

Holy Week at FCCH:

Labyrinth Walk, Wed, April 1: Noon on FCCH Labyrinth

Mundy Thursday Communion and Tenebrae, April 2: 6 pm, Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 5:

Community Sunrise Service: 7 am, Jump Off Rock

Easter Celebration Worship: 10:30 am, Sanctuary

Announcements:

The church office will be closed Good Friday and Easter Monday.

For Easter Sunrise Service at Jump-Off Rock: There is limited parking at Jump Off Rock. Please carpool if possible, and leave extra cars at FCCH. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets for sitting during the service. Wear good shoes and watch your step in the darkness of dawn.

Ashley Lecture Series with Becca Stevens, April 11-12:

Please mark your calendar for this special event the weekend after Easter. Becca Stevens, founder of Thistle Farms, priest, social entrepreneur and author of Love Heals will be with us on Saturday Evening, April 11 at 7 pm for conversation and book signing, and then at Forum and in Worship on Sunday, April 12. This past week, on Tuesday, March 23, Stevens was named Nextstar's Media Group "Remarkable Woman of the Year". Ms. Stevens was honored not only for her transformational advocacy, but for turning personal adversity into a global mission of healing and empowerment. A survivor of childhood trauma, Ms. Stevens transformed her experience into a lifelong commitment to create safe, loving, and economically empowering pathways for women recovering from trafficking, addiction, and exploitation. As the 2026 Remarkable Woman of the Year, Ms. Stevens was awarded \$30,000 to donate to the non-profit charitable organization of her choice. The Ashley Lecture Series is free and open to the public. *There are small flyers available for you to take and spread the word about Becca being with us.*

Happening at FCCH this week:

Mon, 3/30 10:00 am: Community Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall

Tues, 3/31 11:00 am: Story Feast Group 1, Library
4:00 pm: Community Meditation, Parlor
4:00 pm: Story Feast Group 2, Library

Wed, 4/1 10:00 am: Physical Resources Committee, Fellowship Hall
10:00 am: Sit & Stitch, Library
Noon: Labyrinth Walk
3:15 pm: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thurs, 4/2 10:00 am: WNC Quilter's Guild, Fellowship Hall
1:30 pm: Crone Talk, Parlor
6:00 pm: Mundy Thursday Holy Communion and Tenebrae Service, Sanctuary

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember these people in your prayers this week

- Dody Schultz-Pratt is having surgery tomorrow to correct a previous surgery.
- Lynn Conchado is having hip replacement surgery on Tuesday, 3/31.
- Robert Greene will have surgery on Wednesday, 4/1, for a pacemaker.
- Jan Buchanan had surgery this week and is now home recovering.
- Mindy Myers had surgery this week and is recovering at home.
- John Kavito, family friend of Jeannie Stewart, has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Chris Carmichael and family on the death of his wife, Sherry, as they grieve her passing.
- Julius Pratt is dealing with serious heart illness.
- Ericka Fagerlin is dealing with various health issues.
- Jennifer and Carol Austin-Janssen as they grieve the sudden death of Jennifer's only brother, John.
- Patty Houk is recovering from recent knee replacement surgery.
- Sky Conard as she recovers from significant orthopedic surgery.
- Adam Sheinsohn, Lillian and Roger Dashner's son, who needs to find a job.
- Ivy Thomas, friend of Trisha LaGrange, began a trial for cancer treatment in Charlotte.
- Kelly Owens, Janet Slimak's daughter, grieving the loss of her son, Forest Slimak.
- Brian Rhinehart, son of Phyllis Rhinehart, recovering from liver transplant surgery.
- 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.

Our Birthdays this week:

Dawn Kucera	3/29
Sharon McLendon	3/30
Scott Querin	3/31
Krista Kaufman	4/1
Mark Leshner	4/3
Jan Aplin	4/5
George Evans	4/5
Richard Howe	4/5

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

Rev. Karla Miller
Pastor
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Mr. Mark Acker
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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 29, 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

Trumpet Processional
David German

Opening Words

Children of God, rejoice!

Sing out in celebration, for Jesus is coming!

He comes, humble, riding on a donkey.

Let us lay down palms and our cloaks before him!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Love.

Glory to God! Hosanna in the highest!

*Hymn

All Glory, Laud and Honor

**All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
The people who all gathered waved palms adorned your way;
Our praise and prayer and anthems we offer now this day.**

**The company of angels are praising you on high,
the one called "God's beloved," of flesh and yet divine,
To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.**

**As you received their praises, receive our prayers today,
whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway.
All glory, laud, and honor to you, O Christ, we sing,
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

Scripture Reading

Matthew 21: 2-11

Lynn Conchado

Congregational Response:

"Hosanna! Hosanna! Love moves among us!"

Anthem

The Palms
Jean-Baptiste Faure

FCCH Choir

Where 'er we go the palms along our way now on this festival their beauty showing. Where Jesus comes to wipe our tears away, e'en now the throng to welcome him prepare; Join all and sing, his name declare, let every voice resound with acclamation: Hosanna! Praise to the Lord! Bless him who cometh to bring us salvation. Sing and rejoice, O blest Jerusalem, of all thy sons sing the emancipation. Through boundless love the Christ of Bethlehem brings faith and hope to thee forevermore.

Sermon

A Peaceful Protest

Karla Miller

A Time for Reflection

Prayers of the People

Loving God, **hear our prayer.**

Congregational Prayer

**Holy One, as we walk the remainder of this Holy Week journey,
may we have the courage to follow the path of justice and peace,
even when it is difficult.**

**Disrupt our assumptions. Turn our attention toward those
pushed aside, silenced, or forgotten.**

**Teach us to recognize your presence not in power or spectacle,
but in mercy and truth. Bless the branches, the hearts, and this
community, that we may bear witness to your kin-dom—a world
where all are welcomed, all are valued, and all are free. 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

Pie Jesu
Andrew Lloyd Webber
Linda Laderach, violin

*Doxology

**Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah.
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah.
Halle, halle, hall-lu-jah.
Halle-lu-jah, hallelujah.**

*Prayer of Dedication

**God of all creation, we offer these gifts so that your love may
be magnified. Amen.**

*Hymn

Strong Love

**Look at Jesus; hear the story; See the purpose of his life;
See the struggle and the passion, All the conflict, all the strife.
See this one so kind and gentle; See the gifts of peace and love,
Hear his talk of grace as central; He is one who gave his all.**

**Jesus often rescued others; Stood close by those pushed aside;
Called the outcasts his own siblings; Cared for those who had
no guide. But he did not bow to power; Nor accept the 'status
quo'. Justice needed strength to flower; By his love he helped it
grow.**

**May the cross be a great symbol of true love from every side.
May it be a sign of promise, may it be a sign of hope. May the
love of Christ our brother be a guide for us today. May we
work for change and justice. And may Love guide all we do.**

Intentions

Benediction

Postlude

Voluntary on "Kingsfold"

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. 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: Diane Rose & Nolleen Kelly **Acolyte:** Joyce Tierney

Cover art: Photo from the Fountain of Life Christan Center website