



Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • March 28, 2024

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**Rev. Cristián Briones begins his Ministry at Chapel Hills**

on

**Easter Sunday**

**March 31<sup>st</sup>**

**10:15 a.m. Worship Service**

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

Sunday School for children ages 5 and older takes place at 11:15 a.m.

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*

- Donna Whatley, Waid Whatley's mother, passed away. Please keep Waid, Carol, and their family in prayer.
- John Burgart is feeling well after his second surgery and is grateful for the prayers and support he has received. He will have further treatment in the coming weeks.
- Jordan Kerr would appreciate prayers for healing and comfort during recovery from leg surgery.
- Amanda Trosen is having difficulties with more seizures and other complications.
- Cheryl Marsch is continuing to heal, doing PT to address neuropathy in her fingers from Chemo.
- Ken Puglisi was released to a rehab center, and just passed swallow test so he can have solid food again!
- Bev Feierabend's dear friend, Vicky Block, is getting her strength back after complications following hip surgery, but still experiencing issues.
- Laura Feierabend's friend, Steve Hanson, died after long battle with Parkinson's and Lewy Body Dementia. Prayers for Karen and the rest of the family.
- Michelle Liebl asks for prayers for her three nephews, Sam, Noah and Maki as they battle health issues.
- Doug Allen, Mykayla Cunningham, Julie Ford, Louise Ford, Bob Huber, Sandy Rippie, Nolan Sapp, Gail Stalpes, and Traci White-Hobson.

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### **Maundy Thursday Worship Service – Encouragement for the Journey**

Join us at Chapel Hills on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. for worship on Maundy Thursday, the day on which Jesus Christ shared a meal with his friends and faced his future with faith and prayer. We'll share together in Communion and prayer as Holy Week moves toward its conclusion and Easter Sunday joy. We've invited the group of UCC churches that participated in the cooperative Lenten meal and prayer services to join us.

### **Request for Nursery Volunteers on Easter Sunday (March 31<sup>st</sup>)**

We are hoping to secure a couple reliable nursery volunteers to fill in on Easter Sunday. This is a great way to get to know the youngest among us. Anyone willing to volunteer should contact the church 952-935-3025. Thanks in advance for considering this important role.

## Easter Flowers

A **BIG Thank You** to everyone who purchased Easter flowers this year! They will be displayed on and around the communion table on Easter Sunday for all to enjoy. **Don't forget to take your flowers home after the service.**

## 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>



## Reception of Farewell for Pastor Nancy Swanson

*O God, we give thanks for remembered times  
when we have shared this life of faith.*

*We thank you for moments together in worship and song,  
learning and laughter, fellowship and service.*

*Help us all to trust the future which rests in your care  
and guide us as we move in new directions,  
until that time to come when we meet again before you  
- one in faith, hope and love.*

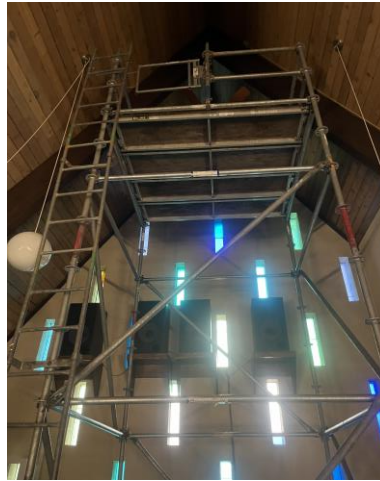
*In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.*

## Feed My Starving Children - Chanhassen location (18732 Lake Dr E, Chanhassen)

- When: Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 9:30 - 11:00 am
- Sign-up sheet is in the narthex. If you need a ride to FMSC, let Barb O. know.

Kids and adults of all ages are welcome to volunteer to hand pack **nutritious MannaPack® meals** specifically designed to assist in reversing and preventing undernutrition.

FMSC distributes meals in schools, orphanages, clinics and feeding programs around the world to deliver hope and break the cycle of poverty. To a starving child, hope can only begin with a reliable source of nutritious food.



## Updated LED Lights in Sanctuary & Fans

Thanks to an Enduring Fund Grant, we were able to replace two broken fans in the sanctuary and convert all the lights to a consistent, brighter tone along with being LED. Both of these updates make us more energy efficient and help create a more comfortable space. If you have other ideas for building improvements, let Tom Okonek know.

28	MAR, THU	● 1 – 1:45pm	Maundy Thursday Service @ Chapel Hills
29	MAR, FRI	● All day	Good Friday
31	MAR, SUN	● All day	Easter - We Welcome Rev. Cristián Briones!
		● 9:15 – 10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
		● 11:15 – 11:45am	Sunday School (Ages 5 & Older)
2	APR, TUE	● 11am – 12:30pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group
		● 1 – 2:30pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group
		● 6:30 – 8pm	Church Council Meeting
3	APR, WED	● 7:30 – 8:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal



GIVE Securely Online

## Offering/Donations

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



## **“Now What?”**

### **Easter Sunday**

The gospel story this morning begins with two women setting out to perform a routine task. These women, along with their companions and good friends have had a most disconcerting week. First they saw Jesus - the one who is to them teacher and healer and leader - welcomed into the city of Jerusalem, only to see the crowd and those closest to him turn on him, and then to witness his excruciating death. Now these two women – these two Marys – are heading toward the tomb to perform the distressing but necessary task of anointing the body of their friend who has died. A difficult task, yes, but a routine one.

Coming to the tomb to complete their task they find not, as they had expected, the heavy stone and the body of their teacher but instead a young man in white, an angel who gives them instructions that the text tells us they are too frightened to repeat.

Although some verses were added later, most scholars agree that the gospel of Mark originally ended here.: "So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." Not only does this verse fail to provide proper narrative closure, writes preacher Tom Long, it also lurches to an awkward grammatical stop. A more literal translation would read, "To no one anything they said; afraid they were for..." It is almost as if the author of this gospel of Mark had suddenly been dragged from his writing desk in mid-sentence.

Perhaps they were afraid because they realized in seeing the impossibly heavy stone moved easily away, in seeing the empty space where the dead body they had come to anoint was supposed to have been should have been that Jesus really was who he said he was. He was not only a teacher or a healer or a leader and their friend, but the Christ. And if that is true, and they really are going to follow him, it means the Marys' lives are going to be anything but routine from now on.

So, for a while they said nothing, as this new reality took root in their souls. But they couldn't keep silent forever. We know that, because although those two first witnesses said nothing to anyone, here you are on Easter morning twenty centuries later and half a world away, telling their story. It was a story too powerful, too holy, and too good to keep silent.

Happy Easter! This is your story now! And that awkward ending? It's not the end. It's just the beginning.