



Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • February 19, 2026

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Sunday, February 22, 2026

Worship Service @ 10:15 am

First Sunday in Lent

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

- Jane Berne asks for continued prayers as her brother, Chris, embarks upon the recovery process following heart surgery.
- Jeff Olander is recovering at home and doing well after receiving a full lung transplant.
- Brittany McBeath's brother, Adam Thurber, is recovering from pacemaker surgery.
- Joann Hunt who is dealing with falls, pain, and a torn Achilles tendon.
- 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, Marion Rova, Allii Scudder, Ashley Sherman, Shelley Tang, and Amanda Trosen



Make America KIND Again

Buttons...

Wear One, Share One!

(available at church in the narthex)

Supporting Local Immigrant Communities

- **How can I help?**

Article from MplsStPaul Magazine - January 12, 2026

There was a comprehensive article in the January 12th edition of the MplsStPaul magazine on how to support local immigrant communities in the face of ICE activities. Even though a draw-down in ICE activities has been announced, individuals, families, businesses and communities need our ongoing support. The attached article lists many opportunities for involvement. Take the time to look at the article and follow the links that are of interest. The need continues to be great. Recovery will take hard work.

Here is the link to the MplsStPaul article:

<https://mspmag.com/arts-and-culture/general-interest/ice-minnesota-support-immigrant-communities-fundraisers-food-drives-trainings/>

- **Support immigrant-owned businesses**

Sunday's treats and other groceries were purchased at Colonial Market, a Mexican-focused grocery store (3051 E 80 1/2 St, Bloomington). Colonial Market's other two locations are in Minneapolis. There are many other places in the west metro where you can buy food from immigrant-owned businesses.

- **Matching Gifts**

Alight, a global humanitarian organization focused on helping refugees. Matching gifts up to \$10,000 by 100 percent from money given by an anonymous Minneapolis couple.

<https://www.wearealight.org/>

New Lockbox & Code for Front Door

If you have a need to use the lockbox/key located on the front door, please contact Tom Okonek by phone or text at 612-418-3390 for the new code.

Both the box and code are new. Follow the instructions on the lockbox to open it.

Thanks!

Tom Okonek

Facilities Team

Greeters/Treaters/Readers/Streamers

We are grateful to a core group of folks who volunteer on Sunday mornings to be greeters, treaters, readers, and AV streamers. Roles that add warmth and caring to our Sunday morning service. The Worship Team is working on the schedule for April, May & June.

Please let us know via email at chapelhillsucc@gmail.com if you would be willing to help.

Descriptions are listed below. We will gladly add you to the calendar rotation – and as always, the invitation is OPEN TO ALL!

- **Greeters:**

The greeters are typically the first connection our friends and visitors have on Sunday mornings. Greeters stand or sit at the Sanctuary door by 10:00 am to greet folks, hand out bulletins, and offer a friendly welcome as they arrive.

- **Treaters:**

The treaters host coffee and fellowship following worship and bring a treat to share. Written information about setup and cleanup are provided ahead of time.

- **Readers:**

Participates during worship by reading the scripture lesson. You will receive a copy of the reading in advance. Readers of all ages are welcome to volunteer!

- **Streamers (Audio-Visual):**

Being able to provide a live stream of our worship service is an important feature for folks who are unable to attend in person. The good news is that the system is very simple and can be as easy as turning a button on and off! If you are interested in helping or learning more, please see Tom or Barb Okonek.

Thank you for considering these important Sunday morning roles.

Copies of *Outgrow*, the 2026 Lent devotionals are available in the narthex.
(written by the United Church of Christ's Stillspeaking Writers' Group)

Join Us... Collaborative Lenten Meal (Soup Supper) Worship Service

Meal & Fellowship - 5:30 pm • Service - 6:30 pm

Join us for a shared Lenten meal and worship service with our sister UCC congregations. SAVE these dates:

Date	Hosted By	Location
Thurs, Feb 26	Morningside Hills UCC	4201 Morningside Rd, Edina
Thurs, March 5	Chapel Hills UCC*	6512 Vernon Ave S, Edina
Thurs, March 12	Lynnhurst Congregational UCC	4501 Colfax Ave S, Minneapolis
Thurs, March 19	Union Congregational UCC	3700 Alabama Ave S, St. Louis Park
Thurs, March 26	Morningside Hills UCC	4201 Morningside Rd, Edina

* The Hospitality Team is looking for folks to help host the Lenten meal and service on Thursday, March 5th at Chapel Hills. It will be a simple meal of soup, bread, and desserts. We will need help with setup, providing soup/bread/desserts, greeting, serving, and cleanup.

Your help will be greatly appreciated! Look for the sign-up sheet on Sunday.



A vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.

Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.

We will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on or before Sunday, March 15th.

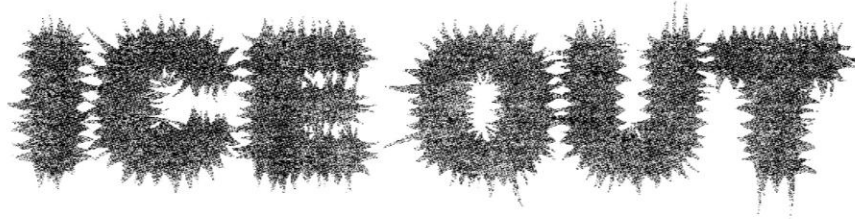
Donations can be made by check made payable to Chapel Hills (write OGHS on the memo line), or online (convenient & secure) @ <https://app.easytithes.com/app/giving/chapelhillsuccedina>.

