

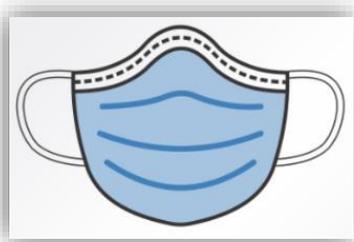


## Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • November 18, 2021

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### **In-Person Worship Service** **Sunday, November 21 • 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 #**.



Thanks to all who donated toys last Sunday for Toys for Tots.  
We will be collecting toys through this Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.  
We appreciate your generosity!



## *In Prayer*

- Prayers for Anna Kerr as she recovers from spine surgery.
- Bonnie Stroessner's brother and Stacy Kehrwald's uncle, John Stephens, died on Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> after a long battle with Covid-19.
- Steve McCurry, Bridget Haefner and family as they adjust to a new normal.
- Keep Alex Orosz and sons, Andrew and Sam, in prayer as they mourn the life of Val Orosz, wife and mother.
- Jack Gillespie is home and continues to improve.
- Annette Ronan as she recovers from several falls.
- Julia Ford, who has some health issues.
- Gail Stalpes who is adjusting to her new Medtronic device which is helping with back pain.
- Marge Williams, recuperating at home.

## **Sunday School is BACK!**

For the past month or so the youngest church goers have been enjoying Bible stories, music and crafts following Children's Time.

Pictured to the right is Katara's earth craft after we read the Creation story.

We will be asking for volunteers to take a turn teaching starting after Christmas. We have a curriculum that makes it very easy. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



**Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>** (during worship) is the Christmas Pageant. This year's show is called ***Christmas Show and Tell***.

We will be sharing the Christmas story as the kids show and tell us:  
... what Mary and Joseph packed for their trip to Bethlehem,  
... how the animals greeted the new baby in their barn,  
... what the wisemen followed to find the Savior.



# Advent Afternoon

**& Annual Lighting of the Holiday Decorations!**

**Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> - 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. @ Chapel Hills**



<p>Help us decorate the Church &amp; trim the tree.</p>	<p>Crafts for the kids &amp; young at heart.</p>	<p>Bring a new, old, or homemade ornament.*</p>	<p>Bring a sweet or savory holiday treat to share.</p>	<p>Dress for Christmas carols by the bonfire.</p>
<p>Bring a donation of diapers and/or mittens – they will be accepted all of December.</p>		<p>Cider, tea, and hot chocolate will be provided. Please sign up at church or call the church office at 952-935-3025</p>		

\* Bring an ornament (or two) that you would like to donate to the church. Over time, we will have more and more of the donated ornaments as the Chrismons fade out. (The Chrismons were made in 1973 and are really starting to fall apart). We thought that the addition of new ornaments could be the beginning of a new Chapel Hills tradition.

## Comment Box

During the meeting on Sunday, November 7th, it was suggested that we have a comment box where anyone can drop in a written note regarding the interim process. That box has been placed in the narthex where everyone has access.

## Intentional Interim Timeline

### **Task 1: Coming to Terms with History**

- to be completed by October 31, 2021

### **Task 2: Discovering a New Identity**

- to be completed by February 2022

### **Task 3: Examine Leadership Needs**

- to be completed by June 2022

### **Task 4: Reaffirming Covenant with the United Church of Christ**

- to be completed by September 2022

### **Task 5: Commitment to the Future/New Directions in Ministry**

- to be completed by December 2022

**Call Process** - to be completed by June 2023

## LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES 2021

### Serves on the Church Council

**Enrichment Team:** Nancy Norris-Weber  
**Facilities Team:** Bob Huber  
**Hospitality Team:** Ann Derby/Stacy Kehrwald  
**Outreach Team:** Jerry Kerr  
**Worship Team:** Evan Ramstad  
**Clerk:** Caroline Mast  
**Minister:** Kristen Nelson  
**Moderator:** Mark Brauer  
**Treasurer:** Mike Camilli

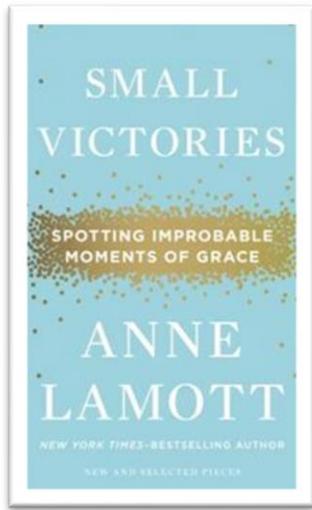
### Pastoral Relations Team

(Intentional Interim)

Mark Brauer, Julie Guelich, Stacy Kehrwald,  
Barb Okonek, Tom Okonek, Evan Ramstad,  
Chris Solso, and Waid Whatley

### Administration

**Financial Officer:** Barb Okonek  
**Financial Secretary:** Nancy Norris-Weber  
**Office Administration:** Stacy Kehrwald



## Book Group

In November, we'll discuss **Anne Lamott's** Small Victories. Her essays about faith, family, and community are both wise and irreverent. **Lamott** offers a new message of hope that celebrates the triumph of light over the darkness in our lives. Our victories over hardship and pain may seem small, she writes, but they change us—our perceptions, our perspectives, and our lives. (Available to e-borrow through Libby app) **November Book Group Date & Time – TBD.**

