

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today 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.

**Next 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](mailto: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](mailto:mark@fcchenderonville.org))

**Our next Friendship Dinner is on Tuesday, April 21!** Doors open at 5:00 pm, and we will eat at 5:30 pm. Please bring a dish to share and your own tableware (utensils, plates, cups). This is a fun event to get to know your church community, and also to invite a friend or neighbor. Join us!

### Happening at FCCH this week:

Mon, 4/20 10:00 am: Community Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall  
10:00 am: Blooms of Kindness, Choir Room

Tues, 4/21 4:00 pm: Community Meditation, Parlor  
5:00 pm: Friendship Dinner, Fellowship Hall

Wed, 4/22 10:00 am: Sit & Stitch Small Group, Library  
3:15 pm: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thrs, 4/23 1:30 pm: Crone Talk, Parlor  
4:00 pm: Pisgah Chpt Trout Un’ltd Board Mtg, Choir Room  
7:00 pm: Buddy K Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

**Next Sunday, 4/26, 9 am Forum:** JoAnn Miner presents on "Safe Zones" - [Safe Zone training](#) is an educational program designed to increase awareness, understanding, and allyship for the LGBTQ+ community. These workshops teach participants about sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression, helping to foster inclusive, respectful environments in workplaces and schools, often signified by a [Safe Zone sticker](#).

### 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)  
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

- Sympathy to the family and friends of Bev Ward, who died March 18 in Missouri.
- Linda Laderach had knee replacement surgery this week and is now in rehab at Carolina Village as she heals.
- Joann Coonrod had shoulder surgery last week and is home recuperating.
- René Hodges, mother of Jenn Kirby, has continued health, mobility and independence concerns.
- Romella Hart-O’Keefe is dealing with health issues.
- Kay Davis is dealing with health issues.
- Dody Schultz-Pratt had knee surgery and is now recuperating at Carolina Village.
- Lynn Conchado had hip replacement surgery recently.
- 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.
- 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:

Amy Dahan 4/19  
Bruce Jayne 4/19  
Isabel Cutler 4/19  
Matthew Carlin 4/20  
Glenn Gross 4/23  
Phillip Carlin 4/25

### 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](mailto:karla@fcchenderonville.org)

**Ms. Jennifer Austin-Janssen**  
Church Administrator  
[office@fcchenderonville.org](mailto:office@fcchenderonville.org)

**Mr. Mark Acker**  
Minister of Music  
& Pastoral Associate  
[mark@fcchenderonville.org](mailto:mark@fcchenderonville.org)

**First Congregational United Church of Christ**  
1735 5th Avenue West, Hendersonville, NC. 28739  
828.692.8630 / [www.fcchenderonville.org](http://www.fcchenderonville.org)



## 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 19, 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** Voluntary on "Immortal, Invisible"  
*Michael Burkhardt*

### 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** For the Beauty of the Earth

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild, Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For thyself, best gift divine, to our race so freely giv'n, for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n. Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**First Reading** Exodus 3:1-5 Nolleen Kelly

**Second Reading** Hello, Earth!  
*Joyce Sidman*

It's your children.  
We have been studying you,  
but we long to learn more.  
We want to ask you  
a few questions.  
We want to tell you our dreams  
and wishes.

Can you hear us,  
Earth?

**Anthem** What a Wonderful World FCCH Choir  
*Louis Armstrong*

I see trees of green, red roses too, I see them bloom for me and you, and I think to myself what a wonderful world. I see skies of blue and clouds of white, the bright blessed day, the dark sacred night. And I think to myself what a wonderful world. The colors of the rainbow so pretty in the sky are also on the faces of people going by. I see friends shaking hands saying how do you do; they're really saying I love you. I hear babies cry, and I watch them grow; they'll learn much more than I'll ever know. And I think to myself what a wonderful world. Yes, I think to myself what a wonderful world.

**Sermon** Barefeet and Tender Souls Karla Miller

### A Time for Reflection

#### Prayers of the People

Loving God, **hear our prayer.**

#### Congregational Prayer

**God of amazing mercy, we thank you for love that refuses to stay in the places we expect. You surprise us with grace spoken through unfamiliar voices, kindness offered by unlikely hands, and hope rising from corners we once overlooked. Open our eyes to see Your image in every neighbor. Open our hearts to welcome wisdom from those we have misunderstood. Open our lives to receive love from strangers, from the margins, from the least and the last. May we become a community that not only receives unexpected love, but embodies it— crossing boundaries, widening tables, and reflecting Your boundless grace in word and deed. In the name of the One who taught us that love is stronger than fear, 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** I Will Bring You Home  
*Michael Card*  
Julie Muehe, flute

#### \*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** Sing a New World Into Being

**Sing a new world into being, sound a bold and hopeful theme.  
Find a tune for silent yearnings, lend your voice and dare to dream.  
Dream a church where all who worship find their lives and loves belong.  
Sing a new world into being, sing as Christ inspires your song.**

**Sing a new world into being, where each gender class and race.  
Brings its rainbow gifts and colors to God's limitless embrace.  
Where the lines that once divided form instead the ties that bind.  
Sing a new world into being, Risk transforming heart and mind.**

**Sing a new world into being, where the homeless find a home.  
Where no children ever hunger, but are filled with God's shalom.  
Where all people work for justice, where all hate and vengeance cease.  
Sing a new world into being, raise the harmonies of peace.**

#### Intentions and Benediction

**Postlude** Voluntary on "All Are Welcome"  
*Marty Haugen*

*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. Circular paper is provided on which you ay write your prayer and attach it to the wall.

**Copies of today's sermon** are available in the narthex and on the front pew.

**Altar Artist:** Virginia Erwin **Acolyte:** Dawn Kucera

**Cover art:** Artemis II's Breathtaking View of the Far Side of the Moon