



# The Chronicle

## August 2026

### First Congregational UCC Hendersonville

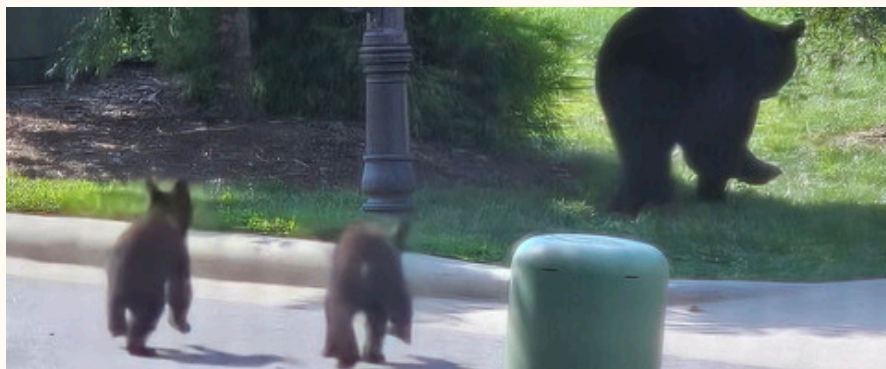
Beloved FCCH,

The other night, a family of bears was cruising out neighborhood. Actually, it's a mama bear and her two cubs. We've seen them before~Asheville is home to many urban bears, and they make their dens in small patches of woods, thickets, brushy areas and even under decks and crawlspaces within our city city limits. Our neighborhood is surrounded by a narrowish width of just that kind of natural space.

The cubs decided to climb up very high in two very old, tall trees and take a nap. Mama bear wasn't all that happy about that, because she kept wandering into our yard, coming back, wandering some more and returning again. It was as if she ways saying, "c'mon kids, its time to GO HOME."

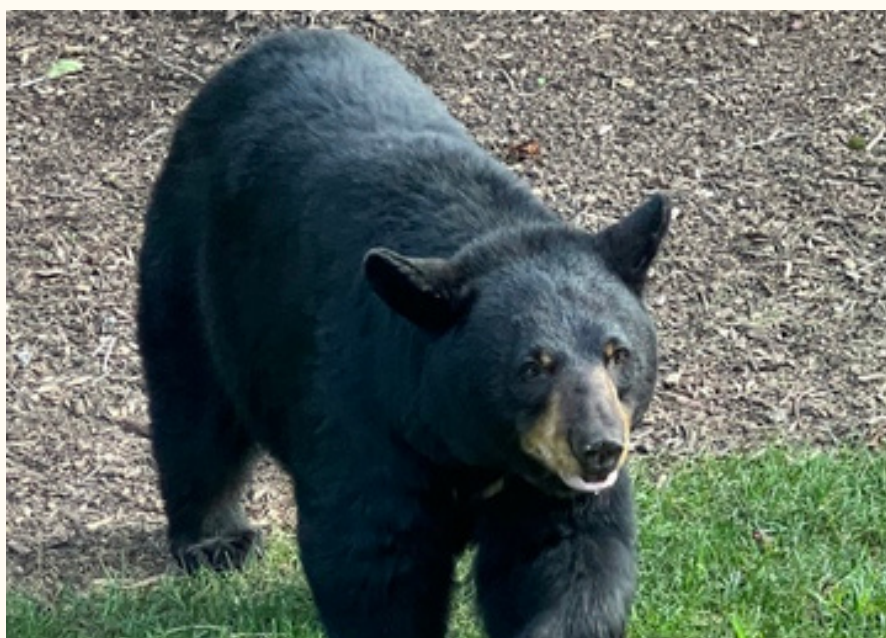
The beautiful thing, is that she didn't give up. She waited, and waited, and waited. I sometimes think that God is like that. Even when we wander off from our very Ground of Being, Source of Life, Holy Love, it is never far away. It always knows where we are. It always is there, somewhere, holding us in its gaze, ready to walk with us home.

