



## Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • April 17, 2025

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### **Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025**

### **Worship Service (Receiving New Members) @ 10:15 am**

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

**NO** Sunday School this Sunday.

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*

- Prayers for Sandy Davis-Lerner as she mourns the death of her husband, Harry Lerner.
- Prayers for Dorothy Lundberg who is mourning the loss of her dear friend, Dorothy Kirk.
- Amanda Trosen who is recovering from a serious seizure.
- Louise and Jim Ford ask prayers for Chris & Julie Ford, who are both battling different cancers (Chris with Kidney cancer and Julie with breast cancer).
- Ann Puglisi and family as they mourn a treasured life.
- Michelle Liebl's father is currently receiving hospice care.
- Emily Gray appreciates prayers for a joyful journey through her chemo treatment.
- Patty Sexton who is recovering from cancer surgery.
- Joann's nephew, Russell Hunt Jr, is receiving infusions for leukemia.
- Doug Allen, John Burgart, Dee Chance, Julie Ford, Louise Ford, Tom Ford, Joann Hunt, Jordan Kerr, Molly Lee-Lafferty, Annette Ronan, Nolan Sapp, Allii Scudder, Gail Stalpes, and Traci White-Hobson

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### **Palm Sunday Breakfast**

Thanks to all who attended last Sunday's Palm Sunday breakfast and to those who worked behind the scenes (planning, providing food, setting-up, cleaning-up).

The morning was sunny, the food was delicious, and time spent together was enjoyed by all! A great tradition that we were happy to resurrect!

## **Receiving New Members on Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to Chapel Hills on Easter Sunday. We trust that they will find a warm, welcoming and supportive community where they can grow in faith and fellowship.



**Steve Dahlberg**



**Mats & Monika Edwards**



**Karen Pooley**



**Rosanna Walker**

**Join us following worship for  
cake and treats to celebrate our newest members.**

## **Thank YOU from the Minnesota Conference UCC**

Dear friends at Chapel Hills UCC,

Thank you for your pledge to OCWM and Per Capita! Your commitment is an investment in our shared ministry. Because of your pledge we are able to put our mission “to equip a courageous church” into action and plan for the future. God bless you for this expression of covenant. May your faithfulness bear great fruit for our life together.

All good things,

Rev. Wendy Vander Hart

Generosity Officer – MN Conference

**"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"**



### **A Note from Pastor Christián...**

"One of the common challenges of the solo pastor is to write sermons and preach every week. Coming up with something fresh, that's compelling, coherent, well researched, and well thought out that draws us back to an ancient tradition, but that speaks to the current moment, every 6 days is not something that comes easily for many pastors. I'm one of the pastors who find this to be a challenge.

Through the Next Generation Leadership Initiative of the Pension Boards of the UCC, I was awarded a \$2000 grant to use how I best see fit. I decided to use my grant to take a self-directed trip to Berlin, Germany. My goal while I'm there will be to come up with a schedule or a type of framework for what I'll be preaching on over the next 6 months. My hopes in accomplishing this will be to alleviate some of the constant creative energy I'm using and constant pressure I feel to produce a sermon on a weekly basis. I will be gone from April 21-29".

### **Spring BBQ Cookout/Potluck**

On Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> after the service, we will be hosting another BBQ Cookout, featuring burgers, hot dogs, and veggie options along with assorted side dishes. In addition to enjoying some great time together, please consider bringing a nonperishable food donation for VEAP. The need to help in this area continues to be great and your contributions always matter and make a difference!



Next steps- absolutely sign up and indicate both your attendance and if you are able to contribute a dish or help with logistics, please let us know that too.

**Questions?** See Tom or Barb Okonek.



(FYI, VEAP is the Twin Cities' largest food pantry, providing access to healthy foods, social services, and financial assistance. Chapel Hills has partnered with VEAP for many decades).



## **Mark Your Calendar... The Sandwich Project**

Hands-on outreach event @ Chapel Hills on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> following worship.

We will be assembling 300 sandwiches. More details coming soon.

## **Christian Education – Vacation Bible School (VBS)**

We have started to plan this year's VBS program after our successful initial session last summer titled "Faith and Friendship" with Morningside Hills UCC. We are looking at the end of August with possibly other UCC church youth groups and hope to have a plan soon for a four-day session from 12:30-4:30 pm either the week of 8/18/2025 or 8/25/2025.

