



Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • October 8, 2026

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Sunday, October 11, 2026



Worship Service & Blessing of the Animals @ 10:15 am

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

Children from grades one to five are invited to attend Sunday School following the offertory (when the last hymn begins).

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.

Christian'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 Christian.

He will be in touch as soon as possible.



In Prayer

- Prayers for Julie Ford as she undergoes another spinal surgery this week.
- Prayers for Kim Howard and her daughter, Jodi Bartusek, as they await a medical team consultation about treatment options for Jodi's breast cancer.
- Please keep Jane Huber in prayer as she recovers from her second kidney stone surgery.
- Doug Allen, Sherilyn Aske, Jane Berne's friends – Karen and Larry, Charles Camilli, Loretta Centgraf, Dee Chance, Julie Ford, Louise Ford, Emily Gray's friend Laura, Annie Huber, Bob Huber, Joann Hunt, Jerry Kerr, Jordan Kerr, Kathleen (Kathy) Molony, The Shermans (Sonny, Ashley & Dakota), Landon Trosen, Kim Vacanti

Souls to the Polls

It's important for all of us to vote on or before the mid-term elections on November 3. The polls are now open on weekdays.

Chris Solso and Bob Huber are willing to drive anyone who needs a ride to their designated polling place. They recommend voting early to avoid the long lines and possible disruptions on November 3. If you need a ride, please call Chris ([623-812-9334](tel:623-812-9334)) or Bob ([612-961-5845](tel:612-961-5845)). Anyone else willing to be a driver should contact Chris or Bob.

You can find a sample ballot for all local and state-wide races at:

<https://myballotmn.sos.mn.gov/>

Let's all get out and VOTE!



An Important Read... shared by Rev. Christian:

Voting as a site of resistance and usher of authoritarian rule.

Click Here: <https://prospect.org/2026/07/28/trump-attempt-coup-january-6-election-republican-congress/>



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States.

The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. **Chapel Hills will receive this offering on October 18.**

Thanks in advance for your support and generosity!

All Saints - Sunday, November 1st

On All Saints' Sunday, we will remember with gratitude our beloved family and friends who now rest with Christ in the Communion of Saints.

We look forward to honoring their lives in this service of remembrance and celebration. Please submit the names of loved ones who died this past year, along with a photo, their relationship to you, and date of death to chapelhillsucc@gmail.com.

Let's Eat Cake!

Join us on Sunday, November 1st, as we celebrate Andrea Erickson!

Help us honor Andrea's 4 decades of leading our choir. She will be choosing some of her favorite pieces (prelude, anthem, offertory, hymns, and postlude). Don't miss this joyful, music-filled service and the opportunity to say THANK YOU!

Book Group

Thursday, October 8 (1:00 to 3:00 pm) - Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver

Chapel Hills United Church of Christ

... is hosting a Secure On-Site

PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

Drive-through fundraiser to benefit 

Twin Cities' largest food pantry, providing access to healthy foods, social services, and financial assistance.

**Saturday,
October 10**

**10:00 to
11:30 am**

**@ Chapel Hills
United Church of Christ
6512 Vernon Ave S, Edina**

Financial donations of cash or checks
and/or non-perishable food items
will be greatly appreciated.

Suggested donation: \$10/bag, \$20/box

Cash or Checks ONLY (no credit cards)

Together, we will feed families in need and make a positive impact on the environment by promoting responsible document disposal practices.



Annual Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 11th - 10:15 am

You are invited to bring your pet(s) on Sunday, October 11th for a Blessing of the Animals Celebration at Chapel Hills United Church of Christ. We will give thanks to the special animals in our lives. Rev. Christian will offer a blessing to each pet during the service.

Please:

- keep all small pets in safe travel containers
- keep all dogs/cats on leashes
- make sure all animals are fully vaccinated
- bring treats for your own pet (we'll provide water)
- pets who prefer to be away from other animals should be left at home
- we will provide "treats" for the owners, companions, and all the humans in attendance following the service.



Coffee *and* Community – Thursday, October 15th at 9:30 am

Join us for the fall kick-off of Coffee and Community on October 15th at 9:30 am. Our very own Pam Huey, who is passionate about recycling, will lead a conversation about the importance of using resources wisely in our everyday lives. What are your recycling strategies? How can we improve our planet's health for younger generations? We'll meet in the Break Room at Chapel Hills for this inspiring conversation while enjoying coffee and delicious treats. Questions? Call Chris Solso at [612-812-9334](tel:612-812-9334) or email: cksolso@gmail.com.

Chapel Hills is Accepting Grant Applications for 2026

**We welcome your help in identifying organizations
which could benefit from a Chapel Hills Grant!**

Grants can vary in amount and range from a few hundred dollars to a few thousand dollars. While there are no specific limitations on the types of projects that can be funded, special consideration will be given to well-defined projects that support children/youth, address food/housing insecurity, or strengthen communities.

Applications are due no later than **October 31, 2026**.

Questions? Ask Chris Solso (cksolso@gmail.com or 612-812-9334)

Looking Ahead

8	OCT, THU	● 1 – 3pm	Book Group
10	OCT, SAT	● 10 – 11:30am	Paper Shredding Fundraiser
11	OCT, SUN	● All day	NO Choir
		● 9 – 10am	Confirmation Class
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service - Blessing of the Animals
		● 11:15 – 11:45am	Sunday School (for Grades One to Five)



Receiving Non-Perishable
Food Items

October Birthdays

Everett Kopperud – 1st
Craig Goodwin – 3rd
Dakota Sherman – 3rd
Ryan Harvey – 4th
Pat Heiman – 7th
Landon Trosen – 14th
Lynn Pearson – 17th
Stephanie Tesch – 18th
Louise Ford – 20th
Miles McBeath – 27th



GIVE Securely Online

Offering/Donations

- **Online Giving** (convenient & secure) by clicking this link...
<https://app.easytithes.com/app/giving/chapelhillsuccedina> or by scanning the QR Code to 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



"Praiseworthy Living"

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Today is Laity Sunday, the day we celebrate the many astounding gifts of people who are not authorized or ordained ministers and yet serve the church in manifold ways. On this day, we remember that the priesthood of all believers means that every person has a vital part to play in the life of local congregations.

Laity Sunday is a day of joy, a day to remember that when we focus on standing with one another, even as we maintain a variety of perspectives or behaviors, we are living God's dream for us. Laity Sunday is a day to remember the gladness of giving into the spaciousness of God's call and purpose for all people. Laity Sunday is a day to focus on, as the letter writer exhorts in the epistle to the Philippians, "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise."

Laity Sunday is a day to remember that this journey can be full of wonder and bursting with possibility. In short, Laity Sunday is a perfect day to play together. If you haven't already, it's a good day to check out *"Grow Your Church: A Board Game for Engaging the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Congregations"*.

This game is designed to get people talking about church vitality through the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Churches. It will help deepen relationships with each other and with the congregation's covenantal partners while laughing, thinking creatively and having critical conversations.

This game is for the decision makers and strategic thinkers. It's for the boardroom and the dining room table. It's for the flower arranging committee and the deacons. This game is for people who love their church and want to experience it grow in vitality and faithfulness. Roll the dice and move about a garden path with your church friends!

You can learn more about the *"Grow Your Church: A Board Game for Engaging the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Congregations"*, and order one for your own congregation at uccresources.org.