



Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • September 22, 2022

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Sunday Worship

September 25th @ 10:15 a.m.

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

Live Streaming:

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

Weekly Devotion from Pastor Kristen

*Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment;
for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it . . . 1 Timothy 6:6*

Contentment is the true fulfillment of wealth.

There is actually a point of diminishing returns on money itself. Money can make much of life easier and grant us access to certain experiences and luxury. Money can provide us with a sense of security and even accomplishment. But money cannot solve every problem or fill all of our needs. There is a point after meeting all of our financial obligations where money stops being the best answer.

In the book of Timothy, we are taught that *there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment*. In a world where financial gains from our investments are a bit uncertain, we may be wise to seek out this concept; that there could be great gains for us in godliness combined with contentment. Godliness---right actions combined with contentment.

What would intentional contentment look like for us? Is this something we can choose? Perhaps contentment is something we have been waiting for—hoping it would land upon us or happen to us. But what if contentment is a choice? What if we could choose, right now, to be content with everything in our life and the lives of those around us just as it is right now? How free could we feel with that kind of contentment?

Contentment requires faith that God will provide us with whatever we need whenever we need it. Real deep contentment goes beyond financial security. Authentic spiritual contentment allows us to rest in the awareness that absolutely nothing can happen that God cannot restore. This would include faith that our relationships and health will also be nurtured and restored by the living God.

How would life change if we made an intentional choice today to see everything this way? What if we decided to see every situation in our lives and those of others as one that can be restored?

Contentment is the spiritual practice of getting okay with everything as it is right now, believing that what is, will get us to where we need to be. What is, is. It is as it is. What if we decided to observe and describe rather than trying to force an outcome? Stepping back from the drama of our lives and the invitation to the drama from others can grant us a great deal of contentment. What if we don't need to pick a side on every issue? What if we can just become content with the reality that people have different ideas and see the world from different perspectives? And then allow ourselves to hope that even these other people with troubling ideas may have new ideas and perspectives tomorrow.

What if we really trusted God's plan—for our lives, our church, our community, our nation, the world, the earth itself?

Contentment is a spiritual option for us every day at any time. We can take in a breath and let out a deeper breath and believe, on purpose, that God is involved and has a way to restore everything we see.

PRAYER: *I brought nothing into this world, and yet you have always provided for me and cared for me. Remind me that I can be content in any situation and that there is great gain in godliness combined with intentional contentment; a faith that trusts in your constant power to restore and redeem everyone and everything at all times; including me. AMEN.*



In Prayer

- Jon Pearson's cousin, Cheryl Pearson, who is in her mid-50s died of brain cancer.
- Bob Huber's sister, Margaret, who has been diagnosed with kidney failure.
- Amanda Trosen's friend, Ava, whose grandfather has lung cancer.
- Ron Molony asks prayers for his brother-in-law, Rich Hollingworth.
- Cindy Stille and Jack Gillespie ask prayers for their friends: Jerry Donnelly (Phoenix, AZ) and Bob Honel (Tomah, WI), both now in hospice.
- Prayers for Karl Jacobson, family of Pastor Kristen, as he continues to recover from Leukemia.
- Anna Kerr asks prayers for her high school friend, Mykayla Cunningham, who needs treatment for recurring seizures.
- Annette & John Ronan's son, Michael, who is being treated for cancer.
- Healthcare and front-line workers.
- Doug Allen, Lee Carlson, Julie Ford, Anna Kerr, Dorothy Lundberg, Annette Ronan, Timm, Tracy & Tristalyn Smith, Gail Stalpes, and Marge Williams.

Celebrate Kristen on September 25

Join us after worship THIS Sunday, September 25, for a reception in honor of Rev. Kristen Nelson as she ends her interim ministry at Chapel Hills! We will have special treats and a send-off event to thank Kristen for leading us for nearly three full years.



All-Ages Sunday

Our first All-Ages Sunday was a great success, and we look forward to many more! We are grateful to all who helped make it happen. Pictured on the first page are the children of Chapel Hills learning/singing "All God's Critters Have a Place in the Choir" with the help of our section leaders.

We are designating the 3rd Sunday of each month as **All-Ages Sunday**. A perfect time to invite family/friends/& neighbors.

Watch us on YouTube now

Use YouTube to watch Chapel Hills services live or later on whenever it is convenient for you.

Go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) on your web browser, or download and use the YouTube app on your smartphone or digital tablet.

In a browser, you can enter this address: <https://bit.ly/3RG7hne> to go directly to the video list on the church's homepage within YouTube. You will see icons for the live service and the recorded services from the last few weeks. Bookmark this address in your browser for future use!