"ICE Out" Posters

Chapel Hill's own, Liz Derby, the creative force behind the artwork at Little Dipper Art, has produced a series of wonderful, limited edition "Ice Out" posters that you will love to have and display. They are available for purchase at the stores listed below or there will be a handful available at church with a requested \$10 donation to the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota. Act now to get one or more of these great art pieces with an important message!

www.littledipper.store

LITTLE DIPPER ART



WHERE TO FIND POSTERS

Minneapolis

Atomic Polish
Audrey Rose Vintage
Big Hill Books
Bryant Lake Bowl and Theater
Comma, a Bookshop
Dome Salon and Creative Space
Ferris
flourish pilates+bodywork
i like you
Migration Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
Mill City Laser
Mindful Voice and Body
Mitrebox Framing Studio
Mother Earth Gardens - Longfellow
Mother Earth Gardens - Northeast
Ollo Vintage
Open Studio Sewing
Patina - S Mpls
Serenity Acupuncture LLC
SK Coffee: Downtown Minneapolis
SK Coffee: Whittier
Soundwoven Goods
StyleTrolley
Tangletown Gardens
The 701 Salon
The GRIND - North Loop
The Toolbox Collective
turquoise vintage
Wildflyer Coffee
Yess Yoga

St. Paul

A Pocket Full of Posies
Center for Lost Objects
EggPlant Urban Farm Supply
Encore Consignment Boutique
Ergo Floral
i like you too
June Room Vintage
Larissa Loden
Luminary Coffeehouse
Mariposa Massage LLC
MidModMen+friends
Minneapolis Craft Market at MSP
Next Chapter Booksellers
Patina - Highland Park
Patina - Selby & Snelling
SK Coffee: Coffee Bar & Roastery
Springtime Studio
The Mustache Cat
The Yarnery
Wildflyer Coffee - Saint Paul

Metro

Patina - Eden Prairie
The GRIND - Edina
Saturn 5 Studio - Fridley
Patina - Golden Valley
Cream & Amber - Hopkins
Patina - Maple Grove
The Vintage Storyteller - Maple Plain
Patina - Roseville - Roseville
The Thinking Spot - Wayzata
Patina - Woodbury

SEE MAP



Book Group Thursday, March 12th (1:00 to 3:00 pm)

We are reading The First Ladies by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. All are welcome to join the conversation... even if you have not read the book.

Looking Ahead

22	FEB, SUN	<div></div> 9:15 – 10am	Adult Choir Rehearsal
		<div></div> 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
		<div></div> 11:15 – 11:45am	Sunday School (for Ages 5 & Older)
24	FEB, TUE	<div></div> 11am – 12:30pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group
		<div></div> 1 – 2:30pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group
25	FEB, WED	<div></div> 7:30 – 8:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
26	FEB, THU	<div></div> 5:30 – 7pm	Collaborative Lenten Meal & Worship Service @ Morningside Hills UCC
1	MAR, SUN	<div></div> All day	Choir is OFF
		<div></div> 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service & Communion
		<div></div> 11:15 – 11:45am	Sunday School (for Ages 5 & Older)
3	MAR, TUE	<div></div> 11am – 12:30pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group
		<div></div> 1 – 2:30pm	MnCAN Aphasia Group
4	MAR, WED	<div></div> All day	NO Choir Rehearsal
5	MAR, THU	<div></div> 5:30 – 7pm	Collaborative Lenten Meal & Worship Service @ Chapel Hills UCC
8	MAR, SUN	<div></div> 9:15 – 10am	Adult Choir Rehearsal
		<div></div> 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
		<div></div> 11:15 – 11:45am	Sunday School (for Ages 5 & Older)



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



“Abundant Grace”

First Sunday in Lent

The season of Lent begins with a 40-day trip into the harsh and desolate wilderness. While it might not be as enticing as a trip to Tahiti, it is an important one nevertheless. It is our time to learn from Jesus how to deal with our own wild beasts, our own hungers and thirsts, and our own run-ins with the Tempter, by leaning on God’s Word.

This year, though, I don’t need to say “yes” to this invitation to follow Jesus into the desert. That’s because I have never emerged. I have been in a state of wilderness lostness for quite some time. Wild beasts remain nipping at my ankles. False promises of stones turning into bread have not satiated the hollow pit in my soul. And tempters seem to be trying to get my attention everywhere I turn.

It is easy to “do” Lent when everything is right in the world. When we feel safe and hopeful, Lent becomes a season of eagerly listening to God, slowing down, praying more, and helping others. But when worries of rising grocery bills and whether it is safe to go out in a public place overtake your thoughts, you wonder: Is this harsh world the norm?

I know I am not alone asking this, as studies show how hurtful and hateful society has become. There was a recent poll that revealed a whopping 47% of Americans agreed that people have become rudier to one another since Covid. The other day, a colleague shared an insight that I found profound. She observed how there was a growing sense of entitlement, yet no one had any shame over the things they said and did.

Perhaps this Lenten season is not so much about entering the wilderness as it is about helping one another exit it — to find our way back to hope by holding even tighter to God’s Word, by kicking the wild beasts away, and by claiming the name of Christ when tempters tout false promises.

For here is the good news for all my perpetual wilderness wanderers. There are always — always — angels among us eagerly waiting to administer the help that we need. Perhaps there is one sitting in the pew next to you.

Redeeming God, there are many of us who seem to be trapped in a never-ending wilderness. The weight of the world’s worries and fears are robbing us of joy and hope. Strengthen us. Grant us courage. Increase our faith. May this Lent we reach out to one another so that we emerge from our desert desolation together, united in a love that no evil can destroy. 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*.)