

Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • November 12, 2026

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Sunday, November 15, 2026

Worship Service @ 10:15 am

Pledge Sunday - Potluck following worship

Nursery is available for infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children.

NO Sunday School this week.

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.
Christian'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 Christian.
He will be in touch as soon as possible.



In Prayer

- Allii Scudder's mother-in-law, Sherilyn Aske, fell and broke her hip. She had surgery and will be going to rehab for a couple weeks, and then back to memory care.
- Josie's daycare provider (Miss Jen) just lost her 6-month-old grandchild and isn't sure when she will be ready to reopen again.
- Amanda Trosen asks prayers for her friend, Zia, whose 1 ½ month-old daughter died in her sleep this past week.
- Jordan Kerr is experiencing mental health issues and would deeply appreciate your prayers.
- Prayers for Ashley Sherman's physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.
- Prayers for Congresswoman Ilhan Omar and for our nation.
- Prayers for Kim Howard and her daughter, Jodi Bartusek, as they make health decisions.
- Doug Allen, Jane Berne's friends – Karen and Larry, Charles Camilli, Loretta Centgraf, Dee Chance, Julie Ford, Louise Ford, Emily Gray's friend Laura, Joann Hunt, Jordan Kerr, Kathleen (Kathy) Molony, The Shermans (Sonny, Ashley & Dakota), Landon Trosen

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Scam Alert…

If you receive a text or email message from Rev. Christian requesting gift cards, please **IGNORE** and **DELETE**. **This is a SCAM!**

Ongoing awareness is needed to avoid scams. Pastors and churches across the country are experiencing being misrepresented in texts, emails, and calls. Never go out and buy gift cards, send codes by text or over email. **Pastors will never ask for funds through emails or texts.**



November Birthdays

Bob Guelich – 4th

Kelsey Derby – 5th

Krissy Kerr – 7th

Luca Del Aquila – 11th

Becky Burgart – 18th

Caroline Mast – 20th

Jon Scudder – 20th

Ann Derby – 28th



Andrea Erickson and Sandy Davis

Together, they represent 97 years of musical service to Chapel Hills!

Book Group – Thursday, November 12th (1:00 to 3:00 pm)

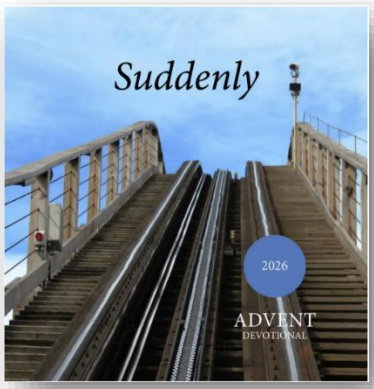
Join us as we discuss James: A Novel, by Percival Everett. An alternate telling of the Huck Finn story, from the viewpoint of his friend and protector, the slave Jim. Books are available to checkout at church thanks to the magic of Library Book Kits.

All are welcome to attend… join us even if you haven't read the book.

growing OUR FAITH THROUGH Generosity

Annual Pledge Drive – Week 3

This week's letter will include a pledge card for you to complete and return. This will be your opportunity to join others in our community of faith to support our shared ministry. Under Christian's leadership, and with your committed assistance, we have an exciting and promising year ahead. Thank you in advance for your generous financial support.



Advent Devotionals – pick up a copy

Suddenly, Advent Devotionals are now available in the Narthex.

Written by The Stillspeaking Writers' Group which is composed of United Church of Christ ministers and writers who collaborate on resources for people in the church, outside the church, and not sure about the church.

Save the Date: Christmas Concert Fundraiser at Chapel Hills

Join us as we celebrate the sounds of the season with a Sunday afternoon Christmas concert fundraiser on **Sunday, December 13, at 3:00 pm**. Michelle Liebl, Steve Dahlberg, and Martha Barth's music will warm your heart and lift your spirits. Bring your family and friends!

Admission is free. Donations of winter outerwear—hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and coats—will gratefully be accepted to benefit hats&mittens.

Confirmation Class

Sunday, November 15th from 9:00 – 10:00 am.

