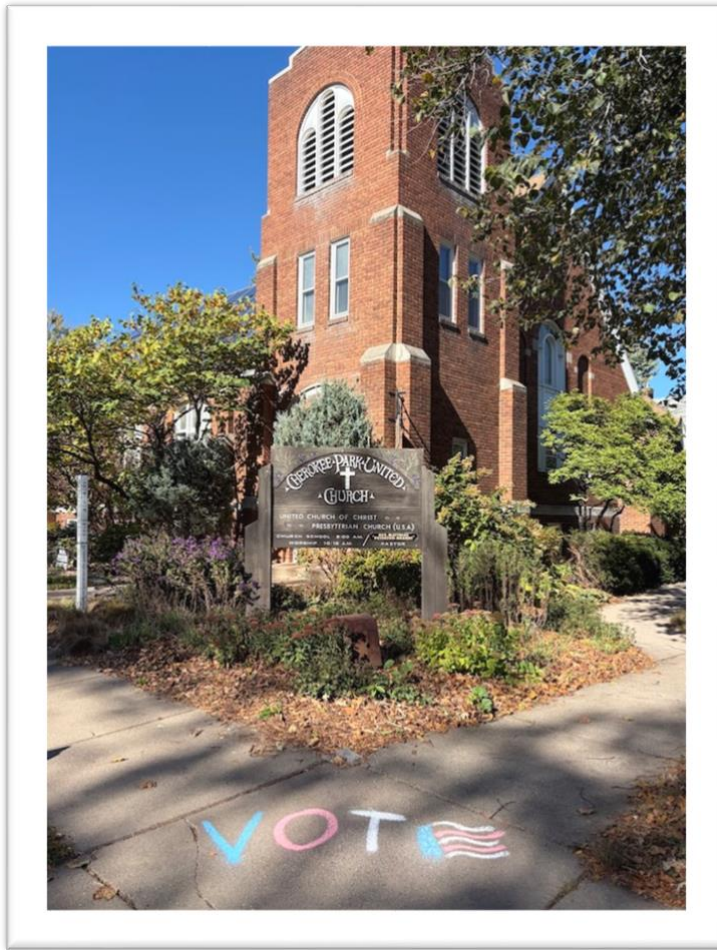




Cherokee Park United Church

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 ~ November 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.

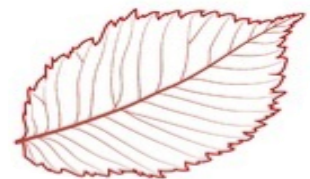


Thank you to our Sunday School mentors and children for sharing their artistic abilities and social responsibilities to “Chalk the Vote” around our church sidewalks. And thanks to Kay for providing our November cover photo.



Calling all Cherokee Park men!

You are invited to a Dutch breakfast on **Tuesday, Oct 27, at 10AM** at the Sunlight Restaurant in South Saint Paul. The restaurant is located at 100 7th Ave S, at the corner of Marie Ave. This event is hoped to spark a monthly breakfast for Cherokee Park men on the last Tuesday of every month, henceforth.



Fall Back

November 1, Sunday

Evidently, we all earned an extra hour of sleep, so we can set our clocks back an hour when we go to bed on Saturday; Daylight Saving Time starts Sunday, November 1.



“Thursday, November 5th, 2026, a day like all others, filled with the events that alter and illuminate our times, and you are there.”
Walter Cronkite, host of “You are There,” CBS TV, 1950s.

Will you be there? Loaves and Fishes. St. Matthew’s Church. Shift One starts about 3:15 and ends about 5:00, and Shift Two starts about 5:00 and ends about 6:30.

Thursday, November 5. Your time will be illuminated, (or maybe eliminated.) Wayne would like to have advance notice of your positive intent.

Día de los Muertos Ofrenda

November 1-15

Please join us in the remembrance and celebration of lives of our loved ones, heroes and legends that have inspired us, that have since passed on to the heavenly banquet. Let us pray and reflect on how they enriched our lives while walking along side us on this journey and how one day we shall meet again.



You are welcome to bring photos, non-perishable favorite treats of your loved ones and any items that may have been dear to them. Items you bring in may be placed in Fellowship Hall directly on the **ofrenda** / altar beginning November 1. Items may be retrieved on November 15.

Questions? Please reach out to Alicia.

Stewardship and pie season is upon us...

You will receive a letter with information about our annual pledge campaign soon. As we look ahead to 2027, your pledge helps sustain our ministries and congregational life. And a pledge is a way to help the Finance Committee plan out a realistic budget for the coming year, so we can plan to live within our means as a congregation.

