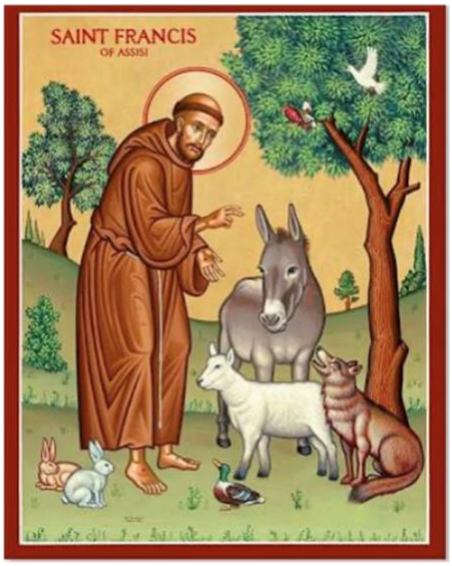
**September 19, 2 pm**

Join us at Douglas Park (one block north and one block east of CPUC) as we share stories and poems. Speak of peace, love and/or unity from your heart, or from a book!

Bring your folding chairs, blankets, family and friends. There is a playground in the park for those who may need to get their wiggles out! Light refreshments will be provided. In the event of bad weather, we will meet in the Fellowship hall at CPUC.

If you'd like to share a story or poem (5-10 minutes, ideal length) please sign up at church or talk to Alicia or Pastor Matthias.

## Blessing of the Animals




**September 27, Sunday**

The Harvest Seasonal Team has organized this activity, which is based on a tradition that was begun in the middle-ages, in honor of Francis of Assisi. In the Catholic tradition he is known as the patron saint of animals and the environment and is often pictured preaching to birds or other animals.

Medieval people blessed their farm animals and prayed for them to be healthy; in modern times we typically bless our companion animals, such as cats and dogs. While we will not be blessing animals in person, you are encouraged to bring photos of your pets to be blessed. You can also bring photos of endangered animals or pets who have crossed the rainbow bridge. Children are encouraged to bring stuffed animals, particularly unusual stuffed animals, such as wild animals or farm animals. Animal hats also work, the knitted kind with eyes on the forehead, or other animal themed clothing. *from Harvest team member, Janet*

## Known MPLS Dinner *from dinner organizer Alicia*

**September 28, Monday**

CPUC will again be providing an evening meal for *Known MPLS* youth choir. We offer this service monthly, usually on last Mondays. Teens and young adults arrive by bus, often straight from school so need this nourishment and care. There are a few ways to help if you'd like to be a part of the team! Cook, bake, shop, donate or serve onsite. Signup during Fellowship time or talk to Alicia or Pastor Matthias.

The August meal was another great visit with the choir! They shared about the lovely and very moving reception they experienced at their last concert in Eau Claire and they surprised Alicia by singing the most beautiful rendition of "Happy Birthday " to them. Special thanks to the August team of volunteers! Jackie Rico, Camille Hoppe, Jill Jackson, Lynne Bates, Laurie Biehn, Sandy Dodson, Renee Pfenning and Pastor Matthias.

***Hear their*** original song "Go Black Man" at https://youtu.be/iFEflrfgZCs?si=XQLovNYuLJQwTP_-

## CPUC Bike Ride!

**October 10, Saturday, 2 pm**

Join us for a bike ride with your CPUC friends! Our mostly flat route, of approximately 30 minutes (one way), with beautiful scenic views, will begin from the parking lot near the Harriet Island Pavilion (Plato Blvd & Dr. Justus Ohage Blvd) and will continue along the river into Mendota where we will enjoy a snack/drink at Lucky's 13 Pub before heading back to Harriet Island.

Please sign up at church or talk to Alicia González or Pastor Matthias.

## Membership/Inquirers' Dinner

Interested in Membership at CPUC? Curious about what it entails? Want to share a summer, get to know some other people, and learn a bit more about CPUC?

We are planning for an inquirers' dinner in September. We'll share a meal and stories, and afterward, those interested can be received as members of CPUC. Date TBD, but please let Pastor Matthias know if you are interested.

## Tree limbs down; shingles up

Many overgrowing limbs from a neighboring 60-foot tree were cut down by Curt and Nathan; then hauled off by our trusty crew Sandy D., Dave, Diane, Philip R, and Bob, headed by Curt, preparing for the new roof.

## A Message from Pastor Matthias

Dear CPUC,
"These are not the lines that came to me / while walking the woods / with no pen / and nothing to write on anyway."
Poet Billy Collins writes this first stanza of his poem "Lines Lost Among Trees," a sort of homage to the poem he composed in his mind only to forget it, lose it to memory. It is, perhaps, a contemporary (if more ephemeral and whimsical) take on Shelley's "Ozymandias."

There is sometimes a strong desire among us for permanence, or the illusion of it; or perhaps more accurately, a desire for things to last longer. We write things down to remember them. As a species we gather oral histories on recordings so the stories of our forebears can be remembered. Meanwhile, the Internet, as they say, is forever, as often evidenced by online posters trolling politicians and celebrities by dredging up screenshots of previous posts that contradict their current tweeted opinions. Even we in churches have taken to recording and broadcasting our worship services, which allows for watching back afterward or worshipping later in the week.

Then there are more nefarious records. *Flock* cameras recording where people go and mapping our lives' comings and goings as data for the highest bidder or least scrupulous person with access to its files. Or incriminating images and records that are suppressed, in order to protect those whom they might implicate in wrong-doing.

Yet the scriptures attest to our human finitude. God speaks to the first humans: "You are dust and to dust you shall return." The Psalmist echoes this, writing: "The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish and fade, and its place remembers it no more."

