



# May Chronicle 2025

## First Congregational UCC Hendersonville

Join us this Sunday!

*Buddy K Big Band*  
Free Community Concert  
*This Sunday, May 4 3pm*



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC**  
1735 Fifth Avenue West, Hendersonville 28739

### May FORUM Schedule & important SAVE the DATES in our church:

May 4 FORUM: Michael Gates,  
Principal at Upward Elementary School

May 11 FORUM: Alan Yeck, Veterans  
Healing Farm

May 18 FORUM: The King of  
Instruments, Mark Acker

May 25 FORUM: Dianne Beers, on her  
pilgrimage on the Portugal portion of  
the Camino de Santiago

Sat., June 7: Hendersonville PRIDE  
Festival, Jackson Park

Sat., June 28: Celebration of Life for  
Lester Vier

Beloved FCCH,

I love all things May~~May Day Baskets, May Pole Dancing (hmmm, that doesn't sound exactly right, but I hope you know what I mean...), the Buddy Kay Concert on May 4, Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day (even though it is complicated), and the freshness and anticipation of spring slowly maturing towards early summer.

While it has nothing to do with the subject of May, Mark and I thought it would be fun to offer another sermon series. And so, beginning on May 11th, for seven weeks, we will explore the wonder of our inner trinity of Body, Mind and Soul as we journey as spiritual pilgrims on this earth. The central prayer of Judaism is to "love God with all of your heart, all of your soul, and all of your mind." Jesus affirmed this prayer in his teachings. But how do we do this when our hearts and souls are troubled with grief or loneliness, depression or fear? Is it easy to forget our spiritual lives when we are overcome with joy? How can we love faithfully through the discomfort and sometimes overwhelming emotions of life? Using contemporary and ancient resources, we are looking forward to tackling some of these life questions. Here is the schedule:

May 11: Disappointment and Regret

May 18: Fear and Anxiety

May 25: Depression

June 1: Grief

June 8: PRIDE SUNDAY~~special worship service

June 15: Loneliness

June 22: Empathy & Compassion

June 28 Joy

On another note, I am so excited have been selected for "Holy Encounters: Preachers on Pilgrimage" which is a two week pilgrimage on Camino de Santiago in Spain. This program is part of the Columbia Seminary's Preachers Studio for Renewal for clergy wellness and resilience. I will be walking and praying with ten other clergy from May 27-June 12. Some of you have experienced the Camino and I am grateful to be following in your stead.

And so, Mark and I also decided we will have another summer of FCCH Pilgrimage events! Please stay tuned to learn more about what we have planned. It will be a wonderful summer.

Until then, enjoy May Pole Dancing and smelling the flowers.

Big Love + Deep Peace,

Karla



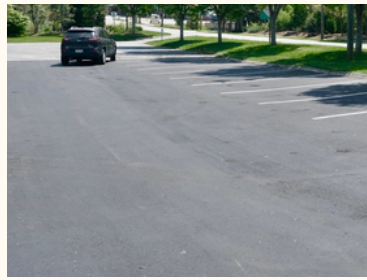
# Pictures of Lent, Easter, Flower Helpers and our PARKING LOT!!!



So much beauty in  
and around us . . .



Photo credits to  
Dawn Kucera,  
Karla Miller,  
Nolleen Kelly &  
Jan Caldemeyer



## Celtic Mandala Therapeutic Coloring

When: May 6, 13, 20, 27/ June 3  
Where: Library Time: 1:30 - 3:00  
Contact: catherine.fairbanks@yahoo.com

Mandala means "circle" with no beginning or end. They represent the magical symbolism of the universe perceived by ourselves, its intricate construction being contained within the 'eternal circle.' Celtic mandalas are intricate compositions which invariably have a dual-dimensional format, relating to the belief that it is possible to travel from the earthly realm to the Celtic Otherworld.

During this six-week meeting, we will explore the intricacies of the Celtic mandala: the designs, colors, and symbols within a meditative space. Bring your favorite coloring tools (colored pencils, markers, pens) and a Celtic mandala coloring book (if you have one); design pages will also be provided. Take a deep breath and embark on a soothing journey towards tranquility as you work with the shapes and colors of Celtic mandalas. Unleash your imagination and immerse yourself in the joyful realm of coloring, letting the colors weave their magic.



## Circle of Friends Registration

The current Circle of Friends groups are coming to an end, and it is now time to register for the new session which will begin in September. The purpose of these groups has been to develop relationships with people you may not have previously known by sharing food and fellowship together. In this issue of The Chronicle there is a registration form, you may print it, fill it out and place in the wire basket in the church office. We will also have forms available during coffee hour on May 18 th and 25 th . If you miss these opportunities, there will be forms available on the table in the hallway throughout the summer. Again, fill out the form and place in wire basket in church office. We hope that most of you will take advantage of this opportunity to expand your Circle of Friends within the congregation.

Click [HERE](#) for the Circle of Friends Registration form.

