



Join Us @ Chapel Hills – Tuesday, August 5th - 6:00 p.m.

Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • July 31, 2025

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Sunday, August 3, 2025

Worship Service & Communion @ 10:15 am

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

Participating from home? 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

- Joann Hunt reports that she is feeling much better, and her nephew Russell Hunt Jr's cancer is under control, allowing him to return to work. Your thoughts and prayers have been so appreciated.
- Lisa Butcher asks prayers for her beloved grandmother, Loretta Centgraf, who was diagnosed with mesothelioma. Loretta lives in Milwaukee and will turn 95 in September.
- Please keep Annette Ronan's family in prayer as they remember her beautiful life.
- Doug Allen, John Burgart, Dee Chance, Sandy Davis-Lerner, Chris Ford, Julie Ford, Louise Ford, Tom Ford, Emily Gray, Jordan Kerr, Molly Lee-Lafferty, Michelle Liebl, Ann Puglisi, Nolan Sapp, Allii Scudder, Patty Sexton, Gail Stalpes, Amanda Trosen, and Traci White-Hobson

Receiving New Members on Sunday, September 7th

We are looking forward to receiving new members into the life of Chapel Hills on Sunday, September 7th during our 10:15 am worship service.

Those interested in membership are invited to contact Pastor Christián directly, either in person, via email at revcbriones@gmail.com, or by phone at 612-495-8203.

August 2025 at a glance...		
Tuesday, August 5	Night to Unite Neighborhood Party/Potluck VEAP 500 Project	6:00 pm
Thursday, August 14	Gentle Walk in Nature	9:00 am
	Book Group	1:00 pm
M/T/W/TH, August 18 - 21	Faith & Friendship Summer Vacation Bible School	12:30-4:30 pm
Sunday, August 24	Worship Service at Lake Harriet	10:00 am

Night to Unite

Chapel Hills is hosting its 10th annual "Night to Unite" neighborhood party/potluck on Tuesday, August 5th starting @ 6:00 p.m.

Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. Hotdogs, and water provided. Bouncy House, games, and a visit from the Edina Police or Fire Department are all part of the fun!

Please bring a non-perishable food donation for the VEAP food shelf. Financial donations by check/cash or online at <https://app.easytithe.com/app/giving/chapelhillsuccedina> are also appreciated.

We hope to see you there!

Project 500 to benefit VEAP will be wrapping up at our Night to Unite neighborhood party/potluck. Our goal is to collect 500 pounds of non-perishable food items and \$500 in financial donations to help our neighbors in need. Your support will be greatly appreciated and will assist us in reaching our goal.

Here's how you can help...

- Drop off food donations at Chapel Hills on Sunday morning between (9:00 and 11:45 am)
- Financial donations can be mailed to: Chapel Hills (6512 Vernon Ave S, Edina 55436) – make check payable to Chapel Hills and write "VEAP" on the memo line.
- Online donations (convenient & secure) can be made at:
<https://app.easytithe.com/app/giving/chapelhillsuccedina>

Your generosity will make a real difference in the lives of individuals and families facing hardship. By joining together, we are building a stronger, more compassionate community—one where everyone has the support they need.

Thank you for standing with us and with VEAP as we reach out to our neighbors in kindness and hope.

Gentle Walk in Nature - Thursday, August 14th (9:00 am)

Join us at Chapel Hills on Thursday, August 14 at 9:00 a.m. We will explore one of our beautiful neighborhood walking trails, followed by a short devotion, coffee, treats, and conversation. If you are unable to participate in the walk, please know that you are welcome to join us afterward (around 9:45) for refreshments and conversation.

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with nature and soak in the beauty of summer mornings. No registration is necessary, just bring your curiosity and a comfortable pair of shoes.

Book Group - Thursday, August 14th (1:00 pm)

The Happiness Project: Or, Why I Spent a Year Trying to Sing in the Morning, Clean My Closets, Fight Right, Read Aristotle, and Generally Have More Fun by Gretchen Rubin.

The book is available to be checked out at Chapel Hills (thanks to the Hennepin County Book Group Kits). Please sign out a copy, they are on the counter outside the office.

Faith & Friendship Summer VBS

FREE 4-day mission focused program for kids in grades K-6 hosted by Morningside Hills UCC and Chapel Hills UCC. **August 18 - 21, 12:30-4:30 pm @ Chapel Hills.**

We are committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming space and are excited to have fun through crafts, activities, games, and more! Please reach out to faithformation@emcucc.org with any questions or to submit your registration online.

Worship at Lake Harriet – Sunday, August 24th 10:00 am

We are going **off-site** on Sunday, August 24th. The worship service is a collaboration with Lynnhurst, Morningside Hills, St. Mark's and Union. The service begins at 10:00 am at the Lake

Harriet Bandshell (4135 W Lake Harriet Parkway, Minneapolis). **Please let us know if you need a ride.** We will arrange to have someone pick you up and drop you off afterward.

We will NOT be holding a worship service at Chapel Hills and won't have the capability to live-stream the outdoor service on this particular Sunday.

Looking Ahead

3	AUG, SUN	● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service & Communion
5	AUG, TUE	● 6 – 8pm	Night to Unite Neighborhood Party
10	AUG, SUN	● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
14	AUG, THU	● 9 – 10:30am	Gentle Walk in Nature
		● 1 – 2:30pm	Book Group
17	AUG, SUN	● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service

August Birthdays

Jerry Kerr – 1st
Evan Ramstad – 8th
Kelly Huber – 9th
Meredith Lis – 22nd
Ashley Stoering – 23rd
Doug Allen – 25th



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



"Soul Investment"

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

There was a field I always enjoyed driving by. In the summer it was filled with wildflowers dancing in the wind. Come autumn the flowers would wither but the tall grass danced on, inviting leaves as its dance partner, both moving with the changing wind.

I drove by the field the other day and discovered it had been trampled by a sea of concrete storage units. My heart broke. How did we come to live in a world where such buildings are needed?

Sadly, more beautiful fields are in danger of extinction as the self-storage market in the United States is projected to reach \$44 billion in 2033. And just last year, storage space consumed an estimated 2,099,000,000 of square feet.

Jesus once told a story about the dangers of accumulating material possessions. He warned how "stuff" can easily become gods, demanding more of our time, energy and money in acquiring and caring for them.

He then spoke about a rich fool in need of more storage for his worldly goods. So, the rich fool tore down his existing barns and built bigger ones, all along feeling a sense of worth and security. What he didn't realize was that worth and security was fleeting as death would come like a thief in the night. What good then would the bigger barns be?

The other day I passed an old farmhouse with a huge dumpster on the front lawn — this has become today's obit in my rural community, alerting neighbors that an elderly resident has died. Relatives would soon be tossing treasures into it like worthless trash.

I often wonder what would happen to my things. News reports have been telling me for years now that the younger generation doesn't want our "antiques." This has fueled a trend, which emerged from Sweden, known as "death cleaning" — where the living control what goes into the foreboding dumpster.

While it might sound a bit morbid, the act of purging while still alive can be a spiritual act, leading us to decide, while we have time, what we really need to hold on to.

I am by no means rich, but still a bit foolish. But then I see a dumpster in front of a home and reality hits hard: We really can't take our stuff with us.

My prayer is for the day to come when bigger barns are no longer built so that the real treasures in life, the wildflowers in the field, can dance again. Will you join me in this prayer?

(Rev. Donna Frischknechtackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's *Sunday Bulletin*.)