



**Sunday, May 17, 2026**  
**Worship Service @ 10:15 am**

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

Children aged five and older are invited to attend Sunday School immediately following the offertory.

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.

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*

- Julie Ford as she recovers from spine surgery.
- Pam Huey's sister, Paula Fox, has entered hospice care.
- Mike Camilli's father, Charles, is currently facing challenges related to Parkinson's disease.
- The family of John Burgart as they mourn a treasured life.
- Kim Vacanti's friend, Maria S., has been officially declared free of cancer following her third diagnosis and treatments.
- Doug Allen, Sherilyn Aske, Becky Burgart & family, Loretta Centgraf, Dee Chance, Louise Ford, Juleah Foss, family of Meredith Glass, Bob Huber, Joann Hunt, Russell Hunt Jr, Jerry Kerr, Jordan Kerr, Molly Lee-Lafferty, Kathleen (Kathy) Molony, Jeff Olander, Marion Rova, Allii Scudder, The Shermans (Sonny, Ashley & Dakota), Shelley Tang, and Amanda Trosen

## **Thank You, Choir!**

The choir is taking a well-deserved summer break!

We are grateful for the beautiful music, faithful dedication, and joyful spirit that they share so generously. Their voices lift our worship, inspire our hearts, and bring comfort and joy to all.

We wish them a restful and renewing summer and look forward with joy to welcome them back in September.

The choir is pictured on the front page (from left to right)

**Top Row:** Ron, Bob, Steve, Meghan, Ben

**Middle Row:** Beth, Stephanie, Chris, Marj, Julie

**Bottom Row:** Nikolina, Cayleigh, Andrea, Sandy, Michelle



## Dr. Elaine Pagels to Speak in Minnesota

Union Congregational United Church of Christ in St. Louis Park invites you to hear Dr. Elaine Pagels, New York Times bestselling author and professor emeritus of religion at Princeton University. She will give a keynote at 11 am on Saturday, May 30, at 3700 Alabama Ave S in St. Louis Park. Following the keynote, Dr. Pagels will be available for book signing. Her latest book, *Miracles and Wonder: the Historical Mystery of Jesus*, has been studied by a number of UCC congregations across the country. Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity. Tickets are free but required. Send request for tickets to: [info@unionslp.com](mailto:info@unionslp.com).

The Minnesota Conference is pleased to help sponsor this event.



## Strengthen the Church *Offering*

**Mark Your Calendar for Sunday, May 24, 2026**  
**Strengthen the Church Special Offering**

On May 24th, Chapel Hills will participate in the United Church of Christ's **Strengthen the Church (STC)** offering. We will join member congregations across the country to cooperatively strengthen the UCC. As God calls us to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, support clergy and lay leaders, and develop the spiritual lives of our youth and young adults. Through this offering, we unite with others across Minnesota and throughout the United States to build up the Body of Christ.

Gifts may be made [online](#) (between now and May 24) or during our service on May 24th. Please be sure to designate your gift for **Strengthen the Church (STC)**.

**Book Group – Thursday, May 14 (1:00 to 3:00 pm) @ Chapel Hills**

Rough Sleepers Dr. Jim O'Connell's Urgent Mission to Bring Healing to Homeless People by Tracy Kidder. All are welcome to join the conversation... even if you have not read the book.

## Thank YOU From the Outreach Team!

Extraordinary times call for extraordinary action. And the people of Chapel Hills responded. Over the past three months Chapel Hills made special gifts to help our neighbors--both near and far. Together, we contributed:

- **\$5,000** to VEAP's Rental Assistance Program, designated by the Council in February from a special gift received by Chapel Hills;
- **344 pounds** of food for VEAP's Emergency Food Package campaign with donations made in March;
- **\$1,485** to One Great Hour of Sharing through a special offering on March 15th; and
- **\$4,606** to VEAP's Rental Assistance Program from our dedicated Easter offering, with matching funds from a special gift received by Chapel Hills.