Your pledge is an act of faith - however not legally binding - we know that sometimes life takes a turn. We trust that the Spirit is still alive and doing new things among us. Pledging is an act of generosity, living out gratitude for the graces—great and small—that God offers to us as gift.

Plus, we again have sweet rewards for turning in your pledge! Each Sunday during our stewardship season (November 8, 15 & 22), we'll draw the name of someone who has turned in their pledge, to win a home-made pie! (In past years some generous people decided to write other members' names on their cards, to possibly surprise them. If that is you, and their name is drawn, and they are not present, please be responsible to bring their surprise pie to them.)



Hanging the Greens

November 28, Saturday

Join us at 10 a.m. to help deck our sanctuary and fellowship hall with greens for the season!



Known MPLS dinner

November 30, Monday

CPUC will again be providing the evening meal for *Known MPLS* youth choir. We serve this monthly, usually on fourth Mondays. Teens and young adults arrive by bus, often straight from school so need this nourishment and care. Involving over 150 youth from middle school through college graduates, and founded by Courtland Pickens in 2019, the mission is to transform lives through music and mentorship, helping young people find safety, a purpose, build community, and inspire the next generation:-

Here 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 or talk to Alicia or Pastor Matthias.



And a peek ahead to Advent and Christmas observance dates

Cookie Baking

December 5, Saturday

Join us at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall to create homey smells and sweet treats to eat, share, and take home. We encourage you to bring rolling pins, cookie cutters, decorating supplies, and some pre-made dough. But feel free to show up regardless of what you can bring.

Christmas Dinner

December 13, Sunday, 4:30 p.m.

More information will be available as the planning is completed. Please watch for sign-ups to help set-up, bring food, and clean up.

A Christmas Carol Readers' Theater

December 20, Sunday, 7 p.m.

Volunteers of all ages and abilities welcome to help us read an adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. No memorization or staging. Refreshments included, of course!

Christmas Eve Worship

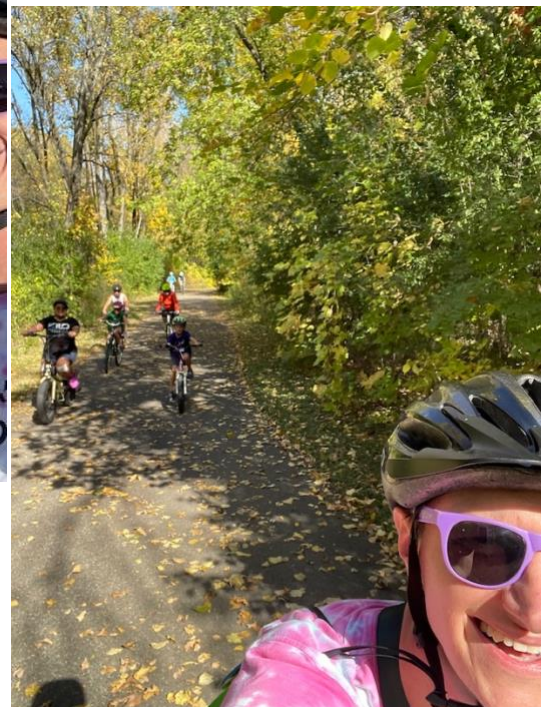
December 24, Thursday, 5 p.m.

We gather for worship together to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

A beautiful October CPUC bike ride



with Deborah, Sarah C., Alicia, Gabriel, Bjorn, and Pastor Matthias!



Dear CPUC,

In mid-October, the Minneapolis restaurant Modern Times announced it would close for good. During Operation Metro Surge, Modern Times served all its food at no cost. Dylan Alverson said that it was his way of trying to care for and comfort his community. After the surge subsided, Modern Times sought to recalibrate and find ways to still offer some free meals while balancing the business' financial needs.



There will be many who sneer and tut tut: "Well of course you are going out of business! You gave away food for free for months!" But in announcing the closure, Alverson noted that there is no way to pay employees a living wage and keep their food affordable and make the numbers work, and that many other small business owners he knows are facing similar circumstances. So forced to choose between compromising values and closing, they are opting to close.

It is not just small businesses, however. We are seeing our educational systems facing funding crises. Our healthcare systems charge ever-rising premiums but pay out fewer and fewer claims. Our democratic processes—though far from perfect—are facing strenuous stress tests under deliberate attempts to break and rig them.

It is a frightening moment to be an empathetic and compassionate citizen of the world, watching as many of the systems and structures that have existed for ages teeter on the verge.

In calling the prophet Jeremiah, God says: "See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant" (1:10). That which does not serve God's call to love, God's wide mercy and justice, must be removed before something new can be grown or built in its place.

