

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Quilt of Valor Ceremony - You are invited to the Quilt of Valor Ceremony this Tuesday, March 24, at 11:00 am in our Fellowship Hall. The Quilt of Valor Foundation is a national organization found in 2003 by "Blue Star" mom Catherine Roberts when her son was deployed to Iraq. Since then more than 140,000 quilts have been awarded in the United States and beyond, honoring service men and women and veterans alike.

Holy Week at FCCH:

Palm Sunday, March 29: 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary

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

Maundy Thursday Communion and Tenebrae,
Thurs, April 2: 6 pm, Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 5:

Community Sunrise Service: 7 am, Jump Off Rock

Easter Celebration Worship: 10:30 am, Sanctuary

Happening at FCCH this week:

Mon, 3/23	10:00 am:	Community Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
	5:00 pm:	Laurel Park Town Meeting, Fellowship Hall
Tues, 3/24	11:00 am:	Quilts of Valor Ceremony, Fellowship Hall
	11:00 am:	Story Feast Group 1, Library
	4:00 pm:	Story Feast Group 2, Library
	4:00 pm:	Community Meditation, Parlor
Wed, 3/25	10:00 am:	Sit & Stitch Small Group, Library
	Noon:	Labyrinth Walk
	3:15 pm:	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Thrs, 3/26	1:30 pm:	Crone Talk, Parlor
	7:00 pm:	Board Mtg for Pisgah Trout Un'td, Choir Room

Save these Future Dates:

April 11-12: Ashley Lecture Series, Becca Stevens, Founder of Thistle Farms, Priest, Social Entrepreneur, and Author of Practically Divine. Saturday evening 7 pm and Sunday for Forum at 9 am and Worship at 10:30 am

May 30: Roger Smith Concert Series, Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus concerts at Trinity Presbyterian Church at 3 pm and 7 pm.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember these people in your prayers this week

-For Chris Carmichael and family on the death of his wife, Sherry, as they grieve her passing.

-For Julius Pratt, who is dealing with serious heart illness.

-Ericka Fagerlin, who is dealing with various health issues.

-Jennifer and Carol Austin-Janssen as they grieve the sudden death of Jennifer's brother, John.

-Patty Houk is recovering from recent knee replacement surgery.

-Sky Conard is recovering at home from significant orthopedic surgery.

-Adam Sheinsohn, Lillian and Roger Dashner's son, who needs to find a job.

-Ivy Thomas, friend of Trisha LaGrange, begins 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 damage and ravages of war.

-Prayers for our military who may be experiencing mixed feelings, prayers for safety.

Our Birthdays this week:

