



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH • HENDERSONVILLE**

August 2025 Chronicle

Note from Rev. Karla:

Welcome Back, Pilgrims!

I hope you had a lovely July Sabbath. As we move into August, we will enjoy a slow roll to the end of the summer. Many of our scheduled ministry meetings will be resuming, so please check the calendar to see what is happening this month.

As we continue to walk together as pilgrims we want to walk with even more intention towards caring for one another in community. One of these ways is in how we offer prayers for one another. The practice of offering prayers, energy, juju, love for persons and places that need the presence of Spirit is an important practice. It is relational energy, and it is love in action. Even though we don't understand "how it works," we know that it is a beautiful way of offering love and support to others and to the world. With this in mind, we are going to make our prayer list more specific for those that are open to this information being public. In other words, we would like to list not only names, but also the situation. For example:

Karla Miller, who will have hip replacement surgery on this Tuesday, FarIntoTheFutureIfEver.
Kari Klug celebrates the gift of her second grandchild born Thursday.

Beginning August 3, you will notice a slight change in how we list our prayer requests in the Sunday bulletin, in order to make room for more information. The back of the bulletin will list the most recent requests. We will also have paper copies of current and ongoing prayer concerns in the Narthex and the Holy Hallway entrances. In addition, we will list the complete list in our Sunday E-newsblast.

If your name is on the prayer list, or if you would like your name on the prayer list, and if you are open to additional information being shared, please contact Jennifer in our office (office@fcchendersonville.org).

**Yours in Beloved Community,
Karla**

A Message from our Moderator, Bob McLendon

One of the parts of being Moderator is that you have the privilege of writing a monthly article for The Chronicle. I will be completing a 4-year term of Assistant Moderator and Moderator in January, and have had the opportunity to see and participate in almost every aspect of our church. I have had the joy of working on church business and service with so many amazing people, so I am reluctant to only write about one person. Being in a position to spend more time with Mark Acker is what I would like to try to describe in this article to our congregation. In his own unique way he has given me extra doses of optimism, hope and compassion when I needed it as a Moderator and a friend. I know I am “preaching to the choir: when I say Mark is a person of talented beauty, honesty, unembellished authenticity. Mark gives so much to our church that it must leave little time for anything else. So in August, let’s make this a month that we all let Mark know how much he means to us and our church.

We are so blessed to have sermons that speak to us long after Sunday morning by Karla and Mark. One of Mark’s recent sermons that still speaks to me was on Importance of Connections. He said “if there was ever a time when we need each other it is now.” He talked about being loved for who we are and finding a place of “belonging”. He reminded us being better listeners is a skill we all need to practice every day. When Mark listens to someone, you know you are being loved and when he speaks he reminds you that you are a beautiful gift of God. Mark Acker is helping all of our congregation know that we belong here together and that our presence matters.

--Bob McLendon

Birthdays in August

Catherine Lynch	8/1	Dennis Maloy	8/13	Mark Mitchell	8/27
Michelle Malito	8/3	Sherie Wilson	8/13	Carol Woeppel	8/29
Peter Johnson	8/4	Joanne Helppie	8/14	Robert Gossett	8/31
Nancy Kaczor	8/5	Ruth Howe	8/20	Wyatt Henderly	8/31
Sharon Stepp	8/5	Lori Cipot	8/24		
Linda Sanders	8/12	Fern Carter	8/27		

We’d like to celebrate YOU with YOU. Please let Jennifer know your birthday (without year!) by sending an email to office@fcchendersonville.org or by dropping a note by the office.

Worship Attendance in July:

July 6: 130	July 20: 137
July 13: 133	July 27: 131

August at First Congregational Church

Sundays in August:

AUGUST FORUMS: 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall

August 3 -- Mary Donnelly, author of "The Memory Caregivers' Collection."

August 10 -- John Pavlovitz "Fight for What You Love."

August 17 -- Processing what John P. said (or didn't say) that resonated with you. Led by Karla Miller.

August 24 -- Liz Hill and The Message of Howard Thurman.

August 31 -- This Is Us: Sharing our Talents: Sing? Woodwork? Paint Rocks? Craft? Instrument? Led by Mark Acker. Plan to share a "talent" as a way of getting to know one another.

AUGUST WORSHIP: 10:30 am in Sanctuary: Series on "Nope. The Bible Doesn't Say THAT"

August 3 -- Everything Happens for a Reason --Karla Miller

August 10--Ashley Series Sunday with John Pavlovitz

August 17 -- God Won't Give Us More than We Can Handle--Mark Acker

August 24 -- Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin--Karla Miller

August 31 -- God Helps Those Who Help Themselves--Karla Miller

Weekly Gatherings in August:

Mondays at 10 am: Community Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

Tuesdays at 4 pm: Community Meditation, Parlor

Wednesdays at 3:25 pm: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thursdays at 1:30 pm: Crone Talk, Parlor

Also Meeting in August:

Monday, August 4: Carolina Village Small Group

Tuesday, August 5: Prayer Shawl Group, Parlor

Tuesday, August 5: PFLAG, FH and Choir Room

Thursdays, Aug 7, 14, 28: Bible Study, Parlor

Saturday, August 9: FCCH Pilgrimage Walk,
Wintergreen Falls Trail

Sunday, August 17: Tell Me More!, Parlor

Sunday, August 24: Circle of Friends Event,
Sanctuary

Committee and Council Meetings in August:

Wednesday, Aug 6, 10am: Physical Resources Committee, FH

Tuesday, Aug 12, 11 am: Finance Committee, Choir Room

Tuesday, Aug 12, 3:30 pm: Church Council Meeting, FH

Thursday, Aug 14, 10 am: Service & Giving Committee, Choir Room

Wednesday, August 20 -- Our next Friendship Dinner is a Pancake Supper on Wednesday, August 20! 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! We'll want to know if you're planning to come, so look for volunteers with clipboards on Sundays, August 10 and August 17, after church and in the Fellowship Hall for Coffee Hour.





