



## Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • May 19, 2022

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### In-Person Worship Service & Congregational Meeting **Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 10:15 a.m.**

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

@ <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88577791708>

or by dialing **1-312-626-6799**

and enter the Meeting ID: **885 7779 1708 #.**



## *In Prayer*

- 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
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## **Congregational Meeting • Sunday, May 22 • Following Worship**

Join us after church on May 22 for a brief congregational meeting to vote on changes to the church bylaws and to elect the new church council. The changes to the bylaws are relatively minor, chiefly updates to the committee structure and incorporating the mission and values statement we formed earlier this year.

We will also discuss progress on renovations, including the hiring of an architect and preliminary bids for various projects. The council will also ask the church to authorize a budget of up to \$200,000 for improvements to the basement, including updates to the bathrooms and kitchen in coming months. We will discuss how we will pay for the improvements, too.



**Special thanks to those who joined us on a beautiful Saturday morning  
for our Annual Spring Yard Clean-up!**

From left to right... Dee Chance, Molly Lee, Bob Huber, Ron Molony, Stephanie Tesch, Caroline Mast, Emily Gray, Katara Garraway, Waid Whatley, Carol Abullarade  
Not pictured: Chris Solso, Reggie Solso-Huber, Stacy Kehrwald



On Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> (8a-3p or so), Chapel Hills is teaming up with our neighbors from Walnut Ridge and hosting an outdoor Rummage Sale with much of the proceeds going to local charities including Hats & Mittens, and Edina Meals on Wheels. The event will take place in the parking lot, and we will be providing the space, tables, and chairs for the event. We may need a few people to serve as hosts during the day so if you are willing to take a shift, please see Barb or Tom. Join us and our neighbors on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June as we try and do some "*good in the hood*".

## Celebration Sunday “BBQ/Picnic Lunch”

**Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> - Following Worship**

**Everyone is invited!**

It's time to celebrate our Chapel Hills family and all who walk through our doors.

**SO, WE'RE FIRING UP THE CHARCOAL GRILL!**



Join us for burgers, hotdogs, and the usual picnic fare.

For planning purposes, we ask that you sign-up.

*(The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex - outside Pastor Kristen's office)*

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### **Strengthen the Church Offering (June 5<sup>th</sup>)**

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. We will receive this offering on Pentecost Sunday, June 5, 2022.

## **Little Free Library – In Need of Children’s Books**

Our Little Free Library has proven to be a well-loved spot in our neighborhood. With the anticipated arrival of summer, we’d like to beef-up the variety of books for children. Please consider donating a book or two. You can drop them off anytime (*we try to keep the bottom shelf reserved for children’s books*).



### **Check Out Our NEW Sign**

Special thanks to Tom and Barb Okonek who designed, constructed, and installed this sign in the landscaped area near our front door.

We will be able to easily change the content so those who walk by will learn more about Chapel Hills and any upcoming events.

### **A Note of Thanks...**

#### **Auntie Annie’s Fields – A recipient of last year’s Enduring Fund**

I wanted to let you know that today we were using the tools and chairs we bought with last year’s Enduring Fund Grant.

We scheduled workdays on short notice after our farm took heavy damage in a storm. It was so helpful to have those things already on hand during such a hectic time. And we were just saying that the workdays we are holding to recover from this storm are giving us lots of practice that we can use to host other workdays in the future.

Thank you again,

*Elizabeth*

Auntie Annie’s Fields

## Looking Ahead

22	MAY, SUN	● 9:15 – 10:15am	Choir Rehearsal
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
		● 10:30 – 11:15am	Sunday School
		● 11:15am – 12:15pm	Congregational Meeting
24	MAY, TUE	● 12 – 1:30pm	Spring Picnic Lunch
25	MAY, WED	● 7:30 – 8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
29	MAY, SUN	● All day	NO Sunday School
		● 9:15 – 10:15am	Choir Rehearsal
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
31	MAY, TUE	● 12 – 1:30pm	Spring Picnic Lunch
1	JUN, WED	● 7:30 – 8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
5	JUN, SUN	● All day	Receive Strengthen the Church Offering
		● 9:15 – 10:15am	Choir Rehearsal
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Communion
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
		● 10:30 – 11:15am	Sunday School
		● 11:15am – 12:15pm	Stay for Lunch (Picnic - Cookout)
7	JUN, TUE	● 12 – 1:30pm	Spring Picnic Lunch
10	JUN, FRI	● 8am – 2pm	Neighborhood Yard Sale @ Chapel Hills



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

*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. —Revelation 22:1*

This idea of the river of the water of life is one that transcends Christendom. The importance of water and the belief that there is “water of life” is an interfaith and universal concept.

