



Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • April 9, 2026

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Sunday, April 12, 2026

Worship Service @ 10:15 am

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

Children aged five 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

- Keep Meredith and Doug Allen and their family in prayer as Doug continues to struggle with Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.
- Ben Dutcher asks prayers for the family of Meredith Glass who died this past week of a rare cancer at the age of 33.
- Joann Hunt, who is recovering from a torn Achilles tendon and hopes to be back home soon.
- Pam Huey's sister, Paula, has been hospitalized with a recurrence of lymphoma.
- Maria S. – age 69, a friend of Kim Vacanti, has been diagnosed with cancer for the 3rd time.
- Sonny, Ashley & Dakota Sherman are navigating many uncertainties due to domestic abuse and loss of housing. A GoFundMe has been setup @ <https://gofund.me/da3f33ace>.
- Sherilyn Aske, John Burgart, Loretta Centgraf, Dee Chance, Louise Ford, Juleah Foss, Bob Huber, Russell Hunt Jr, Jerry Kerr, Jordan Kerr, Molly Lee-Lafferty, Kathleen (Kathy) Molony, Jeff Olander, Marion Rova, Allii Scudder, Shelley Tang, and Amanda Trosen

Book Group – Thursday, April 9th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm

The River We Remember by *William Kent Krueger*

All are welcome to join the conversation... even if you have not read the book. By the way, did we mention there will always be sweets included?

Cooks of Chapel Hills (Pasta Bar) - Saturday, April 18th – 6:00 pm

Join us for an evening of great food and conversations. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Rides are arranged if needed – be sure to note it on the sign-up sheet.

Questions? Email or call Ann Derby (aederby1@gmail.com or 952-828-0829).

Meet our Newest Members...



Kyle Aske



Michael & Cayleigh Deller



**Brad, Brittany,
Miles & Iz McBeath**



Eric Scudder



Kim Vacanti



Cynthia & Mark

There's Still Time...

Chapel Hills dedicated the offering collected on Easter Sunday to help people in our community who are struggling to pay rent in the aftermath of Operation Metro Surge. In addition, the Council has directed up to \$5,000 to match the Easter offering in order to double the impact of our gifts.

Chapel Hills responded generously last Sunday, and since many folks were traveling or visiting family on Easter, we had several requests for just a "little more time" to participate in this special offering. If you would like to make a gift in support of VEAP's Rental Assistance Program--and have your gift matched--there's still time! We'll continue collecting gifts designated for this important initiative through Sunday 4/19/2026. Please go [on line](#) or write a check to Chapel Hills and indicate that your gift is for "Easter VEAP Rental Assistance.

Join us on Sunday, April 12th, as we celebrate Beth Gusenius, our alto section leader, for her 20 years of dedicated service to our community.

Please stay for coffee and treats after the service and help us recognize Beth's two-decade milestone!!



Mezzo-soprano Beth Gusenius has been involved with the Twin Cities music scene, singing with groups including Minnesota Chorale, Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company, University of Minnesota Opera Theatre, VocalEssence, Minnesota, Opera Chorus, and Lakes Area Music Festival. She has also studied graduate-level musicology at the University of Minnesota and worked as an arts administrator for several local organizations. Currently an early childhood music educator by day, she teaches at MiniApple International Montessori locations in Minneapolis, Roseville, and Oakdale.

Beth is also the founder and director of Rock & Roll Kids Choir; a community children's ensemble focused on learning and performing pop and rock classics. In addition to her professional gigs.



Sonny, Ashley & Dakota Sherman are navigating many uncertainties due to domestic abuse and loss of housing. A GoFundMe has been setup @ <https://gofund.me/da3f33ace>.

A Note from Ashley & Sonny

Wow... we are blown away by all the love and support we have received from everyone. Thank you for supporting our family, and for every kind word, prayer or thought! Our search for a safe, stable home continues.

April Birthdays

Julie Ford – 5th
Sonny Sherman – 8th
Ashley Sherman – 9th
Joann Hunt – 21st
Brittany McBeath – 22nd
Ron Molony – 23rd
Ethan Norris-Weber – 27th
Brad McBeath – 29th



Looking Ahead

9	APR, THU	● 1 – 3pm	Book Group
12	APR, SUN	● 9:15 – 10am	Adult Choir Rehearsal
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
		● 11:15 – 11:45am	Sunday School (for Ages 5 & Older)
14	APR, TUE	● 11am – 12:30pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group
		● 1 – 2:30pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group
15	APR, WED	● 7:30 – 8:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
18	APR, SAT	● 6 – 8pm	Cooks of Chapel Hills (Pasta Bar)



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



“Holy Language”

Second Sunday of Easter

The season of Easter is underway. It's a time where we are being invited to experience the full 50 days of Eastertide, embracing the resurrection promise that breathes newness and vitality into our ordinary days. Chances are, though, there are many — perhaps even you, dear reader — who are feeling anything but hopeful. Perhaps your faith in a great God is as stale as the leftover jellybeans that filled last week's Easter baskets.

Take heart, for you are not alone. Doubts plague everyone, even the saintliest of saints among us. After her death, it was revealed how Mother Teresa battled many dark nights of the soul, questioning God's presence in her life. And long before Mother Teresa's doubting, there was Thomas. Known as “the twin,” Thomas was absent that first Easter evening when Jesus came into the room speaking words of comfort and assurance: “Peace be with you.”

Still reeling from Jesus' death, Thomas couldn't believe his friends who told him the great news of Jesus being alive. He didn't dare to believe for the pain of losing Jesus once before was enough. Why dare to hope again? To protect his heart from breaking with false hope, Thomas said that he had to see Jesus in the flesh for himself. He had to be able to put his fingers in Jesus' pierced side to believe the impossible news that he was walking among the living.

Thomas got what he asked for. Jesus returns and stands before the doubter and shows him the scars. It's then Thomas utters the first public confession of faith, “My Lord and my God!”

Doubt. It haunts us all. It makes us insist on proof today for evidence of a better tomorrow. Why do we need to see before we believe? It is not an intellectual quest as some might think, but a protective reflex born out of too many shattering-heart let downs.

Like Thomas, we can relate to the scary vulnerability of risking our hearts to believe in hopeful possibilities, especially when there's no guarantee we won't be let down yet again.

But as Eastertide gets underway, we are given the good news that with God we can risk our hearts. We can believe boldly in God's care for us, even without hard proof. Even on those days when we think God has forgotten us. God has not. God shows up at the right time. The Easter promise is that our hopes will never be crushed, because God who raised Jesus from the dead is raising us from our own tomb of doubts.

God of new beginnings and bright promises, transform our doubts into beautiful truths this Eastertide. Open our guarded hearts to the amazing possibilities that You have waiting for us. And help us, O God, to always believe without the proof we often insist on. 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*.)