## Looking Ahead

- November 21 In-Person Worship Service @ 10:15 a.m.  
Sunday School During Worship - following Children's Time  
Church Council Meeting - Following Worship
- November 24 Coffee Talk with Pastor Kristen (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon)  
**NO** Choir Rehearsal
- November 28 In-Person Worship Service @ 10:15 a.m.  
Sunday School During Worship - following Children's Time
- December 1 Coffee Talk with Pastor Kristen (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon)  
Choir Rehearsal (7:30 p.m.)
- December 5 In-Person Worship Service & Communion @ 10:15 a.m.  
Sunday School During Worship - following Children's Time  
Family Advent Fun (4:00 to 5:30 p.m.)
- December 8 Coffee Talk with Pastor Kristen (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon)  
Choir Rehearsal (7:30 p.m.)
- December 12 In-Person Worship Service @ 10:15 a.m.  
Sunday School During Worship - following Children's Time
- December 15 Coffee Talk with Pastor Kristen (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon)  
Choir Rehearsal (7:30 p.m.)
- December 19 In-Person Worship Service @ 10:15 a.m.  
Youth Christmas Pageant During Worship  
Special Scandinavian Music by American Swedish Institute's Traditional Fiddling Group

## Weekly Devotion from Pastor Kristen

*Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come. —Revelation 1:4*

Is, was and is to come. That is the breadth of God's grace, God's presence, God's peace for us. It is to you and to me. It is the gift that was given when Christ himself came to us; the forever-ness of God.

And yet we live as though we are always about to run out of time. This can be especially true as we enter into this holiday season. It can feel like a race to get everything ready for all of what we hope to happen. Or perhaps it is a ticking clock we feel as time passes yet again, about to end another year of our lives and flip the pages of one full calendar into another year.

Somewhere in the reality of our own aging process we can have a difficult time imagining that foreverness of God. We live in a world where we are forced to accept the idea that nothing is forever. We have seasons of life that come and go. People that enter and then leave. Children that grow up and move away. Friends and even spouses that die. Foreverness, as time goes by, can feel more and more mythical for us.

And yet, it is the promise. It is the promise of scripture and the finally of the book—right here in the last book of the Bible, Revelation. This is what it all leads up to—God's foreverness. Is, was and is to come. That is the breadth of God's grace, God's presence, God's peace for us. It is to you and to me. It is the gift that was given when Christ himself came to us; the foreverness of God.

The idea that we will get another go at living, another chance to exist in some other form, way, shape experience of being—well it can seem just silly for us to try to imagine that. We know who we've been; what was. And we know, kind of who we are now; what is . . . but the is-to-come part, remains our mystery. And perhaps that is the great riddle of life when it all boils down to this last story, the last chapter, the end of the big holy book. Believing in the is-to-come; believing in the foreverness of God, perhaps that is the whole point of everything, ever.

If we have forever, then we maybe can stop rushing around. If forever is for us, for me and for you, if forever is good and filled with grace and peace and love and joy, then maybe we can sit back and breathe a little bit instead of trying to pack all of it into this one life like a contest. Maybe we can give up the pressure of the bucket list and then give up the fear of kicking that bucket.

If forever is forever then we have at least 10,000 years to decide which color is our favorite, and taste all the ice cream and the curry and the chocolate of the world. If forever is forever then we might get to try it again, and be the dancer or the artist or the poet we had thought just may have been possible given different circumstances. If forever is really forever then anything is possible, all the things and people and places and ideas we have given up on—any of it can be real if forever is really forever.

Is, was and is to come. That is the breadth of God's grace, God's presence, God's peace for us. It is to you and to me. It is the gift that was given when Christ himself came to us; the foreverness of God. And it is the promise of hope; the promise that lasts longer than our homes or bodies. God has promised to be God, to be love, to love us, to grant us grace and peace past all that we know, all that we see, all that we can imagine or adore.

**PRAYER:** *God, grant me the peace of trusting your grace; that was, is and is to come for me. AMEN.*



## **“Reign of Christ”**

### **Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

Jesus talked about money more than any other topic. Eleven of his forty parables were about money, and he talked more about money than faith and prayer combined. Why was money so important to Jesus? Because he knew and preached the truth that how we earn, save, and spend our money is one of the most telling markers of our spiritual life.

Since 1993, The United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund (<https://www.cornerstonefund.org/>) has helped to bring Jesus’s words to life for congregations and individuals. According to their website, the UCC Cornerstone Fund “helps local churches and non-profit organizations create change within their communities. And we’re building transformative products that not only empower these communities, but also help our clients earn even more on their investments.”

Founded in 1993 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, the UCC Cornerstone Fund holds more than \$100 million dollars in total assets with a total of 3000+ investors. In just a few decades, they have financed more than 650 projects worth more than \$275,000,000 across the United States. They champion green building, supporting projects that save more than 350,000 kWh in energy usage per year. And they help churches save \$3.1 million every year with their refinancing programs.

The website of the Cornerstone Fund (<https://www.cornerstonefund.org/>) offers a wealth of free advice on conscious investing, funding college education and more. There are stories there, too, about churches that have been helped by the Cornerstone Fund to breathe new life into their structures and ministries.

Let the Cornerstone Fund inspire you to plan ahead and to follow Christ’s teachings.