

Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • April 28, 2022



Chapel Hills [Webpage](#) || Find, follow, and friend us on [Facebook](#) || Online Giving: [Click HERE](#)

**In-Person Worship Service
& Communion
Sunday, May 1st @ 10:15 a.m.**

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

@ <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88577791708>

or by dialing **1-312-626-6799** and enter the Meeting ID: **885 7779 1708 #**.



Receiving Non-Perishable
Food Items

Or Financial Donations

May Birthdays

Amanda Kerr - 1st

Waid Whatley - 1st

Julie Guelich - 10th

Jim Ford - 31st

Nancy Norris-Weber - 31st



In Prayer

- Sandy Davis-Lerner who is recovering at home.
- Julia Ford who is home from the hospital.
- Our section singer, Mark Billy is out of the hospital and recovering, following 4 months of treatment for a rare meningitis. Sadly, his life partner, Ryan passed away suddenly 1 month ago. Please keep Mark in your prayers, as he navigates his new life experience.
- Michelle Liebl's dad, Lee Carlson, who was diagnosed with cancer.
- Tom Okonek's sister, Anne, whose partner, Candy, of over 30 years is dealing with metastatic ovarian cancer.
- Healthcare and front-line workers.
- Prayers for Doug Allen, Jack Gillespie, Dorothy Lundberg, Annette Ronan, Timm, Tracy & Tristalyn Smith, Gail Stalpes, and Marge Williams



Chapel Hills Spring Yard Clean-Up

(NOTE: we moved the date back one week)

Join us on Saturday, May 14th

from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

We will clean up the landscaped areas, remove leaves and other dead materials, clean-up the hedge, gutters, and reset borders.

**Come when you can and
stay as long as your schedule allows.**

Another Opportunity to Get Involved...



As you know, we installed a rain garden a year or two ago to help mitigate the water pollution that results from runoff. Later this summer, this environmentally friendly and important feature will become our responsibility to maintain, and we are looking for a team to take this on. Your contribution will be important, and the effort will not be substantial. Likely twice a year weeding/cleanup/planting to keep everything environmentally friendly.



**Join us at Chapel Hills
on Tuesday, May 17th at 10:00 a.m.**

to learn the ins/outs of
maintaining a Rain Garden
and help us figure out next steps.

Talk to Stephanie Tesch, Bob Huber, or
Tom Okonek with questions.

Thanks!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Church will be walking in Edina's Fourth of July Parade and again host a Night to Unite celebration on August 2. Both events are wonderful opportunities to be part of the life of the community and the neighborhood.

You can help us with these glorious summer events. We need a volunteer to organize the parade walk and others to help plan Night to Unite. Please let Bob Huber know if you are willing to plan and participate. Watch for sign-up sheets as we move toward summer.

Raise the Rainbow Flag!

Updates from the Intentional Interim Team

- **Church Profile Update:**

Thanks largely to your input and survey participation, significant content development has occurred on the Profile which will be used in the recruiting process of our Settled Minister. In addition to all the writing and editing, we also met with the Minnesota UCC Conference lead who will be helping us with the search.

- **Bylaws:**

We are close to having the Bylaws finalized, reviewed by the Council, and ultimately presented to the Congregation for approval. Look for summary information shortly that will highlight key changes that are being proposed.



GIVE Securely Online

Offering/Donations

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

Looking Ahead

1	MAY, SUN	● 9:15 – 10:15am	Choir Rehearsal
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service & Communion
		● 10:30 – 11:15am	Sunday School
		● 11:15am – 12:15pm	Church Council Meeting
<hr/>			
2	MAY, MON	● 12 – 1:30pm	Spring Picnic Lunch
		● 3:30 – 8:15pm	Villard Cello Lessons
<hr/>			
3	MAY, TUE	● 2:45 – 6:30pm	Villard Cello Lessons
<hr/>			
4	MAY, WED	● 3 – 9pm	Villard Cello Lessons
		● 7:30 – 8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
<hr/>			
8	MAY, SUN	● 9:15 – 10:15am	Choir Rehearsal
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
		● 10:30 – 11:15am	Sunday School
<hr/>			
9	MAY, MON	● 12 – 1:30pm	Spring Picnic Lunch
		● 3:30 – 8:15pm	Villard Cello Lessons
<hr/>			
10	MAY, TUE	● 2:45 – 6:30pm	Villard Cello Lessons
<hr/>			
11	MAY, WED	● 3 – 9pm	Villard Cello Lessons
		● 7:30 – 8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
<hr/>			
14	MAY, SAT	● 9:30am – 12pm	Spring Yard Clean-Up

Weekly Devotion from Pastor Kristen

You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. —Psalm 30

From mourning to dancing. This is the recollection of the Psalmist. This is the claim of one who has sought out God's help. We are promised that if we seek joy from God, we will be given joy from God. God gives us joy. Part of this recollection of the Psalmist's transformation is that he got a new outfit. The clothing of a mourner is left behind, replaced with clothing of joy.