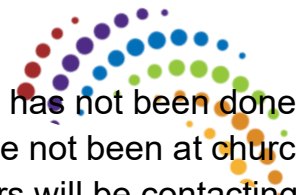
The collapse of our healthcare, education systems, small businesses, and democratic systems would bring untold amounts of suffering. That isn't something I advocate or hope for. Yet God reveals that in moments where everything seems fragile and on the possible brink of crumbling, there also exists the possibility of something new and better to arise. There emerges the potential for ways of organizing ourselves that create more dignity, allow for more creativity, cover more people with care for their basic physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

May we persevere in faith, looking for what tender new shoots might be growing amid the rubble.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Matthias

October 20th Council meeting notes



- The Council reviewed the CPUC membership rolls. Since this has not been done in several years, the Council decided to contact people who have not been at church for a while to see if they wish to remain on our list. Council members will be contacting people via phone (or other means, if possible!) CPUC pays per capita to our wider churches for each person on our rolls.
- The Council designated Sunday, December 6 after worship for a Congregational Meeting. New Council members will be elected and a vote taken on Pastor Matthias' terms of call for 2027.
- Pastor Matthias and Lynne Bates (accountant) are waiting for a meeting with the folks at the Antiracism Community of Transformation (ACT), formerly known as ASDIC Metamorphosis. CPUC is willing to become the group's fiscal agent. Lynne and Pastor Matthias will meet with ACT representatives before drafting a written agreement for approval by both parties.
- Pastor Matthias reported about the meeting held with children and their families on September 27. Ideas for the shape of a Faith Formation program were shared. Ways for children to make safe and caring choices on Sunday mornings were discussed. The Faith Formation Task Force will meet on October 28th to look at the curriculum purchased and determine next steps. (The Task Force includes Kay, Sander, Jackie Jaimie, Jill, and Pastor Matthias.)
- Pastor Matthias reported that work on our north roof is complete. Lynne confirmed that Les Jones Roofing was paid. Hooray!
- The Harvest Seasonal Team continues to plan special events for the final months of 2026. Coming up are the Ofrenda, Gratitude Sunday, Hanging of the Greens, and Advent activities. Thank you, Harvest Team!
- Pastor Matthias reported on his ministry this past month. He fulfilled the usual demands of being pastor and the duties of his job, both at CPUC and the Presbytery. He participated in an "immersive" gathering in Minneapolis of the group *White Men for Racial Justice* during his week of study leave. He joined other local clergy on several occasions to provide spiritual care to detainees held at the Whipple Federal Building. He has used his Spanish language skills to minister to people usually about to be flown to other locations from MSP airport. The St. Paul Mennonite Fellowship "laid down" their worshipping body with a program and celebration on October 18th at CPUC. They were respectful and responsible renters who shared our building for many years.
- Pastor Matthias reported that the Lay Ministry Team is considering people needed to fill specialized church roles in 2027.
- Lynne reported the Finance Ministry Team will be busy with stewardship activities and drafting the 2027 budget in the near future.
- The next Council meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2026.

If you would like to know more about any council items in detail, or give input, the council members would be glad to talk with you. They are: Sebastian, Kathy, Maria, Sandy, Lynne, Kay, and Jill.

It's a small world From post on CPUC FB by Sasha

October 18, 2026: I love how we sing songs from around the world. Today I sent a snapshot from our bulletin of the Zulu song to my South African college roommate. She sent me a recording back of her and her elderly mom singing it together. I'll try to figure out how to share it with you. Across the world, we sing together.



Somlandela/ We Will Follow (Jesus)

Somlandela,
Som-lan-del'u- Jesu
Somlandela,
yonke indawo
Somlandela,
Som-lan-del'u Jesu
Lapho e-ya-kho-na
somlandela

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

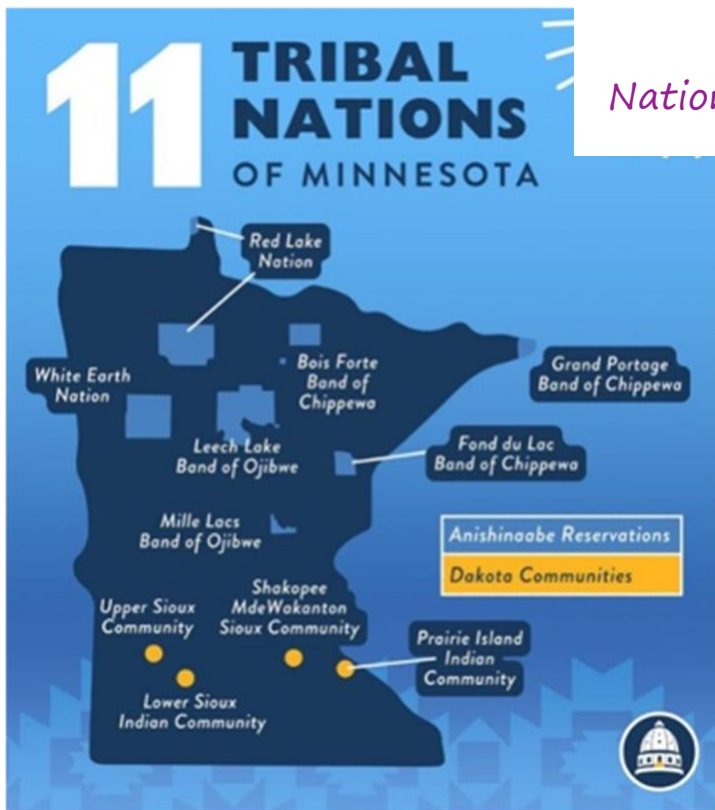
Members and Friends.

