



Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • December 12, 2019

We open ourselves to God's Spirit in worship, prayer and study, holding each other in community and encouraging one another to grow in the Spirit.
We reach out in generosity and compassion to the people around us.

Chapel Hills [webpage](#)

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Sunday, December 15, 2019 (Third Sunday in Advent)

9:15 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

10:15 a.m. Worship

Decorating the Christmas Tree

Scripture: [Psalm 146:5-10](#); [Luke 1:46-55](#)

Sermon: "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas"



Serving Our Church This Week (It takes a Village):

Minister: Rev. Kristen Nelson
Liturgist: Evan Ramstad
Greeter: Caroline Mast
Choir: Andrea Erickson & the Amazing CH Choir
Organist: Sandy Davis-Lerner
Soloist: Michelle Liebl
Nursery: Ashley Stoering
Ushers: The Worship Team



In Prayer

- Laura Feierabend asks prayers for, Mady and her family. Mady is recovering from brain surgery.
- Caroline Mast requests prayers for serenity for herself and prayers for her youngest son as he goes through alcohol rehabilitation.
- Maurine Avery, Herb Feierabend, Anna Kerr, Sandy Rippie, and Annette Ronan.

A Note From Rev. John Roschen

It was my distinct pleasure to lead Sunday worship in the three weeks preceding Pastor Kristen Nelson's coming as our interim minister. Thank you so much for the "parting present" of a Jimmy's Kitchen and Bar gift card that was an unexpected and overly generous reward. It will surely satisfy our Sunday-post worship palates more than once. Marion and I are growing month-by-month in our fondness for our new Chapel Hills family.

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|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday, December 15th | Decorating the Christmas Tree | During Worship |
| Sunday, December 22nd | Youth Christmas Program "Someone Has a Birthday" <i>Receive Christmas Fund Offering</i> | During Worship |
| Tuesday, December 24th | Christmas Eve Service <i>Receive Christmas Fund Offering</i> | Prelude begins at 4:15 p.m. Service begins at 4:30 p.m. |

Someone Has a Birthday - Youth Christmas Program

Planning is underway for our Annual Youth Christmas Program which will be held on Sunday, December 22nd. Practice is scheduled for Sunday, December 15th at 9:00 a.m. with dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 21st in the morning (TBD).



Christmas Eve Worship - 4:30 p.m.

Carols, Candles & Communion

Join us at 4:15 p.m. for a musical prelude;
stay for our traditional Carols, Candles and Communion.

The Christmas Fund Offering - "The Light Shines in the Darkness"

You have the opportunity to be a part of this ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ through your participation in this year's Christmas Fund Offering. Your gift to the Christmas Fund will not only assist pastors, but also provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks next December to lower-income retirees. Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care. **Please make your check payable to Chapel Hills UCC and write "Christmas Fund" on the memo line.**



We Are In Need of Nursery Attendants

We are looking for help in the nursery on the following days/times...

- Christmas Eve (from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m.)
- Sunday, December 29th (10:15 to 11:15 a.m.)

Please call the church office, 952.935.3025, if you are able to help.

Chapel Hills is under Construction!

Breakroom Sink & Update

Update Bathrooms

Fix Lighting

Vendor Contract Review to Improve Value\$

New Windows in Offices

Update Offices with Carpet/Paint x

New Building Security Locks x

New Exterior Mailbox for Easier Handling x

Update Church Computers & Wi Fi x

New Web Site x

Back Entry Way Spruce Up x

Reinvigorated Coffee System x

Timer for Exterior Lights to Save Energy x

More to come. Thanks
to all who are helping!



Please Be AWARE!

There is an email scam that is targeting churches/clergy and doctors. The hackers make fake email accounts that look legitimate. They get into the address book of the person they are defrauding and send a request asking for ebay gift cards and the like.

Please know that Alan & Kristen will not ask for gift cards. Any strange email requests from Alan and/or Kristen is definitely a SCAM!

We hope this doesn't happen... just want you to be aware.



November 27, 2019

Chapel Hills United Church of Christ
Reverend Alan McNamara
6512 Vernon Avenue South
Edina, MN 55436

Dear Reverend McNamara,

Thank you so much for Chapel Hills' generous contribution of \$325.00 to VEAP in memory of Mary Kerr. Your gift not only provides access to healthy foods, affordable housing, and caring, supportive social services, but also **hope** and **stability** to individuals and families in our community.

Every day, hundreds of men, women, and children look to VEAP to provide food for their next meal and hope during times of financial crisis. As we head into the holiday season we look forward to gathering and sharing a meal with our friends and family, but for families facing financial challenges, the season of thankfulness can be tough when you are facing hunger or housing instability.

