Announcements:

Today after worship, join for another "Tell Me More" informational session with Reve. Karla. If you have questions about our church. our community ministries, the UCC denomination, or becoming a member of FCCH, this is an open time to talk with Karla and meet other new folx coming to church here. If you have been visiting for a while, join us so we can get to know each other.

Deck the Halls for Advent & Christmas immediately after worship today. Join in the fun of making our church beautiful for the holidays. Many hands are needed!

This is the last Sunday to RSVP for our Thanksgiving Day Lunch Potluck! Please see the volunteers with clipboards after worship or in Coffee Hour if you plan on coming. We will gather at noon, and feast at 12:30 pm. Please bring your own utensils and plates, including serving dishes and utensils. You are welcome to BYOB.

The Church Office will have modified hours next week: The office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday, Wed-Fri, Nov. 25-27.

Coffee Hour on December 20 is one of our favorite times of the year! Christmas Cookie Exchange! Bring a plate or assortment of your favorite Christmas Cookie receipes to share in Coffe Hour. Then take home baggies of cookies for some holiday treats at home! We are gonna need LOTS of cookies (glutern free versions, too!)

Happening at FCCH this week:

Mon, 11/23	10:00 am:	Community Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
Tues, 11/24	4:00 pm:	Community Meditation, Parlor
Wed, 11/25	10:00 am:	Sit & Stitch, Library
	3:15 pm:	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Thurs, 11/26	12:00 pm:	Thanksgiving Day Potluck Feast, Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, 11/29/26: Organ Donation with Lori Garrison and Janice Buchanan - Earlier this Fall, FCCH member Lori Garrison donated one of her kidneys to a person she did not know. What an amazing gift! Lori will share about her donation experience, and FCCH member Janice Buchanan is a chaplain serving as a family support coordinator with LifeShare Carolina, will talk about the process of organ donation.

Save these Future Dates:

Nov 26 – Thanksgiving Day Potluck Feast, FCCH Fellowship Hall
Dec 13 – Christmas Music Sunday, Sanctuary; and a Special Music Reception afterwards in the Fellowship Hall
Dec 20 – Christmas Cookie Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
Dec 24 – Service of Candlelight and Carols, FCCH Sanctuary

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember these people in your prayers this week

-Al Diaz was hospitalized with pneumonia, and is now in Hendersonville Health and Rehab while he recovers.
-For the family and friends of Richard Tyler who passed away last week.
-Jenn and Ray Kirby, and their family in the death of Ray's mother recently.
-Suzanne Morrow, friend of Patti Clay, had a shoulder replacement as a result of a fall, and she and her family could certainly use our prayers.
-Alice Pfirrmann has been admitted to Pardee for a GI blockage and infection.
- Prayers for Syrus, great niece of Ann Twiggs & Bill Shaffer, whose 16-year-old, queer friend committed suicide.
-Margie Acker, sister-in-law of Mark Acker, who is being treated for cancer, and for David, her husband and caregiver.
-Gary Perry, nephew of Trisha LaGrange, who is recovering from a stroke.
-For Sukey Pratt and the family of our friend Julius Pratt, who died recently.
-For Mark Fagerlin and the family of our friend Ericka Fagerlin who passed away recently.
-For 16-yr old Gabe, and his family who are friends of Karla's, who is in hospice care.
-Roger Haagenson who is now in hospice care in Florida.
-Kay Davis is receiving chemotherapy in Florida.

Our Birthdays this week:

Debi Brotherton	11/24
Cherie Stewart	11/25
Lauren Carlin	11/26
Anne Hartig	11/28
Kendra Ray	11/28
Jeannie Stewart	11/29
Susan Cowardin	11/29

To Our Visitors and Guests:

We are so glad you are here today! If you are interested in learning more about our congregation, denomination or membership, Karla or Mark would love to talk with you. We also hold a "Tell Me More" meeting on the first Sunday of each month, which provides the opportunity to talk with Karla about our church.

