



Chapel Hills • *Weekly News* • January 9, 2025

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**Sunday, January 12, 2025**

**Worship Service @ 10:15 am**

Nursery is available for infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children.

Children ages 5 and older are invited to attend Sunday School  
immediately following worship.

Participating from home? Join us via live stream...

Click Here: <http://youtube.com/channel/UCBYMT5pV5dLXGHjX5iaYXYQ/live>

## Contact Information

Reverend Briones can be reached at [revcbriones@gmail.com](mailto:revcbriones@gmail.com) or 952-935-3025.

*Christián's emergency line is 612-495-8203. In the event of an emergency on a Friday, please call the church (952-935-3025) and leave a voicemail and the message will be passed along to Christián. He will be in touch as soon as possible.*



## *In Prayer*

- Keep Joann Hunt in prayer while she recovers from a respiratory illness.
- Dee Chance has moved to Chapel View Care Center in Hopkins for continued recovery.
- Sandy Davis-Lerner asks prayers for Harry Lerner as he recovers from a fall.
- Keep Michelle Liebl and family in prayer as her parents have both entered hospice care.
- Jordan Kerr has been hospitalized with back problems.
- Emily Gray is recovering very well so far and would appreciate continued prayers for a smooth journey.
- Joann's nephew, Russell Hunt Jr, is receiving infusions for leukemia.
- Doug Allen, John Burgart, Mykayla Cunningham, Julie Ford, Louise Ford, Tom Ford, Cheryl Irwin, Molly Lee-Lafferty, Cheryl Marsch, Ken and Ann Puglisi, Annette Ronan, Nolan Sapp, Gail Stalpes, Amanda Trosen, Traci White-Hobson, and Michelle Liebl's nephews, Sam, Noah and Maki.

## **Book Group**

**Thursday, January 9, 2025 @ 1:00 pm**

Join us as we meet to discuss author Tim Alberta's book...

**The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory: American Evangelicals in an Age of Extremism.**

## Enduring Fund - Community Impact

The Enduring Fund Committee of Emily Gray, Bonnie Stroessner, and Chris Solso, enthusiastically announce this year's grants—totaling \$24,000—from our Enduring Fund:

- **All Nations Indian Church (ANIC) of Minneapolis:** \$10,000 in support of two projects—security/fencing for ANIC and the expansion of a new mental health ministry for members of ANIC and the surrounding Phillips neighborhood area.
- **Community Kitchen of First Congregational Church of Minnesota:** \$7,000 to support a grass roots community kitchen serving unhoused community members in the Phillips neighborhood.
- **Mental Health Connect of Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Minneapolis:** \$4,000 to fund training for two staff members in the Companionship Practice model to enhance access to mental health services.
- **St. David's Center of Minnetonka and Minneapolis:** \$2,500 to provide funding for materials needed to expand services for Autism Day Treatment program, including specialized toys, tools, and clothing.
- **Chapel Hills Choir:** \$500 in support of special music on Christmas Eve and Easter.

All of the outside organizations receiving these grants are looking forward to deepening their partnership with Chapel Hills in the coming year. We can look forward to learning more about these groups, their missions and challenges, and exploring ways to become more directly involved in their work. Stay tuned!



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Receiving Non-Perishable  
Food Items

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**Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

— Following worship —

**Please plan on attending...**

We will gather to receive reports, elect officers, and vote to approve the 2025 budget. Your participation and input are an important part of keeping Chapel Hills connected and vibrant.



# R.I.S.E. COALITION

## RESILIENT INDIGENOUS SISTERS ENGAGING

Join us for an inspiring afternoon of storytelling from the co-founders of R.I.S.E. Coalition on their sixth bEarth Day.

Come for CAKE and refreshments as we tell stories of water protection, treaties, and climate justice.

Now is the time to become engaged.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025 • 2:00 PM**



**CHAPEL HILLS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**6512 VERNON AVE S, EDINA**





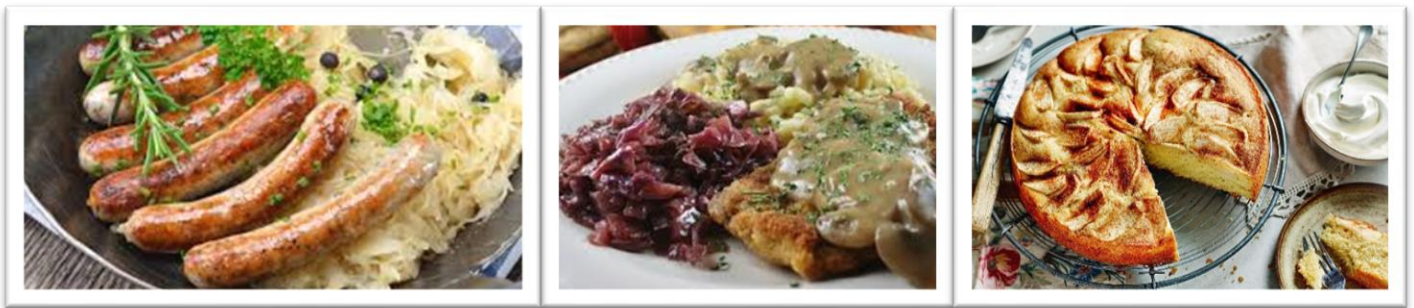


## Flannel Sunday - Winter Cookout

Mark your calendar and plan on joining us on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> following worship for our Annual Winter Cookout (picnic menu). There's nothing better than hamburgers & hot dogs cooked on the grill, anytime of the year.

