



# April Chronicle 2025

## First Congregational UCC Hendersonville



### Ahhhh, Spring!

Beloved FCCH Family,

March was definitely a “lion” as they say. With wildfires ravaging, parking lot paving challenges, and (you get to fill in the blank here), I am even more convinced of how much we need each other. AND~how no matter what, every day, every minute, every second we must be kinder than necessary--not just to others, but also to ourselves.

I am wondering in the awakening of spring, where you are experiencing kindness, witnessing kindness, and offering kindness? Is it holding your tongue when you really really want to grouse or argue? Is it in taking the luxury of three deep breaths in the midst of a stressful or busy day? Is it picking up the phone to call someone to just say hi, or actually finding a real pen and real paper and writing a card? Or rescuing a stink bug from the inside of a lampshade by placing it outside where it belongs?

I know it’s an old one, but the phrase “Practice Random Acts of Kindness” seems like a fitting mantra for our living of these days.

My prayer is that this is so for all of you.

Big Love and Deep Peace,  
Karla

On Sunday, 23 March, Rev. Brian Combs spoke at Forum, and conducted the Worship service. He is the founding pastor of the Hawwood Street Congregation in Asheville, which serves the un-homed. He spoke movingly of his call, and recounted the challenges his congregants face. He explained his call to urban ministry by saying he wasn’t being altruistic, but “selfish,” because he sees Jesus in these people, and he gets to hang out with Jesus on a daily basis

## Holy Week & Easter at FCCH

### Palm Sunday, April 13th

9:00 Forum: Liberation Theologies of the Cross. What do black theologies, latinx theologies, womanist theologies, and eco-theologies say about the death and resurrection of Christ? Come find out! Led by Karla.

10:30 Worship: “The Journey is Hard” Karla preaching; special music and the procession of palms.

### Maundy Thursday, April 17

6:00 PM Service of Communion and Tenebrae

### Easter Sunday, April 20

7:00 AM: Sunrise Service at Jump Off Rock

10:30 AM: Worship: “Love Always Rises” Karla preaching; Strings, choir, soloists and joy!



PHOTO BY SHILPA POONATTI, UNSPLASH.COM

Once again, our congregation will be proudly waving Eco-Palms in partnership with Lutheran World Relief. We are helping palm harvesters in Latin America, their families and communities find pathways out of poverty.

They are sustainably grown and harvested in Guatemala and Mexico. All of the harvesting communities either have or are in the process of obtaining an outside sustainable certification from SmartWood, a division of Rainforest Alliance.



# Heritage Fund: A Lasting Legacy

by Bob McLendon, FCCH Moderator

On behalf of the Church Council and our Finance Ministry I thank everyone for attending our Congregational meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup>. The congregation unanimously approved an additional \$130,00.00 to complete work on paving our church parking lot.

The funds for our parking lot will be taken from our Heritage Fund. The Heritage Fund is a special fund designed to receive contributions towards the long range ministry of First Congregational Church.

The Heritage Fund is designed to receive gifts, bequests, memorials of all types and amounts. Donations to this fund may be made through outright gifts (securities, royalties, art, personal and real property) assignments of life insurance, charitable remainder trusts and other types of contributions.

The purpose of the Fund is to carry out the long-term objectives of our church, which are beyond the general operational expenses of the church. Depending on the type of gift, the donor may receive a significant tax deduction on appreciated securities.

Your gift will continue to serve the mission of First Congregational Church for generations to come.

For more information contact:

Bob McLendon, Moderator, or

Phil Taylor, Treasurer, or your financial advisor.



Heritage Fund at Work: Improvements to the parking lot on the White Pine side of the building.

## Behind the Scenes: Project Linus Rummage Sale



## Ashley Series

**SAVE THE DATE**

**John Pavlovitz**  
**April 26 + 27**  
**Ashley Speaker Series**



"An urgent and passionate commentator, [John Pavlovitz] lives in the tension between despair and hope."  
—Presbyterian Outlook

WORTH FIGHTING FOR

AMERICA. THE PLANET. IMMIGRANTS. COMPASSION. YOUR FAMILY. TRANS TEENS. PEACE. GUN CONTROL. FAIR ELECTIONS. MENTAL HEALTH. DIVERSITY. BODY AUTONOMY. PUBLIC SCHOOLS. KINDNESS. HEALTHCARE. FREEDOM FROM RELIGION. JOY.

**WHAT IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR?**



Our friend John Pavlovitz will be with us again on April 26 & 27. There will be two sessions on Saturday from 10:00–11:30 and 1:00–2:30 with boxed lunch in between. No tickets are needed, but reservations for lunch are required. The cost is \$10 payable at the door. If you would like to reserve a lunch, please email Jennifer Austin-Janssen to [office@fcchendersonville.org](mailto:office@fcchendersonville.org)



## Circle of Friends Small Groups Update

We have nearly reached the two-year mark for the Circle of Friends small group program. The purpose of these groups has been to develop relationships with people you may not have previously known by sharing food and fellowship together. It is now time to begin the process again. We suggest that you meet with your current group through May and take the summer off. New groups will be formed with a plan to begin meeting in September.

