



**Rain
Garden**

Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • July 22, 2021

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Worship Service
Indoor/In-Person ...
Sunday, July 25th • 10:15 a.m.

The service will also be available via Zoom for those desiring to participate from home
@ <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81579562845> or by dialing 1-312-626-6799
And enter the Meeting ID: 815 7956 2845 #.

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



In Prayer

- 5-year-old, Cora Stabler, who keeps improving after a serious head injury.
- Andrea Erickson's dear friend, Marcia Boatwright, died fighting pancreatic cancer. Please keep Andrea and Marcia's family and friends in prayer.
- Laura Feierabend, recovering from laser welding to repair a tear of the retina.
- Marilyn Krekelberg, recovering from a broken kneecap.
- Jack & Cindy ask prayers for...
 - Marilyn Stille, Cindy's mom, who was just moved to a memory care facility.
 - Reuben Ristrom, who suffered a serious debilitating stroke.
 - Melissa Witry, who is on a ventilator due to complications following a recent surgery. Please keep her husband, Tom, and family in prayer.
 - Janice Peterson, who is recovering from cancer surgery, where ½ of one lung was removed. Please keep her husband, Russ, and family in prayer.
- Marge Williams, recuperating at home.

We Need YOUR Help...

Delivering Night to Unite Flyers – THIS Sunday, July 25th

We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to deliver Night to Unite flyers to the neighborhood. Please check-in with Bob Guelich following worship and he will provide a map and the correct number of doorknob bags for your route. Your help will be greatly appreciated!!



Adopt-A-Sign

Thanks to both the Molony/Tesch's along with the Huber/Solso's for helping us out with the Chapel Hills "adopt a sign" project. We still have one or two signs looking for a loving home so if you are able to help, let Stacy/Barb/Tom know.



Greetings from the Pastoral Relations Team!

As we continue working toward our goal of a new settled pastor for Chapel Hills, we would like to invite you to join us after church on **Sunday, August 29th**, for a barbecue and kickoff of the small group work that is an important part of this process. Our plan will be to assemble several groups, composed of anyone who attends Chapel Hills, and work through some identified topics pertaining to the history and identity of the church. Members of the Pastoral Relations team will act as discussion leaders for these groups, and part of our agenda for the 29th will be to assemble the groups and assign leaders for each one. Group meetings will begin sometime in September.

If August 29th doesn't work for you, don't worry. You will have plenty of opportunities to participate as we keep moving along in this process.

More details will follow, but make sure to mark your calendars to stay after church on the 29th for food and fellowship. We hope to see as many of you as possible to participate in helping to establish a new future for Chapel Hills.

Peace and Good Will to All,
Waid Whatley

VEAP

Back to School
Supply Drive - July 12 to 30

Our Focus is on...
Backpacks &
Calculators



Looking For Volunteers

- to deliver flyers to the neighborhood on Sunday, July 25th
- to help with set-up &/or clean-up on Tuesday, August 3rd

**Please sign-up
in the Narthex if you can help!**

Rain Garden - *What a Difference a Year Makes...*





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



Chapel Hills Church
(6512 Vernon Ave S)

6th Annual

Neighborhood Party!

Tuesday, August 3rd

Starting @ 6:00 p.m.
EVERYONE WELCOME!

- ★ Meet & Greet Your Neighbors
- ★ Bring a Picnic Supper for your Family
- ★ Bottled Water & Ice Cream Treats Provided
- ★ Games for the Kids
- ★ "LIVE" Music
- ★ A Visit from the Edina Police or Fire Department
- ★ Bring a Donation for VEAP (to benefit their School Supply Drive and/or Food Shelf)
- ★ Rain or Shine

Book Group

Our next Book Group meeting will be for lunch at church on Thursday, August 19. We chose to read Michele Norris's The Grace of Silence, about what she discovered about her own family history while covering for All Things Considered on NPR. It is available through the library.

