



Hope

Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • November 24, 2022

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First Sunday of Advent
November 27th @ 10:15 a.m.

The service will also be available via YouTube for those desiring to participate from home.

Click Here: <http://youtube.com/channel/UCBYMT5pV5dLXGHjX5iaYXYQ/live>



In Prayer

- Evan Ramstad's brother, Jeff Baker, who has been diagnosed with Mesothelioma.
- Jerry Kerr asks prayers for Anna as she undergoes medical tests in hopes of figuring out ongoing health issues.
- Bob Huber's sister, Margaret, who has been diagnosed with kidney failure.
- Ron Molony asks prayers for his brother-in-law, Rich Hollingworth.
- Cindy Stille and Jack Gillespie ask prayers for Jerry Donnelly (Phoenix, AZ) in hospice.
- Healthcare and front-line workers.
- Doug Allen, Lee Carlson, Mykayla Cunningham, Julie Ford, Marilyn Krekelberg, Dorothy Lundberg, Annette Ronan, Timm, Tracy & Tristalyn Smith, Gail Stalpes, and Marge Williams.



Lord, we thank thee for the night, and for the pleasant morning light; for rest and food and loving care, and all that makes the day so fair. Help us to do the things we should, to be to others kind and good; in all we do, in work or play, to grow more loving every day. —*Rebecca Weston (1890)*



Join Us for A Cup of Christmas Tea

Tuesday, December 13th

2:00 p.m.

at Chapel Hills

Enjoy tea (or coffee) and cookies and celebrate the holiday season with friends at Chapel Hills. We will hear excerpts from *A Cup of Christmas Tea*, by Minnesota author Tom Hegg. Bring any other stories, poems or Bible verses that you would like to share as well.

Hosted by Friends in Christ.



Advent Afternoon

& Annual Lighting of the Holiday Decorations!

Sunday, December 4th - 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. @ Chapel Hills



<p>Help us decorate the Church & trim the tree.</p>	<p>Crafts for the kids & young at heart.</p>	<p>Bring a new, old, or homemade ornament.*</p>	<p>Sweet & savory holiday treats will be provided.</p>	<p>Enjoy singing carols around the Christmas tree.</p>
<p>Bring a donation of hats & mittens. They will be accepted all of December.</p>		<p>Cider, tea, and hot chocolate will be provided. Please sign up at church or call the church office at 952-935-3025</p>		

* Bring an ornament (or two) that you would like to donate to the church. Over time, we will have more and more of the donated ornaments as the Chrismons fade out. (The Chrismons were made in 1973 and are really starting to fall apart). We thought that the addition of new ornaments could be the beginning of a new Chapel Hills tradition.

It's Time to Place Your Poinsettia Orders



We are teaming up with Bachman's again this year and are happy to offer 6 1/2" poinsettias for the cost of \$13.00 per plant. Choose from Red, White, or Pink. Order forms are available at church.

We will arrange to have your poinsettias delivered to church. It has been our tradition that folks leave their poinsettia plants at church through the Christmas Eve Service. The beautiful display of poinsettias on the communion table will be enjoyed by all. **Order by December 4th.**

2022 Advent-Christmastide Devotionals are available in the Narthex!

An attentive sentinel of the night can see that darkness harbors much more life and renewal than many presume. Certain plants and animals only come to life during the nocturnal hours. Seeds of insight are planted when daylight disappears. Hope blossoms when the morning star is not seen.

All of us who yearn for brighter days could benefit from more appreciation of how life is sustained, fortified, and renewed in the dark.

Once again in 2022, the Stillspeaking Writers Group and contributors offer a daily devotional to guide us through the days of Advent and Christmastide, to the celebration of Epiphany. **Pick up a copy this Sunday!**

Pledge Reminder

Our pledge drive is off to a great start. Thank you to all who have pledged so generously. Your financial support is a clear reflection of your commitment to our future as a thriving congregation. If you haven't pledged yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. Every pledge is both needed and appreciated.



In December, we will kick off our month-long collection of hats and mittens.

A local charity called Hats and Mittens will benefit from your generosity.

Their mission is to warm the bodies and hearts of kids everywhere.

*That starts by providing free hats and mittens
to children in need during the cold winter months.*

Donations accepted all of December.

Book Group – Mark Your Calendar

Join us on the second Thursday of each month from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at Chapel Hills.

- December 8th we will circle back and discuss Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer, a delightful book of observations and the intersection between western science and native traditions.
- January 12th we will discuss The Seed Keeper, by Diane Wilson, winner of 2022 Minnesota Book award. “Weaving together the stories of four indelible women, ... a beautifully told story of reawakening, of remembering our original relationship to the seeds, and through them, to our ancestors.”

All are welcome, even if you haven’t read the book! Laura Feierabend is collecting suggestions for future books.

We Will Receive the Christmas Fund Offering on December 18th & 24th

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need.

