

Announcements:

New Art Display in Holy Hallway: Connie Knight painted a series entitled 'The Seven days of Creation'. Wanting a permanent home for all seven giclee prints of these original paintings together in one viewing space, she offered these pieces to the church as a donation. It was decided that these will be in the permanent collection of the church and can be hung periodically in between other exhibitions. Please enjoy viewing the series as a whole.

“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 3:30 pm performance is already SOLD OUT! 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 remaining for the 7 pm concert. If you have trouble reserving tickets online, please contact Jennifer at 828-692-8630 or office@fcchenderonville.org.

The Buddy K Big Band Spring Concert is May 17 at 3:00 pm! Invite your friends and neighbors to see the premiere big band in Western NC perform in the church Fellowship Hall.

Our next Friendship Dinner is on Tuesday, May 19th! Doors open at 5:00 PM, and we will eat at 5:30 PM. Please bring your own tableware (utensils, plates, cups). If you wish to have beer or wine, you are so welcome to bring it! 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, 5/11	10:00 am:	Community Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
	10:00 am:	Blooms of Kindness, Choir Room
Tues, 5/12	11:00 am:	Finance Committee Meeting, Choir Room
	4:00 pm:	Community Mediation, Parlor
Wed, 5/13	10:00 am:	Sit & Stitch, Library
	3:15 pm:	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Thurs, 5/14	10:00 am:	Service & Giving Committee Mtg, Choir Room
	1:30 pm:	Crone Talk, Parlor
	7:00 pm:	Buddy K Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Save these Future Dates:

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 Pratt-Schultz was hospitalized last week with pneumonia and strep throat.
- Dora Littleton celebrates the birth of her daughter Courtney's baby girl, Emberlee Arabella, last Monday.
- Kay Davis has begun 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.
- 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.

Birthdays this week:

Jock Aplin	5/11
Edward Wiescholek	5/12
Connie Knight	5/13
Brandon Otis	5/14
Bruce Mills	5/14
Marcella Leshner	5/16

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.

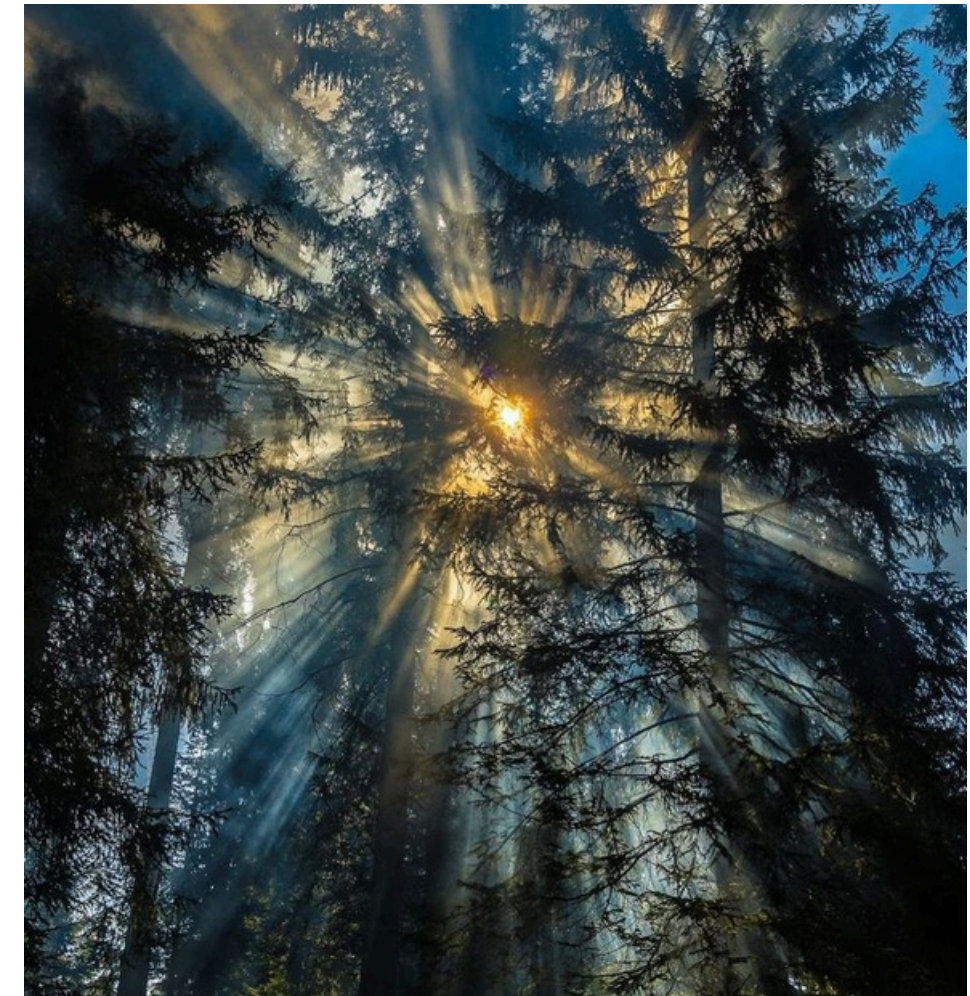
MINISTERS All of the Congregation

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Welcome Home

First Congregational Church welcomes persons of all ages, races, gender identities, sexual orientations, theological beliefs, and mental health conditions. 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 10, 2026