Our bodies are 75% water. Our brains are 85% water. We need water in our bodies and minds to be fully alive. We need water for our spinal fluid to be fluid. We need water to have blood and healthy cells and every function of what it means to be a human. We begin in water, amniotic fluid, as beings of water. All of the earth and all living things need water. Water is life. We cannot remain alive without it.

We can learn a lot from the characteristics of water. Water adapts to whatever space and setting it is in. If there is a small space it will go there. If there is a lower space it will go there. If there is a large space it can fill it. Water changes forms. It freezes and thaws and falls and evaporates. It is used and yet never used up.

Life requires this kind of adaptability from us. When we learn to go with the flow of life, we become part of the greater experience of God’s creative power. Learning to trust that we can flow into small spaces as well as join in the gathering of living water in large spaces helps us realize how God has created us to be present in many ways. We, like water, can be still and then move and then evaporate and resurface in a new way and yet always remain part of all that is of God.

We are, you are, part of this river of the water of life. It is your very substance and being to be fluid and flowing. You, as part of this river, are from God. God is the source. God is your source not only of what you will need and do need at this moment but of all you have ever been and are.

Do you feel today that you are living in the flow or paddling upstream, or perhaps even up a creek without a paddle? Does life feel flowy and fluid or dry, harsh, and itchy? God invites us on our crunchy days to come in off of the sandy and rocky edges of life and into the easy flow, where God is.

Floating is fun. Rick and I have traveled with our family to the land of the glory of water at Wisconsin Dells. We have discovered there the wonder of the lazy river. It is a chlorinated man-made “river” of water where you can lounge on an innertube and simply float around in a winding loop for an entire afternoon.

There is something divinely relaxing about literally going with the flow (of clear filtered and chlorinated water). The other people on the other innertubes don’t even seem annoying. People can bump right into you or touch your feet with their feet and no one even cares. Everyone is smiling and happy and going with the flow. We all enter into that lazy river with the expectation that we will all flow one way. And the few teenage boys that want to walk against the jets eventually give up and go with the flow too. We agree, no matter what party or denomination, race or creed or body type, economic status or mood that we are going to go this way—with the flow—in a river that has no real end or beginning. When it all comes down to it, isn’t life really just one big lazy river? How much better would it be if we could just be here together in the river of life; no one ahead or behind, all of us relaxed and going with the flow?

**PRAYER:** *God, help me to go with the flow today. Remind me that no one is better or worse, that all of us float and all of us are meant to go with your flow and enjoy the ride of living. AMEN.*



## "Disciples Together"

### Sixth Sunday of Easter

*Rural Life Sunday*

In today's reading, Paul gets called to Macedonia, which is far from the urban centers he has known. On this rural life Sunday, we celebrate pastors in rural communities, who also answer calls far from cities. Today, a few of those pastors reflect on the joys and challenges of being arural church pastor.

Dana Schindler, whose church recently celebrated 150 years together, says that a joy is thatmembers feel a real connection to the church. A challenge is related to the joy. Almost everyone is related, and it can be difficult for new people who are not members of the 2 mainfamilies to feel accepted.

Whitney Prose Bruno writes, "We really are family. (Often literally.) Everyone knows everyone. This means you're welcomed with flaws and merits both. But the challenge is that rural churcheslike most organizational groups are in decline. An urban congregation has the opportunity to share church space with other congregations, and nonprofits. Community continues. A rural congregation does not. If the handful stop meeting, there's not another socialization and community for the elderly (not online) members to join."

Rural churches understand the importance of feeding one another. Sara Bartlett gives thanksfor the joy of shared vegetables from the many gardens in her community. Rev. Deanna Armstrong is proud of her small congregation which produced 200 pounds of food in its community garden. In a drought, at 6,200 feet of elevation.

Family and food are blended with a good bit of humor, too. Rev. Kimberly Shrader, who serves a two-point charge in Maine, says wryly, "The smaller of the churches I serve gave me a bit of a surprise when I first arrived. You see they have to turn the well pump off in late October, which means no restroom in the parish hall. The 200-year-old sanctuary building has no pumping at all. So, the worship service MUST BE 45 minutes, no longer, so they can get to the home of whomever is hosting fellowship."

When Paul received the call to Macedonia, the scripture tells us that he left for there, immediately. Whether they heard and answered the call at once, or responded more slowly,give thanks for rural pastors and the churches they serve today.