



**ARRESTED  
DETAINED  
CITED  
RELEASED**

Friday, January 23, 2026



## Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • January 29, 2026

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**Sunday, February 1, 2026**

**Worship Service & Communion @ 10:15 am**

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

**NO Sunday School today due to the Annual Meeting following worship.**

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](mailto: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*

- Brittany McBeath's brother, Adam Thurber, who is recovering from pacemaker surgery.
- The family and friends of Alex Jeffrey Pretti as we all grieve his senseless murder at the hands of ICE (US Immigration and Customs Enforcement).
- Prayers to all who have experienced a family member, friend, or neighbor that's been abducted and detained. A member from Chapel Hills reports that a friend, son, Korean adoptee, citizen, was abducted by ICE for not being white, while doing deliveries for a church to immigrant families. He was held for 4 hours, driven around town and released.
- Chris Ford's cancer is advancing, and she is approaching the final stages of her life.
- Kim Vacanti's lifelong friend, Jeff Olander, is being closely monitored in the ICU after receiving a full lung transplant on Sunday, January 25.
- Marion Rova and family as she mourns the loss of her husband, dear friend Gail Stalpes, and several other longtime friends.
- Joann Hunt who is dealing with falls, pain, and a torn Achilles tendon.
- The family and friends of Renee Nicole Good as we all grieve her senseless murder.
- Doug Allen, Sherilyn Aske, John Burgart, Loretta Centgraf, Dee Chance, Louise Ford, Juleah Foss, Bob Huber, Russell Hunt Jr, Jordan Kerr, Molly Lee-Lafferty, Kathleen (Kathy) Molony, Allii Scudder, Ashley Sherman, Shelley Tang, and Amanda Trosen

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## **Chapel Hills Annual Meeting**

Join us following worship this **Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>** as we gather to receive reports, elect officers, and vote on the 2026 budget. Your participation is vital in keeping Chapel Hills connected and vibrant.

## We Are Feeling the LOVE...

We received several messages this past week in support of Chapel Hills and our beloved MINNESOTA!

### A facebook message from Susan Harriman Thies

*“Born and raised in Minnesota-member of Chapel Hills back in the day. Living in Colorado and will be lighting a candle with you tonight. Thank you!”*

### An email message from Courtney Hanna-McNamara

*(On behalf of First Congregational UCC of DeKalb, Illinois)*

*Courtney sends greetings and wants you to know that their congregation is praying for us and our community. They are feeling a call, as a Just Peace congregation, to look for ways that they can support what's happening in Minnesota.*

*They've reached out to us and our faith partners in the Twin Cities to offer support, and they stand ready to hear the needs of our community and how they might partner with us.*

### An email message from Jonathan Raithel

*Praying and Protesting for MN from Jonathan Raithel an Iowa State alumni, and member of College Avenue UCC in Modesto, California.*

*“When I was attending Iowa State, Minnesotans were my roommates, classmates, professors, pastor, fellow parishioners, and my friends. And while Minnesotans will talk about how Minnesota nice is passive aggressive manners, I know from experience that there is genuine kindness in Minnesota nice, and when I needed it the most Minnesotans showed me the kindness I needed to carry on, and I will never forget that.*

*I am a thousand miles away, but I want to let you know that the kindness in Minnesota is not forgotten, and that when you are protesting you are not alone. I will be halfway across the continent, and my prayers will be with you, and I will be advocating for you every single day until the terrors cease or until I am six feet under. God be with you!”*

*We reached out to Jonathan and ask if we could share his message in our weekly newsletter, and he said YES! He followed up with this message:*

*“Thank you and all the Minnesotans being a light in the world! As a Californian who learned what winter actually is during the 2013-2014 polar vortex, stay warm and stay safe!”*



# FEAR IS KEEPING FAMILIES INSIDE

## HELP SEND A CARE PACK OF FOOD AND RELIEF TO A NEIGHBOR IN CRISIS.

Due to the current ICE occupation, VEAP is delivering emergency Care Packs to families who don't feel safe leaving their homes.

There are 2 ways you can help feed people who urgently need your support. (There has been an overwhelming response for packers & drivers so let's focus on donations, now).

### 1. Donate an emergency Care Pack

- \$30 helps fill and deliver a Care Pack to feed a family for one week. How many families are you able to feed today?

### 2. Donate items for Care Packs

- Donate any of these most needed items:
  - Pasta and sauce
  - Canned fruits & vegetables
  - Bread, peanut butter & jelly
  - Canned protein (pork, chicken, beans)
  - Rice
  - Soup
  - Toilet paper and soap

VEAP will supplement Care Packs with perishable food items.