David Squibb 3/23

Jim Hollingsworth 3/24

Craig Stogner 3/25

Linda Simpson 3/26

Dee Shuttlesworth 3/27

Ron Miller 3/27

Kay Harkins 3/28

Dawn Kucera 3/29

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

karla@fcchenderonville.org

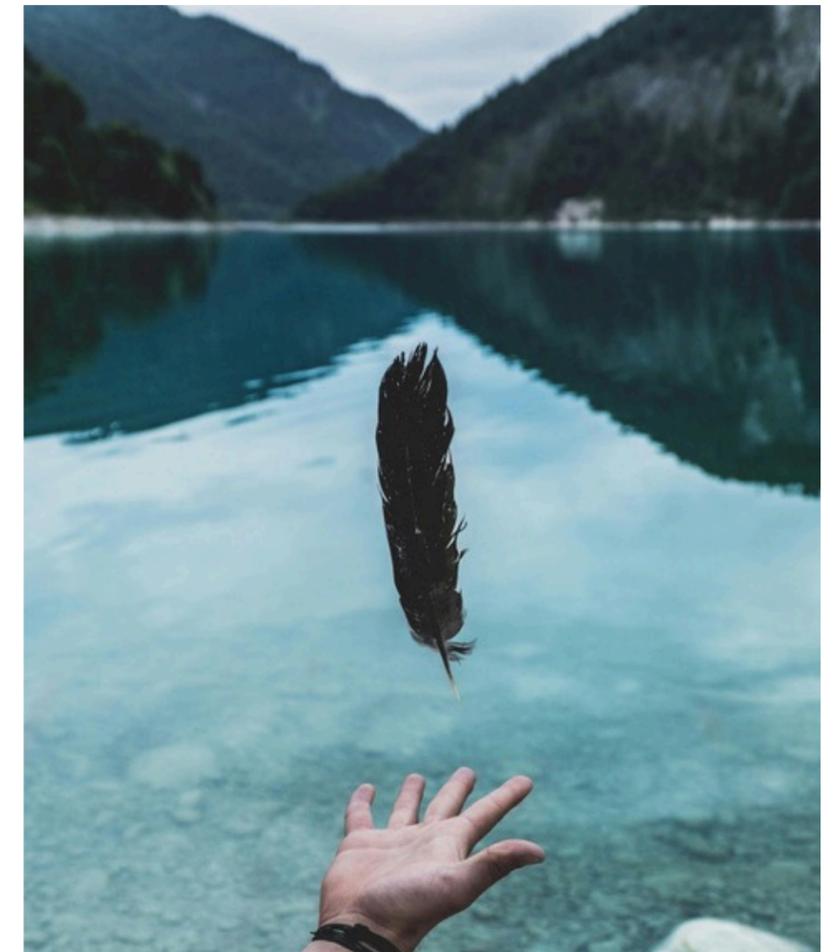
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Welcome Home

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 22, 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

Bourree
Johann Hasse
Linda Laderach, violin

Opening Words

Young and old and middle-aged, individuals, couples and families, soft-spoken and outspoken,

We gather to join together in the rainbow of love.

Gay, straight, transgender, and all expressions of gender identity,

We gather to join together in the rainbow of love.

Jews and Christians, Buddhists and Muslims, atheists and agnostics, persons of deep faith and persons with no faith,

We gather to join together in the rainbow of love.

This house of worship is open to all. Come, let us 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

John 11: 32-45

Dee Shuttlesworth

Second Reading

The Word
Mary Oliver

How wonderful! I speak of the soul and seven people rise from their chairs and leave the room, seven others lean forward to listen. I speak of the body, the spirit, the mockingbird, and the hollyhock, leaves opening in the rain, music, faith, angels seen at dusk--and seven more people leave the room and are seen running down the road. Seven more stay where they are but make murmurous disruptive sounds. Another seven hang their heads, feigning disinterest though their hearts are open, their hope is high that they will hear the word even again. The word is already, for them, the song in the forest. They know already how everything is better--the dark trees less terrible, the ocean less hungry--when it comes forth, and looks around with its crisp and lovely eye, and begins to sing.

Anthem

Be Still and Know
Michael John Trotta
FCCH Choir

Even if the mountains were to fall into the sea, waters were to surge upon the earth, hope still lives in a most holy place, a place that shall not move, for I am here. Be still and know, know that I am your God. Be still and know and you'll find rest, a refuge for your soul. Be still and know. When nations roar and kingdoms fall, still you shall not fear. My strength and hope will keep you on your way; wars shall cease and the shields melt with fire; listen, then, for you will hear my voice. Keep your mind on things above and not on earthly things; you're hidden with me in the safest place. Your old self has died and is risen again, your love shall be what brings you to new life.

Sermon

Letting Out & Letting Go
Karla Miller

A Time for Reflection

Prayers of the People

Loving God, **hear our prayer.**

Community Prayer

God, heart of the world: revealed through every aspect of creation, understood through our awareness. May we honor the holiness of creation. May your love be reflected in the way we live. May we always be thankful for the food we eat and the friends we have. May we forgive those who transgress against us and be forgiven for our own. May we live as your heartbeat without fear or hesitation. But with courage, compassion and imagination. Through our hope and freedom, may your justice-love be seen and heard and experienced forever and ever. 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

Compassion Hymn
Keith and Kristyn Getty

*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

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.**

Intentions and Benediction

Response

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.**

Postlude

Voluntary on "Llanfair"

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 the sermon are available in the narthex and on the front pew.

Altar Artist: Sharon McLeondon **Acolyte:** Zachary Cone

Cover art: photo by Paul Pastourmatzis, Unsplash.com