A Feast of Gratitude: Pledge Sunday Potluck

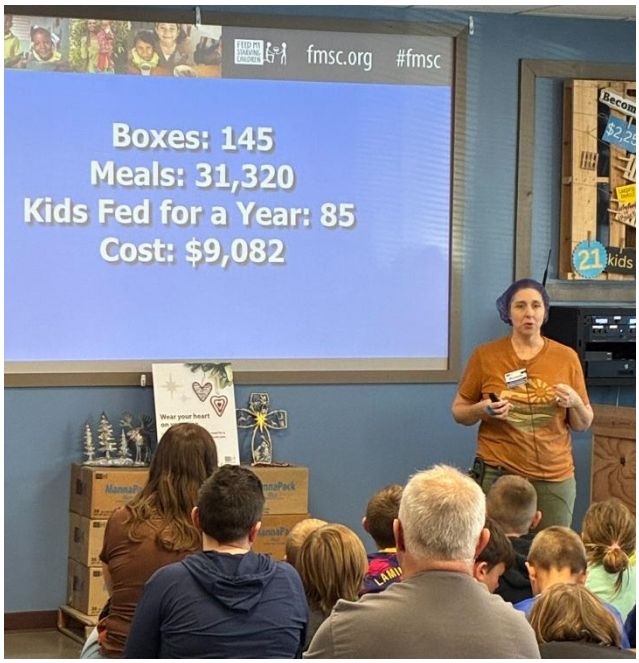
Join us on **Sunday, November 15**, right after our 10:15 am worship service. All are welcome!

Learn about the Singing Resistance at Coffee & Community on November 19th!

We're gathering on **November 19th at 9:00 am** (**note time change!**) to learn about the Singing Resistance movement that organized so effectively during last winter's Operation Metro Surge. We are excited to welcome **Doe Hoyer,** who is a student organizing chaplain on staff at Creekside UCC, where they lead a Singing Resistance pod. Doe has been a community song leader for many years and involved with Singing Resistance as a core organizer from the beginning of the project. Doe will describe about the origins of this movement in the Twin Cities, provide updates about how the project has expanded and evolved, and maybe even teach us a song or two! This promises to be a very special and uplifting gathering for Coffee and Community. Please join us!

Click **here** to learn more about the Singing Resistance Twin Cities!





A Message from Pam Huey…

Last Saturday, nine of us from Chapel Hills went to Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen to pack meals for hungry kids. There was a big crowd of young people, along with sponsoring adults. We were impressed with both how organized everything was and how friendly the volunteers were.

I was joined by three kids and five adults from Chapel Hills. Our group was assigned to pack meals for hungry children in El Salvador. We mixed the rice-based meals, put them into bags, and weighed and sealed the bags. They were then boxed and ready for a long trip to the organization's international partners.

I received a great email the next day from FMSC, thanking us for our contribution and telling us the story of how the meals are sent on a "wild adventure" to about 100 nations.

"Hunger is relentless but so are our partners," a narrator said on a video telling the story. The faces of children holding full plates of food show both joy and relief. The narrator said people who participate aren't just giving food, "they are sending hope."

Thanks to Katara Garraway and Miles and Iz McBeath for doing a great job last Saturday. Thanks also to the adults: Chris Solso, Jeff Remer, Emily Gray, Brittany McBeath and Paul Walsh.



Let's get Christmas started with an Appetizer & Dessert Party!

Sweet and savory, and plenty of cheer!

Join us for a holiday appetizer and dessert party

hosted by Kim Vacanti (10124 Johnson Ave S, Bloomington)

Saturday, December 5 from 6:30 pm - on

Please bring a favorite appetizer or dessert to share.
Kim will provide drinks and a festive place to gather.

All Are Welcome!
Please sign up in the Narthex.

New Address

Ann Lempke
Saint Therese
5200 Oak Grove Pkwy - Rm 316
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443-4031

Thank You, Jane, Becky, and Chris…

… for sharing your stories during our pledge campaign.

Hearing why you give brings our mission to life and reminds us why this community matters so much.

