

*We need
your help...*



Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • June 23, 2022

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In-Person Worship Service
Sunday, June 26th @ 10:15 a.m.

The service will also be available via Zoom for those desiring to participate from home

@ <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85903787105>

or by dialing **1-312-626-6799** and enter the Meeting ID: **859 0378 7105 #**.

A Note from the Outreach Team

Chapel Hills,

To whom much is given, much will be required (Luke 12:48).

The Outreach Team has been alerted by VEAP that their pantry is running very low this summer. A lot of reasons for this- some detailed below but the bottom line is they can really use our help with donations- be these essential items or financial contributions. Thanks to all have who have given in the past and will give in the future. VEAP is a vital part of our community, and we are a vital partner.

PS- Expect to hear more information in the next few weeks about VEAP's Back to School Project.

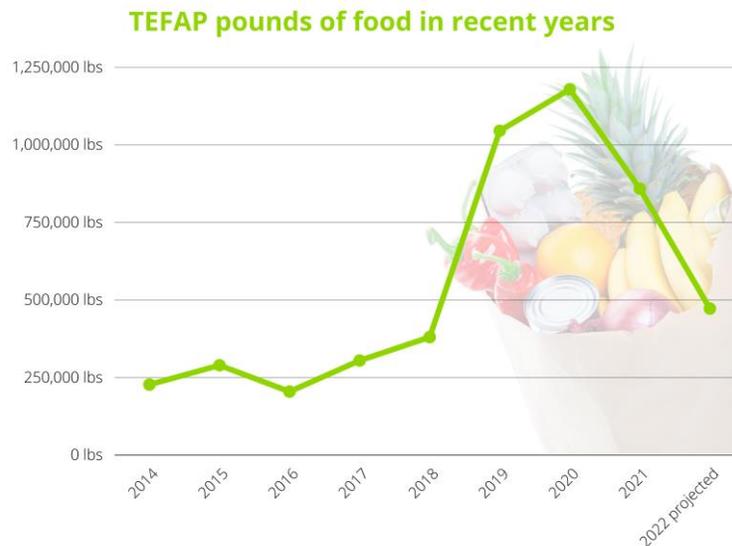
Tom & Barb Okonek



Emergency Summer Food Campaign

VEAP purchases and receives food for our pantry from many sources, including the U.S. government. For many years, VEAP has benefited from surplus crops grown and distributed through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

During the pandemic, aid from TEFAP grew enormously to meet the increased need in communities across the country. Now, rising inflation, supply chain disruptions and the end of pandemic-related supports (including a significant drop in TEFAP) have led to food shortages across the nation—and VEAP is feeling the negative effect.





In Prayer

- Anna Kerr is currently in the Fairview Riverside Adult Mental Health Unit.
 - Healthcare and front-line workers.
 - Michelle Liebl's dad, Lee Carlson was diagnosed with cancer.
 - Prayers for Doug Allen, Mark Billy, Sandy Davis-Lerner, Julie Ford, Jack Gillespie, Dorothy Lundberg, Annette Ronan, Timm, Tracy & Tristalyn Smith, Gail Stalpes, and Marge Williams
-

Upcoming Events this Summer



**It's not too late to sign-up
to participate in the
Edina 4th of July Parade.**

(Sign-Up Sheet is in the Narthex)



Looking For Volunteers

- to deliver flyers to the neighborhood on Sunday, July 24th
- to help set-up &/or clean-up on Tuesday, August 2nd

**Please sign-up
in the Narthex if you can help!**

Looking Ahead

26	JUN, SUN	●	10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
28	JUN, TUE	●	12 – 1:30pm	Picnic Lunch & Conversation
3	JUL, SUN	●	10:15 – 11:15am	Communion
		●	10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
4	JUL, MON	●	10am – 1pm	Edina 4th of July Parade
5	JUL, TUE	●	12 – 1:30pm	Picnic Lunch & Conversation
6	JUL, WED	●	12 – 5:45pm	Villard Summer Cello Lessons
10	JUL, SUN	●	10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
11	JUL, MON	●	12 – 5:45pm	Villard Summer Cello Lessons
12	JUL, TUE	●	12 – 1:30pm	Picnic Lunch & Conversation
		●	6:30 – 8:30pm	Church Council Meeting
13	JUL, WED	●	12:30 – 5:45pm	Villard Summer Cello Lessons
17	JUL, SUN	●	10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
18	JUL, MON	●	12 – 4:45pm	Villard Summer Cello Lessons
		●	5:30 – 7pm	Manor Homes of Edina Special Meeting



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

Weekly Devotion from Pastor Kristen

I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also, my heart instructs me.

