

# Congregational Chronicle

Volume 47, No. 2



February 2023



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH • HENDERSONVILLE

## *A Note from Karla*

## *Gratitude*

It's February and with the conclusion of the congregation annual meeting just a few days ago, we're beginning our new church year. Well, one of them. There are so many different kinds of new year! The liturgical one started in December with Advent, the calendar one on January 1, and now our fiscal one, on February 1. (And don't even ask me about Chinese New Year's, which is celebrated for 16 days, ending on February 5<sup>th</sup>. But happy Year of the Rabbit, anyway).

I have written several times this year about gratitude, and I'm going to do it again – it seems appropriate in the midst of so many new years beginning.



First, it was four years ago, in mid-February that I began my ministry at First Congregational. I am beyond grateful for this period of ministry, because all the other gratuities derive from this one. To be sure, it has been challenging in ways I could never have imagined – COVID pandemic, anyone?

But that pales in comparison to all the good stuff – you, the wonderful and caring congregation, who give so much of yourselves in so many ways, to support the communities at First Congregational, Hendersonville and Henderson County, and beyond.

On a more granular level, I love all the cogs that make up the FCC wheel. You know, I started to list them, but I realized this column would go on for pages if I did that. So here's what I'd like you to do.

I'm asking you to please take the time to read the Annual Report of the Ministries, which is available now. I think you will be surprised, amazed and in awe of all the work that goes on behind the scenes.

And in front of the scenes, the more visible activities are growing each month. They're listed in the Sunday bulletin each week – everything from poetry to lunches to meditation to small groups.

I started this section by saying how grateful I am to be the pastor of this special church and congregation. But believe me, I couldn't get anything done without the army of volunteers who put in thousands of hours to make it all work. They are who I am truly most thankful for.

And as we start this version of the new year, I am joyfully looking forward to the fun, activities and yes, the challenges that will come our way.

Love, peace and blessings,

Karla

# MODERATOR'S COLUMN

When we see February on a calendar what is the first word that comes to mind? I'd put my bet on the word "love." After all, February is the celebration of Valentine's Day. Candy and flowers immediately come to mind...sweet smells and sweet treats for sweethearts. Love is kind, love is supportive. Love is warmth to the heart, for love itself is sweetness. Love is listening and hearing the humming of words and the strums on our heartstrings, coming from words and actions and promises love brings to us.



Christ taught us to listen to our heart's spiritual condition for its obviated by how we hear. We cannot just know our Creator exists...we need a willing receptive heart. We need to feel a sense of care and concern, and chase a hunger for life and its blessings for us ...and our blessings to others in the name of love and the purity of real love. What the ear hears may well mean what we focus upon, for what we truly focus upon is what we end up seeking...and likely, finding. Let us examine our own hearts to find our personal depth of faith, hope and charity. Let us examine both how and what we listen to... what we seek out. I know I need to be diligent about how I hear myself and others because the quality found in how I hear can, and may, be the basis of my spiritual life. It is my prayer that all of us might commit to keeping ourselves believing in hope; to opening ourselves up to increased love and concern for ourselves and others and the Creator we serve. If God knew us before we were conceived, chose us and created us in his own image...if he listens to us and hears us far beyond and in spite of our words then perhaps, the conclusion we should take is that this is "the work of faith."

In John 1:38-39 (a) Jesus turned to those who were following after him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" (from An Invitation by Liz Miller). After they replied, he said, "Come and see."

May we seek to experience Valentine's Day everyday through sharing faith, hope and love and through hearing his words and the words of fellow children of God struggling with their own lives along the way. "Come and see."

God bless us all... Sheryl

## Note from the Editor



Hearts are everywhere in February! Mostly they seem to be associated with candy and Valentine's Day. And nothing wrong with that, right??

But that's not the limit of where you can find them. Scattered throughout this edition of the Chronicle are some interesting (I hope) tidbits about hearts.



Look for robins coming soon!



## Dee Shuttlesworth and Dianna Beers

Dee is a retired veterinarian from Texas. She practiced a small animal medicine and surgery for 37 years, owned and operated 2 separate practices.

She enjoys playing the piano and doing small woodworking projects.

"I find First Congregational to be a very welcoming and friendly church and, overall, appears to be a very healthy church. I have been a member of UCC churches for a couple of decades now and would have to rank FCC at the top!"

"Dianna and I look forward to getting to know everyone."