Dear Chapel Hills UCC congregants:

We need your help. Chapel Hills works because of members who get involved. The more of us who get involved the better we function as a community of faith/congregation. The nominating committee will be meeting soon to nominate people for the committees/teams. Any help with the work of our teams/committees (listed below) would be greatly appreciated by all. Please let me know (in person, by e-mail or by phone) if you have any questions about how a team functions or would like to volunteer. We are looking for volunteers to help us work better as a congregation and no prior experience is required. Interest in possible team leadership/council participation also would be welcomed.

- **ENDURING FUND COMMITTEE:** Responsible for administering the assets of the enduring fund. 1 new member needed.
- **WORSHIP TEAM:** Responsible for ensuring that all components of religious services are accommodated. Time commitment varies with participation.
- **ENRICHMENT TEAM:** Responsible for organizing appropriate religious educational activities. Time commitment is about 3-6 hours/month.
- **HOSPITALITY TEAM:** Responsible for strengthening the Church community, strategically welcoming visitors and guests, and organizing special events. Time commitment varies with team size and varies between 5-7 hours/month.
- **FACILITIES TEAM:** Responsible for overseeing building infrastructure, maintenance, grounds and general church aesthetics. Commitment about 3-5 hours/month.
- **OUTREACH TEAM:** Responsible for organizing externally focused activities that address the Church's commitment to be an active partner in mission work.
- **HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE:** Responsible for establishing and implementing the Church's personnel policies, practices and procedures. Experience in Personnel Management or supervisory oversight would be helpful.
- **PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE:** Responsible for supporting a healthy relationship between the pastor and congregation. Commitment likely to vary with need and members are appointed by the Council with the concurrence of the Pastor.
- **GIVING COMMITTEE:** Responsible for conducting the annual pledge drive and any additional fundraising activities.

Please prayerfully consider how you might contribute your energy to our Christian community. As we transition to a new year we need "all hands-on deck".

Ron Molony
Moderator

Looking Ahead

27	NOV, SUN	● 9:15 – 10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service & Sunday School
28	NOV, MON	● 4 – 9pm	Villard Studio Cello Lessons
29	NOV, TUE	● 10:30am – 12pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group Conversations (Lounge)
		● 1 – 2:30pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group Conversations (Lounge)
		● 4 – 9pm	Villard Studio Cello Lessons
30	NOV, WED	● 3 – 5:45pm	Villard Studio Cello Lessons
		● 7:30 – 8:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
2	DEC, FRI	● 4 – 8:15pm	Villard Studio Cello Group Lessons
4	DEC, SUN	● All day	Poinsettia - Order Deadline
		● 9:15 – 10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Communion
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service & Sunday School
		● 4 – 5:30pm	Advent Afternoon



GIVE Securely Online

Offering/Donations

- **Online Giving** (convenient & secure) by clicking the following link...
- <https://app.easytith.com/app/giving/chapelhillsuccedina> or by scanning the QR Code on the left
- **By Check** (indicate what your donation is for on the memo line) Send to: Chapel Hills, 6512 Vernon Ave S, Edina, MN 55436

The Week of November 27th

Pastor Nancy will be at Chapel Hills:

Tuesday (9 am to 3 pm) and Thursday (9 am to 3 pm).

She may be in the office or perhaps out visiting on the two weekdays so it might be best to let her know you're dropping by in advance. Or just give her a call or send her a text (651-366-9093) or drop her an email at wiswans@comcast.net if you'd like to talk with her and/or meet with her on some other day or time.



“Called to Gift”

First Sunday of Advent (Year A)

United Black Christians Anniversary

Today is United Black Christians Anniversary. United Black Christians (UBC) is an officially recognized special interest group of the United Church of Christ (UCC), providing voice and vision for more than 70,000 African Americans.*

UBC represents lay and clergy persons who faithfully minister in more than 278 predominately African American congregations of the United Church of Christ and those African American members in congregations that are not predominately African American.

UBC seeks to preserve our tradition as a people of faith and hope.

UBC recognizes that it is the Black Church that has meant survival for African Americans on these shores.

UBC affirms that it is the Black Church that will assure our continued growth, development, endurance and ultimate liberation.

UBC affirms that each of us has gifts to offer and is entitled to the full rights and privileges of the United Church of Christ.

Provide voice for the African American members of the United Church of Christ

To strengthen Black churches in the UCC

To train and nurture leaders of our churches for Gospel inspired service to the Black community

To provide relevant ministry for our youth and young adults

To empower the laity for present day ministry

To create ecumenical and world-wide partnership for service and evangelism

To be active advocates for liberation and racial justice at home and abroad

To provide spiritual nurture for our members

To enhance clergy-lay ministry partnership

To provide support to African American Seminarians

“Remembering Our Way Into the Future” ~ Zechariah 8:4-8

* https://www.ucc.org/domestic-policy/ourfaithourvote_about/about-us_united-black-christians/