

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We need volunteers this week for the Rummage Sale for Project Linus! Also, we want your donated goods for the sale! Drop off donations Thursday afternoon or Friday morning in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up to volunteer by indicating when you can volunteer on the clipboards in the front of the Sanctuary or in the Fellowship Hall after worship today; or email Romella Hart-O'Keefe at edrookeefe@gmail.com.

Next Sunday after worship: Tell Me More! If you are interested in learning more about our church, the UCC, or becoming a member, please join us in the Parlor (just off the Sanctuary) for information from Rev. Karla.

On Sunday, April 26, we will welcome New Members into our FCCH church family! If you are interested in joining the church or would like to speak to Karla before doing so, please contact Jennifer in the church office at office@fcchenderonville.org or by calling 828-692-8630.

A New Way to Serve Your Church – We are forming a new team called the “Forum Planning Team.” People on this team will identify a variety of programs for Forum each Sunday, contact speakers, and serve as a host at the Forums for speakers and attendees. If you would be willing to serve on this team, please contact Mark Acker (mark@fcchenderonville.org)

Happening at FCCH this week:

Mon, 4/13	10:00 am:	Community Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
Tues, 4/14	11:00 am:	Finance Committee Meeting, Choir Room
	4:00 pm:	Community Meditation, Parlor
	4:00 pm:	Church Council Meeting, Fellowship Hall
Wed, 4/15	10:00 am:	Sit & Stitch Small Group, Library
	3:15 pm:	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Thurs, 4/16	10:00 am:	Blue Ridge Ikebana Meeting, Fellowship Hall
	12:30 pm:	Set-up for Project Linus Rummage Sale, FH
	1:30 pm:	Crone Talk, Parlor
	7:00 pm:	Buddy K Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall
Fri, 4/17	8:30 am:	Set-up for Project Linus Rummage Sale, FH
	Noon:	Rummage Sale for Project Linus, Fellowship Hall
Sat, 4/18	9:00 am:	Rummage Sale for Project Linus, Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, 4/19, 9 am Forum: Angie Buchanan, therapist - “Let's Be Elephants” - the importance of community, encircling, protecting, remembering and truth-telling.

Save these Future Dates:

April 21: Friendship Dinner, 5 pm, Fellowship Hall
May 17: Spring Concert by the Buddy K Big Band, 3 pm, Fellowship Hall
May 30: Roger Smith Concert Series, Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus concerts (at Trinity Presbyterian Church at 3 pm and 7 pm.)

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember these people in your prayers this week

- Joann Coonrod had shoulder surgery on Monday & is now home recovering.
- Rene Hodges, mother of Jenn Kirby, has continued health, mobility and independence concerns.
- Bruce Mills has been ill, hospitalized, but is now home recovering.
- Romella Hart-O'Keefe is dealing with health issues.
- Kay Davis is dealing with health issues.
- Dody Schultz-Pratt had surgery last week & is now recuperating at Carolina Village.
- Lynn Conchado had hip replacement surgery recently and is healing at home.
- Julius Pratt is dealing with serious heart illness.
- Ericka Fagerlin is dealing with various health issues.
- Susie Walker, friend of Trish LaGrange, is ill and receiving treatment.
- John Kavito, family friend of Jeannie Stewart, has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Robert Greene had surgery last week for a pacemaker.
- Chris Carmichael and family on the death of his wife, Sherry, as they grieve her passing.
- Prayers for the people of Iran and Lebanon experiencing the ravages of war.
- Prayers for our military who may be experiencing mixed feelings, prayers for safety.

Our Birthdays this week:

Nancy Irving, whose birthday we missed last week, was 4/5

Jon Nobling	4/13
Dale Brotherton	4/16
Dottie Culver	4/16
Joan Diaz	4/16
Paige Ashley	4/17
Amy Dahan	4/19
Bruce Jayne	4/19
Isabel Cutler	4/19

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.

MINISTERS All of the Congregation

Rev. Karla Miller
Pastor
karla@fcchenderonville.org

Ms. Jennifer Austin-Janssen
Church Administrator
office@fcchenderonville.org

Mr. Mark Acker
Minister of Music
& Pastoral Associate
mark@fcchenderonville.org

First Congregational United Church of Christ
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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**

April 12, 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 for Centering

Voluntary

Bourree
G.F. Handel
Linda Laderach, violin

Opening Words

Young and old and middle-aged, individuals, couples and families, soft-spoken and outspoken,

We gather to join together in the rainbow of love.

Gay, straight, transgender, and all expressions of gender identity,

We gather to join together in the rainbow of love.

Jews and Christians, Buddhists and Muslims, atheists and agnostics, persons of deep faith and persons with no faith,

We gather to join together in the rainbow of love.

This house of worship is open to all. Come, let us worship together.

*Hymn

God of Love

**God of love, may we in worship welcome all diversity.
May we reach in trust and friendship to the poor and refugee.
May we seek Christ in the stranger, breaking bonds of hate and fear.
By your Spirit, may we offer glimpses of your kingdom here.**

**God of hope, you daily nurture those who seek to follow you.
You're not bound by any culture; you love rich and poor ones, too.
In an ever-changing nation, may your churches welcome in
Every child of your creation, giving hope to all again.**

**God of peace, you send your spirit each and every day for all.
You give life and say to share it, all as one, within your love.
May we see your wondrous blessing when your people everywhere
Work together, all proclaiming love that binds us, peace to share.**

First Reading

The Hope of Loving
Meister Eckhart

Jan Aplin

What keeps us alive, what allows us to endure?
I think it is the hope of loving,
or being loved.

I heard a fable once about the sun going on a journey
to find its source, and how the moon wept
without her lover's
warm gaze.

We weep when light does not reach our hearts. We wither
like fields if someone close
does not rain their
kindness
upon
us.

Second Reading

John 20:19-31

Anthem

Come and Be Joyful
Antonio Vivaldi

FCCH Choir

Come and be joyful, come and praise the Lord, sing with gladness. All be praising, thanks be raising. God is faithful and true forever more.

Sermon

Signs of Life

Becca Stevens

A Time for Reflection

Prayers of the People

Loving God, **hear our prayer.**

Congregational Prayer

Loving God, You who breathe life into weary hearts, we come before you with all that we carry—our worries, our griefs, our questions, and our hopes. When the world feels heavy and the road uncertain, may we live with resilience.

Where there is despair, help us to kindle hope. Where there is fear, help us to grow in our trust that all will be well. Help us to remember that even in difficult seasons, new life is quietly growing.

In these difficult times, may we also be bearers of hope, builders of peace, and friends to all who are struggling. In the spirit of love that holds us all, 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

Be Thou My Vision
Tom Trenney

*Doxology

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

*Prayer of Dedication

God of all creation, we offer these gifts so that your love may be magnified. Amen.

*Hymn

We Are Marching In the Light of God

**1. We are marching in the light of God.
2. We are praying in the light of God.
3. We are singing in the light of God.**

Intentions and Benediction

Response

I Am Sending You Light
Melanie DeMore

**I am sending you light to heal you, to hold you.
I am sending you light to hold you in love.**

The light of Christ is carried into the world.

*Please rise in body or spirit

Worship Notes

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. Hearts are provided on which you may write your prayer and attach it to the wall.

Altar Artist: Diane Rose

Acolyte: Sharon Pearson

Cover art: photo by John Stevenson, from ScotlandsWild.com blog on "How the Thistle Became the Flower of Scotland."