In addition to keeping the pantry shelves full, you make it possible for VEAP visitors, our neighbors, to create special memories and share the in the joy of the upcoming season. When families have fresh and nutritious foods readily available, they are able to redirect food budget dollars to pay rent and meet other basic needs.

*"Times can be tough...and days can be rough... but **hope** I must always keep. Cause blessings come my way... every single day... one of them is always VEAP." - VEAP participant*

Your gift matters. It is because of donors like you that VEAP individuals and families are empowered to continue on the path of stability. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kari Thompson".

Kari Thompson
Advancement Director

Please consider this letter your receipt. VEAP is a 501 (c)(3) organization and all contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. No goods or services were received in exchange for this contribution.



Advent Food Drive to Benefit...



*Fill a grocery bag or two this month for VEAP.
Bring bags back to church by Sunday, Dec. 22nd or, better yet,
fill one up weekly and grab another and fill it up!*

Suggested items list below.

Questions, see Amanda, Barb or Tom O.

- box of cereal
- peanut butter
- stuffing mix
- boxed potatoes
- macaroni and cheese
- canned fruit
- canned tomatoes
- canned tuna
- dessert mix
- jar of applesauce
- canned sweet potatoes
- cranberry sauce
- canned beans
- box of crackers
- package of rice
- package of oatmeal
- package of pasta
- spaghetti sauce
- chicken noodle soup
- tomato soup
- can of corn
- can of mixed vegetables
- can of carrots
- can of green beans



“Heartbeat of Justice”

Third Sunday of Advent

Look around the room. Everyone’s circumstances were unique, but every person you see has at least one thing in common – every person here was born. And before they were born, they were carried in a womb.

Look around the world. Everyone’s circumstances were unique but every person you see has this in common – every person on this planet we call home was born. And before they were born, every person was carried in a womb.

However you were born, the first sounds you heard were the muffled but persistent sound of the mother’s heartbeat. The heartbeat of the woman’s body that carries the baby is the first sound that the child can hear. Every language records it differently, but in most every language, the word we use for that first sound is as rhythmic and beautiful as a two-word poem. Lub dub, lub dub, those who speak English say. Around the world, mothers’ hearts beat, saying *duru duru* (Bengali), *deg deg* (Indonesian), *pam pam* (Albanian), *tuks tuks* (Estonian), *peng peng* (Chinese), *bum bum* (Spanish), *ratama ratama* (Arabic), *doki doki* (Japanese).

After its mother’s heart, the second sound a fetus can hear is the sound of their mother’s voice. Like the heartbeat, to every baby in the world, this voice sounds the same. Individual words are not distinguished – just the musical cadence of the sound of her voice.

Now look at Jesus. His story is unique, but he is like us in this way. He was born. And before he was born, he was carried in a womb. Like us, he heard a heartbeat. Like us, he heard the cadence of his mother’s voice. What did it mean for Jesus to have the first words he heard be this song - a longing of a justice?

Third Sunday of Advent - Prayer for Joy

O come, O come Emmanuel!
This is grief and sorrow
in our hearts and in our world.
Save us, we pray, from our sadness.
Remind us that you are lifegiving water,
an endless spring of joy.
Help us to create the joy that comes from justice,
here and now and always. Amen.

Year End Donations

If you wish to contribute to Chapel Hills for tax year 2019, please have your check in the office or in the mail by December 31st.

Did you know that you can transfer assets to pay your pledge? Here's the information:

Chapel Hills Brokerage Information for Transferring Stock

Broker: UBS Financial Services

Account Information:

DTC Delivery Number: 0221

Account Title: FBD Chapel Hills UCC Church, Chapel Hills UCC Congregational Church

Account Number: 7R02686

UBS Contact:

John Hedrick

Phone: 952-848-8082

Address: 8500 Normandale Lake Blvd, Bloomington, MN 55437

Chapel Hills Federal Tax ID #: 41-6029408

Looking Ahead

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|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 14 | House of Charity - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Volunteers Needed |
| December 15 | Youth Christmas Program Practice - 9:00 a.m. Decorating the Christmas Tree - During Worship Church Council Meeting - Following Worship Advent Food Drive to Benefit VEAP |
| December 18 | Choir Rehearsal - 7:30 p.m. |
| December 21 | Youth Christmas Program - Dress Rehearsal (in the morning - TBD) |
| December 22 | Youth Christmas Program - During Worship Receiving the Christmas Fund Offering Advent Food Drive to Benefit VEAP |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Service (Carols, Candles & Communion) 4:30 p.m. Musical Prelude begins at 4:15 p.m. Receiving the Christmas Fund Offering |
| December 25 | Christmas Day |

Advent Prayer -- *Henri J.M. Nouwen*

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day, We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.



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