



# Chapel Hill

## United Methodist Church

May 1, 2023

### Pastor's Message

CHUMC Family,

In today's political climate, politicians and political commentators sometimes refer to the groups who follow their political opponents as sheep. This pejorative is used to discredit and dehumanize folks as mindless followers who accept what the politicians they support say without any critical thought. This lead in may seem partisan but it is really not as it seems. Political parties may use different types of language, but they all have their own language for achieving this discrediting and dehumanizing purpose.

Jesus, however, uses the image of sheep differently. Sheep are those who know the Good Shepherd and know that they can trust him. In the Ancient Near East, shepherd imagery pointed to rulers and others with power whose call it was to care for the community of people over whom they governed. In the prophets, God judged their shepherds based on if they actually cared for the sheep in their "pasture" or abused them while seeking their own self-interest and unjust gains in power and finances.

As we consider this, we may be tempted to look at this through the lens of our own modern day political loyalties and crown those we support as faithful shepherds. However, if Jesus is the Good Shepherd, this suggests we may need a more discerning eye that moves beyond our own political biases. After all, Jesus as the Good Shepherd is the one we can trust and is nonpartisan. The loyalties Jesus has is the peace and well-being of all humanity. It points us beyond today's political polarization while pointing us toward engagement with the political realities of our world. We trust in Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and bear witness to Jesus so more sheep will hear and recognize his voice and learn to trust the Lamb of Love. We focus, not on political rancor, but on the weightier matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faith (Matt. 23:23). These weightier matters of the law are rooted in the love of God and neighbor. These matters are a call to us as disciples to be at work in the social arena for the transformation of the world on behalf of the suffering and oppressed. We trust the Good Shepherd will be with us no matter the risk or sacrifice. We may engage with politicians yet recognize that it is the voice of Christ whom we can trust.

The Good Shepherd calls our name. May we recognize that voice and follow in trust.

*Grace and peace,  
Rev. J.D. Allen*



**Chapel Hill UMC**  
Staff

Rev. J.D. Allen  
Senior Pastor

Kate Whitaker  
Minister of Families

Melissa Sky-Eagle  
Worship & Music

Jill Cox  
Office Manager

Jim Hanigan  
Building Manager



## Prayer List

CHUMC Homebound	Gay Keim (Kandy Burdette's sister-in-law)
The Gee Family	Eleanor Body
Tom Sander	Kathy Reynolds (Barbara Tatum's Daughter)
Danny Halron	Scott Malone (Iris Shivar's nephew)
Grandma Gloria	Evelyn Womble
Yvette's kids	Leonard Calverley
Edrese Hanigan	Karen Davis
Kevin Patterson	Pat Moore
Sam Orton	Christine Lofland
Judy Bull	Mass shooting victims
Scott Fletcher	
Jim Cranford	
Don Oldfield	
Phyllis Hendrix	
Martha Johnson	
Mike Hill (Barbara Tatum's son-in-law)	



## Join us in June for Annual Conference

Mark your calendar for the 2023 North Texas Annual Conference, an opportunity for us to gather to worship, learn, pray and proclaim what it means to truly be the church.

Annual Conference: June 11-13 at Christ UMC Plano

Laity Session: June 11 at First UMC Plano

Registration opens the week of April 24. Additional details, including childcare, maps, meals, speakers and more, will be available then.

## Announcements

**Our Communion Offering** on May 7<sup>th</sup> will benefit Native American Ministries. Your gifts allow us to collaborate with existing native ministries, create programs, and support seminary scholarships for United Methodist Native Americans.

**Sack Summer Hunger:** We are once again participating in Metrocrest Services Sack Summer Hunger this year on Saturdays, June 3 through July 29. You can sign up to participate on the table in the Narthex. Volunteer needs include: drivers to pick up food from Metrocrest Services, drivers to deliver food to a couple of homes each Saturday, and people for on-site distribution.

## Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday

10 AM – 2 PM

For pastoral appointments outside of office hours, you may call the office to schedule.

If you have a pastoral care emergency outside of office hours, please contact our Senior Pastor, Rev. J.D. Allen at (972) 467-7756.

## Join Us for Online Worship!

**YouTube:** [bit.ly/CHUMCYouTube](https://bit.ly/CHUMCYouTube)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/chapelhillumc](https://www.facebook.com/chapelhillumc)

**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)



Larry Rains	4/27	Laurie Peake	5/19
Fred Maxwell	4/29	Margaret Young	5/22
Kristen Hampton	5/12	Ruth Fuls	5/25
Silvia Ochoa	5/14	Charles Loper	5/27
Ralph Minton	5/16		