



Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • August 4, 2022

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In-Person Worship Service & Communion Sunday, August 7th @ 10:15 a.m.

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

@ <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85903787105> or by dialing **1-312-626-6799**

and enter the Meeting ID: **859 0378 7105 #**.

Thanks to all who attended the Congregational Meeting last Sunday!

The unanimous approval of the Local Church Profile
will move us one step closer to hiring a settled Minister.

[Weekly Devotion from Pastor Kristen](#)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. —Hebrews 11:1

What is faith? It is the great question of a billion theologians and everyday people. It is somehow connected to hope and assurance and conviction of something that we cannot see. It is something we want to have: faith. It is that feeling that all is well, that everything is going to be okay, that the whole world really is in God's hands, that God's got this, and that God has some awareness of my own situation, struggles and fears.

Some like to make the distinction between faith that works and faith that doesn't do much for us. What makes faith work? Why is faith so easy for some and for others it can seem so very difficult to live into it? Do we feel this assurance of things that we hope for?

When was the last time you hoped for something—like really hoped that something would happen, or something would change, or something would come to you? While you were hoping and then waiting for that good result, were you feeling faith; an assurance that it will all turn out? Did you feel a conviction of something you cannot see? Or, like me, while waiting for news, do you sometimes feel a little sick and fearful and nervous that things might not work out as you had, at least at some point, hoped that they would?

A faith that works, or as some claim, manifests miracles, might seem like a bit of fairy dust. But what if faith could have more depth, past what we see—past the result of the test that is here or the situation we are in at the moment, past our daily dilemma? What if faith went deep enough to believe that if it all goes wrong and everything falls apart it was supposed to and we might still end up better off than when we started?

What if God's blessings can come through tears and pain and loss and problems? What if what looks all wrong and messed up to us, is really God at work creating miracles and new opportunity? What if a chance missed will save our lives or make a way for a better thing, relationship, or make a whole new path possible? Garth Brookes wrote a song that thanked God for "unanswered prayers" which in the end is thanking God for not giving us what we think we want and helping us discover what brings us true joy.

Laura Story wrote the song, *Blessings*. These are some of the lyrics:

*What if Your blessings come through raindrops?
What if Your healing comes through tears?
And what if the thousand sleepless nights
Are what it takes to know You're near?
What if my greatest disappointments or the aching of this life
Is the revealing of a greater thirst this world can't satisfy
And what if trials of this life; the rain, the storms, the hardest nights, are Your mercies in disguise?*

To listen to the full song, click the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQan9L3yXjc>

PRAYER: *God, help me to discover a faith that works with the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things that I cannot see, trusting that your mercies are always more loving than I thought they could be and your plan for my life is always better than mine. AMEN.*



In Prayer

- Anna Kerr asks prayers for her high school friend, Mykayla Cunningham, who is in need of treatment for recurring seizures.
- Annette & John Ronan's son, Michael, who is being treated for cancer.
- Cindy Stille and Jack Gillespie ask prayers for their friends: Russ & Janice Peterson, Rev. Judy Ann & Arnie Ness, Jane & Bob Pratt, and Robert Lee Finn.
- Healthcare and front-line workers.
- Doug Allen, Lee Carlson, Julie Ford, Jack Gillespie, Anna Kerr, Dorothy Lundberg, Annette Ronan, Timm, Tracy & Tristalyn Smith, Gail Stalpes, and Marge Williams.

Search Committee

Please contact Ron Molony (612-968-5962 or molony.ron@gmail.com) if you are interested in being a member of the search committee or if you know of anyone who might be a valuable contributor. The council will select the search committee at the August 9th meeting.

Based upon the UCC conference guidelines individuals should have:

- 1) A passionate commitment to Christ's church
- 2) A capacity to approach the task with openness (avoid pre-determined agenda)
- 3) Sense of integrity, positive attitude, and respect for others
- 4) A capacity to listen, participate in a group, come to consensus, and remain absolutely confidential
- 5) Be an active supporter of the church (as demonstrated by worship attendance, financial support, and participation)
- 6) Trusted and respected by the congregation
- 7) Willing and able to make this responsibility a very high priority
- 8) Full member of the congregation.

Additionally, the council requires that all members of the search committee have active internet access since many of the meetings and initial candidate contacts will be done via the Internet. I anticipated that members on this committee will need to spend at least several hours per week on this vital work and some weeks may be even busier.



Night to Unite
2022



Favorite Hymns

We are looking for your favorite hymns for our summer Sunday morning worship services. Jot down your favorite hymns on the ½ page sheets that have been placed on each pew (aisle side). Kristen will work them into a Sunday service.



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

Looking Ahead

7	AUG, SUN	● 10:15 – 11:15am	Communion
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
9	AUG, TUE	● 11am – 5pm	Villard Summer Cello Lessons
		● 12 – 1:30pm	Picnic Lunch & Conversation
		● 6:30 – 8:30pm	Church Council Meeting
10	AUG, WED	● 11:45am – 5pm	Villard Summer Cello Lessons
14	AUG, SUN	● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
16	AUG, TUE	● 12 – 1:30pm	Picnic Lunch & Conversation
21	AUG, SUN	● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
23	AUG, TUE	● 12 – 1:30pm	Picnic Lunch & Conversation
28	AUG, SUN	● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
30	AUG, TUE	● 12 – 1:30pm	Picnic Lunch & Conversation



“Living into the Promise”

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Ann Kansfield, UCC pastor, FDNY chaplain and author of *Be the Brave One: Living Your Spiritual Values Out Loud and Other Life Lessons* shares the courage that led her to write a book about her experiences.

“My wife Jennifer and I serve part-time as co-pastors of the Greenpoint Reformed Church, (a joint UCC and Reformed congregation in Brooklyn, NY). We do our best to love God and neighbor, even though we aren't always sure how to do that.

My other ministry setting is as a chaplain for the fire department of the City of New York. I am one of seven chaplains who serve the department as a whole. I never know what might happen on any given day, but I pray that God can use me in a way to be of service to others. Also, the uniforms are pretty great.”

Although friends encouraged her to share her stories and reflections, Kansfield shied away from the idea of writing a book. “One of the things that really changed the trajectory of the book was connecting with Marty St. George, my co-author...He is really the one who helped take a bunch of stories and thoughts and turn them into a book. I think it's actually a really great story in itself because it shows that sometimes we can do big things when we have friends and fellow travelers who walk alongside us and help us. Sometimes we minister to others and other times they minister to us. Life is really best lived when it's done in mutual ministry with others around us.

For me, bravery is doing things which make us uncomfortable, things which we would rather not do or avoid. And being brave is what allows us to be authentic and vulnerable and have important conversations which we would otherwise want to avoid. Bravery is not just about apologizing for our mistakes but asking ‘how did my mistake impact you?’ and then being quiet and listening.

We can all use some extra bravery these days. It's not always easy to be our most authentic selves. It's certainly difficult to be vulnerable and to share our deepest hopes and fears and listen to the hopes and fears of others. That stuff can be terrifying! But that's the space where God often leads us - to authenticity, vulnerability and bravery.”