



**LOVE IS  
LOUDER**

Love Your Neighbor **OUT LOUD**

[ucc.org/loveislouder](http://ucc.org/loveislouder)

Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • April 23, 2026

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**Sunday, April 26, 2026**  
**Worship Service @ 10:15 am**

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 will be away on continuing education from April 27<sup>th</sup> through May 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Nancy Norris-Weber will be available for congregational care  
and can be reached at 612-741-4824.



### *In Prayer*

- Joann Hunt is back home, and we hope to see her back at church soon.
- Our dear friend, John Burgart, passed away on Sunday, April 12. Please keep Becky, their children Claire & Evan, daughter-in-law Anne, and granddaughter Nora, in prayer as they mourn a treasured life.
- Doug Allen is receiving care at St. Gertrude's Health Center in Shakopee (the address is 1850 Sarazin St, Shakopee, MN 55379). Please keep Doug, Meredith, and their family in prayer.
- Maria S. – age 69, a friend of Kim Vacanti, has been diagnosed with cancer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time.
- Sherilyn Aske, Becky Burgart & family, Loretta Centgraf, Dee Chance, Louise Ford, Juleah Foss, Paula Fox, family of Meredith Glass, Bob Huber, Russell Hunt Jr, Jerry Kerr, Jordan Kerr, Molly Lee-Lafferty, Kathleen (Kathy) Molony, Jeff Olander, Marion Rova, Allii Scudder, The Shermans (Sonny, Ashley & Dakota), Shelley Tang, and Amanda Trosen

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**"No matter who you are or where you are  
on life's journey, you're welcome here."**

## Rev. Christian is off to Ireland!!!!

I was awarded a grant this year by the pension boards of the UCC to do something that will enhance my ministry. Last year, (when I received the same grant) I took a trip to Berlin, Germany to create a framework to help outline topics and different bible stories I could preach on for the remainder of the year and into the start of the coming year.

I was able to successfully give myself a framework for what I would be teaching on for the next 8 – 10 months, and I found I was less anxious on a weekly basis and had more mental space to give to the variety of things that being a minister entails.

I decided this was something I needed to do every year if possible. This Sunday night, I will be heading to Ireland to spend time creating a framework for what I'm teaching on in the coming year and into the next. When I won't be in a café on my laptop, I will be roaming the streets of Dublin and searching for leprechauns and pots of gold in the woods of Ireland.

If you've been to Ireland and have any recommendations for things to do or see, or ideas for how to smuggle mass amounts of gold back through the airport, please send that along!!!!

I will be gone from 4/27-5/3 and during that time Nancy Norris-Weber will be available for any congregational care. Her number is 612-741-4824.

**BE THE Change**

**MINNEAPOLIS YOUTH CHORUS**

**PRELUDE CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

**SUMMER ARTS & JUSTICE CAMP**

**FREE TO ATTEND!**

**JUNE 22-26, 2026  
8:30AM - 12:30PM  
CREEKSIDE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**MUST BE IN 3RD-8TH GRADE IN  
FALL OF 2026 OR CURRENT  
MYC/PRELUDE FAMILIES**

**VISIT [MNCHORALE.ORG/MYC-AND-PRELUDE](https://www.mnchorale.org/myc-and-prelude) TO REGISTER**

**HOSTED BY:**

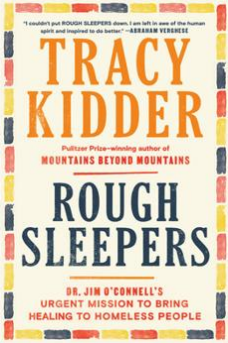
**MINNESOTA CHORALE**

**CREEKSIDE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

## Book Group

**Second Thursday of the Month (1:00 to 3:00 pm) @ Chapel Hills**

All are welcome to join the conversation... even if you have not read the book.

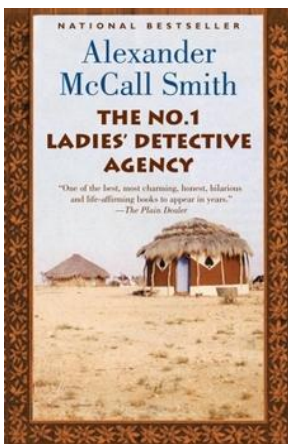


**Thursday, May 14:**

**Rough Sleepers** **Dr. Jim O'Connell's Urgent Mission to Bring Healing to Homeless People** by Tracy Kidder - The powerful story of an inspiring doctor who made a difference, by helping to create a program to care for Boston's homeless community--by the Pulitzer Prize-winning, New York Times bestselling author. He emphasizes a style of medicine in which patients come first, joined with their providers in what he calls "a system of friends."

[Tracy Kidder Obituary \(1945 - 2026\) - Legacy Remembers](#)

Tracy Kidder, who won the 1982 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction for "The Soul of a New Machine," died March 24, 2026, of lung cancer at his daughter's home in Boston at the age of 80. Kidder's greatest achievement was showing that ordinary people, like engineers, teachers, doctors, and the homeless, could be the heroes of serious literary nonfiction. Over five decades, he helped transform narrative nonfiction into a major American art form, inspiring other writers to find urgent human stories in unglamorous places. His books drew millions of readers into worlds they might otherwise never have noticed.



