



Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • January 22, 2026

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**Sunday, January 25, 2026**

**Worship Service @ 10:15 am**

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

**NO Sunday School today due to the Flannel Sunday Cookout/Potluck.**

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*

- Kim Vacanti's lifelong friend, Jeff Olander, is awaiting a full lung transplant (due to Covid complications). Prayers for successful surgery and recovery.
- Marion Rova and family as she mourns the loss of her husband, dear friend Gail Stalpes, and several other longtime friends.
- Joann Hunt who is dealing with falls, pain, and a torn Achilles tendon.
- The family and friends of Renee Nicole Good as we all grieve her senseless murder.
- Doug Allen, Sherilyn Aske, John Burgart, Loretta Centgraf, Dee Chance, Chris Ford, Louise Ford, Juleah Foss, Bob Huber, Russell Hunt Jr, Jordan Kerr, Molly Lee-Lafferty, Kathleen (Kathy) Molony, Allii Scudder, Ashley Sherman, Shelley Tang, and Amanda Trosen

### **Flannel Sunday Winter Cookout/Potluck Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**

Come dressed in your flannel attire  
and stay for a tasty indoor picnic lunch  
following the service.

## Chapel Hills Annual Meeting

Join us following worship on **Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>** as we gather to receive reports, elect officers, and vote on the 2026 budget. Your participation is vital in keeping Chapel Hills connected and vibrant.

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## FEAR IS KEEPING FAMILIES INSIDE

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

Due to the current ICE occupation, VEAP is delivering emergency Care Packs to families who don't feel safe leaving their homes.

There are 2 ways you can help feed people who urgently need your support. (There has been an overwhelming response for packers & drivers so let's focus on donations, now).

### 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?

### 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

VEAP will supplement Care Packs with perishable food items.

If making cash donations, you can make checks out to Chapel Hills and add VEAP in the memo line. You can also go to our website to donate online... [Click HERE.](#)

By the way, Chapel Hills dropped off 144 pounds of food at VEAP on Tuesday – Thank YOU!

The Outreach Team



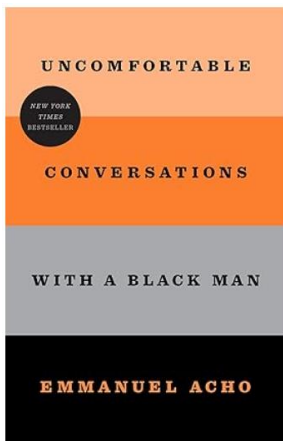
**Check out our NEW Sign  
that's posted  
on our front door!**

Special thanks to Morningside Hills  
for providing the signs and  
to Pam Huey for picking one up  
for Chapel Hills.



## **Book Group**

**Thursdays (February 12<sup>th</sup> and March 12<sup>th</sup> - 1:00 to 3:00 pm)**



Black History Month, we are reading Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man by Emmanuel Acho, available at the library.

Acho takes on all the questions, large and small, insensitive and taboo, many white Americans are afraid to ask—yet which all Americans need the answers to. Acho explains the vital core of such fraught concepts as white privilege, cultural appropriation, and “reverse racism.” In his own words, he provides a space of compassion and understanding in a discussion that can lack both.



For Thursday, March 12, and Women's History Month, we'll be reading The First Ladies by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. A powerful story of friendship between Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune, who collaborated to fight for justice and equality despite personal challenges and threats.

## Looking Ahead

25	JAN, SUN	● All day	NO Sunday School Today
		● 9:15 – 10am	Adult Choir Rehearsal
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
		● 11:15am – 12pm	Flannel Sunday Cookout/Potluck
27	JAN, TUE	● 11am – 12:30pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group
		● 1 – 2:30pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group
28	JAN, WED	● 7:30 – 8:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
1	FEB, SUN	● All day	NO Sunday School Today
		● 9:15 – 10am	Adult Choir Rehearsal
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service & Communion
		● 11:15 – 11:45am	Annual Meeting
3	FEB, TUE	● 11am – 12:30pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group
		● 1 – 2:30pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group
		● 6:30 – 8pm	Church Council Meeting
4	FEB, WED	● 7:30 – 8:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal



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



## **"Called Together"**

### **Third Sunday after Epiphany**

Jesus calling the fishermen to leave their nets to fish for people has always been lifted as a call for evangelism. No matter what time or place, the message from pulpits has been the same: Be like those fishermen. Put aside what you are doing and hook more people for Jesus.

While we are all called to share the Good News of the excluded finding inclusion, the sick finding healing, and the poor finding riches, there's a part of this story that often gets ignored in favor of the captivating imagery of lapping waves, bobbing boats and Jesus standing on the shores of the Sea of Galilee with windswept hair. It's the part where we must truly unpack — and understand — why we're being asked to fish for people. Hint: It has nothing to do with growing the church numerically.

Before Jesus walked the shores recruiting followers, he had retreated to Capernaum after hearing about his cousin John's arrest. His choice of location wasn't by chance. He was there to fulfill what the prophet Isaiah had written centuries before about that being the region where "the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light." They don't even have the strength or courage anymore to "walk in darkness." The troubles and trials of life have paralyzed them. The rolling clouds of gloom have immobilized them. Perhaps you can understand how this can happen.

Today, across the globe, there are still people sitting in darkness, in need of the renewing and revealing light of Christ. When we remember this part of the "go fish for people" narrative, we start to understand on a deeper level what is being asked of our congregations. It is time to cast our holy nets of welcome wide and start helping those sitting in darkness to stand and start walking again.

Jesus is calling our name to put aside what we think is important, set aside our schedules, reprioritize our to-do lists, and reach out to others. For Jesus doesn't care about bolstering membership rolls or increasing pledge cards. He only cares to rescue those he sees sitting in darkness.

*Merciful God, help us hear the all-to-familiar "fish for people" story with new ears. Help us see how we are called together to cast nets of hope and healing to those who are suffering losses, who are in despair, and who battle depression. May our Christ light shine into the darkness this day. 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*.)**