Kami Winter, from Morningside Hills, and I would appreciate feedback on which week works best for the youth of our churches. Parents, please let me know about your child's availability/interest and which week works best for you. We will also need some adult volunteers (4-5/day).

We would like to have the basics fleshed out by 5/18/2025 since Kami will be on leave after that date until August. Please communicate any ideas you have for VBS theme/structure with either Kami or myself. We would also like to invite all children from our churches to attend free of charge. Therefore, we may also need to ask for contributions to cover some costs and I personally will be contributing.

Ron Molony

### **April Birthdays**

Julie Ford – 5<sup>th</sup>

Sonny Sherman – 8<sup>th</sup>

Ashley Sherman – 9<sup>th</sup>

Joann Hunt – 21<sup>st</sup>

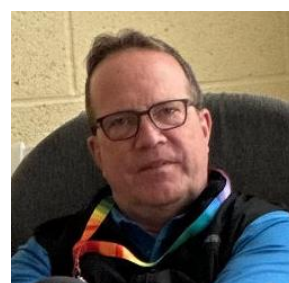
Ron Molony – 23<sup>rd</sup>

Ethan Norris-Weber – 27<sup>th</sup>





# *Palm Sunday Breakfast • 2025*



## Looking Ahead

20	APR, SUN	●	9:15 – 10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal	
		●	10:15 – 11:15am	Easter Sunday Worship Service - Receiving New Members	
		●	11:15 – 11:45am	NO Sunday School	
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23	APR, WED	●	7:30 – 8:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	
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27	APR, SUN	●	9:15 – 10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal	
		●	10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service	
		●	11:15 – 11:45am	Sunday School (for Ages 5 & Older)	
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30	APR, WED	●	7:30 – 8:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	
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4	MAY, SUN	●	9:15 – 10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal	
		●	10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service & Communion	
		●	11:15am – 1pm	Cookout - Following Worship	
		●	11:15 – 11:45am	Sunday School (for Ages 5 & Older)	
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6	MAY, TUE	●	6:30 – 8pm	Church Council Meeting	
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7	MAY, WED	●	7:30 – 8:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	
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8	MAY, THU	●	1 – 2:30pm	Book Group	



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





## **“Resurrection Joy”**

### **Easter Sunday**

The morning sun was peeking over the hills of the cemetery where the faithful had gathered to sing the first alleluias of Easter. As the sky turned from black to gray to an orangey pink, casting a warm glow on the sleepy headstones, the pastor spoke of a stone rolled away, an empty tomb revealed, and angels in bright clothing asking the living among the dead, “Who are you looking for?”

It was then a young woman attending the sunrise service could no longer hold back her tears. With them flowing freely, she offered no apologies but rather she proclaimed the message of Easter more eloquently than any pastor ever could. *It’s amazing that Easter joy begins in a graveyard! There is resurrection all around! We live because He lives!* Those around her smiled. Some even joined her in the tears she shed.

Yes, isn’t it amazing, my friends, that Easter joy begins in a graveyard. Isn’t it amazing that God brings new life from what has passed away? Death does not have the last word. Endings are new beginnings. Good-byes are followed by blessed hellos. And yet, how many times do we fully embrace the Easter promise, believing beyond belief that the end is never the end with God?

The late Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong once said that “the Easter moment is a call to life, to love and to the courage to be all that God created us to be.” We will never get to that Easter life, though, if we linger among that which is dead. For what are we hoping to revive? What are we clinging to? Who are we looking for?

As the angels proclaimed that first Easter morning, Jesus is alive. He is waiting to meet us on our paths where we discover the Risen Christ in the care shown to us from strangers as well as the compassion we give in return. We might not always recognize Jesus, but He is indeed there. Our cynical eyes just need to see through the lenses of faith.

May this Easter we stop our woeful gaze into the tomb of dead dreams and hopes and shout to the world, as Mary did, “I have seen the Lord!” For you have. He is alive among us — within all our hearts.

*God of Easter new life, we thank You and praise You for fresh beginnings. May we begin to live as Easter people, holding tightly to the promise that death is no more. With our Risen Lord by our sides, there is always hope and amazing possibilities. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.*