



Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • February 5, 2026

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**Sunday, February 8, 2026**

**Worship Service @ 10:15 am**

Nursery is available for infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children.

Children ages 5 and older are invited to attend Sunday School  
immediately following the offertory.

Participating from home on Sunday morning? Join us via live stream...

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

### Contact Information

Rev. Briones can be reached at revcbriones@gmail.com or 952-935-3025.

Christián's emergency line is **612-495-8203**.

In the event of an emergency on a Friday, please call the church (952-935-3025) and leave a voicemail and the message will be passed along to Christián.

He will be in touch as soon as possible.



### *In Prayer*

- Louise & Jim Ford's daughter-in-law, Chris Ford, passed away after battling cancer.
- Jeff Olander is recovering and doing well after receiving a full lung transplant.
- Brittany McBeath's brother, Adam Thurber, who is recovering from pacemaker surgery.
- Joann Hunt who is dealing with falls, pain, and a torn Achilles tendon.
- The family and friends of Renee Nicole Good and Alex Jeffrey Pretti.
- Doug Allen, Sherilyn Aske, John Burgart, Loretta Centgraf, Dee Chance, Louise Ford, Juleah Foss, Bob Huber, Russell Hunt Jr, Jordan Kerr, Molly Lee-Lafferty, Kathleen (Kathy) Molony, Marion Rova, Allii Scudder, Ashley Sherman, Shelley Tang, and Amanda Trosen



### **Pam Huey will be delivering Sunday's sermon!**

Ever wonder what Martin Luther King's favorite hymn was? Pam Huey, writing for the Star Tribune, wrote a story during Black History Month in 2018 to answer that very question and the answer may surprise you. The story was the result of her Aunt Mary meeting King at Riverside Church in New York City after King gave one of several sermons there in 1966.



## Flannel Sunday BBQ - Indoor Picnic

Thank you to all who joined us for our Annual Flannel Sunday BBQ! Tom Okonek risked frostbite on a very frigid Sunday to cook hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers.

Many delicious sides were provided by members as well as a full dessert table.

The best part was sharing this tradition with some new faces!

Special thanks to Barb and Tom Okonek for handling the shopping and set-up.





## Book Group - (1:00 to 3:00 pm)

- **Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**

Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man by Emmanuel Acho, available at the library.

- **Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**

The First Ladies by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.

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## Emergency Grant Program

**Please give to this vital initiative!**

The Minnesota Conference UCC soon will launch an emergency grant program to respond to the needs reported by UCC clergy and leaders in the wake of the surge of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Minnesota.

The grant program will support our churches, clergy, and communities in key ways:

- UCC leaders throughout the state have voiced a need to provide food, medicine, rent assistance, and other necessities for individuals and families in their congregations and surrounding communities who are afraid to leave their homes.
- UCC leaders are experiencing first- and second-hand trauma as they are caught in ICE actions as observers. These leaders need immediate self-care activities and intermediate respite in the weeks to come to address their exhaustion and need for self-care and spiritual renewal in a safe place.

These grants will be open to leaders throughout the state, in rural areas, small towns, and urban settings. We invite you to give to this important fund and are grateful for your support as we help our leaders and congregations navigate the tremendous challenges that ICE has brought to our state.



- **Online Giving** (convenient & secure) by clicking the following link... [GIVE ONLINE](#) (pull-down menu, select **other** and type in **Emergency Grants**)
- **By Check** (write **Emergency Grants** on the memo line) and send to: Chapel Hills, 6512 Vernon Ave S, Edina, MN 55436. Or, drop it in the offering plate on Sunday morning.



**A NEW Address for Jordan Kerr:**

1608 W 140TH ST

BURNSVILLE MN 55337-4419



**FEAR IS KEEPING FAMILIES INSIDE**

HELP SEND A CARE PACK OF FOOD AND RELIEF TO A  
NEIGHBOR IN CRISIS.

There are 2 ways you can help feed people who urgently need your support.

**1. Donate an emergency Care Pack**

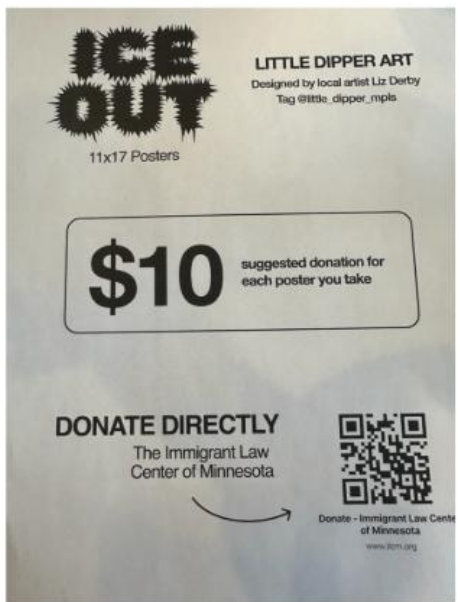
- \$30 helps fill and deliver a Care Pack to feed a family for one week. How many families are you able to feed today? If making cash donations, you can make checks out to Chapel Hills and add VEAP Care Pack in the memo line. You can also go to our website to donate online... [Click HERE](#).