Justice*Compassion*Belonging

Order of Worship

Welcome

Mark Acker

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 of Centering

Nolleen Kelly

Voluntary

Cavatina
Joachim Raff
Linda Laderach, violin

Opening Words

God of the journey, we come together from different places.

We come seeking a community of siblings and to find companionship for the journey.

We yearn to live fully, and to celebrate the diversity of God's human family and the unity of our call to love and justice.

May our journey help us to reconnect to the Holy so that we may be vessels of love for all creation.

*Hymn

Miracles of Justice

**Could miracles of justice surround all lives on earth,
Till those who sit in darkness find healing, light, and birth?
Can we imagine prisoners, allowed to start anew?
Can we who've been discouraged now trust again in you?**

**Could those who've faced oppression find love and welcome here?
Could hungry, homeless children be free of want and fear?
Could we your church find blessing in reaching to the poor?
Can we your church imagine what we've been called here for?**

**O God of love and justice, may we imagine, too,
How faith, put into practice, can change the world for you.
May what we each imagine when we are at our best
Be miracles of kindness till all your world is blessed.**

First Reading

Psalms 121

Dawn Kucera

Second Reading

Don't Lose Hope
Donna Ashworth

Put hope in a safe place. Not a super-safe place; the place we cleverly stash things in, never to be seen again. Just a safe, everyday place. Like beside your car-keys.

(cont.)

Put hope beside your car-keys. And everyday, before you leave the house, you'll see hope glistening there and you won't forget to take it with you. And if you're careful with hope, you'll never lose it again. You'll never experience that numb, hapless cloud that descends upon your life with its soul-sucking vacuous apathy. Without your car keys, you're going nowhere right? It's the same with hope. Hope is the engine, the steering wheel, the power in your life. Keep it safe. Don't lose hope, keep it with your keys. You need it more than you may know.

Anthem

Many Gifts, One Spirit
Allen Pote

FCCH Choir

Many gifts, one spirit, many songs, one voice. Many reasons, one promise, many questions, one choice. O, God, we pray for unity, give guidance from above. In our differences unite us in the circle of your love. O, God, remind us we are not alone. Though we move on different pathways, we are walking to your home.

Sermon

Don't Forget to Look Up

Mark Acker

A Time for Reflection

Prayers of the People

Loving God, **hear our prayer.**

Congregational Prayer

Loving God, You who breathe life into weary hearts, we come before you with all that we carry — our worries, our griefs, our questions, and our hopes. When the world feels heavy and the road uncertain, may we live with resilience. Where there is despair, help us to kindle hope. Where there is fear, help us to grow in our trust that all will be well. Help us to remember that even in difficult seasons, new life is quietly growing. In these difficult times, may we also be bearers of hope, builders of peace, and friends to all who are struggling. In the spirit of love that holds us all, 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

Beautiful City (Godspell)
Stephen Schwartz
Virginia Erwin, soloist

(lyrics on next page)

Out of the ruins and rubble, out of the smoke, out of our night of struggle can we see a ray of hope? One pale thin ray reaching for the day . . . We can build a beautiful city. Yes, we can(Yes,we can) We can build a beautiful city. Not a city of angels, But we can build a city of man. We may not reach the ending, but we can start. Slowly but surely mending, brick by brick, heart by heart. Now, maybe now, We start learning how. When your trust is all but shattered. When your faith is all but killed. You can give up bitter and battered, or you can slowly start to build finally a city of hope, a city of dreams, a city of love!

*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.

*Hymn

We Are Marching In the Light of God

**1. We are marching in the light of God.
2. We are praying in the light of God.
3. We are singing in the light of God.**

Benediction

As you leave this place, go with love, hope, peace and wonder.

May God bless us and keep us, every moment of every day.

And remember, be kinder than necessary.

Everyone we meet is fighting some kind of battle.

Live simply, love generously, care deeply, and leave the rest.

Amen.

Postlude

Voluntary on "Engelberg"
Charles Stanford

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.

Altar Artist: Dawn Kucera

Acolyte: Pete Heuberger