

Announcements:

You are invited to two of our members’ memorial services this week: Today, Sunday, September 27, we honor Jean Glasgow-Hawkins at 2:30 pm in the Sanctuary with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall. This Saturday, October 3, at 10:30 am, we will memorialize Carolyn Schmalz with a service in our Memorial Garden, also with a reception to follow. Your presence is a gift to these families and our beloved friends.

Registration is open for the Progressive Theology Book Group beginning Wednesday, October 7th. Rev. Karla and Rev. Angie Buchanan will lead a four-week study of “Our Lives Matter: A Womanist Queer Theology” by Pamela Lightsey each Wednesday in October at 5:00 pm. Please contact Jennifer in the church office to RSVP for this 4-week series: 828-692-8630 or office@fcchendersonville.org.

Our friend Fran Cooper collects adult clothing, towels, blankets for the unhoused in Hendersonville for a clothes closet at a local church for whom she volunteers. If you have gently used items to donate, please contact Fran at 786-271-0224. The items will be much appreciated.

Happening at FCCH this week:

- Mon, 9/2810:00 am: Coffee & Conversation, Fellowship Hall
2:00 pm: Lake Point Landing Small Group
- Tues, 9/294:00 pm: Community Meditation, Library
- Wed, 9/3010:00 am: Sit & Stitch, Library
3:15 pm: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- Thurs, 10/11:30 pm: Crone Talk, Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm: Buddy K Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall
- Sat, 10/310:30 am: Memorial Garden Service for Carolyn Schmalz

Next Sunday, 10/4, for Forum: Mountain Aging Partners with Andrew Schmidt: After decades of pursuing a shared mission on parallel paths, the Council on Aging for Henderson County and MountainCare formally joined forces in 2025 — becoming Mountain Aging Partners (MAP). This merger is more than an administrative change. It represents a commitment to doing more together for the aging adults, caregivers, and communities we serve in Henderson and Buncombe Counties.

Save These Dates:

- Oct 11 – Blessing of the Animals, Laurel Green Park
- Oct 20 -- Friendship Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- Oct 25 – Congregational Lunch after Worship, Fellowship Hall
- Nov 15 -- Brian Combs, preaching, Sanctuary
- Nov 20 – Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil, Sanctuary
- Nov 26 -- Thanksgiving Potluck Feast, Fellowship Hall
- Dec 13 -- Christmas Music Special, Sanctuary

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember these people in your prayers this week

- Prayers for the family of long-time congregant, Jacqueline Green, who passed away this week.
- Angie Yates and family as they mourn the passing of her mother, Barbara, age 89. Also pray for Angie as she awaits hip replacement surgery on Sept 28.
- Arna Campbell, friend of Trisha LaGrange, has ongoing health challenges.
- Frosty Sinclair had knee replacement surgery and is home recovering.
- Liz Brennan, long-time member of FCCH, died recently.
- Debra Miller, Karla’s sister, is in a Denver rehab facility recovering from medical complications and issues.
- For Dody & Sharon Schultz-Pratt, whose niece who died due to injuries from a terrible car accident recently.
- Hilarie Glasgow-Hawkins and family of Jean Glasgow-Hawkins, her wife, who died last month.
- Kay Davis is receiving chemotherapy in Florida.
- Ericka Fagerlin continues PT at home.
- Mindy Myers is continuing to heal.

Birthdays this week:

- Virginia Gambill10/1
- Cathy Evans10/2
- Joann Coonrod10/2
- Susan Palmer10/2
- Lynn Cigal10/3

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.

