

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**“Full Tum, Dry Bum” FCCH Diaper Drive for the Children & Family Resource Center now through May 17!** Shop for diapers (size 5-7) and Pull-Ups (3T-5T) and diaper wipes! Or write a check for the offering plate with CFRC in the memo line. Donation bins are located at the entrance doors to the Sanctuary.

**Tickets for the Roger Smith Concerts Series with the Atlanta Gay Mens Chorus are now available on our website!** The concerts are at 3:30 pm and 7 pm on Saturday, May 30, at Trinity Presbyterian Church on Blythe Street. Tickets are free, but tickets are required so that we can manage attendance demands. A table for tickets to this concert will be set up in the Fellowship Hall after worship where you can get tickets, also. If you have trouble reserving tickets online, please contact Jennifer at 828-692-8630 or [office@fcchenderonville.org](mailto:office@fcchenderonville.org).

**The Buddy K Big Band Spring Concert is coming in May!** Mark your calendars and invite your friends and neighbors to see the premiere big band in Western NC perform on Sunday, May 17, at 3 pm, in the church Fellowship Hall. Come tap your toes, dance if you wish, and enjoy!

### Happening at FCCH this week:

Mon, 5/4 10:00 am: Community Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall  
1:30 pm: Carolina Village Small Group, CV Chapel

Tues, 5/5 10:00 am: Prayer Shawls, Parlor  
4:00 pm: Community Meditation, Parlor  
6:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting, Fellowship Hall

Wed, 5/6 10:00 am: Sit & Stitch, Library  
10:00 am: Physical Resources Committee, Choir Room  
3:15 pm: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thurs, 5/7 10:00 am: WNC Quilters Guild, Fellowship Hall  
1:30 pm: Crone Talk, Parlor  
7:00 pm: Buddy K Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

**Next Sunday, 5/10, Forum:** Dr. Erich Junger. “How to Avoid Scams.” Erich is an officer in the Laurel Park police department. Dr. Junger will discuss common scams, particularly those related to senior citizens, and how to avoid being taken advantage of by phone and internet scams.

### Save these Future Dates:

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 3:30 pm and 7 pm)

June 7: PRIDE Sunday

June 28: Rev. Brian Combs speaks in Forum and Worship

August 23: John Pavlovitz speaks at Forum and Worship

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### Please remember these people in your prayers this week

- Sharon Schultz-Pratt was hospitalized this week with pneumonia and strep throat.
- Kay Davis is dealing with upcoming treatments for her health issues.
- Ray Heaton, Dawn Kucera’s brother, who is recovering from major surgery.
- Debbie Hyslop, friend of Kristin Jordan, who will have a double mastectomy and treatment afterwards. Pray for peace, comfort and wisdom.
- Trisha LaGrange asks for prayers for friend Susie Walker who is having radiation.
- Sympathy to family & friends of George Cox, founder of the Hendersonville Rescue Mission, who died April 12.
- Sympathy to family & friends of Nate Brooks who died unexpectedly on April 7.
- Prayers of Celebration for Jeannie & Milton Stewart’s nephew and new niece, James Kenneth Carpenter and Daniella Alcantara Gonzales, who were married this week.
- Linda Laderach has returned home after being at rehab post knee replacement.
- Mindy Myers is dealing with health issues and treatments.
- René Hodges, mother of Jenn Kirby, has continued health, mobility and independence concerns.
- Dody Schultz-Pratt had knee surgery and is now recuperating at Carolina Village.
- Julius Pratt is dealing with serious heart illness.
- Ericka Fagerlin is dealing with various health issues.
- 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:

Dana Vannoy 5/7  
Zachary Cone 5/9  
Matt Henderly 5/9

### 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” periodically, which provides the opportunity to talk with Karla about our church.

### MINISTERS All of the Congregation

**Rev. Karla Miller**  
Pastor  
[karla@fcchenderonville.org](mailto:karla@fcchenderonville.org)

**Ms. Jennifer Austin-Janssen**  
Church Administrator  
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**Mr. Mark Acker**  
Minister of Music  
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[mark@fcchenderonville.org](mailto:mark@fcchenderonville.org)

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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**

**May 3, 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** O God, Beyond All Praising  
Tom Trenney

### Opening Words

This is thin place where earth and heaven embrace.

