



Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • April 30, 2026

Chapel [Webpage](#) || Friend us on [Facebook](#) || [YouTube Channel](#) || Online Giving: [Click HERE](#)

Sunday, May 3, 2026

Worship Service & Communion @ 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 27th through May 3rd.

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

Our Guest Minister This Sunday:

Rev. Oby Ballinger served congregations in the United Church of Christ for fifteen years, including at nearby Morningside Hills UCC. In January 2025, he left congregational ministry to start Prism Organizing Network, which develops leaders statewide working for LGBTQ safety, dignity, and freedom. Oby is also a Community Minister at Creekside UCC in Minneapolis, which recognizes that Prism is his primary ministry. When he is not leading this community organizing effort, Oby lives in St. Paul with his husband Javen, cat Amos, and dog Ruthie.



In Prayer

- Kim Vacanti's friend, Maria S., has been officially declared free of cancer following her third diagnosis and treatments.
- Joann Hunt is back home, and we hope to see her 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. John's Celebration of Life is on Saturday, May 9 at 11:00 am.
- 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.
- 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

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."

- **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.

CHAPEL HILLS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST R A I N G A R D E N

WHAT IS A RAINGARDEN?

Raingardens are shallow basins designed to catch and soak in stormwater as it runs off the land.

Why was this raingarden installed?

When stormwater travels over surfaces, like streets and parking lots, it picks up pollution. The polluted runoff travels down stormdrains and directly into nearby waterbodies.

This raingarden soaks in runoff water before it reaches the stormdrain. By soaking in stormwater, the raingarden helps reduce downstream flooding and prevents erosion. The garden also captures and removes phosphorous, a nutrient that fuels algae growth, and removes sediment that is harmful to fish and other aquatic life.

Every year this raingarden helps keep Nine Mile Creek clean by capturing:

0.6 pound of phosphorous ... Preventing 300 pounds of algae!	220,000 gallons of water ... Enough to fill 5250 bathtubs!	100 pounds of sediment ... Equivalent of 2 five-gallon buckets!
---	---	--

How does a raingarden work?

This raingarden captures runoff water. Pollutants are filtered out as the collected water slowly drains through the mulch and soil of the garden. The raingarden plants have deep roots that help the water soak into the ground. The plants are also designed to support pollinators, like bees and butterflies.

YOU CAN HELP! You can help protect Nine Mile Creek. Interested in putting in a raingarden or other clean water project of your own? Grant funding is available from the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. Learn more at: ninemilecreek.org/grants.

This project was done in partnership by the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and Chapel Hills Church of Christ with funding provided by:



Receiving Non-Perishable
Food Items

May Birthdays

Amanda Trosen - 1st
Waid Whatley - 1st
Steve Dahlberg - 3rd
Karen Regan - 6th
Julie Guelich - 10th
Kyle Aske - 22nd
Jim Ford - 31st
Nancy Norris-Weber - 31st



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 TO REGISTER

HOSTED BY:

MINNESOTA CHORALE

CREEKSIDE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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.ROCKANDROLLKIDSCHOIR.COM

Looking Ahead

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)
<hr/>			
5	MAY, TUE	● 6:30 – 8pm	Church Council Meeting
<hr/>			
6	MAY, WED	● 7:30 – 8:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
<hr/>			
7	MAY, THU	● 4 – 7:30pm	Villard Cello Rehearsal & Concert - Sanctuary
<hr/>			
9	MAY, SAT	● 11am – 12pm	Celebration of Life - John Burgart
<hr/>			
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)
<hr/>			
14	MAY, THU	● 1 – 3pm	Book Group
<hr/>			
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)

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



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



“Enduring Witness”

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Stories of the enduring witness of the Celtic saints have always captured my imagination. What adventures they had, and what trust in God that they displayed! We all heard of St. Patrick overcoming being kidnapped, enslaved and using all of life’s travails to glorify God — and chase a snake or two out of the Emerald Isle!

Today I want to introduce you to Gobnait. Believed to have been born in the sixth century, Gobnait was told by an angel to leave her home and keep wandering until nine white deer appeared. When they did, that then would be her place of resurrection — the place where life would be full of meaning.

So Gobnait went off in search of her place of resurrection, wandering for miles until one day the white deer appeared in what is now County Cork, Ireland. There she settled and built a monastery, living her resurrected life of prayer and praise — and beekeeping. (Gobnait is the patron saint of beekeepers.)

When I heard Gobnait’s story, she instantly became my kindred saint. I resonated with the call to find one’s place of resurrection, where all our longings are met and life’s purpose becomes a divine one.

I guess it’s safe to say that I’m always on the lookout for my own nine white deer. The moment I know I’m where I’m meant to be. But for all my yearning and searching, I realize that sometimes I must ask, “Have I already arrived?”

Before ascending to heaven, Jesus told his followers, “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” It is a message we need to hear for our hearts seem to be in a perpetual state of troubling. We feel lonely even though we are not alone. We worry about daily bread for our tables, while others wonder if they will have a roof over their heads as the world-wide housing crisis continues. And we worry about the direction of our lives: Is there more to do? New places to go? Unrealized dreams? Wasted time to redeem?

It would be so wonderful to have white deer appear, for then we would know we have found our divine bliss.

But we all must find our own place of resurrection and that means each journey will be different. What remains the same is that Jesus assures our troubled hearts that there is no need to worry. He goes before us, preparing the way forward. There will always be a place in God’s loving home. Perhaps that message is our white deer this day, making us see that wherever we go, we have already arrived.

Loving God, as we seek our place of resurrection, ease our troubled hearts on this journey by making us alert that we are not alone. You are with us. 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*.)