



Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • February 26, 2026

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Sunday, March 1, 2026

Worship Service & Communion @ 10:15 am

Second 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.
- 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



Palm Sunday Breakfast - Sunday, March 29th

Join us for breakfast – anytime between 8:45 & 10:00 a.m. (egg casserole, baked french toast, fruit and coffee & juice). For planning purposes, please sign-up in the narthex.

Easter Flowers from Bachman's

It's time to order your Easter flowers.

Celebrate the season of renewal with Bachman's-grown spring classics including Easter Lilies, tulips, azaleas, hydrangeas, mums and pansy bowls.

	Cost
10" Pansy Bowl	\$16.00
6" Easter Lily (White)	\$11.00
6" Asiatic Lily (Yellow)	\$11.00
6" Asiatic Lily (Orange)	\$11.00
6" Asiatic Lily (Pink)	\$11.00
6" Azalea (Pink)	\$23.00
6" Azalea (White)	\$23.00
6" Azalea (Pink/White Bicolor)	\$23.00
6" Hydrangea (Blue)	\$25.00
6" Hydrangea (Pink)	\$25.00
6" Tulip (Yellow)	\$9.00
6" Tulip (Purple)	\$9.00
6" Tulip (Pink)	\$9.00
6" Tulip (Orange)	\$9.00
6" Mum (Yellow)	\$11.00
6" Mum (White)	\$11.00
6" Mum (Purple)	\$11.00

It is our tradition that the Easter flowers are displayed for all to enjoy on Easter morning and then taken home after the service.

Order forms are available on the table outside the church office.

Please make check payable to Chapel Hills UCC (write Easter Flowers on the memo line)

Order Deadline: Wednesday, March 18

Helping Our Neighbors During the Month of March

Twin Cities residents and charities are coming through to help their neighbors who are staying inside their homes because of fear of ICE. Between now and March 31st Chapel Hills is teaming up with VEAP to supply those people in need with **emergency express packets**, which include: 2 cans of protein (tuna, pork, chicken), 1 beans (dry is fine), 1 peanut butter, 1 can of vegetables, 1 can of fruit, brown rice, pasta (no mac and cheese), and pasta sauce. VEAP says no need to separate that food from any other donations that you leave in the church narthex. People can also contribute money by check, with VEAP written on the memo line, or through our secure online site – click here: [GIVING](#).

I visited VEAP headquarters at 9600 Aldrich Ave S in Bloomington for the first time this past week and was very impressed. People were lined up in cars to receive food, and people were lined up next to them to donate. The warehouse was full of all kinds of food, along with cleaning and personal care items. And the workers were so welcoming. I was so happy to drop off 69 pounds of food and other items from the generous folks at Chapel Hills.

Pam Huey



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>.

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.

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.

This is a powerful story of friendship between Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune, who collaborated to fight for justice and equality despite personal challenges and threats.

For April 9th we will discuss The River We Remember by William Kent Krueger.

In 1958, a small Minnesota town is rocked by a shocking murder, pouring fresh fuel on old grievances in this dazzling novel, an instant New York Times bestseller and “a work of art” (The Denver Post). Both a complex, spellbinding mystery and a masterful portrait of mid-century American life that is “a novel to cherish” (Star Tribune, Minneapolis), The River We Remember offers an unflinching look at the wounds left by the wars we fight abroad and at home, a moving exploration of the ways in which we seek to heal, and a testament to the enduring power of the stories we tell about the places we call home.

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

March Birthdays

Mats Edwards - 4

Laura Feierabend - 4

Jess Chancey - 7

Jeff Derby - 15

Liz Derby - 20

Stacy Kehrwald - 21

Katara Garraway - 23

Barb Okonek - 25

Andrea Erickson - 26

Dorothy Lundberg - 27

Marj Johnson - 30

Looking Ahead

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



Make America KIND Again
Buttons...

Wear One, Share One!

(available at church in the narthex)



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



“Bold Blessing”

Second Sunday in Lent

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. — John 3:16

Twenty-seven words. That’s all John uses to tell us about this life of faith. It’s short, sweet and powerful. So much so that German Reformer Martin Luther labeled the 27 words “the heart of the Bible, the Gospel in miniature.”

But could it really be that simple?

I asked that question once when I found myself singing a Vacation Bible School song about John 3:16 in front of 20 sugared-up children. As I belted out the biblical truth about God loving the world — complete with the choral refrain “he is the truth, the way, the life”— I wondered what those words would mean someday to the little voices that joined me off key.

Would remembering God’s limitless love for them be the very thing that would save them? And how many would go beyond the way-too commercialized Gospel soundbite of John 3:16 to grapple alongside Nicodemus, the educated Pharisee who was told by Jesus that “no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above?”

While it would be wonderful for 27 words to be the Gospel in miniature, we know there’s more to this life of faith. There are dark nights of the soul as well as glorious epiphanies.

Through it all, we question God’s love more often than we like to admit, and we find it down right frightening to surrender to the Spirit. As Jesus explained to Nicodemus it is the second birth of the Spirit, not flesh, that will help us see a bit better the reign of God. But the Spirit, Jesus says, will blow where it chooses.

And that is okay. Really. Read my words again. It is okay to allow the Spirit to blow you in the God direction. Go to the unknown and unwelcomed places knowing that as you are guided by the Spirit. God’s bold blessing is forever with you. That is the blessing of a love so strong and steadfast that no harm will ever come to you.

Now that’s the song I wish I belted out for those children at Vacation Bible School — a song of being born in the Spirit and of living unafraid of life’s twisting and changing paths, for there’s always an abundance of God’s redemptive love for them — and for you.

Loving and merciful God, on this second Sunday in Lent may we feel the Spirit winds whipping in our lives, leading us to be born again into new creations that are awakened to the never-ending God opportunities. 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*.)