November Birthdays

and Celebrations

17 - Phyllis (R.I.P.)
18 - Franklin
26 - Roxanna
26 - Simon
28 - Tim

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



November is recognized as
National Native American Heritage Month

For a number of years, CPUC has used the **Haudenosaunee Prayer of Thanksgiving** during observances of Thanksgiving or Earth Day. This wise native grouping of tribes illustrates how often natives were/are? much more “civil” than the supposed civilization that moved onto this continent to colonize it.

Often described as the oldest, participatory democracy on Earth, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy’s constitution is believed to be a model for the American Constitution. What makes it

stand out as unique to other systems around the world is its blending of law and values. For the Haudenosaunee, law, society and nature are equal partners and each plays an important role.

The confederacy, made up of the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas, was intended as a way to unite the nations and create a peaceful means of decision making. Each maintains its own council with Chiefs chosen by the Clan Mother and deals with its own internal affairs but allows the Grand Council to deal with issues affecting the nations.



19th-century American suffragists—including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and Matilda Joslyn Gage—looked to Haudenosaunee women as a living model of gender equity. Family lineage, clan membership, names, and nations are passed down exclusively through the mother. They are the primary political and spiritual decision-makers of the community, oversee the well-being of their clans and hold the authority to appoint (raise up) and depose (remove) male chiefs. Chiefs act as the voice of the people in councils, but they cannot go against the instructions of the Clan Mothers. If a chief acts in his own self-interest or violates the Great Law of Peace, the Clan Mother has the absolute right to strip him of his title. Women traditionally manage village life, agriculture, and food distribution, giving them economic autonomy and final authority over land use and treaties. Clan Mothers—viewing themselves as life-givers responsible for the lives of their children—hold a decisive voice in whether the nation enters into war or maintains peace.

Best Rerun Ever

From editor Susan

On the infrequent occasion we are unable to get to church on Sunday or out of range on our phones, we access the missed worship service later. You can retrieve and watch it on Cherokee Park United Church Facebook. Sometimes we are the most attentive when engaging late in the evening, when there are no distractions.



On October 18, at 11:30 pm, I came across the service held earlier that day by the St. Paul Mennonite Fellowship (thank you Tom for coming back in to tape it .) After many years holding their services and gatherings in our building, they are moving away from being a church but continuing together as a beloved community.

Watching their goodbyes and memories was so very touching, and a warm reminder that there are other faith families carrying on the same traditions we do, to go forward in love and knowledge that we are all God's creations.

I highly recommend you watch this and experience their love; enjoy their very skilled musician, David on his wind instruments (I so enjoyed his bassoon), the many remembrance stories of their members; join their tears (one member walked up and down the aisles distributing tissues); laugh (one story recounted how a leader was asked to do the children's sermon on masturbation).

I alternately chuckled and cried with them. I hope their congregational DNA remains with us in our spaces, supporting our efforts as they have supported the lives of all people, inclusive, forgiving, building up, sustaining. God speed.

Immigration Law Interpretation

From Sebastian, running for Minnesota State Representative Seat 65B

[This article](#) from the Brennan Center examines the legality and constitutionality of various state attempts to confront federal immigration actions—including bars on cooperation, limits to data sharing, and ignoring federal requests to hold inmates on their behalf.

**BRENNAN
CENTER**
FOR JUSTICE

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 am**
[also live-streamed <https://www.facebook.com/cherokeeparkchurch/live>]
Pastor: Rev. Matthias Peterson-Brandt
651-227-4275
cpuc@usfamily.net
cherokeeparkunited.org

Gift Economy: an alternate to market economy,
is achieved by organizing ourselves to sustain life.

Wealth means having enough to share – abundance is given away.
Status comes from how much one gives away, not how much one accumulates;

All flourishing is mutual.

From The Serviceberry by Robin Wall Kimmerer: Potawatomi professor/scientist