Looking Ahead

- July 12 - 30 VEAP School Supply Drive
- July 25 In-Person Worship Service @ 10:15 a.m.*
- July 28 Pastoral Relations Meeting (In-Person 7:00 p.m.)
- August 1 In-Person Worship Service @ 10:15 a.m.*
- August 3 Night to Unite Neighborhood Party - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- August 8 In-Person Worship Service @ 10:15 a.m.*

*Also Available via Zoom @ <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81579562845> or by dialing 1-312-626-6799 and enter the Meeting ID: 815 7956 2845 #

Weekly Devotion from Pastor Kristen

For this reason, I bow my knees before our God, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through the Holy Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

—Ephesians 3:14-19

These were the wishes of the pastor and Apostle—from the letter from Paul to the people of Ephesus. It is a sentiment that extends out to us as we too seek to be a church of Christ—as we seek in this time to be a United Church of Christ.

There is great power in this name that we carry as God's people. Claiming unity in Christ as a congregation is a claim of this promise that we could and will be strengthened in our inner beings with power through the Spirit of Christ and that Christ may in fact dwell in our hearts through faith. It is a claim of the promise that each day we can be rooted and grounded in love. It is a claim that we are seeking and trying to comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ knowing that this will always surpass our knowledge. This claim, that we are the United Church of Christ is a claim that seek to be filled with the fullness of God's grace, granting pardon to those who are mistaken or misguided.

These are big claims. These are deep promises that we make to ourselves, each other and God. Being part of a community that claims to be united in Christ and seeks to become a healing space for God's hurting people is both daunting and exciting. But the key to all of it is this part of Paul's letter that promises we will be granted strength from God. This legendary pastor that preceded all of our pastors prayed that God would grant us—you and me—the strength and power that we need to be a United Church of Christ. None of this way of being happens without God as our source.

As we seek together in this interim season to come to terms with history, create a new congregational identity, establish the healthiest leadership, connect with the greater church and plan for the future we can engage in all of these tasks knowing that God is the one that will empower and guide the whole process. Certainly, we can trust that this ancient prayer of the Apostle Paul is and has been answered for God's people throughout the centuries. We can know that all of what he prayed for, for them, has been prayed for, for us as well.

When I was confirmed at the age of 15 my mother's best friend gave me this passage on one typed sheet of small paper that fit within the daily devotional that she gave me. I think of her and her prayer for me each time these verses surface in our readings. I know that she, someone who has loved me dearly since I was born prays for me this way. And so it is that I pray for my own children, and those I love, and you—the blessed grace-filled people of God at Chapel Hills United Church of Christ.

Now to our Loving God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

—Ephesians 3:20-21



“God’s Abundant Presence”

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

The story of the “loaves and fishes” is one of the most beloved of all Bible stories. The hungry crowds, the presence of children, the abundance left over - it is easy to get pulled into the warmth and joy of this story.

Some say that the feeding of the people that day was one kind of miracle (Jesus made the food appear). Some say it was another kind (the crowd was so moved that they began sharing what they had previously hoarded). Whatever it was, the feeding that occurred was immediate and specific to the situation and responsive to a tremendous and obvious need.

For centuries, the church has been moved to feed people in the same way that the story illustrates in all kinds of situations and conditions. When the COVID pandemic made serving food in person risky, that did not change, even if the method of food distribution had to.

The Faith Cafe, an ecumenical partnership with Bethel United Church of Christ in Beaverton, Oregon and other churches in the area is one great example. Faith Cafe describes itself as a partnership of communities who in love, compassion, and justice, are dedicated to serving neighbors who are hungry for community and food.

“We accomplish this by sharing a free meal, as a family, and advocating for long term social changes that will reduce poverty and hunger... Each person who comes to Faith Cafe is a blessing to us and it is a privilege for us to serve them.”

That posture of humility and gratitude for the ability to serve meant that Faith Cafe was ready and able to pivot to a new way of service when COVID-19 sent the church, along with the rest of the community, into quarantine.

Rather than a hot meal, the weekly Faith Cafe became a to-go counter, with food distributed in sacks that could be taken away. As their food needs were met, and they were treated safely and with respect, Faith Cafe guests were fed body and soul.