

# "I have a dream."

"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."

**"THE TIME IS ALWAYS RIGHT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT."**

-Martin Luther King Jr.

**"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."**

*"only in the darkness  
CAN YOU SEE THE STARS."*

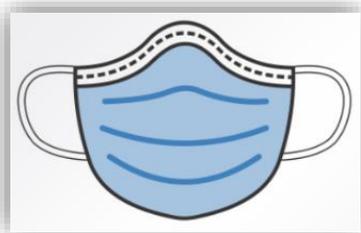
"Life's most persistent and urgent question is,

**"What are you doing for others?"**

Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • January 13, 2022

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## **In-Person Worship Service Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> @ 10:15 a.m.**



**Masks Recommended  
While Indoors**

The service will also be available via Zoom for those desiring to participate from home

@ <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83219966198>

or by dialing 1-312-626-6799 and enter the Meeting ID: 832 1996 6198 #.



## *In Prayer*

- Prayers for Doug Allen as he recovers from scalp cancer surgery.
- Marge Williams is recovering after a fall resulting in broken bones in her back.
- Amanda's childhood friend, Duncan, whose father died recently.
- Friends of Kristen Nelson... Timm, Tracy & Tristalyn Smith. Tristalyn has been diagnosed with Pediatric Chronic Pain Syndrome and is hoping to start outpatient treatment soon.
- Healthcare and front-line workers.
- Tom Okonek's sister, Anne, whose partner, Candy, of over 30 years is dealing with metastatic ovarian cancer.
- Michelle Liebl's parents who are struggling with her mom's move to Memory Care.
- Anna Kerr is continuing her recovery from spine surgery at Gillette Children's Hospital. Visitors are welcome! Phone calls or facetime at 612-356-3296 would also be appreciated.
- Andrea Erickson's friend, Dave, who has been struggling with dementia for some time and is now in hospice. Please keep Dave and his wife, Donna, in prayer.
- Mark Billy, our bass section singer is currently hospitalized. Prayers are requested for Mark and his partner Ryan, as they navigate this journey. Mark would appreciate receiving cards, which can be left in Andrea's church mailbox.
- Gail Stalpes, Jack Gillespie, Annette Ronan, and Julia Ford.

SAVE THE  
DATE

### **Annual Meeting (Sunday, February 13 - following worship)**

We will gather to receive reports, elect officers, and vote to approve the 2022 budget. All are encouraged to attend. Your participation and input is an important part of keeping Chapel Hills connected and vibrant.

### **Wednesday High Tea is BACK... After Taking a Short Holiday Break**

Join us for High Tea and conversation with Pastor Kristen on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Chapel Hills. A great way to connect with our Chapel Hills family. **All Are Welcome!**



## **Looking for Sunday Morning Volunteers to Teach Sunday School**

Our Enrichment Team is trying a new approach to our Sunday School program and would love your help. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to take turns teaching on Sunday mornings. The curriculum has been purchased and lesson plans have been put together (lesson plans includes all supplies/NO prep needed).

- Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex - Consider taking a turn (once a month would be so helpful).
- Time commitment would be... reading through the lesson plan ahead of Sunday and approximately 45-minutes on Sunday morning. Sunday School takes place following the Children's sermon in the Nursery.
- Consider teaming up with your spouse or the person who sits next to you during worship.
- We are studying stories from the Old Testament until March 20. After that we will get ready for Easter and New Testament stories until summer.
- Pickup your lesson plan folder in the Nursery. Feel free to add your own touch or follow what I have laid out. There is also fun stuff on YouTube that I have linked - but no pressure to do that (you would have to bring a laptop or tablet).
- No teaching experience required – just a desire to get to know the youngest among us, who by-the-way are quite exceptional!

### **Questions??**

Feel free to contact me @ [ngnorrisweber@gmail.com](mailto:ngnorrisweber@gmail.com), 612-825-2589 (home), or 612-741-4824 (cell).