Wear your flannel gear to church and plan on staying for our indoor picnic lunch. Visitors and friends are ALWAYS welcome.

**Please sign-up ahead of time** (in the Narthex)...  
It's very helpful for food and setup planning.



**Cooks of Chapel Hills** has long been one of our favorite social activities together. We gather at members' homes for an evening to share good food and conversation. A wide variety of culinary themes have been chosen over the years. Past meals featured the cuisines of different regions or countries, like Russian or Jamaican or Midwest Supper Club; and others focused on ingredients, like chocolate or apples or even Spam. We ate comfort food at our last Cooks in February 2024.

This coming February 8, the theme will be German food. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex after church this coming Sunday. We are hoping for a good turnout, so please sign up and bring your favorite German dish or try a new recipe. Start sharing ideas now. We can provide rides to those who need them.

**If you have questions**, please contact Bob Huber... 612-961-5845  
(bob\_huber@comcast.net) or Ann Derby... 952-828-0829 (aederby1@gmail.com).



## January

Ann Bergstad – 7<sup>th</sup>

Sandy Davis-Lerner – 9<sup>th</sup>

Gail Stalpes – 12<sup>th</sup>

Nikolina Erickson-Gunther – 17<sup>th</sup>

## Looking Ahead

9	JAN, THU	● 1 – 2:30pm	Book Group
12	JAN, SUN	● 9:15 – 10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
		● 11:15 – 11:45am	Sunday School (for Ages 5 & Older)
13	JAN, MON	● 3:45 – 8pm	Villard Studio - Cello Lessons
14	JAN, TUE	● 3:30 – 6:45pm	Villard Studio - Cello Lessons
		● 6:30 – 8pm	Church Council Meeting
15	JAN, WED	● 4:15 – 9pm	Villard Studio - Cello Lessons
		● 7:30 – 8:30pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal
19	JAN, SUN	● 9:15 – 10:15am	Adult Choir Rehearsal
		● 10:15 – 11:15am	Worship Service
		● 11:15 – 11:45am	Sunday School (for Ages 5 & Older)
		● 2 – 3pm	R.I.S.E. Coalition (Resilient Indigenous Sisters Engaging)



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



## **“Affirmed by Love”**

### **First Sunday After Epiphany**

The teen waded into the cold lake. With words of being joined with Christ and the community of believers through the waters of baptism, under she went — emerging seconds later with the most radiant smile anyone had ever seen. Her father captured that smile, memorializing the day with a photo in a frame that was inscribed with the words God spoke at Jesus’ baptism, “This is my beloved.”

Now, in a shoebox apartment with a toddler getting into mischief and overdue bills piling up on the kitchen counter, the girl with the once radiant smile, wondered where it all went wrong. Tired and defeated, she sat on the couch, staring at the wall of pictures before her. It was then she spotted her younger self staring back at her with a smile that time had forgotten. She shifted her gaze to the words on the frame. Only this time what she heard in her heart was a whisper, “You are STILL my beloved.” Just then she did something strange. She smiled — radiantly — remembering who was still holding her.

Today is the Baptism of Our Lord Sunday. It is a day that follows the celebration of Epiphany, underscoring the season of Christ appearing to us, revealing the love he has for us and the hope that is found when we clasp our hand in his. Here, in Luke’s gospel, Jesus is recognized as God’s beloved, emerging from his baptism in the Jordan River to God’s voice thundering praises and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. It is a new beginning for Jesus. The start of his earthly ministry.

Baptism is an invitation to new life. But as we know, life’s newness — its bright prospects, endless possibilities and hopeful promises — can fade with time. That is why on this day we remember not only Jesus’ baptism, but our own. For the very act of remembering that we have been claimed as God’s beloveds has the power to revive us once again.

It is said that on his most difficult days and times of great trials, 16<sup>th</sup> century German Reformer, Martin Luther, would repeat these words: “I am baptized.” It was Luther’s way of reminding himself that no matter how off course life got, he was still held by a loving God who was always making all things new. We all need that baptismal reminder. So today, fill up a sink or a bowl with water. Dip, submerge, splash your hands in it. Then close your eyes and hear God whisper to you, “You are my child, the beloved, with you I am well pleased.” And as you do, may you find a radiant smile sweeping across your face.

*All-knowing and All-Loving God may the cleansing waters of baptism wash over our lives, reviving hope for our tomorrows. May we hear Your voice this day reminding us that we are Your beloveds. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.*