## Social Justice Team

Did you know the United Church of Christ is part of the Justice & Peace Action Network? Through this network, you can contact your legislators on pressing issues with one click on their action center website! They are working on issues such as passing a moral budget, humanitarian aid and peace building, Medicaid, Medicare and affordable healthcare, LGBTQ+ and transgender issues to name a few. You can sign up for their newsletter and also go to their website and send a message to your congressman on many many issues with one click. Give it a try!  
<https://www.ucc.org/action-center/>





## FCCH Care Mail!

Have you ever meant to send a card to someone from church and then forgot? Outside the sanctuary, on the hallway table, we have a collection of cards - birthday, sympathy, get well, and blank - that you may use and give to that person in person or leave it here and we will mail it for you. Just put the person's name on the front and we will address and mail it out.

If you have cards you would like to donate, please leave them in the kitchen labeled DIANE ROSE. I will sort them and place them in the box.

Nothing is better on a dreary day than a card that says someone is thinking of you!

-Diane Rose

## Our May Birthdays

May 2 Carolyn Schmalz  
May 7 Dana Vannoy  
May 9 Zachary Cone  
May 9 Matt Henderley  
May 11 Jock Aplin  
May 14 Bruce Mills  
May 16 Marcella Leshner  
May 19 Liz Hill  
May 30 Ariel Marsh



## Worship Attendance

April 6	129
April 13	145
April 20	211
April 27	140

## CELEBRATE SPRING SMALL GROUP DINNER

Yes, we are still meeting together! This just shows how close our small group is to each other. And how important these groups are to our church. We have made wonderful friends who will always care for and pray for each other. Susan and Conrad graciously welcomed us into their home on Tuesday, April 8th. The mountain view there is amazing!! We feasted on Honey Baked Ham, scalloped potatoes, sweet potato casserole, Brussels sprouts and homemade peach cobbler with ice cream. YUMMY, right. We have GREAT cooks in our group. And as always, we had lively conversations and such good fellowship. We talked about upcoming travel and summer plans. We also discussed how very important it is to stay social as we age.

Thank you, Susan and Conrad!!

Respectfully submitted by,  
Sherry Carmichael



## Sunday School pictures

...

*Meet Hannah  
Cerceda, our  
new SS  
assistant!*

*The children  
love craft and  
art projects  
then showing  
their craft in  
Coffee Hour!*





## Service & Giving Highlights

At the April 10 Service & Giving (S&G) meeting, we allocated funds to environmental agencies and we welcome all to our May 8 meeting where we will discuss funding for educational groups. After the meeting some team members, including Dede Walton, Lillian Dashner and Helen Vannard, delivered FCC's collection of supplies in two full vans to delighted Blue Ridge Health staffers on Chimney Rock Road for storage and distribution.



On April 17 volunteer organizers of the migrants' supplies campaign report that 705 individual bags were packed. Considering the fact that an estimated 800 workers will be arriving throughout this season, those items will go a long way! A portion of the \$840 cash donations from FCC will also help buy box fans and inflatable mattresses as we have done in past years.

S & G has also been active at Upward Elementary School whose principal, Michael Gates, will be the featured speaker at the May 4 Forum at 9:00 am. Mr. Gates says "As Principal of Upward Elementary School, I feel confident that I speak on behalf of our staff and students when I say Upward Elementary has been fortunate to have First Congregational Church as a partner. With donations of backpacks, calm corner tools, "pocket hugs", and blankets, our students have participated in classroom activities with fewer disruptions and have regulated themselves emotionally with greater frequency. I look forward to sharing details on May 4 about our school demographics and how the contributions we've received have had a direct impact on our students and staff." So be sure to calendar this important presentation.

The next S&G meeting is Thursday, May 8 at 10 am in the choir room. All are welcome.

Other events which S&G suggests include the following:

**WEDNESDAY  
NIGHT**  
*Live*

  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
900 Blythe St.  
Hendersonville NC 28791

  
Guest speakers  
**CIRCLES  
GREENVILLE  
CHAPTER**

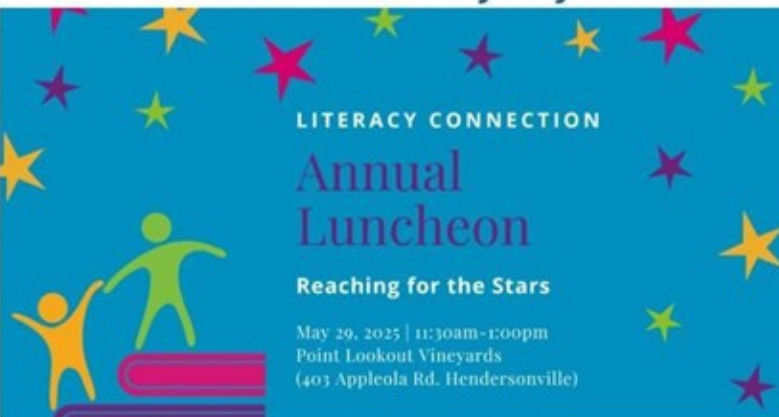


Join us for an insightful Evening Learning Session as we explore the powerful impact of Circles USA in combating poverty and building economic self-sufficiency through relationships and community support.

