



Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • August 11, 2022

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## **In-Person Worship Service** **Sunday, August 14<sup>th</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/85903787105> or by dialing 1-312-626-6799

and enter the Meeting ID: 859 0378 7105 #.

## Weekly Devotion from Pastor Kristen

*Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.  
Stir up your might, and come to save us! —Psalm 80:1-2*

Calling on God's power to save us is part of our legacy as God's people.

When was the last time we did that—actually called on God for help? It is really easy as a church to get busy doing things; planning and sorting details and discussing all the possible outcomes. Church people have even been known to fret and worry about what might or could or might not be possible. We can become so passionate about the church that we forget whose church it really is. We can become so concerned about how things will go that we might just forget why and who we have come to worship in the first place.

Churches belong to God. And churches that thrive are reliant upon God.

Turns out that families belong to God as well. And communities, and nations. And if we can remember the song, we know that the whole world, is actually in God's hands. And yet we worry. We, fragile humans as we are, don't really like to live outside of our comfort zones. None of us do. Too much change at once can leave us unsettled and frightened. And as adapted as we may seem, there will be days when we simply feel uneasy about the many unknowns that lie before us. None of us want to fall into the cracks of an earthquake.

When we live in times like these, with leadership changes in the world, our nation, our local government and our church, we may feel a fear of falling through the cracks. Policy changes, shifting laws, systemic developments all present possible cracks in the foundation of our communities. These can threaten our comfort level, our rights and our place in the world. No one wants to be on the crumbling edge of a fault line, even if it is at church. Living through COVID and the civil unrest of our own city and nation on top of our own process at Chapel Hills has presented us with an emotional and spiritual earthquake of sorts. Feeling uneasy about it all is a pretty normal response. But the recognition of our own anxious feelings can also lead us toward a new deeper reliance upon God.

The Psalmist gave us a prayer for these days of uneasiness and uncertainty: "*Stir up your might, and come to save us!*" It is a simple prayer that can be used on any day at any time. We can use it in the midst of a meeting, or while driving through construction. We can use it when we are waiting for the doctor to call and tell us what's next. We can use it when our families are struggling to get along in life. We can pray for God to stir up God's might and send this power to us to come and save us from whatever it is that feels threatening in the moment.

Sometimes we don't even know why we feel uneasy and threatened. It can just be a culmination of life and circumstances that would lead us to feel the need for God's saving power. The good news is that God always knows what it is that threatens our hearts and spirit, even when we ourselves struggle to identify it. And the good news for us is that we can call on God, to stir up God's mighty saving power in any moment, in any situation and God has promised to answer our prayers.

**PRAYER:** *God, stir up your might and come to save me as I seek to live into your call for my life with your other faithful people. Save us and save me. Send your power, comfort and peace for this day. AMEN.*



## Special Congregational Meeting

On August 9, 2022, the church council voted to call a special meeting of the congregation to be held on **August 28<sup>th</sup> (8/28/22)** following our church service to discuss the progress of our basement renovation and the requirement to sprinkle in order to use the space for a preschool. Adding sprinklers is likely to increase the total cost of renovation above the amount previously approved. More details will be presented at the meeting. We plan to discuss and then will vote to authorize the additional costs. If approved, we also will discuss potential resource allocation to cover the costs.



*In Prayer*

### In Prayer...

- Cindy Stille and Jack Gillespie ask prayers for their friends: Jerry Donnelly (Phoenix, AZ) and Bob Honel (Tomah, WI), both now in hospice.
- Prayers for Karl Jacobson, family of Pastor Kristen, as he continues to recover from Leukemia.
- Anna Kerr asks prayers for her high school friend, Mykayla Cunningham, who is in need of treatment for recurring seizures.
- Annette & John Ronan's son, Michael, who is being treated for cancer.
- Healthcare and front-line workers.
- Doug Allen, Lee Carlson, Julie Ford, Anna Kerr, Dorothy Lundberg, Annette Ronan, Timm, Tracy & Tristalyn Smith, Gail Stalpes, and Marge Williams.
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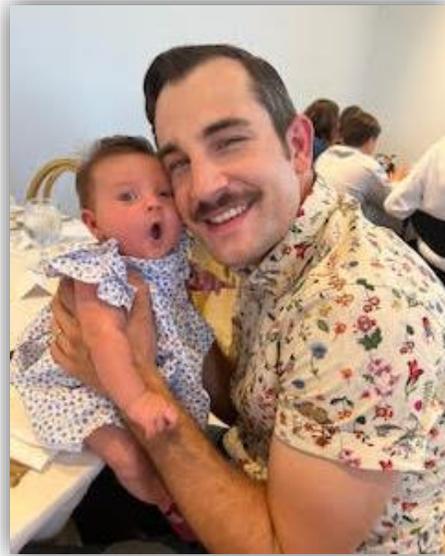
IT'S A  
girl