Sackcloth is what was worn during mourning. It was symbolic of this season of grief. We probably won't see many people wearing this kind of mourner's outfit anymore though. Sackcloth is left for only the thinnest of super-models as a fleeting trend in fashion. Most people don't find sack-clothing very flattering. But this idea of wearing or showing the world that we are in a season of grief is a tradition lost in our society. The idea that we might have the space and time and season of grief, during which we can comfortably wear loose unflattering clothing on purpose (and then be recognized as one that needs a little more TLC than the others) might be kind of nice.

I have friends who have lost loved ones, had a large number of people attend the funeral to support them and then realize just months later that all those people have nearly forgotten their loss and deep grief. It seems that just about the time that grief might really set-in and become most difficult the rest of the world has nearly forgotten that it happened at all. Maybe we should make T-shirts or baseball caps that say, "My sister died this year. Be nice to me," or "My wife died recently. I can't really handle criticism right now." Maybe a bumper sticker that says, "Mourning Driver. Please let me merge."

We don't tend to make room for the season, the concept, the idea of grieving at all. People are expected to go back to work and get on with life and compartmentalize their feelings into closets with the other old sweat pants and ragged t-shirts that live at home where others won't need to see it.

The Psalmist describes a time during which he mourned—and then was restored. Perhaps part of the way that God does that—granting joy—is that one would begin with all the real feelings of grief and the time and space to feel them. Take a moment today to consider who around you might still be in a season of grief. Keep in mind that with significant loss it can take about 7 years before people feel a sense of normalcy in life. Remember also that sackcloth seasons can come from other losses as well; kids growing up and moving away, addiction, divorce, job loss, moving. Try to see the sackcloth of the people in your own life and then reach out and check in with a kind word of support.

Then consider your own. Why might you be in a season of loss and how have you allowed yourself the time and space to feel all of those feelings; to honor the loss, to miss the person or people or sense of security you once had? Perhaps take a moment today to just make a list of what you have lost and then allow yourself the space and courage to feel those losses. Cry if you need to—without fear. Crying will not take you over. It is in fact quite cleansing and part of God's path of restoration to joy.

PRAYER: *God, show me who in my life needs space and time to grieve and help me to honor it. And then lead me through the process of feeling and healing that you have planned for me. AMEN.*



“The Way Forward”

Third Sunday of Easter

Saul, the persecutor of God’s people became Paul, champion of the living Christ, after a powerful singular experience on the road to Damascus. For Silver Lake Award honoree Valerie Tutson, the powerful, singular moment that Christ came alive for her was not on the road, but in the pews of her childhood church.

Valerie Tutson is a storyteller by trade and her eyes widen with joy when she tells the story of the first time she saw a performance by some of her church friends after they returned from a camp experience at Silver Lake Conference Center (SLCC), a United Church of Christ facility. She recounts that in seeing those young women - dressed in plastic garbage bags meant to represent frog costumes and singing about the plagues and pharaoh - her life was changed forever. From then on, scripture stories were not merely words on the page, but a living breathing story, one that became hers to tell with creativity and wonder. After that she attended camp as soon, and as often, as she could.

“Silver Lake has been a part of my life since I was 11 years old,” Val said. “Without a doubt, Silver Lake has helped to shape the person I am in the world. It has always been a place where my life, my creative work, and my faith get explored and braided together. I tell people all over the world that all the good stuff I learned about life and caring for God’s people I learned and keep learning at camp!” She has been a camper or staff member of the camp since 1977.

SLCC Executive Director, the Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer, says that even many decades after her “come to Jesus moment” in the pews of her home church, “It is difficult to be in the presence of Val and not know that God is alive and loves you to the deepest core of who you truly are.”

Do you have a “road to Damascus” moment? How does it continue to inform your life to this day?

Information about the Silver Lake Award adapted from the Silver Lake Conference Center website:
<https://www.silverlakeect.org/newsdetail/valerie-tutson-recognized-with-4th-annual-silver-lake-award-14029263>