In the YouTube app, you'll have to search for Chapel Hills UCC. But take care because there is a Chapel Hill United Church in Chapel Hill, N.C., that comes up in the search results. You may have to scroll through the results list to find Chapel Hills with an s. When you click on our logo, you will be taken to our homepage. You may see a message that says "This channel doesn't have any content." But we do! To find it, click on the word "videos" at the top of the screen. That will take you to the list of videos, including the live service.



Last Picnics & Conversations for the Season

Eight people joined Pastor Kristen for the last weekly "Picnics & Conversations" before her departure at the end of the month. Pictured: Ann, Keith, Joann, Jim, Pam, Kristen, and Dee. Not Pictured: Julie Ford and Evan Ramstad.

Cooks of Chapel Hills - Ukrainian Cuisine

The Cooks of Chapel Hills will kick off a restart of our dinner and fellowship events on Saturday, October 15th with a celebration of the food and culture of Ukraine.

A sign-up sheet is on the table outside Pastor Kristen's office. Be sure to get your name on the list. We will be contacting you individually once we see how many will be attending and how many hosts we will be needing.

Friendly Reminder from the Facilities Team!

If you think you might be the last person to leave on Sunday morning (or anytime), please check to make sure that all doors are locked and that the lights are turned off. Thank you for helping to take care of our building!

CHAPEL HILLS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST R A I N G A R D E N



In 2020, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District installed raingardens at five non-profit sites to help protect our fresh water. Last week they replaced the sod and six of the plants and turned the maintenance of the Chapel Hills raingarden over to the church. And of course, it's been hot and dry. We've set up a soaker hose on a timer to run at 4:00 a.m. to keep the sod moist while the sod is established, and a splitter to accommodate watering of our landscape plants. (Please check with Laura or Caroline if you need to use the outside water.)

What does raingarden maintenance entail? We have a checklist, but basically checking periodically that the inflow isn't blocked, cleaning out debris (leaves and silt) from the "step", removing weeds, trimming off old growth in the spring, and watering as needed. We have been provided with tools: a green job bucket filled with gloves, kneeling pad, garbage and compost bags, and a shovel and broom with dustpan, as well as the hose and timer.

The raingarden is a beautiful way to filter out pollutants and debris before it reaches the storm drain and goes into Nine Mile Creek, which flows into the Minnesota River, which flows into the Mississippi River.



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

23	SEP, FRI	● 4 – 8:15pm	Villard Studio Cello Group Lessons
25	SEP, SUN	● 9:15 – 10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
		● 11:15am – 12:15pm	Reception in Honor of Pastor Kristen
26	SEP, MON	● 4 – 9pm	Villard Studio Cello Lessons
27	SEP, TUE	● 10:30am – 12pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group Conversations (Lounge)
		● 1 – 2:30pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group Conversations (Lounge)
		● 4 – 9pm	Villard Studio Cello Lessons
28	SEP, WED	● 3 – 5:45pm	Villard Studio Cello Lessons
		● 7:30 – 8:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
30	SEP, FRI	● 4 – 8:15pm	Villard Studio Cello Group Lessons
2	OCT, SUN	● 9:15 – 10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Communion
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service



“Surprising Investment”

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

American Indian Ministry Sunday • United Samoan Ministries • Stewardship Sunday

Matou te faatalofa atu ai i le Suafa Pele o Iesu Keriso le Alii ma le Faaola!

We greet you in the Beloved name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior!

“In 1999 General Synod declared a “Partnership in Mission and Ministry” with the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa (CCCAS) as a way of acknowledging the deepening relationship between the two churches and the rapid growth of Samoan congregations in the United States.

Today, there are more than 60 congregations of the CCCAS in Hawaii, Alaska, California, Washington and Oregon. Many of them related to the UCC through our regional Conferences and local Associations. The partnership seeks to strengthen the ministry of these congregations and the mission of both churches.

In many places, Samoan congregations are actively involved in the life and leadership of UCC Associations. Many UCC clergy and lay leaders have immersed themselves in the life of Samoan communities and have traveled to American Samoa to learn more about its unique and ancient culture.” *1

“The United Samoan Ministries of the UCC is established to provide a setting for members of Samoan congregations to gather for fellowship, spiritual nurturing, mutual support, and communications and strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ. Providing Resources for all faith communities and promote/teaching and maintaining Samoan Culture and Language; promote Ecumenical partnerships, and proclaiming the proclamation of Open and Affirming, and leading in Justice and Peace for ALL.

Samoan Communities residing within the Mainland, Alaska and Hawaii and those who are in Diaspora throughout the world.” *2

If you are a member of a Samoan congregation, today is a day to celebrate your connection with the wider United Church of Christ. If you are a member of a church that has limited contact with your Samoan brothers and sisters, today is a good day to learn more about how you can be in intentional conversation and relationship with a Samoan Congregation.

*1 - https://www.ucc.org/ecumenical_america-samoa/

*2 - <https://unitedsamoanminist.wixsite.com/>