**Ben & Ashton  
announce the arrival of...**

Louisa "Lulu" Lani Dutcher

born June 4, 2022

6lbs 12ozs, 19 inches



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## Chapel Hills • Job Postings

- **Full-Time Minister**

Chapel Hills is seeking a full-time minister to lead our close-knit, loving congregation. The position has been posted to the United Church of Christ website ([UCC Ministry Opportunities](#)) and we are in the process of establishing a Search Committee. More details coming soon!

- **Christian Education Specialist**

The Enrichment Team is looking for a Christian Education Specialist to teach Sunday School (Sept. through May) and contribute to additional Enrichment Team sponsored activities. We are looking for a creative and upbeat individual to provide a safe, loving, and nurturing learning environment that promotes faith development. This is a paid position. The position description is attached.

**Our New Audio-Visual equipment is being installed this week!  
We are excited about the new and improved options it will provide.**

## Looking Ahead

14	AUG, SUN	●	10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
16	AUG, TUE	●	12 – 1:30pm	Picnic Lunch & Conversation
21	AUG, SUN	●	10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
23	AUG, TUE	●	12 – 1:30pm	Picnic Lunch & Conversation
		●	6:30 – 7:30pm	Church Council Meeting
28	AUG, SUN	●	10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
		●	11:15am – 12:15pm	Special Congregational Meeting
30	AUG, TUE	●	12 – 1:30pm	Picnic Lunch & Conversation
4	SEP, SUN	●	10:15 – 11:15am	Communion
		●	10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
6	SEP, TUE	●	12 – 1:30pm	Picnic Lunch & Conversation
		●	6:30 – 8:30pm	Church Council Meeting
10	SEP, SAT	●	11am – 12pm	Orosz Baptisms



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



## **“Restore Us”**

### **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

In today’s psalm, God’s people are envisioned as a vine, planted and carefully tended by God. How might we participate with God in being planters and tenders of the church and its leaders?

Last winter, UCC President John Dorhauer and Pension Board President and CEO Brian Bodager encouraged church members to be vine tenders, as they described one of the crises facing church leadership.

“Seminary and educational debt, the debilitating nature of limited income and the uncertainty of a secure financial future represent a deepening crisis for many pastors in the United Church of Christ,” they wrote in a joint letter. The Ministers’ Financial Vitality Initiative (MFVI) is a program to help ministers address this problem with practical tools. Participants in the program receive financial gifts of \$9000 for debt reduction, \$1000 to seed a retirement account and the support of a cohort of fellow pastors and financial experts.

The Ministers' Financial Vitality Initiative strengthens ministry in the UCC by:

- increasing and enhancing financial literacy among UCC authorized ministers, with a particular emphasis on ministers from historically underrepresented groups within the denomination;
- assisting UCC ministers and their Ministry settings, Associations, Conferences, and the National Setting of the Church in “breaking the conspiracy of silence” that exists around pastoral finances;
- providing financial assistance to UCC authorized ministers toward repayment of educational and personal debt as well as seeding of pension funds;
- engaging key lay leaders in UCC churches in collaborative efforts to identify and address the connection between pastoral financial challenges and ministry setting financial challenges; and;
- launching a major fundraising campaign to solicit major gifts that will enable the long-term sustainability, and continued expansion of the program

You can be a vine-tender along with God, planting and nurturing growth. One way is to support the MFVI with your gift at [pbucc.org](http://pbucc.org).