

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Flowers order forms are inside the bulletin this week. Orders will be accepted until March 18. An assortment of potted Spring flowers will beautify our Sanctuary on Easter as we honor and memorialize loved ones in our lives. Please return your completed form, with payment attached, in the collection plates, or to the church office, by March 18.

The "Tell Me More!" informational meeting is today after worship!

This is an informal time with Rev. Karla to ask questions of our church, becoming a member, finding out about groups that meet regularly, etc. Meet us in the Parlor after the worship service.

Service & Giving Migrant Farm Workers Supply Collection is happening now through March 8th. We are collecting new items: ball caps, long sleeve t-shirts, socks, and powdered hydration kits. Cash donations can also be made via check made out to FCC with 'Migrant Supplies' on the memo line.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) - one of the UCC's four annual Special Mission Offerings. This offering supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and disaster response. Look for the One Great Hour of Sharing envelopes in the pews or go online to our secure PayPal online giving system and make note that your donation is for "OGHS." Our "final" giving date will be March 15th.

Blue Ridge Classical Guitar Orchestra Concert - Please join us for a wonderful free concert in our Sanctuary on Sunday, March 15, at 3:00 pm. The program will include music by classical composers as well as arrangements of Celtic, Latin and American traditional favorites. The Blue Ridge Classical Guitar Orchestra is an inclusive community group of classical guitarists, and includes our own Larry Anderson. Please invite your friends to attend this great concert.

Happening at FCCH this week:

Mon 3/2	10:00 am:	Community Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
	1:30 pm:	Carolina Village Small Group, CV Chapel
Tues, 3/3	10:00 am:	Prayer Shawls, Parlor
	11:00 am:	Story Feast Group 1, Library
	4:00 pm:	Community Meditation, Parlor
	4:00 pm:	Story Feast Group 2, Library
	6:00 pm:	PFLAG Meeting, Fellowship Hall
Wed, 3/4	10:00 am:	Sit & Stitch, Library
	10:00 am:	Physical Resources Committee, Choir Room
	3:15 pm:	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Thurs, 3/5	10:00 am:	WNC Quilters Guild, Fellowship Hall
	1:30 pm:	Crone Talk, Parlor
	2:00 pm:	PPRM Committee Mtg, Choir Room
	7:00 pm:	Buddy K Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Save these Future Dates:

Ashley Lecture Series, April 11-12: Becca Stevens, Founder of Thistle Farms, Priest, Social Entrepreneur, and Author of Practically Divine. Saturday evening 7 pm and Sunday for Forum at 9 am and Worship at 10:30 am.

Roger Smith Concert Series, May 30: 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

- For Craig and Lin Stogner, their daughter Sunshine, and grandchildren Michael and Dakota, in the sudden death of their son-in-law Michael Moore.
- Sky Conard is home recovering from orthopedic surgery she had this week.
- Jeanne Wilson asks that we pray for EJ, her husband, as he drives to Florida to care for his brother.
- Linda Yopps is having an exploratory heart catheterization Wed., March 4, to determine next steps with ongoing cardiac issues.
- Adam Sheinsohn, Lillian and Roger Dashner's son, who needs to find a job.
- Ivy Thomas, friend of Trisha LaGrange, begins a trial for treatment of his blood cancer in Charlotte in early March.
- David Vandre and family upon the death of his wife, our beloved, fellow-congregant, Dell Orr.
- Mindy Myers is having knee surgery this week on Tues., March 3.
- Kelly Owens, Janet Slimak's daughter, grieving the loss of her son, Forest Slimak.
- Becky Rowland had hip replacement surgery and is recovering at home.
- Prayers for Sherry and Chris Carmichael are needed, as Sherry has moved to The Oaks in Brevard.
- Brian Rhinehart, son of Phyllis Rhinehart, recovering from liver transplant surgery.

Our Birthdays this Week:

Mike Barker	3/1
Shirley Retsch	3/1
David Vandre	3/3
Jennifer Austin-Janssen	3/7

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" meeting each month, which provides the opportunity to talk with Karla about our church.

MINISTERS All of the Congregation

Rev. Karla Miller
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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**

March 1, 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

Be Thou My Vision
John Dempsey
John Caldemeyer, soloist

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

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

**We wait the peaceful kingdom, when wolf and lamb shall lie
in gentleness and friendship without a fear or sigh,
when lion shall be grazing, when snake shall never strike;
a little child shall lead us, both strong and weak alike.**

**When wars of desolation and hate come to an end,
when nation meets with nation, and call the other "Friend,"
still peace in all its fullness will only have begun:
shalom for all creation begins with justice done.**

**Where is the peaceful kingdom? When will this new day start?
We long for peace and comfort to reign within each heart.
Yet not in our lives only, not simply in our home--
we pray that all creation will one day find Shalom.**

First Reading

Matthew 11: 28-30; Matthew 5:9

Darcy

Second Reading

Blessing in the Chaos
Jan Richardson

To all that is chaotic in you, let there come silence.

Let there be a calming of the clamoring, a stilling of the voices that
have laid their claim on you, that have made their home in you.

that go with you even to the holy places but will not let you rest, will not let you
hear your life with wholeness or feel the grace that fashioned you.

Let what distracts you cease. Let what divides you cease. Let there come an end
to what diminishes and demeans, and let depart all that keeps you in its cage.

Let there be an opening into the quiet that lies beneath the chaos, where you find
the peace you did not think possible and see what shimmers within the storm.

Sermon

Shalom

Mark Acker

A Time for Reflection

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Shalom
Dan Forrest

FCCH Choir

Peace. Shalom. Peace I leave with you, peace I give to you; peace, shalom. Not as
the world gives, I give to you, do not be afraid. Shalom. Peace. Shalom.

*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.*

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 "Abbot's Leigh"
Cyril Taylor

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 may write your prayer and attach it to the wall.

Acolyte: Bill Shaffer

Cover art: Picture by Kaitlyn Ross as the Walk for Peace entered
Georgia in December 2025.