Thanks for your consideration,  
Nancy Norris-Weber

## The Transition Team Wants to Hear From You!

Greetings from your Transition Team!

We are working through Task 2 of the Intentional Interim process, and we have reached the point where we need your input. Attached to this newsletter is a new survey that we would like you to complete and get back to us as soon as possible, either by placing it in the box in the narthex, mailing it to the church, or emailing it back after scanning your completed form.

Also, we have scheduled a round of small group meetings to discuss “Discovering a New Identity”, and these will take place during the week of January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Your group leaders will be in touch shortly to let you know the details on days and times for these meetings.

Thank you in advance for your help in providing your thoughts and wishes as we move through this part of the Intentional Interim process. If you have any questions or comments, please contact a member of the Transition Team at any time.

Peace and good will to you all!

The Transition Team

(Mark Brauer, Julie Guelich, Stacy Kehrwald, Barb & Tom Okonek, Evan Ramstad, Chris Solso, Waid Whatley and Kristen Nelson)



Hello Chapel Hills!

I wanted to reach out and thank you again for your donation to Hats & Mittens! Without the support of our community, we wouldn't be able to keep over 17,000 kids and adults warm this winter season.

Warm heads, warm hands, warm hearts!

We're always looking for volunteers to help at the warehouse - sorting, packaging up requests, or delivering - Please don't hesitate to reach out if you know of anyone interested, I can provide more information.

Thank you again!

Charlotte <http://www.hatsandmittens.org/>

## 2022 Pledge Drive is Underway

By now, you have already received a letter about our 2022 pledge drive. Future letters will provide more information on budget, programs, etc.

Please take some time and prayerfully consider your 2022 commitment to Chapel Hills. We count on the generous support from members and friends to help us fulfill our ministry together.

We are grateful for your continued participation in our life of worship and mission.

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## Looking Ahead

January 16	In-Person Worship Service @ 10:15 a.m.
January 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 19	High Tea (1:00 to 3:00 p.m.) NO Choir Rehearsal
January 23	Choir Rehearsal (9:00 a.m.) In-Person Worship Service @ 10:15 a.m.
January 24	Church Council Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
January 25	Intentional Interim Small Groups Begin
January 26	High Tea (1:00 to 3:00 p.m.) NO Choir Rehearsal
January 27	Pastoral Relations Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
January 30	Choir Rehearsal (9:00 a.m.) In-Person Worship Service @ 10:15 a.m.
February 2	High Tea (1:00 to 3:00 p.m.)
February 6	Choir Rehearsal (9:00 a.m.) In-Person Worship Service & Communion @ 10:15 a.m.
February 9	High Tea (1:00 to 3:00 p.m.)
February 13	Choir Rehearsal (9:00 a.m.) In-Person Worship Service @ 10:15 a.m. Annual Meeting – following worship
February 16	High Tea (1:00 to 3:00 p.m.)
February 20	Choir Rehearsal (9:00 a.m.) In-Person Worship Service @ 10:15 a.m.
February 23	High Tea (1:00 to 3:00 p.m.)
February 27	Choir Rehearsal (9:00 a.m.) In-Person Worship Service @ 10:15 a.m.

## Weekly Devotion from Pastor Kristen

*For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. —Psalm 36:9*

It is easy for us to forget what and who our source is. It is easy to believe that what we need to keep going comes from out there, maybe in a package or from an expert or in the pharmacy. It is easy to believe that other people can hold our fate with their power and their words and their choices. And it is easy to decide that we need to forge our own way and take control of life.

*Take life by the horns and seize the day*; is this not the great American mantra—to seize, take, grab at life with all that we have? It seems at times that there is a rip-tide in the concept of capitalism that can pull us under, into this space of grasping. And when we are in that space it can begin to feel like all that we really want is somewhere out there just out of reach. It's hard to see in that space. It can feel like reaching into the unknown hoping that whatever we pull out is something we really want.