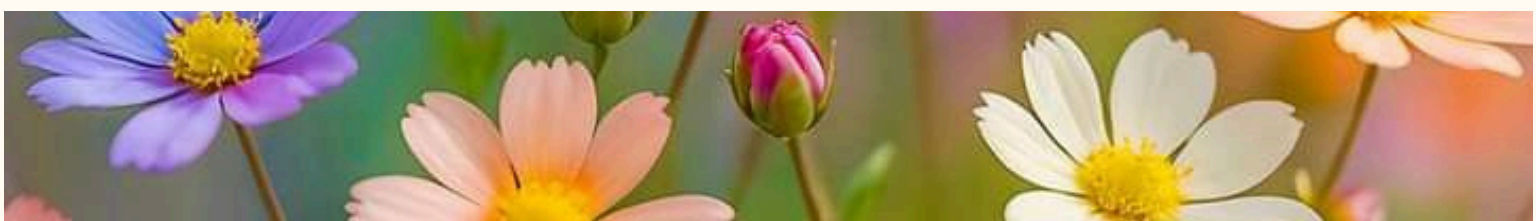
**RSVP  
NEEDED**

**MAY | 7<sup>th</sup> | 2025**  
Dinner starts at 5:30p  
Program starts at 6:30-7:30p

**As a sponsor of the Literacy Connection's  
May 29th annual luncheon,  
FCC has 6 complimentary tickets available.**  
**If you would like to attend, please contact  
Sheila Clendenning at [bsheila.nc@gmail.com](mailto:bsheila.nc@gmail.com)  
no later than Sunday May 11.**



**LITERACY CONNECTION**  
**Annual  
Luncheon**  
**Reaching for the Stars**  
May 29, 2025 | 11:30am-1:00pm  
Point Lookout Vineyards  
(403 Appleola Rd. Hendersonville)





# Ways to Get Involved in Our Larger Community!

## ACTION ALERT



**TELL NC LAWMAKERS  
VOTE NO ON THE SAVE ACT**

Tell Senators Tillis and Budd  
to vote NO on the SAVE Act

The SAVE Act would require voters to present a birth certificate or U.S. passport to prove their citizenship when registering (or re-registering) to vote in federal elections. Although the SAVE Act applies only to federal elections, it would allow NC lawmakers to enact a similar law for state elections.

Click [here](#) for more info.



### League of Women Voters' Pathfinders Program

**May 14**

The League of Women Voters of Henderson County will host Maggie Gilliam speaking on the Pathfinders Program of the Henderson County Education Foundation on Wednesday, May 14, 2023, from 11:30 AM - 1 PM at FCCH. Beverages and snacks will be provided; please feel free to bring your lunch.

The Pathfinders Program connects middle and high school students with a community mentor. Ms. Gilliam, Director of the Pathfinders Program, will describe the current program, goals for expanding to additional schools, plus volunteer/mentoring opportunities.



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC**  
1735 FIFTH AVENUE WEST  
HENDERSONVILLE NC 28739

# RISE TOGETHER TO TACKLE POVERTY

**RSVP NEEDED**

Join us for a **FREE Lunch & Learn** to discover how **Circles USA** is transforming communities by breaking the cycle of poverty through relationship-based support and collaboration.

**Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 11:30 a.m (food provided)**  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
900 Blythe St.  
Hendersonville NC 28791

Learn about the Circles USA program and how it's reshaping the future of poverty intervention

Discover how YOU can get involved in making a difference

Hear powerful stories from Sylva Circles volunteers and participants

For more info contact Paul Hugger at paulhugger@gmail.com or (336)902-6611

## New Anti-Trans Bills

Last month, two anti-trans bills were introduced in the NC state senate - SB 516 and SB 442. Here's an [article from WRAL News](#) that provides more information. You can contact your elected officials to speak out against these discriminatory and harmful bills.

## UUFH Coffee House and Open Mic Saturday, May 17 at 3:00 pm

Due to the positive response to our first coffee house and open mic event in February, we're going to keep it going. Please join us Saturday, May 17, at 3 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at 2021 Kanuga Road. Get your talents ready to share, and invite members of our community! This will be a justice/protest-themed multigenerational event. Talents can be singing a song, playing an instrument, reading a poem or spoken word art, visual arts, dance, or any other form of expression. For details about this free event, contact [office@uufhnc.org](mailto:office@uufhnc.org).

## 5Calls.org

To quote Joyce Vance: "The courts are trying to do their part. With Congress asleep and a president intent on achieving his policy goals, regardless of their legality, it's up to us to keep trying and doing everything we can every day. Make sure your voice gets heard in this moment." Then she recommends using a site called [5calls.org](https://5calls.org).

You give your zip code and they find the contact info for your legislators. Then you select the topic you want to call them about (I am going to call them about Abuello Garcia.) and 5Calls.org provides you with the relevant phone numbers and A SCRIPT you can use to make your call. They also give you guidelines (keep it short!) for your call to be most effective.

*Remember, "Tiny drops of water, little grains of sand, make the mighty ocean and the pleasant land."*