

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

June's Special Offering is the FCCH Emergency Needs Fund.

This discretionary fund, confidentially administered by the pastor, is used to help individuals primarily (but not limited to) in our congregation facing unusual challenges and may need a little extra support with groceries, rent assistance, medical bills and more. If you would like to make a contribution, please place it in an envelope and mark it "FCCH Emergency Needs Fund." Thank you!

Traveling this summer? Worship with us anywhere, anytime! Each week our Worship service is live-streamed then can be watched anytime! Just go to FCCHendersonville.org to find links to the current bulletin and our YouTube page! Same with sermons! Each Monday sermons are posted to our website, too! (under Home->Sermons)

Happening today during Coffee Hour: Look for the table in the Fellowship Hall where you can learn about and register for the Circle of Friends small groups. These groups will meet monthly from September 2026 through May 2027. This is a great way to connect with others in the congregation. Additional dates for in-person registration will be on July 12th and August 2nd during Coffee Hour. There are also forms available in the church office. Fill one out and leave it in the basket prior to August 5th.

Happening at FCCH this week:

Mon, 6/29 10:00 am: Community Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

Tues, 6/30 4:00 pm: Community Meditation, Parlor

Wed, 7/1 10:00 am: Sit & Stitch, Library
5:00 pm: End of Season Choir Dinner, Sol Y Luna

Thurs, 7/2 10:00 am: WNC Quilters Guild, Fellowship Hall
1:30 pm: Crone Talk, Parlor
7:00 pm: Buddy K Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, 7/5, Forum at 9:00 am: "Thriving as We Age" is our topic with a panel of four people from our church: DJ Walker, Jim Jolly, Sharon Johnson, and Bill Shaffer. Come hear their travel and volunteerism stories. Please join us for an inspiring Forum!

Save these Future Dates:

July 5 - Coffee Hour for July Birthdays!
July 11 - Bullington Gardens & Forest Bathing with Anne Ogburn
July 12 - Celtic Creamery Ice Cream Trail Social
August 23 - John Pavlovitz speaks in Forum and worship

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.

Altar Artist: Dede Walton **Acolyte:** Dawn Kucera

Cover art: Photograph by Dawn Kucera on FCCH Pilgrimage Hike at Living Waters in summer 2025.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember these people in your prayers this week

- Long-time congregant Carolyn Schmalz died on Thursday. Please pray for her family.
- Virginia Gambill has been hospitalized with pneumonia.
- Jesse Pearson, son of Sharon Pearson and Richard Vickers, has been diagnosed with significant heart issues.
- Peggy Vickers, sister of Richard Vickers and Sharon Pearson, is newly diagnosed with breast cancer after being hospitalized after a fall.
- Ken Whitney is now home after a hospitalization for a respiratory illness.
- Jon Walters on the death of his wife, Jan.
- Prayers for LGBTQIA+ who feel unsafe or unwelcome because of religious trauma or world events and the social environment in which they live.
- The people of Cuba.
- Peggy Popham is recovering from a car accident and her daughter-in-law, Camilla Popham, recently had surgery for a brain tumor. Trisha LaGrange asks for prayers.
- The family and friends of Brookelyne Gadbury Fullmer, friend of Kristin Jordan, as they cope with her unexpected death at age 44.
- Genie Murphy, sister of Ann Twiggs, has been recently diagnosed with lung cancer.
- Arna Campbell, friend of Trisha LaGrange, is dealing with heart issues.
- Romella Hart-O'Keefe is home recuperating from a recent hospitalization.
- Kay Davis is receiving chemo treatments for her cancer.
- Mindy Myers is dealing with health issues and treatments.
- 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:

Lin Stogner 6/28
Ken Harkins 6/29
Pam Rogers 6/29
Frances Yoder 7/1

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.

