

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let’s Make Something Beautiful! Congregational Lunch is today after worship! We will have an array of sandwiches (including vegetarian), chips, fruit and cookies. Even if you forgot to let us know you are coming, please come! We should have plenty of food and fellowship to go around! There will be a donation basket at the door to help cover the cost of the lunch.

All Saints Sunday is Next Sunday, November 1st. To remember those you have loved and lost, you are invited to bring a memento to place on the altar table. The memento could be a small picture, a deck of cards, piece of jewelry, or anything that makes you remember that loved one. you are invited to bring a short letter or a brief note addressed to a person or persons or pet who have died, expressing your thanks to them for their impact in your life. There will be a bowl on the altar table that day in which your letter or note can be placed, and a blessing will be said over them in worship. Bring your letter or memento to the sanctuary that morning and place it on the altar table by 10 am. We will also remember members of our congregation who have died this past year, and light a candle in their memory.

Brighten a Senior's Holiday Season! You can fulfill a Meal on Wheels Senior Holiday Gift Wish or Shoebox Project. See Elf Theo Sharps after the service today for a Gift Wish tag or instructions for filling a shoebox/gift bag with small useful items. Mountain Aging Partners will distribute the gifts.

Happening at FCCH this week:

- Mon, 10/26
- 10:00 am: Community Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
2:00 pm: Lake Pointe Landing Small Group
- Tues, 10/27
- 1:00 pm: Social Justice Team, Zoom Meeting
4:00 pm: Community Meditation, Parlor
- Wed, 10/28
- 10:00 am: Sit & Stitch, Library
3:15 pm: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
5:00 pm: Progressive Theology Book Group, Fellowship Hall
- Thurs, 10/29
- 1:30 pm: Crone Talk, Parlor
7:00 pm: Buddy K Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Save these Future Dates:

- Nov 14 – Drum Circle, Sanctuary
Nov 15 – Brian Combs, preaching, Sanctuary
Nov 20 – Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil, Sanctuary
Nov 26 – Thanksgiving Potluck Feast, Fellowship Hall
Dec 13 – Christmas Music Special, Sanctuary
Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Sanctuary

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember these people in your prayers this week

- Ken and Sammye Whitney, who are grieving the loss of their dog, Highlander.
- Margie Acker, sister-in-law of Mark, 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 passed away last Saturday.
- For Mark Fagerlin and the family of our friend Ericka Fagerlin who passed away last Friday.
- For 16-yr old Gabe, and his family who are friends of Karla’s, who is in hospice care.
- Sheri Wilson had knee replacement surgery and is recovering at home.
- Stacy Fisher and her family, friend of Dawn Kucera, as her husband Rob faces a major medical issue.
- Sympathy to the family of Catherine Lynch who passed away recently.
- Roger Haagenon who is hospitalized in Florida.
- Cathy Sadler as she heals from fall-related injuries and corrective surgeries.
- Kay Davis is receiving chemotherapy in Florida.
- For those dealing with anxiety and depression in these times.

Our Birthdays this week:

Susan Flynt	10/28
Dottie Koopman	10/29
Mike Brazauskus	10/31

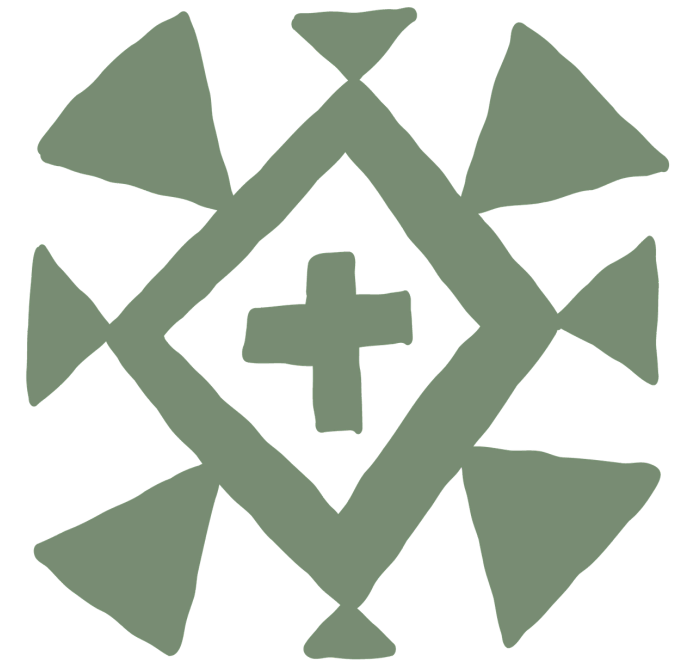
MINISTERS
All of the Congregation

Rev. Karla Miller
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LET'S MAKE
SOMETHING
BEAUTIFUL