We are deeply grateful for your voices and your continued support.

(read their testimonials below)

Chapel Hills
Pledge Testimonial
Jane Berne



I began attending Chapel Hills in the spring of 2025 and made the decision to formally join in September of that year. I had been looking for a new church home and a community of new friends after moving back to the area in the summer of 2024, and almost immediately I knew that Chapel Hills was that church home and community. I was warmly welcomed by everyone, yet I have been given space to decide how much I wanted to become involved and in what ways. I really appreciated that more low-key approach because I'm much more comfortable taking things at my own pace.

I live nearby and regularly passed by the church. I saw that it was a UCC congregation and saw the pride flag out front. That piqued my interest, and it led me to consult the church's website. What I read about the church's progressive theology and its missions were a great match for my personal theology, my worldview, my values and the way I strive to live my life.

Supporting the church in every way, including financially, is very important to me. I have been part of two progressive congregations that have disbanded due to dwindling attendance and resources. I was part of third progressive congregation that seems to be hanging on by a thread. I think it is essential to keep progressive churches viable as an alternative to the so-called "Christian" churches whose theology strikes me as anything but Christ-like. I have come to think of my membership in Chapel Hills and my support of its missions as a form of quiet resistance. I am so thankful to have found such a wonderful congregation and I'm so grateful to you all for welcoming me into the community.

Thank you!

Chapel Hills
Pledge Testimonial
Becky Burgart



Both my husband, John, and I attended church from birth: he, a Catholic church in a tiny town in northern Iowa, and I, a large Methodist church (3 pastors and 5 choirs) in Des Moines. Despite this start, as a married couple, there were several years when we went to church only when visiting our families.

Eventually, we were active members of a United Church of Christ in Dubuque, Iowa, for decades.

Before we moved to Minnesota 10 years ago, John undertook his usual preparation before making a decision: research. As retirees with strong opinions (I know that's a surprise to everyone), we made a list of requirements for our future church home. Typical of us, some of them were admittedly superficial, but we were serious: an organ, a capable choir, a dedicated sanctuary with pews, and, most important to us, building accessibility. There were even other demands.

After visiting 12 different churches, nearly all whose members had greeted us warmly, we found this one. Early in our Sundays as visitors, Stacy Kehrwald sidled up and asked, "Wouldn't it be easier for John if we took out a row of pews?" We didn't want to be pushy and probably answered, "Well, sure, but..." The next week, the pews were gone.

It was easier. This church was beyond accessible; it was accommodating.

We were open-eyed about the need to pledge annually. In my Des Moines Sunday school, all of us received a small box of envelopes for our weekly offerings. I also remember visiting my grandmother's church in Muscatine, Iowa, putting my few coins in the offering plate, and feeling as if I knew the routine, and I belonged.

In one sense, a church is a business, open at least 52 days of the year, usually many more. It has employees and expenses. It cannot run on air.

In most churches, hearing the words "pledge" and "stewardship" is a given. In reflection of that, every year, the newsletter from John's childhood church listed the amount that each family had given. Ouch!

Conversely, in Dubuque, during one run-up to pledge week, our pastor urged the congregation to "Give until it feels good." That's better.

After all, with apologies to Robert Frost, a church usually can be described as "The place where, when you go there, they take you in, care for you, and don't forget about you." It is our home away from home.

Chapel Hills
Pledge Testimonial
Chris Solso



Wow! After hearing Jane Berne and Becky Burgart speak so eloquently about giving to Chapel Hills, I have some regrets about how enthusiastically I volunteered at our October Church Council meeting to speak about this Fall's pledge drive. What was I thinking?

Well, I think what I was remembering at that Council meeting was how much fun we had as a congregation during last year's pledge drive. There was the pledge thermometer. And the weekly drama of seeing Bob Guelich chart our nearly impossible progress in permanent marker. And there were the pom-poms! Who can forget Christian celebrating our success by spelling out

C-H-A-P-E-L H-I-L-L-S and ending in the side split jump? At the heart of all our exuberance was the realization that we, as a small community of faith, came together to accomplish something greater than we thought possible. Surely, God's hand was guiding us then.