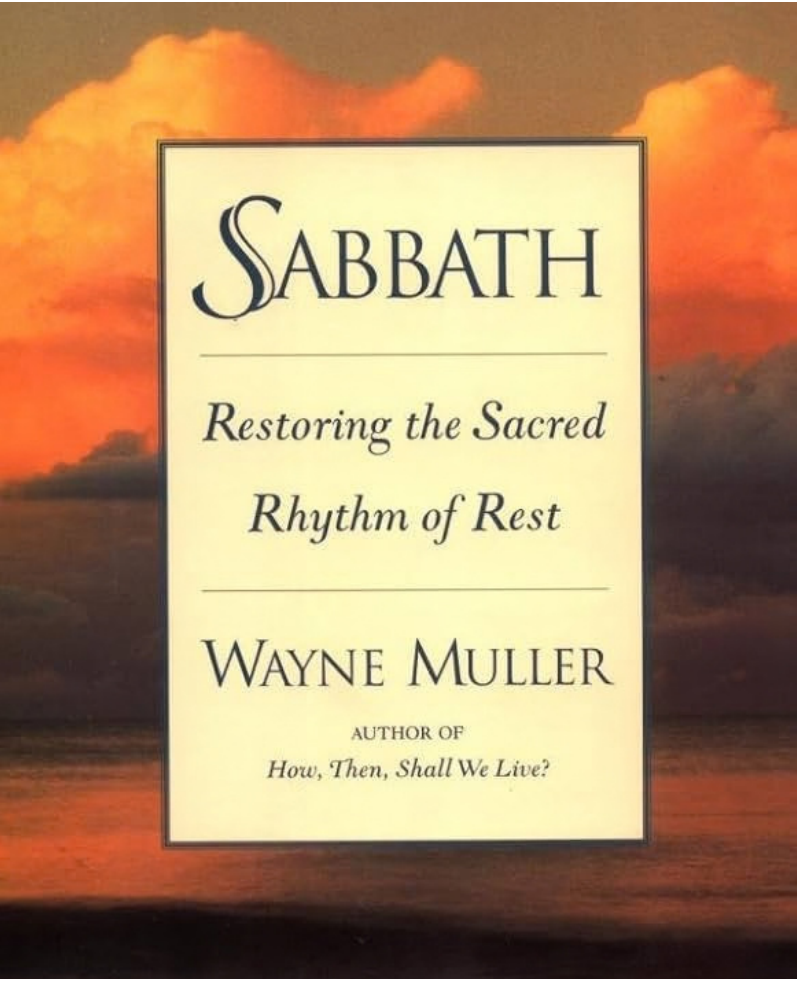
MINISTERS
All of the Congregation

Rev. Karla Miller
Pastor
karla@fcchendersonville.org

Ms. Jennifer Austin-Janssen
Church Administrator
office@fcchendersonville.org

Mr. Mark Acker
Minister of Music
& Pastoral Associate
mark@fcchendersonville.org

First Congregational United Church of Christ
1735 5th Avenue West, Hendersonville, NC. 28739
828.692.8630 / www.fcchendersonville.org



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

September 27, 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 of Centering	
Voluntary	Meditation (Thais) Jules Massenet 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	O God, You Made the Sabbath Day
O God, you made the Sabbath day, Your gift, your peace, your healing way. You also made, within each heart a longing for this time apart.	
You give your people, in our stress, your freeing gift of Sabbath rest. You give us Sabbath freedom, too: our lives are more than work we do!	
Life's sacred rhythm seems long gone; The world, unblinking, carries on. Your Spirit calls to slow our pace, that we may hear your word of grace.	
God's love now lives! God makes us new! With peaceful hearts, we worship you. With hearts uplifted, joy restored, your grace for all is now outpoured.	

Scripture Readings	Exodus 20:8-11 Psalm 118:24	Cindy Larrison
Contemporary Reading	from <i>Sabbath</i> Wayne Muller	
The Sabbath is a revolutionary invitation to consider that the fruits of our labor may be found in the restful and unhurried harvest of time. In time, we can taste the sweetness of peace, serenity, well-being and delight. The truth must be told: With all the money in the world, and no time, we have nothing at all.		
Anthem	Be Still and Know <i>John Michael Trotta</i>	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 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 still 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 present with me in the safest place. Now trust in the goodness of God's holy love, your hope shall be what brings you to new life.		
Sermon	On Sabbath Time	Karla Miller
A Time for Reflection		
Prayers of the People		
Loving God, hear our prayer.		
Congregational Prayer		
Loving God, Source of Life, Breath of Compassion, and Spirit of Justice, we gather in gratitude for your presence among us. You are wisdom that guides, mercy that restores, and love that welcomes all. Open our hearts to one another and to the work of peace, healing, and hope in the world. May we reflect your kindness, seek your truth, and walk together in courage and grace. 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	Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing <i>Mark Hayes</i> 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	
*Hymn	In the Quiet, God, I Listen
In the quiet, God, I listen to the music in my soul; You have placed a song within me, for your grace has made me whole. There is so much to distract us that would block the gentle sound; Yet I listen for the singing of your music all around.	
You are present in the places that I give to silent prayer. In my resting, in my waking, in my asking — you are there. As I think about my journey — what has been and what might be — God, I hear your words of mercy; and your love song strengthens me.	
God, I pray I'll keep on listening even though these times are tough, And I pray that I'll be open to the wonders of your love. You're the Writer and the Singer, you're the Love that rises strong. God — Creator, Christ and Spirit — let me answer to your song.	
Intentions and Benediction	
Closing Song	I Am Sending You Light
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	
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 next to prayer table 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, and will be posted on our website tomorrow.	
Altar Artist: Nolleen Kelly	Acolyte: Becky Rowland
Cover art: book cover of <i>Sabbath: Restoring the Sacred Rhythm of Rest</i> by Wayne Muller	