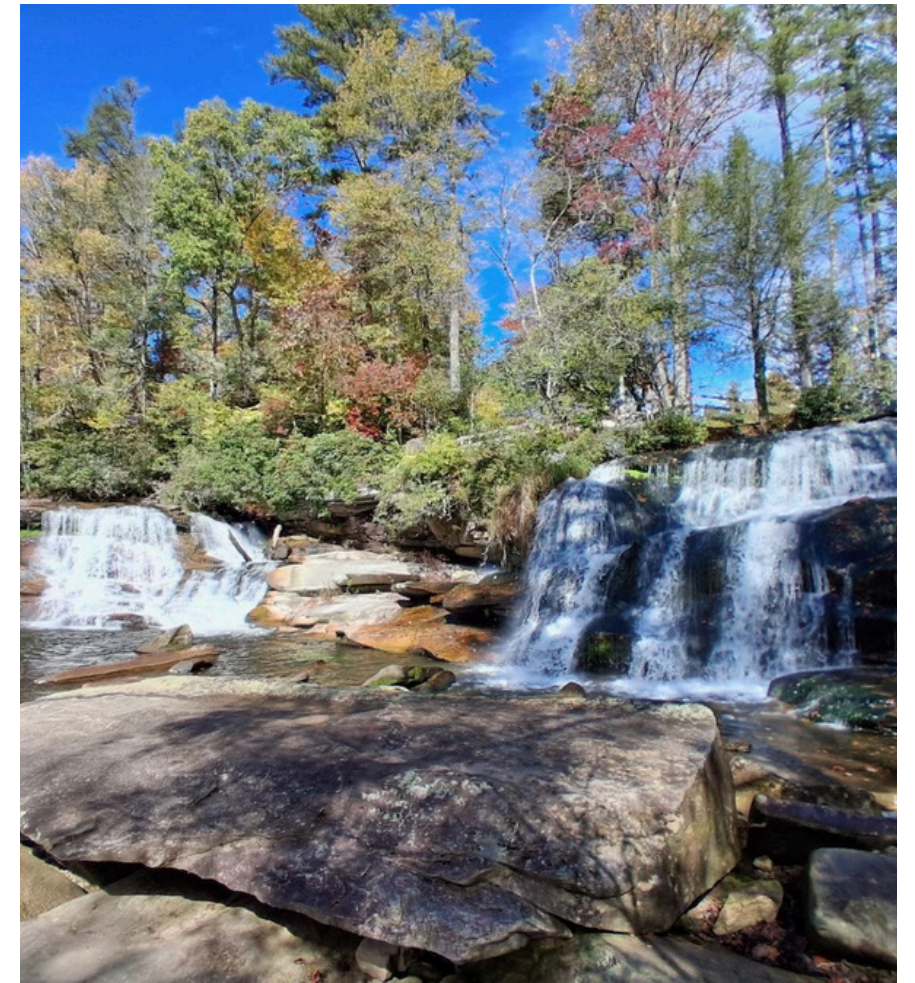
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Welcome Home

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**

June 28, 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

Eagle's Wings
Mark Hayes
Linda Laderach, violin

Opening Words

This is a 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

God of Love

**God of love, may we in worship welcome all diversity.
May we reach in trust and friendship to the poor and refugee.
May we seek Christ in the stranger, breaking bonds of hate and fear.
By your Spirit, may we offer glimpses of your kingdom here.**

**God of hope, you daily nurture those who seek to follow you.
You're not bound by any culture; you love rich and poor ones, too.
In an ever-changing nation, may your churches welcome in
Every child of your creation, giving hope to all again.**

**God of peace, you send your spirit each and every day for all.
You give life and say to share it, all as one, within your love.
May we see your wondrous blessing when your people everywhere
Work together, all proclaiming love that binds us, peace to share.**

First Reading

You Are Somebody's Front Porch Heather Fitzwilliam
John Roedel

You are somebody's front porch to God.
You are someone's doorway to mercy.
You are the world's threshold to kindness.
You are my entrance to letting go of regret.
~ No pressure, but... Your life is a gateway to peace for both strangers
and friends alike. Whether you realize it or not... Empathy has chosen you to
turn your heart into a welcome mat for others. This is one of the purposes
of your life: To let your existence become a candlelit veranda of hope for the
rest of us to gather on as we hold each other close during the long dark night.

Anthem

Psalm 139 FCCH Choir
Allen Pote

Lord, you have searched me and known me, you know everything I do. When I
rise up, when I lie down, you are with me through and through. Before a word is
on my tongue, you know what I will say, your presence follows me day by day.
Where can I flee from your spirit? Where can I go to run away? If I go to heaven,
or live in hell, you are there. Search me, O God, and know me. Try me and know
my heart. See if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way
everlasting. Amen.

Second Reading

John 4: 5-14

Sermon

Rev. Brain Combs

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'll Fly Away FCCH Choir
Al Brumley, arranged Joel Raney

Some glad morning when this life is o'er I'll fly away, to a home on God's celestial
shore, I'll fly away. I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away. When I die, hallelujah by and
by, I'll fly away. Just a few more weary days and then I'll fly away to a land where
joys shall never end. I'll fly away!

*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

Living Water

**The water God gives us in wondrous supply
is water that's living and never runs dry.
For everyone drinks and is thirsty again,
But God's living water gives life without end.**

**O God, we confess that we seek empty things;
We strive after wealth and the comfort it brings.
We buy things in hopes that our spirits will soar
Yet still we are thirsty and left wanting more.**

**The gift that you give is the greatest of wealth;
You give living water! You give us yourself!
May we, like that woman, go back where we live
And tell those we know of the life that you give.**

Benediction

Brian Combs

Closing Song

I Am Sending You Light
Melanie DeMore

**I am sending you light to heal you, to hold you.
I am sending you light to hold you in love.**

The light of Christ is carried into the world.

*Please rise in body or spirit