### HOW WILL IT WORK?

- Those who wish to participate will be assigned to a group of 8–10 people; partners/spouses will be assigned to the same group. Each group will have a designated convener to handle logistics.
- There will be a one-year commitment to meet monthly.
- Each group will determine how to shape their group experience.
- Most importantly, this is a trusted space. What happens in the group stays in the group.

Registration forms will be available during coffee time on May 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. We will also have forms available on the table in the hallway throughout the summer or you can email anyone of us with your wish to join a group.

For further information feel free to contact any of the committee members:

Phyllis Rhinehart 321-848-6397 [plrhoneha@gmail.com](mailto:plrhoneha@gmail.com)

Cathy Evans 770-841-7351 [catbevans@yahoo.com](mailto:catbevans@yahoo.com)

Krista Kaufman 828-513-9476 [kristakaufman41@gmail.com](mailto:kristakaufman41@gmail.com)





## FCCH Care Mail!

Have you ever meant to send a card to someone from church and then forgot? Outside the sanctuary, on the hallway table, we have a collection of cards - birthday, sympathy, get well, and blank - that you may use and give to that person in person or leave it here and we will mail it for you. Just put the person's name on the front and we will address and mail it out.

If you have cards you would like to donate, please leave them in the kitchen labeled DIANE ROSE. I will sort them and place them in the box.

Nothing is better on a dreary day than a card that says someone is thinking of you!  
-Diane Rose

you are invited to

# BUDDY KAY BIG BAND

*Spring Concert*

## SUNDAY

**MAY 4 3 PM**

First Congregational Church, UCC  
5th Ave. West, Hendersonville

**FREE, WITH DONATION TO HURRICANE  
RELIEF REQUESTED**

Dancing, or just listening, join us for a fantastic  
afternoon with one of WNC's best big bands.

## Sunday School Fun...





**HENDON Earth Fest**

**Celebrate Earth Day in Hendersonville!**  
 Located on South Main St. between Allen St. and Caswell St.



**SATURDAY  
 APRIL 19  
 2025  
 10am to 3pm**

Organized & sponsored by the City of Hendersonville Environmental Sustainability Board

Join us for a fun-filled day with exhibits, live music, and hands-on activities for everyone! Explore interactive demos, meet passionate environmental organizations, and discover easy ways to live more sustainably. [Learn more here!](#)

Feel free to ride your bike to the festival and enjoy our free bike valet! Don't forget your reusable water bottle to stay hydrated while you explore.



Visit [hvinc.gov/hendonearthfest](http://hvinc.gov/hendonearthfest) Voltear para español

**RESIST!  
 INSIST!  
 PERSIST!**

Rally • Speakers • Music • Camaraderie

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH  
 NOON - 1:30 PM  
 HISTORIC  
 COURTHOUSE,  
 HENDERSONVILLE**



**LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF HENDERSON COUNTY**

**League of Women Voters' Earth Day Program  
 April 22**

The League of Women Voters of Henderson County (LWVHC) will celebrate Earth Day with a program on Tuesday, April 22, from 2:30-4:00 pm at the Hendrick-Rhodes building (renovated VFW), 900 N Main St. in Hendersonville. The program, "Local Environmental Advocacy - Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," will be a discussion about the local environmental scene and the Environmental and Conservation Organization, ECO, that helped lead the way. Program guests will include two former executive directors of ECO, Mary Jo Padgett and David Weintraub, who will reminisce about the environmental past and speak to the community's future. The event is free and open to the public, light refreshments will be served. See [lwvhcnc.org](http://lwvhcnc.org) for more information.

**New Anti-Trans Bills**

Last week, two anti-trans bills were introduced in the NC state senate - SB 516 and SB 442. Here's an [article from WRAL News](#) that provides more information. You can contact your elected officials to speak out against these discriminatory and harmful bills.



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC  
 1735 FIFTH AVENUE WEST  
 HENDERSONVILLE NC 28739**

**AAUW**  
 empowering women since 1881

The Hendersonville chapter of the AAUC invites all to its general meeting honoring Mayor Barbara Volk and other Iconic Women on Thursday, April 10 at 11:30 (optional lunch) and program beginning at Noon in the FCCH Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to bring your own lunch, order from us, or just attend the program. Optional lunch is \$16 and includes a chicken salad or smoked turkey sandwich, chips, sweet tea and dessert. Please reserve by April 6 at [ssmreb@bellsouth.net](mailto:ssmreb@bellsouth.net) Add LC or LT for chicken or turkey. For more information see [AAUWHendo@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWHendo@gmail.com)

**POSTCARD PARTY & SOCIAL TIME  
 CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH  
 & SUPPORT FOR SAFELIGHT**

Child abuse is preventable through education & action!

NATIONAL  
**CHILD ABUSE  
 PREVENTION MONTH**



**FRIDAY, APRIL 18th  
 4:30-5:30pm  
 at Trailside Brewing  
 874 Lenox Park Dr. (off S. Whitted St)**

Every minute, a child is the victim of abuse. 1600 children die every year. 70% are under the age of 3. There are over 3.6 million child abuse referrals every year. We're collecting donations for Safelight and writing legislators stressing the need for education, support and prevention.

**Bring friends, neighbors, kids and grandkids.  
 We have postcards for children to color.**