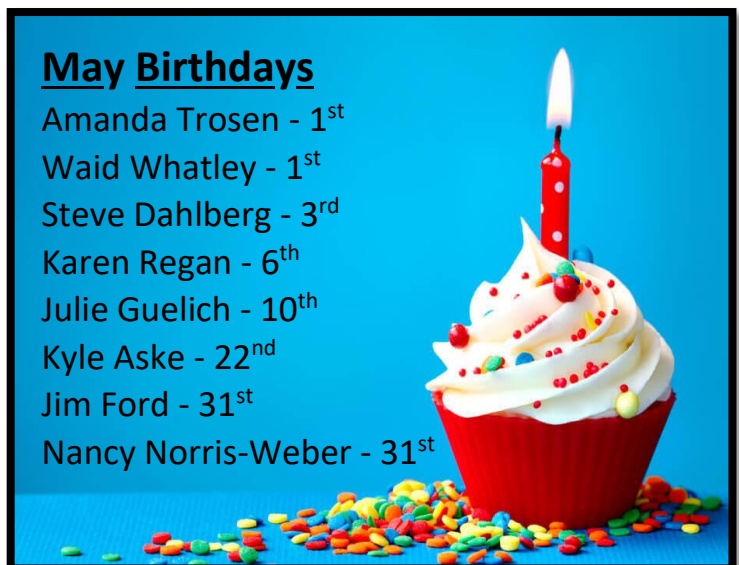
## Chapel Hills Raingarden

Suddenly, it's Spring! Plants around the church are awakening and could use a bit of help. Raingarden tasks include watering the new seedlings, strategic trimming of certain dead material, careful removal of debris (like old cottonwood leaves), keeping the "step" clear of sediment, sweeping the gutter, cleaning the outlet before it goes into the storm sewer, and weeding. None of these tasks is a big job - just half an hour or so at a time – but regular maintenance will help the garden to flourish and the flowers to support pollinators.

The Raingarden Maintenance Toolkit on the bookshelf shows our plants and what they need as well as look-a-like weeds. Talk to Laura Feierabend if you'd like to learn more.



Receiving Non-Perishable  
Food Items



### May Birthdays

Amanda Trosen - 1<sup>st</sup>

Waid Whatley - 1<sup>st</sup>

Steve Dahlberg - 3<sup>rd</sup>

Karen Regan - 6<sup>th</sup>

Julie Guelich - 10<sup>th</sup>

Kyle Aske - 22<sup>nd</sup>

Jim Ford - 31<sup>st</sup>

Nancy Norris-Weber - 31<sup>st</sup>

# SAVE THE DATE



**Saturday, June 13 • 5:00 to 7:00 pm**

Kim Vacanti, one of our newest members, has offered to host a Street Taco themed potluck/kick-off to summer at her home in Bloomington.

**And you are all invited!**

This is a great chance to connect in a relaxed, casual setting.  
And who doesn't love tacos?!

- Complete Details Coming Soon -

## Looking Ahead

14	MAY, THU	● 1 – 3pm	Book Group
17	MAY, SUN	● All day	Recognizing our Sunday School Program
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
		● 11:15 – 11:45am	Sunday School (for Ages 5 & Older)
20	MAY, WED	● 2:30 – 4:30pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group
24	MAY, SUN	● All day	Strengthen the Church Offering
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service



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



## **“Spirit of Witness”**

### **Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Eastertide is coming to an end. But before we usher in the power of the Holy Spirit at the celebration of Pentecost next week, I pause to pray. For you. Yes, you. I have even stepped away from writing this to light a candle, thanking God for the hearts that would be touched by words that often seem a feeble attempt in capturing how amazing, awesome, and perplexingly mysterious our God is.

I thanked God for you, dear readers. I thanked God for each soul awakening to the Easter promise of new life. I thanked God that while we never have or never will see one another in person, we can still call each other siblings in Christ, connected by our thirst for not only knowing God, but for understanding God if only a little bit better.

Eastertide’s 50 days are wrapping up and that means Jesus is about to leave his friends for good this time to ascend into Heaven. But before he goes, he talks to them, and he prays.

John 17 is known by scholars as the “high priestly prayer,” where Jesus first prays for himself, thanking God for all that God has done through him, and then prays for others. I love that Jesus begins with himself in mind. It is a reminder that it is not selfish to pray for ourselves.

As a pastor, I have heard many people brush aside their worries, uttering something like “enough about me, my problems a nothing compared to others.” That is so not true. Your worries, your fears and your problems matter to God. As the old hymn attests, many times “it’s me, it’s me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.”

After praying for himself, Jesus then prays for his friends, thanking God for them and asking for continued strength and protection for their days ahead.

I wonder how many times after Jesus finally left his earthly life that his friends remembered how, through the power of prayer, Jesus continues to be right there by their sides? How many times do we remember that when feeling lonely and needing our Friend and Savior in our life, that all we have to do is pray?

And what is prayer? It is simply talking to the one you love. Prayer is also sitting silently with the one you love the most as God doesn’t need our words. All God wants is our hearts.

And so, I find myself on this Sunday as Eastertide comes to an end, sitting here saying a prayer of thanks for each one of you reading these words right now. And I pray you feel those prayers.

*Heavenly God, we know that You are not far off, but very close to us. You are always surrounding us with love and protection. We thank Jesus for his example of prayer, too. May this day we find ourselves praying more frequently and praying more boldly, remembering that prayer does change all things. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.*

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today’s *Sunday Bulletin*.)