



Chapel Hill

United Methodist Church

January 25, 2021

Pastor's Message

We are almost a month into a new year and, in many ways, it seems 2021 wants to be the second verse same as the first. The pandemic numbers have been climbing. New variants of COVID-19 which are more infectious threaten to throw another wrench in our recovery process. This has delayed our ability to return to our campus for worship. Violent insurrectionists stormed the nation's capitol building, at least partially in response to months, if not years, of disinformation, and sought to overturn a democratic election. Now, protestors in the West continue to create violent destruction because the nation's new president is not progressive enough for them. Meanwhile, those political leaders and media outlets given to sensationalism and/or driving fear and outrage continue to do what they do as if the consequences of their actions do not matter.

Where is our hope for a new day? A new world? A new life?

I think our hope is in following the way of Jesus Christ. The one anointed the beloved Son at his baptism calls us to follow as he did Andrew and Simon, James and John, and all those who came after in the way of love, or as we said yesterday, "holiness for the sake of the world," as Dr. Elaine Heath phrases it in *The Mystic Way of Evangelism*.

This holiness is one of total surrender to God and to serving our neighbors in need. It is a way that transcends categories of left, right, and center. It transcends hate-filled rhetoric that seeks to create a dualism depicting one group as purely good and the other as purely evil making it easier to seek the harm of those who are not like us. It transcends rich and poor. It transcends White, Black, Latinx, Asian, and Indigenous. It transcends cisgender and LGBTQ+. It transcends native citizen, naturalized citizen, documented immigrant, and undocumented immigrant.

It transcends these by offering reconciliation and recompense rather than vengeance and retribution. It transcends vengeance and retribution not by pretending harms did not happen but by offering the opportunity for repentance for the forgiveness of sins we receive in our baptism along with the Holy Spirit. This offer seeks to transform relationships creating harm into those of mutual love and compassion, rather than seeking half-hearted apologies and pretending the harms did not occur.

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Chapel Hill UMC Staff

Rev. J.D. Allen
Senior Pastor

Adam Lubbers
Youth Director

Adam Richards
Office Manager

Alec McKay
Office Manager

Jim Hanigan
Building Manager

Kurt Maerschel
German Worship Leader



Prayer List

CHUMC Home Bound	The Family of Judy A. Bull
The Gee Family	The Guerin Family
Jocelyn Barnard	Edrese Hanigan
Jennie Leamons	Jan Wooldridge
Tom Sanders	Nancy Hartman
Jordan Hammett	Carol Jones
Neal Ellis	Allie Boshier
Project Transformation After School	Larry Rains
Alex Kaplinsky	Those affected by COVID-19:
Kay Randall	Nurses and Doctors
Scott Bandy	All patients in hospitals
Jean Walters	Families who have lost people and cannot have funerals
Ruth, Neal, and Darren Ellis	First responders
Norman Duren	Medical personnel who are working
Amy Swanson	Parents of students
The family of Brenda Smallwood	Senior citizens in nursing homes
Elda Brandt	Students and teachers taking classes online
Judy Charvat	Those who have lost jobs
Sylvia McFalls	
Debbie Coleman	

Prayers for the family of Sandy Allen, who passed away from COVID-19, and prayers for her daughter Melissa Hatch, who is ill with COVID-19.

Pastor's Message, Part 3

I also know it is hard because we may not agree on what needs to change or how it needs to change. This does not mean we cannot walk together in discipleship, seeking, by God's grace, to grow in holiness for the sake of the world. For we will challenge one another. Sharpen one another. After all, holiness does not just happen. It grows with time and intentionality as we embrace the full potential of God's grace for our lives.

So may we embrace holiness and surrender ourselves fully to God and neighbor. It will reveal the good news of the Reign of God to me, you, and all creation.

Grace and peace,

Rev. J.D. Allen
Senior Pastor

Pastor's Message, Part 2

It holds accountable without condemning remembering no one, even ourselves, is beyond redemption.

I know these are hard words. They speak of transformation, a fancy word for the thing we all struggle with the most: change. Change comes difficult because our routines, our beliefs, our presumptions, are so ingrained in us from before we even realized anything could be thus ingrained. And, if I admit anything I have held so dear throughout my life does harm, what does that mean about everything else I hold dear? What does that mean about those who loved me and raised me and taught me? Yet, again, life is more complex than dualisms of purely good and purely evil.

Please Note:

The CHUMC Reopening Team has decided to continue worshipping online only for the time being. The church office will be closed for in-person visits during this time.

Tithes and offerings can be sent to the church address or 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. Please note that although the office is closed to in-person visits during the week, we can still be reached at the above email and by phone at (972) 241-3491.

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



Janie Fuller 1/10	Judy Charvat 1/13
Margarita Figueroa 1/15	Glen Womble 1/15
Archie Shivar 1/16	Amy Swanson 1/18
Janis Cogshall 1/22	Alex Young 1/23
Logan Stansell 1/28	Barbara Tatum 1/29
Sarah Bandy 1/30	

Join Us for Online Worship!

YouTube: bit.ly/CHUMCYouTube

Facebook: www.facebook.com/chapelhillumc