



Celebrate **World Communion Sunday**

— ✦ —
October 4, 2026

Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • October 1, 2026

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Sunday, October 4, 2026

Worship Service & Communion @ 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 communion (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

- Keep Amanda, Mike, and Landon Trosen in your prayers.
- Please keep Jane Huber in prayer as she recovers from her second kidney stone surgery.
- Prayers for Kim Howard's daughter, Jodi Bartusek, who was diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Emily Gray's friend, Laura, is recovering from spinal cord surgery.
- Doug Allen, Sherilyn Aske, Jane Berne's friends – Karen and Larry, Charles Camilli, Loretta Centgraf, Dee Chance, Julie Ford, Louise Ford, Annie Huber, Bob Huber, Joann Hunt, Jerry Kerr, Jordan Kerr, Kathleen (Kathy) Molony, The Shermans (Sonny, Ashley & Dakota), Landon Trosen, Kim Vacanti

Book Group

Thursday, October 8 (1:00 to 3:00 pm)

Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver

Thursday, November 12 (1:00 to 3:00 pm)

James: A Novel by Percival Everett

Come enjoy warm conversations and tasty treats—everyone is welcome, whether or not you've read the book.

A Note from *Rev. Christian...*

Hi everyone! I just wanted to send a quick hello before Sunday. I hope you all have been doing well. I had a slow and nice time away. I'm 36 now so just a little closer to catching up to most of you LOL.

In the years past, as you know, for the month of October I've focused on taking horror movies and putting them into conversation with passages in scripture to find a word from God for us. Horror was one of the many things that religion took from me when I was a young person, and getting into horror was my way of taking back something that religion took from me.

Horror is not for everyone, but if you can stomach being scared and gory scenes, the genre is ripe with themes of survival, friendship, state violence, grief, hauntings, demonic forces etc.

We're all afraid of things and everyone is haunted by something.

And I think our fears and our hauntings can tell us about who we are. And I try to use this time of the year to examine how we might be molded more into God's image by looking at our fears, our ghosts, and our hauntings in the face.

Come this October and be spooked and empowered!

I'm looking forward to this month. See you Sunday!

Looking Ahead

Thursday, Oct 8th	Book Group	1:00 to 3:00 pm
Saturday, Oct 10th	Paper Shredding Fundraiser	10:00 to 11:30 am
Sunday, Oct 11th	Confirmation Class	9:00 to 10:00 am
	Blessing of the Animals	During Worship
Thursday, Oct 15th	Coffee & Community	9:30 to 10:30 am
Sunday, Oct 18th	Receiving Neighbors in Need Offering	During Worship
Saturday, Oct 31st	Last Day to Receive Grant Applications	11:59 pm deadline



On-Site Secure Paper Shredding FUNDRAISER to Benefit VEAP

Chapel Hills is hosting a neighborhood drive-through paper shredding event on
Saturday, October 10th from 10:00 to 11:30 am!

Securely shred your documents that may contain Personally Identifiable Information (commonly found in personal records, sensitive documents, & everyday junk mail).

- ✓ safely dispose of those pesky confidential or sensitive papers that have a way of accumulating over time
- ✓ raise money in support of VEAP
- ✓ help the environment by keeping paper out of our landfills!



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 @ Chapel Hills – Thursday, October 15th 9:30 am

Join us on the third Thursday of each month to catch up with friends, discuss a topic of interest, enjoy coffee and treats, and sometimes, take a walk in our church's neighborhood!

We will explore new ways to deepen our faith and strengthen our community through thoughtful conversation and camaraderie.

Sign up in the Narthex if you would like to present a topic of interest or bring a treat to share. And, please let us know what topics would be of interest to you.

Questions, ideas, suggestions?

Contact Chris Solso (csolso@gmail.com or 612-812-9334) or Julie Guelich (julie.guelich@gmail.com or 952-270-1432).

Chapel Hills is Accepting Grant Applications for 2026

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

For over 20 years, Chapel Hills has made grants to a broad range of local, regional and international organizations. Our partnerships with these organizations as one of the ways we "live" our mission to serve and live in the light of God's love.

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.

Please note that applications are due no later than **October 31, 2026**.

Questions? Check with Chris Solso (cksolso@gmail.com or 612-812-9334) or talk to anyone on the Church Council. This year's External Grant Committee includes: Emily Gray, Monika Edwards, and Chris Solso (chair).



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



Looking Ahead

4	OCT, SUN	● 9:15 – 10am	Choir Rehearsal
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service & Communion
		● 11:15 – 11:45am	Sunday School (for Grades One to Five)
6	OCT, TUE	● 10:45am – 2:45pm	MnCAN Aphasia Groups
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)
13	OCT, TUE	● 10:45am – 2:45pm	MnCAN Aphasia Groups
		● 6:30 – 8pm	Church Council Meeting
14	OCT, WED	● All day	NO Choir Rehearsal
15	OCT, THU	● 9:30 – 11am	Coffee & Community



GIVE Securely Online

Offering/Donations

- **Online Giving** (convenient & secure) by clicking this link...
<https://app.easytithe.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



"Wisdom for the Way"

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

On this Access Sunday and Disabilities Awareness Week, we pause for a moment to give thanks for the work of the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministry (UCCDM). According to their website, "The UCCDM envisions a world in which all people are included in the fullness of life because they are created in the image of God. The mission of UCCDM is to support all settings of the United Church of Christ (UCC) including but not limited to Local Congregations, Associations, Conferences, camps, Historically Underrepresented Groups (HUGs), and national settings, as they seek to recognize and provide access to people with disabilities in all aspects of the church's life and ministry.

This includes, but is not limited to, affirming and claiming as its own the commitments of the UCC to be a multiracial, multicultural, Open and Affirming, Just Peace, and Accessible to All ministry, recognizing that people with disabilities have a multitude of other identities, and that all justice movements are interconnected; encouraging all settings of the wider church to be physically, socially, and virtually accessible to and welcoming of people with disabilities; encouraging and providing guidance to UCC settings as they work to become Accessible to All (hereafter A2A), and supporting them as they sustain their commitment; participating in denominational and ecumenical conversations related to disabilities and working with the UCC national setting and community partners to promote disability justice through an intersectional framework".

For many churches, one of the greatest barriers to full participation is their buildings. Many church buildings, erected before a time of greater understanding, are not built to be fully inclusive. With generations of time, attention, and money given to maintain church buildings, it can be hard to think of changing them, even if it means being more inclusive.

And yet, Exodus 20:4 says it clearly. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. That includes the buildings in which we work and worship.

Look around you now. Has this building become an idol, and object to appease and be worshiped rather than a sanctuary of welcome? How can your community join the UCCDM movement of full inclusivity?