Big Love & Deep Peace,  
Karla



### July Worship Attendance

July 5 - 147  
July 12 - 163  
July 19 - 133  
July 26 - 129

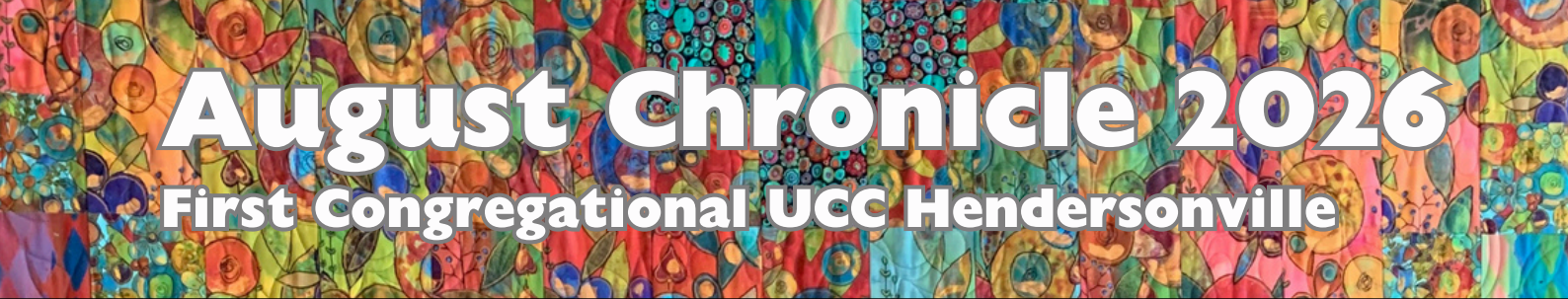


# OUR AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Catherine Lynch</b> | <b>8/1</b>  |
| <b>Michelle Malito</b> | <b>8/3</b>  |
| <b>Fred Fix</b>        | <b>8/4</b>  |
| <b>Peter Johnson</b>   | <b>8/4</b>  |
| <b>Nancy Kaczor</b>    | <b>8/5</b>  |
| <b>Sharon Stepp</b>    | <b>8/5</b>  |
| <b>Marcia Walker</b>   | <b>8/6</b>  |
| <b>Linda Sanders</b>   | <b>8/12</b> |
| <b>Sherie Wilson</b>   | <b>8/13</b> |
| <b>Joanne Helppie</b>  | <b>8/14</b> |
| <b>Joyce Tierney</b>   | <b>8/14</b> |
| <b>Sharon Lineea</b>   | <b>8/15</b> |
| <b>Kevin Tierney</b>   | <b>8/16</b> |
| <b>Helen Miller</b>    | <b>8/18</b> |
| <b>Ruth Howe</b>       | <b>8/20</b> |
| <b>Lori Cipot</b>      | <b>8/24</b> |
| <b>Fern Carter</b>     | <b>8/27</b> |
| <b>Joanda Cook</b>     | <b>8/27</b> |
| <b>Mark Mitchell</b>   | <b>8/27</b> |
| <b>Milton Stewart</b>  | <b>8/27</b> |
| <b>Carol Woepfel</b>   | <b>8/29</b> |
| <b>Robert Gossett</b>  | <b>8/31</b> |
| <b>Wyatt Henderly</b>  | <b>8/31</b> |







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## First Congregational UCC Hendersonville

### **A LETTER FROM OUR MODERATOR - BILL SHAFFER**

I wasn't going to write anything for this Chronicle but Karla's talk of the importance of community in her sermon Sunday struck a chord. As a lot of you know, Ann and I left a tight, inner-city neighborhood in Columbus, Ohio when we moved here. We could literally walk 5 blocks or so from our house, in any direction and know everyone who lived in almost all of the houses. Not just their names, but know in the sense of having been in the houses, shared a meal, been to celebrations and activities with them. When we moved, we looked forward to Hendersonville, the mountains and our new home, but were sad about the loss of our Columbus Olde Towne community. The new community we've found here has come primarily and surprisingly through our involvement with First Congregational. Although we've been members of a church pretty much where ever we've lived this is something special. I think it has become so, because we've become more involved in the church and through the Small Groups. Coming to Sunday services and coffee hour gains one a number of acquaintances, which is great. But joining the choir, getting on one of the working committees or participating in the church activity groups adds depth to some of those acquaintances. Becoming a member of a Small Group then really enables one to become friends with the other members. As we all grow older, second only to our family, it's our friends that sustain us and help us over the hurdles of aging. First Congregational offers each of us an opportunity to build a network of friends. I invite you to become a more active part of our church through your intentional, personal involvement. If you make it so, First Congregational can become a true church family.

### **Treasurers Highlights:**

- Total General Operating Fund income YTD was \$ 459 less than budgeted.
- Total General Operating Fund expenses YTD were \$ 768 more than budgeted.
- Net result of General Operating Fund YTD was \$ 1,227 worse than budgeted.
- Heritage Fund balance as of 6/30/2026: \$803,584

### **Bathroom Renovations:**

We are waiting for approvals for the Felix Building (Fellowship Hall) bathroom renovations to begin. Once they begin, the restrooms near the Parlor off the Sanctuary will be our primary restrooms in the building. In the meantime, the Parlor restrooms are getting a fresh coat of paint and new flooring.

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## Community Involvement

### FUN STUFF @ FCCH

**August 11**

**Ice Cream Trail:**  
Whitt's Custard  
2-3 PM

**August 13**

**Game Night**  
Fellowship Hall  
6-8 PM

**August 18**

**Friendship Dinner**  
Fellowship Hall  
5:00 PM Doors Open  
5:30 PM We EAT!  
BYO dish to share,  
your own plate  
and silverware,  
and bring a friend!



The poster features a central image of a hand holding a red postcard with the text "AND NOW, a message from YOUR CONSTITUENT". Above the image is the logo for the Progressive Alliance of Henderson County, which includes a blue hand icon and the text "Progressive Alliance of Henderson County". The poster is framed by a decorative black and white zigzag border.

**POSTCARD PARTY & SOCIAL TIME**  
**TELL CANDIDATES WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN**  
**YOUR MID-TERM VOTES FOR THE SENATE & THE HOUSE**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 21st**  
**4:30-6:00pm** at Trailside Brewing  
874 Lenox Park Dr. (off S. Whitted St)

We're writing to candidates on both sides of the aisle,  
in what may be the most important election of our lives  
(We'll be writing local and state candidates in the next 2 months)  
WHAT SPECIFIC CONCERNS, PRIORITIES & ISSUES MUST  
CANDIDATES PUBLICLY SUPPORT OR OPPOSE?  
If you expect answers, bring return address labels for your postcards

As always, we supply suggestion sheets, postcards & addresses  
Parking can be tricky- consider carpooling, walking or biking



**Save the Date!**  
**44th Annual Hunger Walk**  
**September 19, 2026**

Three-mile and one-mile walks will begin  
at Lennox Station  
441 S Whitted Street, Hendersonville, NC 28739