God invites us into another way. We are called out of the rip-tide, lifted out of that kind of tumult and set beside the fountain—where the water of life is always cool, clean and accessible. This is a calm space of safety and hope. This is a space of light where we can see that God is in fact the source of the light; like the breaking of dawn. In the sunrise we can see it. We can see clearly where the light is coming from in this other way.

The reason that it is so difficult for us to stay in this space of faith and security is that we struggle to trust it. It is a space that requires us to give up control of it all. This space at the fountain with the sun rising is one that holds mystery. It is the dawn of a new unknown day. This isn't a space where we can comprehend and control the outcome. Dwelling there, in the source of all life, requires us to let go of our plans, our demands, our made-up rules for ourselves, our titles and our deep sense of entitlement.

Imagine yourself there (in a place that is significantly warmer than Minnesota is today)—at the fountain of God, in a beautiful garden with the sun rising into a new day where anything can happen. And then imagine for a moment what it would feel like to have all that you need, right now, here in this moment. Hold that. Stay there. Feel that kind of wholeness. Recognize what it feels like to trust that all that you need is present right now and will be tomorrow and then the day after that.

This is the space of faith. It is a space of mysterious knowing. It is a space where we don't know what is next but don't need to, because we can trust that whatever God is planning is good. This is a space where we don't have to have everything figured out and outlined and mapped out with plan A, and then plan B and then plans C and D and all the other contingency plans that we have created for our lives in our minds. Here in this other way, we can make room in our lives for God to surprise us with something better than we've thought of.

All we really know, if we are honest, is that we don't know much about life and we can't and we won't.

St. Augustine wrote, *"If you have understood, then what you have understood is not God."*

**PRAYER:** *God of all life and light, Lead me to your fountain of life. Remind me each day that you alone are my source. Pull me into your light where I can clearly see that you are the source of my light; the sure and constant guiding light of my whole life. AMEN.*



## **“Extravagant Sign”**

### **Second Sunday After Epiphany**

Weddings join more than the people being married. They join families, traditions, and stories. Generations come together. Children who were strangers become cousins. Two become one in many ways. In this story told in John’s Gospel, there is a wedding with a problem. The wine has run out. Jesus is there, with his mother. In the hands of this gospel author that situation turns into an opportunity to make a point about a moment in the first century when the religious landscape was changing. This is a story about the transformation of traditions.

During the time that John’s Gospel came into being, synagogues were being disrupted by Jews who were proclaiming a new religious vision within the context of Judaism. Their voices were raised in worship and community gatherings. What they proclaimed was disruptive to the religious traditions of their day. They were saying that a carpenter’s son who was crucified by Roman guards was the Messiah for whom they have been waiting. Talk about conflict! Talk about turmoil! It must have been hard for everyone. John’s gospel emerged in the middle of this commotion. That is why this Gospel often takes traditional religious symbols of its day and puts them in the hands of Jesus who transforms them.

The jugs that Jesus fills with wine were used for religious rituals of cleansing. What was sacred and symbolic is, after Jesus gets through with them, now filled with wine... a symbol of celebration and newness. There are many ways we can think about this. One is that by using ritual vessels for wine Jesus joins what we think of as ordinary with our sacred practices.

Many of our churches experiment with new ways of worship and new ways of transforming old traditions. In Cleveland, at our own Amistad Chapel, in the summer of 2018, artists gathered from all over the country. They were visual artists, dancers, scholars of liturgy, writers, and storytellers. They gathered to create and wonder and experiment and discover a new language of our faith – a language for a new century already well underway. They gathered to develop resources for the local church and to support our justice work, and they all came to share how the sacred speaks through our creative selves made in God’s image. One of the participants, Rev. Erin Beardemphl said this about art, “If we could, in our churches and in our communities, show people that they really are creative beings, I expect the world would be so much more loving.” Like what Jesus did at the wedding, they were filling old vessels with new wine.