MINISTERS
All of the Congregation

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Welcome Home

First Congregational Church welcomes persons of all ages, races, gender identities, sexual orientations, theological beliefs, and those living with mental challenges. In our diversity, we find strength and a way to understand the inclusiveness of God. No matter where you've been, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome and needed here.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH • HENDERSONVILLE

November 22, 2026

Justice*Compassion*Belonging

Order of Worship

Welcome Karla Miller

Gathering Song

Blessed are you who hunger, blessed are you who thirst.
Blessed are you who mourn and feel no power on this earth.
Blessed are you who are poor in spirit and don't know what to do, Oh child of God, blessed are you. Blessed are you,
Oh blessed are you, Oh child of God, blessed are you.

A Time of Centering

Voluntary Now Thank We All Our God
Brant Adams
Joel Helfand, soloist

Opening Words

God of the journey, we come together from different places, different life experiences, and different understandings of you.

We come seeking a community of siblings and to find companionship for the journey.

We yearn to live fully, to celebrate the diversity of God's human family and the unity of our call to love and justice, and our call to live as persons who are thankful for all of life.

May our journey help us to reconnect to the Holy so that we may be vessels of love for all creation.

***Hymn** Come, Ye Thankful People Come

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;
God, our maker, does provide for our needs to be supplied;
come to God's own gracious space, raise the song of harvest home.

All the blessings of the field, all the gifts the gardens yield,
all the fruits in full supply, ripened 'neath the summer sky,
all that God with giving hands scatters o'er the earth and sea,
all that God's great spirit gives to all people everywhere.

So we join in thanks this day, and your gifts we freely share.
As we follow Christ the way, loving, serving everywhere.
Spirit, may our lives express all our daily thankfulness,
May we share your love and grace with our siblings everywhere.

First Reading Ephesians 1: 15-19 a Jolanda Cook

Music Prayer of St. Frances
Olive Dungan
Bruce Mills, soloist

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned. It is in dying that we are born to eternal life!

Second Reading i thank You God for most this amazing
ee cummings

i thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes
(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)
how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from the no
of all nothing—human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?
(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened).

Sermon Grateful, More than I Can Know Karla Miller

A Time for Reflection

Prayers of the People

Loving God, **hear our prayer.**

A Prayer of Gratitude

Spirit of Life, we offer our gratitude — for breath that fills our lungs, for earth that steadies our feet, for community that reminds us that we belong. We give thanks for the abundance all around us — not only for food and all our needs, but for laughter that heals, for courage that speaks truth, and for hands that work to build a more just world. We give thanks for this community — for all the identities, faiths, and paths that meet here; for the beauty of difference and the power of shared hope. For the love that will not let us go, for the hope that keeps rising, for the promise that life — even in its brokenness — is still good, still sacred, still ours to nurture, we give thanks. Amen.

Response

All shall be well. All shall be well. All manner of things shall be well. All shall be well.

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Praise Her Holy Name FCCH Choir
Keith Hampton

Sing till the power of the Lord come down. Shout Hallelujah! Praise Her Holy name! Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that loved a soul like me; I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see. Holy spirit how I love Thee! Shout Hallelujah, praise her holy name. Holy spirit, praise Her name, oh hallelujah, praise her holy name.

***Doxology**

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah. Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah.
Halle, halle, hall-lu-jah. Halle-lu-jah, hallelujah.

***Prayer of Blessing**

***Hymn** Be Now My Vision

Be now my vision, O God of my heart; nothing surpasses the love you impart - you my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, your presence my light.

Be now my wisdom, and be my true word, ever within me, my soul is assured. Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Riches I need not, nor life's empty praise, you, my inheritance, now and always; You and you only are first in my heart, great God, my treasure, may we never part.

Intentions and Benediction

Postlude Honor, Honor
Spiritual, arr. Bill Pursell

The light of Christ is carried into the world.

*Please rise in body or spirit

Opportunities for Prayer

Prayer cards are in the pew racks; completed cards may be placed in the offering plate or at the candle table.

You are invited to light a candle at the candle table.

The Prayer Wall hangs on the lectern. Paper hearts are provided on which you may write your prayer and attach it to the wall.

Altar Artist: Joann Coonrod **Acolyte:** Anne Ogburn

Cover Art: Thanksgiving Abundance Bowl from The Little Potato Company