**Where past interweaves with future, where we gather expectantly.**

This is a thin place where hopes are renewed,

**Where faith is restored, where peace is revived, where love is refreshed.**

This is a thin place.

**Love about us.**

Love beside us.

**And love within us.**

Grace revealed as we worship together.

**\*Hymn** God, Whose Love Is Always Stronger

**God, whose love is always stronger than our weakness, grief and fear,  
In your world, we pray and wonder how to be more faithful here.  
Hate too often grows inside us; fear rules what the nations do.  
So we pray, when wars divide us: give us love, God! Make us new!**

**Love is patient, kind and caring, never arrogant or rude,  
Never boastful, all things bearing; love rejoices in the truth.  
When we're caught up in believing war will make the terror cease,  
Show us Jesus' way of living; may our strength be in your peace.**

**May our faith in you be nourished; may your churches hear your call.  
May our lives be filled with courage as we speak your love for all.  
Now emboldened by your Spirit who has given us new birth,  
Give us love, that we may share it till your love renews the earth!**

**First Reading** John 14:1-6a Mark Mitchell

**Second Reading** "Maximum Strength"  
*Rosemary Wahtola Trommer*

Starting the long drive home,  
I do not turn on the radio  
to hear news of the broken world.  
My father taught me every broken thing,  
from coolers to car doors to roofs,  
could be fixed with silver duct tape,  
at least for a while.  
How big would the roll have to be,  
America? On the seat beside me,  
a green and white striped bag  
is filled with humus and cheesy crackers,  
chocolates filled with coconut and pistachio,  
oat protein bars, dried mango strips  
plus a small baggie of pretzel twists,  
a road-food care package my friends  
prepared for me in the middle of the night

so it would be on the counter waiting for me  
to find when I left their home at dawn.  
Perhaps kindness is a kind of duct tape—  
which is to say it doesn't actually fix things,  
but it does help us go on. What is broken  
is still broken, but I can taste the adhesion  
in the coffee they ground for me last night  
so I could be awake for this morning's drive—  
hints of cinnamon, dark chocolate, toffee,  
love. I feel how their kindness holds me together  
this morning. How sticky it is, the message  
they wrote for me in sand: you are loved.  
The message will fade, but as the world  
goes on breaking, I feel surrounded  
by their kindness all the way home.

**Sermon** Troubled Hearts on the Way Karla Miller

### A Time for Reflection

### Invitation to Offering

**Offertory** Hands of Peace FCCH Choir

Rejoice and welcome all to join our hands in peace. Rejoice give thanks and sing with love for evermore. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice. Rejoice, again I say rejoice! Rejoice in glorious hope that all will be made whole. Rejoice in glorious hope and join our voice as one.

### \*Doxology

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

### \*Prayer of Blessing

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

### Celebration of Holy Communion

*All are welcome at our table. The bread is gluten free. We celebrate communion by intinction. Please come to the table by the center aisle. You are invited to take a piece of bread from the plate, and dip it into the cup. If your bread falls in the cup, please take a new piece of bread to dip. Then return to your seat by the outer aisle.*

**Music** Hallelujah  
*Leonard Cohen*  
John Caldemeyer, soloist

**Song** One Earth, One Sky  
*Kim Oler*  
*Congregation please join in singing each chorus:*

**Peace on earth, peace on earth, shalom, shalom, shalom.  
Peace on earth, peace on earth, shalom, shalom, shalom.**

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**God of love, we give you thanks for this shared meal. Send us from here to share love in the world. Inspire in us the passion to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with You. Amen.**

**\*Hymn** For Everyone Born

**For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born,  
clean water and bread, a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing;  
for everyone born, a star overhead.**

**Chorus:  
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,  
compassion and peace; Yes, God wil delight when we are  
creators of justice, justice and joy!**

**For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear,  
and simply to be, to work, to speak out, to witness and  
worship; for everyone born, the right to be free.**

### Intentions and Benediction

**Postlude** Voluntary on "Comfort Now My People"  
*Genevan Psalter*

*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. 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.

**Acolyte:** Bill Shaffer

**Cover art:** "The Best Supper" by Jan Richardson