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 belong here and are welcome just as you are.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH • HENDERSONVILLE

October 25, 2026

Justice*Compassion*Belonging

Order of Worship			Welcoming of New Members			Offertory		
Welcome			Solo			We Abide Mark Miller		
Karla Miller			Welcome Mark Miller Karen Monks, soloist			FCCH Choir		
Gathering Song			Let's walk together for a while and ask where we begin to build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in. To be the hands of healing and to plant the seeds of peace, Singing welcome. Welcome to this place. You're invited to come and know God's grace. All are welcome, the love of God to share, 'cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place. Let's talk together of a time when we will share a feast, where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least, and joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray, let's dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one, a city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem, where our mourning turns to dancing, every creature lifts its voice!			If we lay all we seek on the altar of love, the work of our hands and our minds, trusting all that we need flows and flowers from God, our thirsting will be satisfied. When we burn with a holy desire to fulfill everything that God requires: making justice together, walking close to each other, reaching past all the things that divide, humbly offering kindness, seeking hope and forgiveness, we abide in God's love. For the cities shall bloom and the earth be restored, the hurts that we bear start to heal, as the faith of the past is refreshed and reformed, the love of our God is made real.		
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.			First Readings			*Doxology		
A Time of Centering			Ecclesiastes 3:1 I Isaiah 43:18-19			Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah. Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah. Halle, halle, hall-lu-jah. Halle-lu-jah, hallelujah.		
Voluntary			Cathy Evans			*Prayer of Dedication		
Meditation on "Safe With the Arms" Mark Hayes Linda Laderach, violin			Second Reading			*Hymn		
Opening Words			Good Bones Maggie Smith			Sing a New Church		
Young and old and middle-aged, individuals, couples and families, soft-spoken and outspoken,			Life is short, though I keep this from my children. Life is short, and I've shortened mine in a thousand delicious, ill-advised ways, a thousand deliciously ill-advised ways I'll keep from my children. The world is at least fifty percent terrible, and that's a conservative estimate, though I keep this from my children. For every bird there is a stone thrown at a bird... Life is short and the world is at least half terrible, and for every kind stranger, there is one who would break you, though I keep this from my children. I am trying to sell them the world. Any decent realtor, walking you through a real [dump], chirps on about good bones: This place could be beautiful, right? You could make this place beautiful.			Summoned by the God who made us rich in our diversity Gathered in the name of Jesus, richer still in unity. Let us bring the gifts that differ and, in splendid, varied ways, sing a new Church into being, one in faith and love and praise.		
We gather to join together in the rainbow of love.			Sermon			Radiant risen from the water, robed in holiness and light, siblings made in God's own God's image, all are living in God's light. Trust the goodness of creation; trust the Spirit strong within. Dare to dream the vision promised, sprung from seeds of what has been.		
Gay, straight, transgender, and all expressions of gender identity,			Beautiful Bones			Bring the hopes of every nation; bring the art of everyone. Weave a song of peace and justice; let it sound through time and space. Draw together at one table, all the human family; shape a circle ever wider and a people ever free		
We gather to join together in the rainbow of love.			Karla Miller			Intentions and Benediction		
Jews and Christians, Buddhists and Muslims, atheists and agnostics, persons of deep faith and persons with no faith,			A Time for Reflection			Postlude		
We gather to join together in the rainbow of love.			Prayers of the People			Earth and All Stars David Johnson		
There is room in God's Great Welcome			Loving God, hear our prayer.			The light of Christ is carried into the world.		
*Hymn			A Moment for Stewardship			*Please rise in body or spirit		
There is room in God's great welcome; See! The doors are open wide! Here on earth as in God's heaven, hear the call to come inside! There is so much room for difference — every heart in every place. In God's love, the rooms are countless, but there is no room for hate.			Invitation to Offering			Worship Notes		
There is room beyond all borders if we stand on justice-ground. God has made a good creation; colors, cultures all abound. Welcome, neighbor! Welcome, stranger! All those yearning to breathe free! There is room for one another but no room for bigotry.			Bob McLendon			Prayer cards are in the pew racks; completed cards may be placed in the offering plate or at the candle table.		
There is room in loving churches for the wounded and oppressed: People who've been told they're worthless, refugees who feel distressed, Immigrants who fear the future, people scorned and pushed and shoved. God, may we seek what you treasure: may we all make room for love.						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.		
						Copies of today's sermon are available in the narthex and on the front pew, and will be posted on our website tomorrow.		
						Altar Artist: Ann Twiggs Acolyte: Karen Monks		
						Cover art: 2026 Stewardship campaign logo		