If making cash donations, you can make checks out to Chapel Hills and add VEAP in the memo line. You can also go to our website to donate online... [Click HERE.](#)

By the way, Chapel Hills dropped off 144 pounds of food at VEAP on Tuesday – Thank YOU!

The Outreach Team



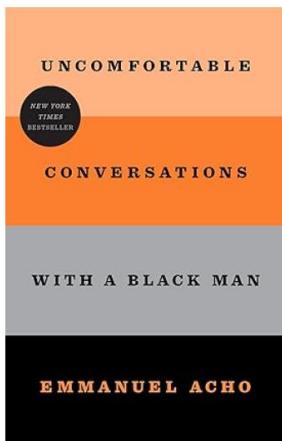
GIVE Securely Online

### 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

## Book Group

**Thursdays (February 12<sup>th</sup> and March 12<sup>th</sup> - 1:00 to 3:00 pm)**



Black History Month, we are reading Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man by Emmanuel Acho, available at the library.

Acho takes on all the questions, large and small, insensitive and taboo, many white Americans are afraid to ask—yet which all Americans need the answers to. Acho explains the vital core of such fraught concepts as white privilege, cultural appropriation, and “reverse racism.” In his own words, he provides a space of compassion and understanding in a discussion that can lack both.



For Thursday, March 12, and Women's History Month, we'll be reading The First Ladies by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. A powerful story of friendship between Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune, who collaborated to fight for justice and equality despite personal challenges and threats.

## Looking Ahead

1	FEB, SUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● All day</li><li>● 9:15 – 10am</li><li>● 10:15 – 11:15am</li><li>● 11:15 – 11:45am</li></ul>	<p>NO Sunday School Today</p> <p>Adult Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Worship Service &amp; Communion</p> <p>Annual Meeting</p>
3	FEB, TUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 11am – 12:30pm</li><li>● 1 – 2:30pm</li></ul>	<p>MnCAN Aphasia Group</p> <p>MnCAN Aphasia Group</p>
4	FEB, WED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 7:30 – 8:30pm</li></ul>	<p>Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>
8	FEB, SUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 9:15 – 10am</li><li>● 10:15 – 11:15am</li><li>● 11:15 – 11:45am</li></ul>	<p>Adult Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Worship Service</p> <p>Sunday School (for Ages 5 &amp; Older)</p>
9	FEB, MON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 6:30 – 8pm</li></ul>	<p>Rescheduled Church Council Meeting</p>



## **"The Vision Beautiful"**

### **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

When we hear someone say how blessed they are or how blessed a friend is, we automatically think of how their lives are filled with answered prayers, abundant grace, and equally abundant provision. But when Jesus preached his Sermon on the Mount to the masses, he turned the idea of what a blessing is upside down.

I wonder what the reaction really was when all those who needed to hear an inspirational message from Jesus heard his take on a blessed life instead.

Blessed are you who are poor in spirit. Blessed are you who mourn. Blessed are you who are meek. Blessed are you who hunger. Blessed are you who have been reviled and persecuted. Blessed are you in all the muck of life — my addition, not Jesus'.

I woke up the other the day desperately needing to remember once again that a blessed life is not a charmed life. I needed to know that no matter what this world throws at me or what others might say about me or do to me, that I am blessed because I am a child of God.

In my moments where I feel no one hears me, Jesus is listening. Those days I feel invisible, Jesus sees me. Those days when I really feel as if I hate the world (please tell me I am not alone here), I know that Jesus isn't judging me. Rather, like any understanding friend, my Lord and Savior walks alongside me, softening the calluses forming on my heart by a world filled with chaos, anger and violence.

Days like these I need to stop everything and run into the arms of Jesus. I need to feel the safety and security of his redeeming love. I need to hear his beautiful voice reassure my blessedness. For the world will try its best to drag us down, but Jesus is there to always lift us up.

So blessed are you this day. You who hurts. You who has been betrayed. You who are tired. You who are doubting. You who has lost your way, your purpose, you're your faith.

Blessed are you. Period. No questions asked. Why? Because you are a beautiful child of God — seen, heard and loved.

*God of grace and great hope, we ask that You bless the brokenness in our lives, putting back together the shattered pieces of dreams or relationships in a new way. And, as You do, may we hear deep in our hearts the reassuring and restorative words that through all of life's ups and downs that we are indeed blessed. 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*.)**