I keep the LORD always before me; because my God is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. —Psalm 16

Safety and security. This is the core of what all of God's people seek. We want to know that we are safe and will be safe. Nothing else can matter much if we lack a sense of security. Conversely, nothing can bother us if we feel completely secure. The purpose of God's instruction, of this ongoing presence of Holy Spirit and guidance is for our security. God grants us this ongoing internal spiritual podcast for our peace of mind and sense of safety. The leading of God is there to assure you.

And so why is it that we can so easily become disenchanted? What is it that has threatened our sense of self, our future, our place in the world, our importance and lovability? Why would we ever feel shaken by life or "moved" from a sense of security in all things?

The answers to why we ever feel insecure are endless for all of us. What might disturb us on one day could be very different than what has in the past or will in the future. But the final answer to the question of why we would ever feel insecure is one according to the ancient wisdom of the Psalmist. The Psalmist tells us here that we can always find security, even in those spooky moments in the night when something feels threatening. We are promised here that the Lord is always before us, at our right hand.

It doesn't take much to spook me. My sweet little girl has forever found it hilarious to hide in dark corners and jump out at me. I avoid scary movies on purpose and try not to wander around in places where danger is probable. I don't enjoy being scared anymore but it wasn't always that way. Somewhere years ago, I didn't feel much fear about anything. I used to go to horror movies with my friends for fun. I used to feel like I could go anywhere in the city. I used work in North Minneapolis on purpose and even worked with men just out of prison for a while.

I have told myself that the caution of my older self is wisdom. That is mostly true. Some of it has to do with being a parent. Some of it has to do with finding myself exposed to real actual scary things in real life. But it seems that as I grow older, more and more I prefer to know, if possible, what is happening next. I have learned somewhere along the way to seek out security for myself—on my own. Many of us, I believe, as responsible people and good parents will seek out security on purpose.

The problem arises, however, when life doesn't grant us a map or a timetable for what we think we are going to need. And we never have all the information we need to make a good choice for all of the future. The changing reality just doesn't give us that kind of certainty.

The Psalmist describes a different kind of certainty though. We are promised that God will be with us, near us, always before us, knowing what is best and next and secure for us. We are promised constant counsel in the dark times of life and instruction that will come to us through our own beating heart. This constant presence is the guidance of living in the present moment of life and trusting that when the next moment and next day arrives, we will be guided through that chapter as well.

PRAYER: *God, thank you for your constant guidance in my life. Grant me the security of knowing that you are always before me, knowing what is next and paving a way for me to live in your grace. Teach me to listen to your voice as you lead from my own heart in in each moment of my life. AMEN.*



“Pick Up the Mantle”

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Open and Affirming Sunday

An elder and a younger man go on a journey. Finally, the elder says to the youngster, “You have come far enough. The rest of the journey, I will make myself.” The younger person persists, saying that he will continue to accompany the elder even if it is difficult. At last, the youngster has the honor of walking with the elder all the way to the end of his days. In so doing, the youngster receives a mantle that he can carry to the next generation.

On this Open and Affirming Sunday, we read the story of the elder prophet Elijah and his student Elisha. As we hear the story of this passing of the mantle, we pause to honor members of the LGBTQ community 65 years and older. If we are in that group of elders, how might we pass the mantle to the younger generation? And, if we are in a younger generation, how might we accompany our elders on the great journey that for all of us ends in being received into the arms of the Holy One?

There are at least two million lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people 65 and older in the U.S., and this population will double by the year 2030. Many LGBTQ seniors are isolated and lonely. Often subject to mistreatment in retirement communities and nursing homes, they need the resources churches can provide. The majority of these seniors have been alienated from organized religion for most of their lives: an Open and Affirming congregation can be a lifeline to community, understanding and respect.

An effective ministry for LGBTQ seniors is an opportunity for partnership with your LGBTQ community center and other welcoming churches and synagogues. If your church is the only LGBTQ-welcoming congregation in your community, and there is no LGBTQ community center, there are still likely to be LGBTQ seniors—most of them closeted—who can be reached if you publicly affirm your welcome.*

You can find resources and more ideas at openandaffirming.org

*“Seniors.” *UCC Open and Affirming Coalition*, 27 Dec. 2020,
<https://openandaffirming.org/resources/seniors/>.