

*Imagine a warm bowl of soup
on a cold winter day...*



SOUP Donations Now through Souper Bowl Sunday to benefit VEAP

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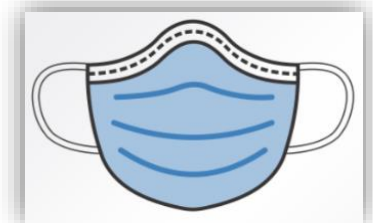
In-Person Worship Service

Sunday, January 30th @ 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 #**.



**Masks Recommended
While Indoors**



In Prayer

- Prayers for Doug Allen as he recovers from scalp cancer surgery.
 - Marge Williams is recovering after a fall resulting in broken bones in her back.
 - Amanda's childhood friend, Duncan, whose father died recently.
 - Friends of Kristen Nelson... Timm, Tracy & Tristalyn Smith. Tristalyn has been diagnosed with Pediatric Chronic Pain Syndrome and is hoping to start outpatient treatment soon.
 - Healthcare and front-line workers.
 - Michelle Liebl's parents who are struggling with her mom's move to Memory Care.
 - Anna Kerr is continuing her recovery from spine surgery at Gillette Children's Hospital. Visitors are welcome! Phone calls or facetime at 612-356-3296 would also be appreciated.
 - Andrea Erickson's friend, Dave, who has been struggling with dementia for some time and is now in hospice. Please keep Dave and his wife, Donna, in prayer.
 - Mark Billy, our bass section singer is currently hospitalized. Prayers are requested for Mark and his partner Ryan, as they navigate this journey. Mark would appreciate receiving cards, which can be left in Andrea's church mailbox.
 - Gail Stalpes, Jack Gillespie, Annette Ronan, and Julia Ford.
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Hey Chapel Hills...

We may not have the Vikings in this year's Super Bowl, but Chapel Hills will still be a favorite in **The Souper Bowl!**

We will be accepting donations of SOUP through Sunday February 13th for VEAP. We hear cheese soup is especially tasty but any flavor, can or box is appreciated. And always, be assured that your donations to VEAP are both appreciated and put to great use!

Tom & Barb Okonek

2022 Pledge Drive – It's Time to Turn in Your Pledge Card

This is the time when we all make our financial commitments to Chapel Hills so that our Church Council can put our budget in place and we can plan for the year ahead. Please call the Church office or send us an email if you didn't receive a pledge card but would like one.

Your gifts to Chapel Hills are used to help fulfill our ministry and for outreach to those in need in our community. It is about giving to the church and places we care about, places where God is at work.

Thanks in advance for your generous support!

We are Postponing the Annual Meeting & Moving it to Sunday, March 13th

It was decided at Monday night's Church Council meeting to move the Annual Meeting to Sunday, March 13 for a variety of reasons.

One, being that we are hoping for a good in-person turnout for the meeting, and we feel that Omicron is a barrier for some folks right now (especially by the looks of our recent in-person worship attendance). There are also NEW and exciting changes to the budget that we want you to be aware of and able to ask questions before we vote to approve the 2022 budget.

We will hold a few information sessions so you can be informed and ask questions before we meet. Stay tuned... those dates and times are coming soon.

Looking Ahead

January 27	Pastoral Relations Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
January 30	Choir Rehearsal (9:00 a.m.) In-Person Worship Service & Baptism @ 10:15 a.m. Soup Donations to Benefit VEAP
February 2	High Tea (1:00 to 3:00 p.m.)
February 6	Choir Rehearsal (9:00 a.m.) In-Person Worship Service & Communion @ 10:15 a.m. Soup Donations to Benefit VEAP
February 7	Church Council Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

Weekly Devotion from Pastor Kristen

In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me. —Psalm 71:2

We may be thinking today that we don't really need to be rescued from anything. Or that, for the most part, we are pretty self-sufficient. We may feel that we don't or won't ever need to be delivered from any one area of our lives and that things mostly are okay. Or we may be in a season where life feels like an earthquake and it seems like we're falling into a chasm. We may be in a day or a chapter of life where nothing feels stable at all. This is the day that the Psalmist was having when this verse was written—an earthquake; crack-in-the-foundation kind of day. And whether we have ever, or never, or one day will have an earthquake day it is good to know that there might be a way to get help.

God's saving power is near. It is near to us in any and every crisis. It is the power that we can call on and rely on and trust. Knowing this—that even if the earth itself should crumble beneath us, God will be there to rescue us, is the kind of faith that allows us to venture out into life. This solid knowing—that God is available and on-call allows us to meet the day with courage. If we live in this kind of hope rather than fear of demise our perspective shifts. If we really believe that God can and will incline God's ear to us and then save us, then the whole world and all of life is a lot less threatening. We are freed up to become and act as God's people who make a difference. We are granted a power of presence that can flow out into the world and bring hope.

One of the interesting things about becoming a helper—one of the people that grants grace, and encouragement and hope to others, is that we shift into people that have all of that to give. God rescues us into that power; the power of real love. God delivers us from our own stance of judgement into God's broader stance of grace, where the world gets to exist in nuance. Nuance is reality. Change and shifts and movement and growth are the ways of God's world. And sometimes we may be praying to be rescued from all of that. But perhaps God is rescuing us and delivering us into it.

Maybe all of the world that exists in the smallest parts of our minds and hearts—the one that is black and white, right or wrong, good or evil, kind or cruel is delusional. What if all the people are all of those varied things simultaneously? Maybe people are more complicated than we think. And maybe we don't know all of what we believe we know. Maybe what we once believed to be true is no longer true? What if all the people that you think are ignorant actually know something you don't? What if your judgement of another person's level of enlightenment is actually an indictment of your own lack of insight? The truth is that our own judgement of other people is the earthquake that makes the crack that we ourselves will fall into. When we condemn others, we ourselves stand on the ledge. We, the church people, can so easily become self-righteous and sure that we know who is in and who is out of touch with goodness, foolishly believing that we aren't really all on the same ground that can shake at any moment. God's righteousness saves us from our own self-righteousness. God's deliverance is not into a place of superiority or oppressive power. We are not rescued from oppression only to become the self-righteous people above the others. We are granted a different kind of power in God's deliverance. We are rescued into grace; grace for ourselves and grace for others where we can let go of our need to judge or fix others and simply love people, with God's healing love that truly heals the brokenness of this world.

PRAYER: *God, forgive me for thinking I know more than I actually do. Rescue me from judgement and deliver me into your grace. AMEN.*



“Prophet on the Edge”

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Health and Human Service Sunday

This is the logo of Health and Human Service Sunday, which many churches celebrate today.

The logo shows a circle of hands of many colors reaching for each other. This circle of hands reminds us that we are all involved in the circle of care - sometimes giving, sometimes receiving, always included in some way in the circle.



In recent years we have begun to use the phrase

“essential worker” to describe some workers whose work in the circle pandemic helped us realize we could not live without. As we honor essential workers on this day, we give thanks for all who are involved in the circle of care.

“The UCC and its predecessor denominations courageously founded schools, hospitals, and orphanages during times of pandemic, war, and social upheaval. Now, there are more than 400 UCC affiliated health care centers, hospitals, affordable housing and retirement communities, transitional housing for those experiencing homelessness or domestic violence, and service centers for children, youth, families, and those with developmental disabilities. These ministries continue to show up in the most challenging circumstances—and do so with the fervor of healing and justice.”*

*“Council for Health and Human Service Ministries | Home.” CHHSM, www.chhsm.org/. Accessed 7 July 2021.