**Thursday, June 11:**

This first novel in **Alexander McCall Smith's** widely acclaimed **The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency** series (26 novels to date) tells the story of the delightfully cunning and enormously engaging Precious Ramotswe, who is drawn to her profession to "help people with problems in their lives." Immediately upon setting up shop in a small storefront in Gaborone, Botswana, she is hired to track down a missing husband, uncover a con man, and follow a wayward daughter. But the case that tugs at her heart, and lands her in danger, is a missing eleven-year-old boy, who may have been snatched by witchdoctors.

# Cooks of Chapel Hills



**Saturday,  
April 18,  
2026**



# #11 for Jacob

Jacob Wetterling believed in a fair and just world, a world where all children know they are special and deserve to be safe.

To remember and honor Jacob's hope for our world, be part of #11forJacob. This movement centers around 11 simple traits:

1. Be Fair
2. Be Kind
3. Be Understanding
4. Be Honest
5. Be Thankful
6. Be a Good Sport
7. Be a Good Friend
8. Be Joyful
9. Be Generous
10. Be Gentle with Others
11. Be Positive



## April Birthdays

Julie Ford - 5<sup>th</sup>  
Sonny Sherman - 8<sup>th</sup>  
Ashley Sherman - 9<sup>th</sup>  
Joann Hunt - 21<sup>st</sup>  
Brittany McBeath - 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Ron Molony - 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Ethan Norris-Weber - 27<sup>th</sup>  
Brad McBeath - 29<sup>th</sup>



do  
**JUSTICE**  
love  
**KINDNESS**  
walk  
**HUMBLY**  
with God.  
-Micah 6:8

Special invitation from Beth Gusenius...  
Rock & Roll Kids Choir, ages 4-12, will be performing rock and pop classics.

## SPRING CONCERT



**ROCK & ROLL**  
KIDS CHOIR

with special guest

*Jeremy Messersmith!*

**MAY 9**

3:00 PM  
WASHBURN HS  
AUDITORIUM, MPLS

**TICKETS ON  
SALE NOW!**



[WWW.ROCKANDROLLKIDSCOIR.COM](http://WWW.ROCKANDROLLKIDSCOIR.COM)

## Looking Ahead

26	APR, SUN	● 9:15 – 10am	Adult Choir Rehearsal
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
		● 11:15 – 11:45am	Sunday School (for Ages 5 & Older)
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29	APR, WED	● 7:30 – 8:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
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3	MAY, SUN	● 9:15 – 10am	Adult Choir Rehearsal
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service & Communion
		● 11:15 – 11:45am	Sunday School (for Ages 5 & Older)
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5	MAY, TUE	● 6:30 – 8pm	Church Council Meeting
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6	MAY, WED	● 7:30 – 8:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
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7	MAY, THU	● 4 – 7:30pm	Villard Cello Rehearsal & Concert - Sanctuary
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10	MAY, SUN	● All day	Choir's Last Sunday until Fall
		● 9:15 – 10am	Adult Choir Rehearsal
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
		● 11:15 – 11:45am	Sunday School (for Ages 5 & Older)
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14	MAY, THU	● 1 – 3pm	Book Group
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17	MAY, SUN	● All day	Recognizing our Sunday School Program
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
		● 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.easytith.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



## **“Powerful Witness”**

### **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

With that opening verse, Psalm 23 soars to the top of the greatest psalms of all time chart, becoming words whispered when lonely shadows are our only friends or when a sea of mourners need a blessed balm for broken hearts.

Psalm 23 is our perennial witness of the powerful truth that with the Lord we do not need anything else. But as popular as the psalm is, have you ever stopped to truly understand what the psalmist was saying about this incredible provision of love? For example, what does it mean to have a table prepared for us in the presence of our enemies?

Personally, I would not welcome such a dinner party in my life. But understanding ancient Middle Eastern culture helps us see better what God is up to for the host of a meal was not just offering a delectable leg of lamb. The host, through the meal, was offering protection for the guest that was invited. Once a seat was taken at the host’s table, no enemy was allowed access to the guest. So that table prepared for us among all our enemies is God saying, “I got you. In the presence of danger, no harm will come to you because you are at my table.”

While we are here unpacking familiar verses, let’s take a closer look at the Lord anointing our head with oil. Yes, anointing one’s head is a symbolic act of consecrating a person chosen by God, and we are all chosen — called — by God to care for one another. But anointing with oil was also a common practice among shepherds for their sheep. The oil would be poured on the sheep’s head to act as a barrier against pesky flies. The oil would also act as a soothing balm, helping to heal scratches on the sheep’s head from either branches, thorny brush or the occasional head-butting from another sheep.

So, when we hear the Lord anoints our heads, he is not just setting us aside for the holy work of loving our neighbors. He is providing us with a barrier against those proverbial buzzing insects and confrontational head-butts in life, because such annoyances just don’t happen to sheep, do they?

Yes, the Lord is our shepherd. With him, we lack nothing. His protection of us is abundant.

*Shepherding God, it is a joy and a privilege to be part of your Son’s flock. We thank You for the constant care You give us each day. May we never take such love for granted. 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*.)