



Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • September 5, 2024

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Sunday, September 8, 2024 **Worship Service @ 10:15 a.m.**

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

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

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



In Prayer

- Tom Ford who is undergoing thyroid tests.
- Joann's nephew, Russell Hunt Jr, infusions for leukemia.
- Doug Allen, John Burgart, Mykayla Cunningham, Julie Ford, Louise Ford, Cheryl Irwin, Jordan Kerr, Molly Lee-Lafferty Cheryl Marsch, Beau & Kelly Onischuk, Ken and Ann Puglisi, Nolan Sapp, Gail Stalpes, Amanda Trosen, and Traci White-Hobson, Michelle Liebl's nephews, Sam, Noah and Maki.

Gentle Walk in Nature - 1st & 3rd Thursday

September 5th is our next Gentle Walk in nature. We'll meet at Chapel Hills at 8:30 a.m. After the walk you are invited to stay for coffee, treats and conversation.

September is Birthday Bag Month... as part of the Chapel Hills Outreach and VEAP partnership

Help make a birthday special by donating an assortment of items, including cake mix, frosting, candles, party plates, napkins, balloons, festive bags, and party favors like bubbles, etc...



Outreach will accept donations all month and the last Sunday of September we will have the Sunday school class assemble the bags. Insider tip, the Dollar Store is a great place to stock up. As always, the "easy button" is available by simply writing a check (or online) to Chapel Hills with a note indicating "birthday" in the notes/comments. The Chapel Hills Outreach Team will gladly do the shopping for you!

Thanks for helping make a birthday special for a deserving child. Got questions, talk to Barb O.

Enduring Fund Grant Applications!

Chapel Hills is now accepting applications for 2024 Enduring Fund Grants. For nearly 20 years, our Enduring Fund has played an important role in furthering Chapel Hills' mission, ministries, and other special projects.

Grants can vary in amount and range from a few hundred dollars to several thousand. While there is no specific requirement on what the grant can be used for, special consideration will be given to well-defined projects that support children/youth, strengthen communities, or address food/housing insecurity. We also encourage grants seeking to support and strengthen Chapel Hills and its strategic priorities.

We welcome your help in identifying organizations which could benefit from an Enduring Fund Grant! Please note that applications are due no later than October 31, 2024.

Applications can be downloaded from the Chapel Hills website or obtained in the church office. Questions? Check with Chris Solso (cksolso@gmail.com or 612-812-9334) or talk to anyone on the Church Council. This year's Enduring Fund Committee includes Emily Gray, Bonnie Stroessner, and Chris Solso (chair).



SAVE THE DATE

Chapel Hills is Hosting a Neighborhood Shredding Event/Fund Raiser to Benefit VEAP on **Saturday, October 19** from **10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**



Do you have mountains of paper or piles of receipts that are gathering dust in your home or office? Bring all your documents to have them securely shredded! Donations of cash and/or non-perishable food items to benefit VEAP will be greatly appreciated.

We will need volunteers to help with this event. Watch for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Sunday School Begins on September 15th

Children Ages 5 and older are invited to attend a half hour class immediately following worship. Fun and engaging bible stories, games, crafts, and a light snack.



Congratulations to the Derby family!

Liz Derby & Nick Spase were married this past weekend.

We were fortunate to watch Liz grow up at Chapel Hills and are so happy as they begin their married life. (pictured on the right is Kelsey, Ann and Liz)

Book Group (2nd Thursday of the month @ 1:00 p.m.)

- **September 12:** A Covenant of Water by **Abraham Verghese**
- **October 10:** Thursday Murder Club #1 - **Richard Osman**
- **November 14:** The Heart of Caring: A life in Pediatrics - **Mark Vonnegut**
- **December 12:** Horse - **Geraldine Brooks**

You're Invited

Community Open House
at **Union Congregational UCC**
3700 Alabama Ave S

Sunday, September 15
from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Union Church has been remodeled!
Please join us for ice cream & cookies to
see our new building renovation!



The State Fair came to Chapel Hills last Sunday. Mini donuts, corn dogs, & cheese curds were enjoyed by all.

Contact Information

Reverend Briones can be reached at revcbriones@gmail.com or 952-935-3025.

Christián has open office hours from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. If possible, do try and send an email ahead of time so he knows to expect you. Feel free to drop in and say hey! He would love to chat with you.

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.

Looking Ahead



September Birthdays...

Jacqueline Lis – 3rd
Chris Solso – 8th
Erik Kopperud – 24th
Hannah Penning – 24th
Christián Briones – 25th
Michelle Liebl – 25th
Tom Okonek – 28th

5	SEP, THU	●	8:30 – 9:30am	Gentle Walk in Nature
8	SEP, SUN	●	9 – 10am	Adult Choir Rehearsal
		●	10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
9	SEP, MON	●	3:30 – 6:45pm	Villard Studio - Cello Lessons
10	SEP, TUE	●	3:30 – 8pm	Villard Studio - Cello Lessons
11	SEP, WED	●	4:15 – 9pm	Villard Studio - Cello Lessons
		●	7:30 – 8:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
12	SEP, THU	●	1 – 2:30pm	Book Group
13	SEP, FRI	●	4:30 – 8:30pm	Villard Studio - Cello Group Lessons
15	SEP, SUN	●	9:15 – 10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal
		●	10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
		●	11:15 – 11:45am	Sunday School (for Ages 5 & Older)



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



“Be Opened”

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Can you imagine your life being changed for the better with just a gentle touch, a loving word or even a compassionate smile?

The people we encounter in Mark’s Gospel can. Their stories, packed into what is the shortest of the four gospels, tell of how the Son of God brings healing and hope to *all* he meets.

Rich, poor, men, women, children, sinners, outcasts — it doesn’t matter who you are. There’s nothing Jesus can’t do to turn our lives around. But for that to happen, we must ask: Are we opened to the Divine impossible possibilities?

Mark brings us today a perfect illustration of new life in the healing of the deaf and mute man.

In the story, Jesus starts by placing his fingers in the deaf man’s ears. Jesus is acknowledging nonverbally his understanding of what the problem is. It’s a loving act that puts the man at ease.

He then spits on his fingers and touches the deaf man’s tongue. Yes, a cringy moment for our modern sensibilities, but spit was believed to have healing qualities in ancient times.

The final step in this healing comes with Jesus’ sigh, “Ephphatha!” — which is Aramaic for “be opened.”

And with that, a man whose life was closed from the community because of his disability, opens to belonging and acceptance.

The word “Ephphatha” only appears eight times in the New Testament, almost always with stories of healing. It is a word, though, that we should add to our spiritual vocabularies, as the reminder to “be opened” is an important one in the healing of whatever needs to be healed in our lives.

Too often doubt and cynicism take over our lives, closing us off to the that healing of body, mind and spirit. Yet Jesus sees our situations and sighs, “Be opened!” For what has being closed to God’s possibilities done for us?

In the Catholic tradition there is an optional baptismal rite that parents can request as part of the sacrament where the priest says a prayer as he touches the infant’s ears and then mouth. The prayer is for the child to hear God’s voice and to speak of God’s grace as they grow. As you might have already guessed, it is known as the Ephphatha Rite.

Take a moment this day to touch your ears and then your mouth, praying to hear the Divine speaking to you and for the grace to speak words of love.

Caring Healer, may today we “be opened” to the many ways you are renewing, reviving and restoring us. May we hear Your Son’s loving word spoken to us now and always, “Ephphatha!” Amen.