**2. Donate items for Care Packs**

- Donate any of these most needed items:
  - Pasta and sauce
  - Canned fruits & vegetables
  - Bread, peanut butter & jelly
  - Canned protein (pork, chicken, beans)
  - Rice
  - Soup
  - Toilet paper and soap

## **“ICE Out” Posters**

Chapel Hill’s own, Liz Derby, the creative force behind the artwork at Little Dipper Art, has produced a series of wonderful, limited edition “Ice Out” posters that you will love to have and display. They are available for purchase at the stores listed below or there will be a handful available at church with a requested \$10 donation to the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota. Act now to get one or more of these great art pieces with an important message! [www.littledipper.store](http://www.littledipper.store)



### **Also available at these locations:**

#### **Downtown / North Loop Minneapolis**

Emery Hotel Gift Shop  
Meet Minneapolis Visitor Center  
Mill City Museum Gift Shop  
Mitrebox  
Soundwoven Goods  
Walker Art Center Gift Shop

#### **Northeast Minneapolis**

Mother Earth Gardens Northeast  
Zero Proof

#### **South Minneapolis**

Bakken Museum Gift Shop  
Bench Pressed  
Electric Fetus  
Ferris  
Mother Earth Gardens Longfellow  
Tangletown Gardens


















#### **Saint Paul**

Egg | Plant Urban Farming  
Ergo Floral  
Minnesota History Museum Gift Shop  
Next Chapter Books  
Northern Goods  
The Mustache Cat

#### **Metro Area**

General Store of Minnetonka  
Minneapolis Craft Market at MSP Airport  
Rose and Loon at Rosedale Center

## Looking Ahead

8	FEB, SUN		9:15 – 10am	Adult Choir Rehearsal
			10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
			11:15 – 11:45am	Sunday School (for Ages 5 & Older)
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9	FEB, MON		6:30 – 8pm	Rescheduled Church Council Meeting
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10	FEB, TUE		11am – 12:30pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group
			1 – 2:30pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group
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11	FEB, WED		7:30 – 8:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
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12	FEB, THU		1 – 3pm	Book Group
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15	FEB, SUN		9:15 – 10am	Adult Choir Rehearsal
			10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
			11:15 – 11:45am	Sunday School (for Ages 5 & Older)
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17	FEB, TUE		11am – 12:30pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group
			1 – 2:30pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group
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18	FEB, WED		7:30 – 8:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
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22	FEB, SUN		9:15 – 10am	Adult Choir Rehearsal
			10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
			11:15 – 11:45am	Sunday School (for Ages 5 & Older)



GIVE Securely Online

### Offering/Donations

- **Online Giving** (convenient & secure) by clicking the following link... <https://app.easytithes.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



## **"Restoring Beauty"**

### **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

There's a white-washed stone and thatched roof cottage in Ireland that sits on a cliff. From every weather-beaten shuttered window there is a view of the sea that has inspired poets and composers for centuries. Wildflowers dance amid the grassy bluffs where a passing sheep or two can be found perfecting the storybook setting.

I stumbled upon this cottage during one of my bouts with writer's block. I had a pressing deadline, yet no inspiration. So, I decided to Google "Irish cottages for sale." Sadly, this dream cottage was not on the market. It was a vacation rental.

I was intrigued, but not with the possible dates in which to book a much-needed getaway. There on the website was the history of the cottage and how its owners restored the structure that had fallen not only into disrepair but had become what looked like just a pile of rocks.

Each before and after picture had me in awe. The restoration project was a massive undertaking. Yet what impressed me was not the amount of time, money and energy they put into bringing this ancient cottage back to life. What impressed me was that they had the eyes to see the beauty lurking in the rubble.

I am grateful that there are people who can see the possibilities in this world when others can't. I often show my husband, with great excitement, dilapidated old homes that are for sale. I begin pointing to the amazing stone foundation. I trace with my finger on the realtor's picture the faint outline of a chimney to what would have been a huge open hearth used for cooking. He, though, can't see what I see. He still sees just a pile of wood that would cost many dollars to rebuild.

But what would this world look like if we weren't blind to the "what can be's"? This question goes beyond Irish cottages, and even beyond the New England clapboard saltboxes I constantly dream about restoring.

I am talking about the "what can be's" that Jesus sees amid the broken beams, crumbling foundations and caved roofs of our lives. For just when we think rebuilding our life is impossible, Jesus not only sees that restoration is possible. Jesus makes it happen.

Many years ago, Jesus urged God's children to let their lights shine. Don't hide your light under a bushel basket. Shine — and shine brightly. Shine amid the rubble and ruin. Shine so that the God beauty can be seen. Shine to reveal that there is always hope. Shine, because the God truth is this: A pile of stone can indeed become a beautiful cottage once again.

*Loving God, forgive us when we start believing that restoration work is just too hard and costly. Open our eyes to see what You see — that all things are possible with You. Come into our lives this day and restore all that has crumbled. Restore, rebuild, reimagine — do what it takes for us to begin to shine once again. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

**(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's *Sunday Bulletin*.)**