Circle of Friends Event

On Sunday, August 24th we will have an abbreviated coffee time for those participating in the Circle of Friends for the upcoming year. If you are participating in the program, please return to the sanctuary at 12:00 pm where you will meet with your group. The primary purpose of this meeting will be to introduce yourself to the other group members and to plan for your September meeting. Please, make every effort to be present.

Join the Choir!

NOW is a great time to join the FCCH Choir as we begin a new year. We rehearse each Wednesday, 3:15 to 4:45, and sing each Sunday morning as a part of worship. We sing a variety of styles of music, and will soon begin working on anthems for our Christmas Music Sunday. Choir members with pitch matching skills and basic music reading experience are needed as we continue to grow our choir. The FCCH Choir is an important part of our church; if you are ready to join this wonderful group of caring people, please contact Mark Acker (mark@fcchendersonville.org).

Committee and Council Meetings Open for All

Each month, our Church Council and committees for Physical Resources, Finance and Service & Giving meet to discuss various matters. These meetings are listed in our weekly e-newsletter and on bulletins. If you have interest or expertise in a certain area, we welcome your input and energies. If you have questions about attending or about a committee's work, please let one of the ministers know, or stop Bob McLendon (Moderator) or Bill Shaffer (Assistant Moderator) or one of the committee chairs: Pete Heuberger, Dede Walton and Scott Quellin.



Martha Hogenboom and friend, Tommy, volunteering at IAM



Bill Shaffer showing off his trouble!

SHOWING UP FOR COMMUNITY



Greeting walkers for the Ecusta Trail opening: Pete Heuberger, Scott Querin., Bill Shaffer, Sheila Clendenning, Rev. Karla, and Lorrie Wilson



Protesting in the "Good Trouble" March July 17: Kay Davis, Sharon Johnson, Pam & Charley Rogers, and Bill Shaffer (above)



Our Church Family



Sandburg Pilgrimage Walk

FCC added another chapter to its 2025 Pilgrimage Summer with the second hike - this one at the Carl Sandburg estate. Most of the group hiked to the top to the Big Glassy lookout.

Thanks to Jan and John Caldemeyer for organizing and leading the hikes this summer, and thanks to Dawn Kucera for the photo!

Sunday School pictures from July

1. Aryella's nature study on leaf patterns
2. Mateo tackles a painting project
3. Maddie and Nolan, sweet babies!



Aryella's Yarn Sculpture!

Our teachers, Ginger and Hannah, help our children in Sunday School learn to try new things and tap into their creative sides!

Thanks to Ginger Zemp for taking the photos!



Community News & Involvement

FREE!

Community Resiliency Model (CRM) Workshop

In this workshop, you'll explore how stress and trauma affect the nervous system and gain evidence-based tools to bring the body, mind, and spirit back into balance.

What You'll Learn:

- Science behind the impact of trauma
- Signs of nervous system dysregulation
- Skills to stay grounded during stress

Session Details:

Wednesday, August 6th 2-4pm
Henderson County
Department of Public Health
Immunizations Classroom
1200 Spartanburg Highway #100,
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Trainers:
Amy Read + Amanda
Dolinger,
Trauma Resource
Institute

Registration required!

Visit
bit.ly/crmhenderson or
scan below to save
your seat!



Brought to you by: BlueCross BlueShield NC,
Henderson County Behavioral Health Coalition, &
Henderson County Department of Public Health



Back to School Fest 2025

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church
Main Parking Lots at 2021 Kanuga Rd.
Hendersonville, NC 28739

When: August 9, 2025

From: 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
Seats are limited - Please bring your own

Backpack/ School Supply Give-Away

Free Food

Games, Arts & Crafts, Face Painting, Community Outreach, etc.



Justice Matters Tour

Tuesday, August 19th

11:30 am – 1 pm

Trinity Presbyterian Church

900 Blythe Street
Hendersonville, NC 28791

Join us for a Justice Matters Tour — an inside look at Pisgah Legal's work in our community. You'll hear powerful stories, meet Executive Director Jackie Kiger and our dedicated attorneys, and learn how you can stand with us to protect access to justice for all.

Register today!



This free event includes a boxed lunch; advance registration is required.

Register online:

pisgahlegal.org/hendojmt

Email Daniel Carey with questions or for more information at daniel.carey@pisgahlegal.org.



Guns to Gardens Demonstration

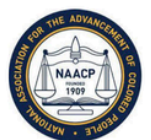
Saturday, August 16th

11:00am-1:00pm

**Trinity Presbyterian Church
900 Blythe St. Hendersonville**



**ROCK PAINTING
FOOD TRUCK
GARDEN TOOLS
FOR SALE**





Eat to Beat the Heat – The Link Between Food and Climate Change

A lunch-and-learn program presented with Hendersonville Community Co-op.

The program will address how a more plant-based diet can help the environment and provide fundamental and practical information to help attendees realize that their dietary choices, food sources, and food waste disposal practices contribute significantly to their personal carbon footprints. Attendees are encouraged to bring a sandwich, but will also be served samples of vegan salads prepared by the Hendersonville Community Co-op, the program's co-sponsor.

Presented by **Ted Volskay**

Wednesday, September 3, 2025, 11:30am-1:30pm

Time: 11:30 AM Location: First Congregational Church 1735 5th Ave W, Hendersonville

