



# Chapel Hill

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## United Methodist Church

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September 28, 2020

### Pastor's Message



#### Chapel Hill UMC Staff

Rev. J.D. Allen  
Senior Pastor

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In yesterday's sermon, Adam spoke of how the Israelites complained against Moses because they had nothing to drink. Modern English translations typically translate the Hebrew verb here as "murmuring." The Hebrew here would be better translated to indicate the Israelites were enraged. Their situation was viewed as no small inconvenience.

The Israelites rage was expressed in such a manner that Moses cries out to God that they are almost ready to stone him. This rage is most likely based on fear, as Adam expressed. A fear that is assuaged by grace as God calls on Moses to strike the rock so that water will gush forth and give the Israelites the water they need. Consider what happens here. Moses suggests the Israelites are about ready to strike him with rocks. Instead, God tells Moses to strike the rock to bring forth the water. The potential instrument of death becomes the instrument of life when it is transformed by the grace of the God of steadfast love.

A lot of rage is being expressed in our current context. As Adam shared, a lot of people are full of fear, afraid they will never have what they perceive or know they need or afraid they will lose what they perceive or know they need. Some fears are based on actual experience. Some fears are based on the political propaganda sourced by those that know the best way to get people to the polls is to fill them with fear. Enraged people vote, no matter their political affiliation.

In a culture of fear, dehumanizing language and misinformation rules. This fear seeks to lead us to hate our opponents. Language is used to view them as less than human and the reason for our fears. It seeks to leave us almost ready to stone them. Or brutalize them. Or shoot them. Yet the steadfast love of the God of grace seeks to transform the words and tools used for fear, hate, and violence to bring life. To bring what Martin Luther King, Jr., called beloved community. It was what Africans call ubuntu as explained by the archbishop Desmond Tutu: I am because we are. We do not have true community until we all value and love one another so that peace with justice governs our common life.

Continued on the back →

## Prayer List

CHUMC Home Bound	Justin Graham
The Gee Family	Leon Mauldin
Jocelyn Barnard	Willa Burton
Scott Fletcher	Candace George
Jennie Leamons	Grace Smith
Tom Sanders	Melanie Willhite's mom
Charles Cancellare	<b>Those affected by COVID-19:</b>
Peggy Shoemaker	Nurses and Doctors
Robbyn Smith (Cranford)	All patients in hospitals
Family of Loretta Culp	Families who have lost people
Jordan Hammett	and cannot have funerals
Sandy Ball	First responders
Neal Ellis	Medical personnel who are
Jordan Moll	working
Donna Daggett	Parents of students
Hank	Senior citizens in nursing homes
Project Transformation After	Students and teachers taking
School	classes online
Everyone affected by wildfires	Those who have lost jobs
along the west coast	



## Midweek Gathering for Prayer & Testimony

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 871 4485 3646

We look forward to you joining us for our Online Gathering for Prayer and Testimony this Wednesday, September 30th at 6:30 pm via Zoom. You can connect to the video conference on your computer or mobile device using the following:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87144853646>

Meeting ID: 871 4485 3646

## Pastor's Message Continued

We are disciples of Christ, in covenant with the God of grace whose love is steadfast. How do we, empowered by the Holy Spirit, participate in the transformation of the words and tools of fear, hate, and violence into words and tools of life? How do we transform the rage we may fill toward our neighbor into a neighborly love that makes sure the fears and needs of all our neighbors are met in ways that give our communities life?

Grace and peace,

Rev. J.D. Allen  
Senior Pastor

While we are unable to gather, please remember CHUMC still has expenses. Please continue to make your faith pledge offerings by mail by sending them directly to our treasurer, Jan Wooldridge, at 12930 Mitchwin Road, Farmers Branch, TX 75234.

Please send prayer requests to Alec and Adam at [office@chapelhillumc.org](mailto:office@chapelhillumc.org). Please note, the office is closed during the week, so the phone is not being checked. If you are unable to email, please ask someone with email to send your information to the office email or contact J.D. at (972) 467-7756.

In the case of a pastoral care emergency, please contact J.D. at (972) 467-7756.

**BIRTHDAY REMINDER:** Please let our church office know your birthdate, mm/dd/yyyy, so your church family can acknowledge your special day. **Your 'year' will remain private:** [office@chapelhillumc.org](mailto:office@chapelhillumc.org)



George Johnson 10/2	Kim Rangel 10/10
Alec McKay 10/11	Kelly Patterson 10/15
Iris Shivar 10/15	Madeleine Davis 10/18
Ana Laura Gamborino 10/19	Edith Brooks 10/20
Wesley Freeman 10/21	Robert Putnam 10/24
Jim Hanigan 10/25	Cindy Brown 10/28
Jan Wooldridge 10/29	Leslie Ochoa-Funez 10/30
Denise Maxwell 10/31	

## Join Us for Online Worship!

**YouTube:** Search for CHUMC  
FarmersBranch

Please subscribe!