But what about now? As I approach this year's pledge drive, I am moved to speak about gratitude. What a difficult year this has been—across the globe, throughout our country, in our neighborhoods, and among our families and friends. As Operation Metro surge raged through our state, Christian's example and words provided both guidance and hope. **For that, I am grateful.** In the midst of Metro Surge, our congregation dug deep to provide extraordinary support to our mission partner VEAP so that they could help folks needing food and rental assistance. **For that I am grateful.** As people in our church faced personal challenges over these past twelve months, I was heartened to be part of a community that offered many different forms of love and support. **For that, I am grateful.** And, as my own family dealt with life-threatening health issues, Bob and I received an outpouring of love in the form of delicious meals, thoughtful cards, emails, calls, and prayers. **And for that, we are grateful.** Surely, God's hand has been guiding us throughout the year.

Chapel Hills is a special place. Our annual pledge drive is a time for each of us to consider how we can best support this church to be a place of hope, generosity, love, support, and community. How can we do that? Maybe we can increase our pledge just a bit over last year's pledge. Maybe we can join a committee that is working to strengthen this church. Maybe we can think of some new ways Chapel Hills can love and support our neighbors.

Let's tap into the joy of thermometers and pompoms from last year's pledge drive. And, let's consider the depths of our gratitude as we enter this year's pledge drive. In a whole host of ways—each of us will find a way that is meaningful to us to support Chapel Hills. Surely, God's hand will guide us now!

Looking Ahead

12	NOV, THU	1 – 3pm	Book Group
		4:30 – 7pm	Villard Cello Studio - Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
15	NOV, SUN	All day	Pledge Sunday
		9 – 10am	Confirmation Class
		9:15 – 10am	Choir Rehearsal
		10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
		11:15am – 12:15pm	Potluck Following Worship
17	NOV, TUE	10:45am – 2:45pm	MnCAN Aphasia Groups
18	NOV, WED	7:30 – 8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
19	NOV, THU	9:30 – 11am	Coffee & Community
		6:30 – 8:30pm	Villard Cello Recital (Sanctuary)
22	NOV, SUN	9:15 – 10am	Choir Rehearsal

GIVE Securely Online

Offering/Donations

- **Online Giving** (convenient & secure) by clicking this link… https://app.easytithe.com/app/giving/chapelhillsuccedina or by scanning the QR Code to 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

mission MOMENTS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

"Extravagant Opportunity"

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

What if Jesus were telling this story now? Might it sound a little like this?

So, the reign of God is like a businesswoman, preparing to leave for the airport on a business trip, who called three of her employees into the conference office. The employees sat somewhat nervously around the conference table, not sure what to expect. The businesswoman arrived in a hurry and took her customary place at the head of the table. Only then did they notice the large box that sat in front of her on the table.

Then, one by one, she pulled three items out of the box. To the first employee, she gave a small but powerful video camera. That employee immediately left the conference room and began conducting interviews with her coworkers, asking them what had brought them to work at that company. She was amazed about what she learned about people she worked with every day. This employee uploaded the videos onto social media and a couple of them even went viral.

To the second employee, the boss gave a compact typewriter in a carrying case. The next day, during lunch, he offered to type a poem about any subject his coworkers might choose. One by one, his coworkers told him stories about the people they loved, the animals that made them laugh, the mountains that inspired them. And this second employee wrote poems for them all. They shared the poems with each other, delighted to get to know each other in this new way.

To the third employee, the businesswoman gave a pencil. But the third employee didn't know what to do. She stayed in her office alone many nights, just looking at that pencil and wondering what the boss could have meant by giving her such a small and worthless gift.

When the boss came back, she praised the social media campaign of the first employee and thanked the second employee for the increase in morale and sense of comradeship in the office. But with the third employee, who, with a sheepish expression, tried to give her back the pencil, the boss was visibly disappointed. "There are so many ways you could have used this tool, but you chose to do nothing. This is a place for people to take risks and express their creativity, but you have twiddled your thumbs. Next time, the gift will go to someone else altogether."