While this may seem (or actually be) depressing to consider, or as if suggesting all we do is futile, I believe that scriptures and our faith offers these reminders not to "bum us out" (to use the official theological term), but rather to help us keep proper perspective.

And if we do feel resigned at our own temporality, the Psalmist concludes offering these words: "But from everlasting to everlasting / the Lord's love is with those who revere God / and God's justice is with their children's children."

Our faith proclaims that God's love is from everlasting to everlasting, with us even beyond the span of our earthly days, even if and when human records fade.

Pastor Matthias

## August Council meeting notes

- Pastor Matthias and Kay lead the Council in a thoughtful discussion about faith formation for children at CPUC. The Council approved their recommendation to purchase the ***Growing in God's Love*** curriculum. A Faith Formation Team will be created and meet to figure out next steps and bring to Council ideas for what can be tried in the coming months. Thanks to Kay and Pastor Matthais for many hours spent – in the recent past and future – guiding us in this area.
- The Council heard a request from the Antiracism Community of Transformation (ACT), formerly known as ASDIC Metamorphosis, for CPUC to become the group's fiscal agent. It was determined more information was needed before the Council could vote on this matter.
- Jill reported on a special meeting of the Presbytery on July 9th that approved the sale of the property of New Life Presbyterian Church in Roseville. Proceeds will go to the newly formed Garden Community Church, a federated congregation merging New Life Presbyterian and Falcon Heights United Church of Christ.
- Pastor Matthias reported that Curt completed the work contracted for on the belltower, belfry, and specific roof areas of CPUC. Les Jones Roofing will replace the north roof (shingles and flat areas) over the next week. We extend great thanks to Curt (and Duncan) for being "on top" of our building's needs with their generous and dedicated work this summer.
- Pastor Matthias reported Sandy W. will be back as Music Director on Sunday, September 6. We're glad for her continuing recovery from triple bypass heart surgery on June 9th. We're grateful to Pastor Matthias and CPUC Accountant Lynne for working with Sandy to help her with financial options in recent months.
- The Personnel Team approved time off through September 9th for our administrative assistant, Demari. She was visiting family out of state when a loved one passed away. We extend our sympathies for her loss.
- The Harvest Seasonal Team is meeting to plan the final months of programming for this year. Many exciting events are in the works. Thanks to the Lay Ministry Team and this season's volunteers!

- Sandy D.reported that Panera donations may not include as much bread in the future because of a change in baking procedures. CPUC helpers like Maria and Pastor Matthias take bread items to Loaves and Fishes each week. The Council decided to continue asking CPUC volunteers to pick up the Saturday goods for us to enjoy at fellowship hour. Thanks to Sandy and all the helpers for this ministry!
- Lynne reported the required state sales tax report and CPUC's annual registration with the Secretary of State are up to date.
- Pastor Matthias reported fulfilling the usual demands of being pastor and the duties of his job, both at CPUC and the Presbytery. In the past months he has dealt with several personnel matters, engaged with Seasonal Team activities/ plans, and enjoyed two weeks of vacation. He has started visiting immigrant detainees at the Whipple Building to provide spiritual care as part of an ecumenical coalition of clergy. He is organizing an Inquirer's Class for people interested in membership at CPUC.
- The Council approved Pastor Matthias' request for his final week of 2026 study leave for September 28 through October 4.
- The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2026.

If you would like to know more about anything going on, or give input, the *Council* members would be glad to talk with you. They are: Sebastian, Kathy, Maria, Sandy D., Lynne, Kay, and Jill.

# CPUC STATE FAIR

Our potluck fellowship on August 16 followed the MN state fair theme of food-on-a-stick ~ with other yummy dishes on the side.

*Gotta remember to fall in love with as many things as you can* ~ This sentence, printed on the back cover, is a line from "Abby Will Love", inspired by a girl who was going through some difficult times; it brings sound and imagery of our Minnesota landscape, and reminds us to look for all things which brings us to life, to passion, to peace. You can hear this original song on Youtube, played and sung by local musician/songwriter, Nancy Rech Masson, who teaches music and performs in a rock band called "Heartless."
https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=vw4a6Ek50AM&pp=ygUfYWJieSB3aWxsIGxvdmUgc3ltcGhvbnkgdHdpc3RlZA%3D%3D&ra=m

## October ~ last month to shop at the WestSide Farmers Market

Too tired to walk through a big Farmer's Market? This place is for you. In and out in 10 minutes and time to sit under the green arbor, sip a cold drink and listen to local music talent. *Saturdays 9 to noon*. Corner of Stryker and George

### Members and Friends September Birthdays and Celebrations

02 - Lynne
06 - Phyllis
09 - Felix J
07 - Gina
❤️10 - Kelly & Susan
18 - Nora
26 - Jayden
26 - Ellen
26 - Moe
28 - Mike
29 - Susan
30 - Joanne

[These dates were informally gathered. If you are a member or friend, we invite you onto this list. Just give your details to Susan.]

### Newsletter

Please submit articles by the 22nd of preceding month to susanstrebig@gmail.com
(or contact if an extension is needed)
Editor: Susan
Proofreader: Mary
Collator: Kathy

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 am: **changes to 10:15 on September 13**
https://www.facebook.com/cherokeeparkchurch/live
Pastor: Rev. Matthias Peterson-Brandt
651-227-4275
cpuc@usfamily.net
cherokeeparkunited.org

Gotta remember
to fall in love
with as many things
as you can.
*Local composer, vocalist, musician Nancy Rech Masson*