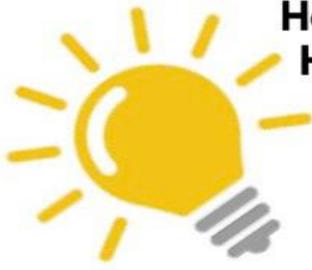
Dianna has been an Operations Manager for a large corporation and a chocolate manufacturing start-up, restaurant owner, chocolatier and ice cream maker, tax accountant, currently working for the IRS for the last 17 years.

She loves quilting, hiking, reading, and welding yard art.



# Take Action!

Healing the unconscious BIAS in the  
Henderson County School System.



**FEBRUARY 18, 2023**  
**TIME: 1PM-3:30PM**



Action towards making the educational  
system in Henderson County equitable!

**FREE WORKSHOP. CHILDCARE PROVIDED.**



**DEBORAH OGISTE**

- SCHOOL INTEGRATION'S IMPACT ON THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY
- MICRO-AGGRESSION WITHIN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

**LET'S PUT ON OUR  
THINKING CAPS!**

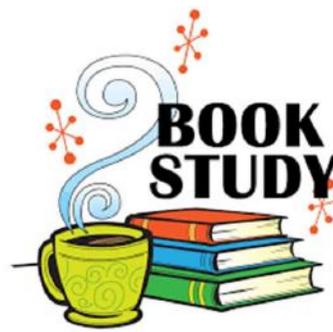


**CRYSTAL CAULEY**

- THE NEED FOR ADVOCACY FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN PARENT ALLIANCE | AAPA
- THE CHALLENGES THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY FACES WITH THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

**RSVP for Free Childcare Appreciated**  
**Email: [DeBorah@peacefulmiracles.com](mailto:DeBorah@peacefulmiracles.com)**

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF HENDERSONVILLE**  
**2021 KANUGA ROAD**  
**HENDERSONVILLE, NC 28739**



## “I Didn’t Think About It Like That” by Monica Guzman

**ZOOM – Thursday 1.30**  
**February 2<sup>nd</sup> through March 9<sup>th</sup>**

If interested, please contact Patti Clay at [pc lay51@gmail.com](mailto:pc lay51@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up and get the Zoom link. We look forward to seeing you there!

In this timely, personal guide, Monica, the chief storyteller for the national cross-partisan depolarization organization, "Braver Angels", takes you to the *real* front lines of a crisis that threatens to grind America to a halt---broken conversations among confounded people. She shows you how to overcome the fear and uncertainty that surround us to finally do what only seems impossible: understand, and even *learn*, from people in your life whose whole worldview is different from, or even opposed to, yours.

## BOOK DONATIONS WANTED

Since Books For Good is no longer accepting donations, Ann Twiggs has found another place which does want books.

**Blue Ridge Prison Ministries** is collecting books for inmates at the county jail. This is a religious based organization, but with no ties to any specific organized religion. Check them out at

. <https://brprisonjailministries.org/about-us/>

They did give us some guidelines:

~ No hardback books, no true crime, and no magazines.

~ The types that are particularly popular are westerns, sci-fi, suspense, drama, historical fiction, biographies, comic books, Spanish language books, and “easy reading” types, to assist with literacy skills.

~ Smaller size paperbacks are best.

Financial donations are also appreciated.

The collection box will be in the reception area right outside the Fellowship Hall.



# Prayer Shawl Page

Karla found this poem in The Christian Century

Prayer Shawl  
Suzanne Underwood Rhodes



Prayer Shawls are made  
with love

The work of a prayer shawl  
is to love the weight it holds,  
The blue yarns heavy with the ache  
of shoulders, of cold like winter rain,  
The gray yarns grave as tears. A voice struggles  
to rise from the wool, but the cry fails and falls  
and the hurt breast is unconsoled.



But the Galilee ladies who gather on Sundays  
to knit their prayers into a woman's fear  
And hug her prayers into theirs, know  
know that in the diamond honeycomb stitch  
or the hurdle and purl ridge stitches.  
hope turns and casts on the heart's fibers  
And the ladies believe, their needles flashing.

But there is another side to the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

The Prayer Shawl makers also believe that there's another side to prayer shawls: We also offer them in hope, gratitude, and celebration, for the positive aspects of life. In our many ministries, the sad side is often at the forefront, and reminding ourselves of the gift of joy is often the therapeutic reason we can return to serving our communities tomorrow.

## Prayer Hugs

The Prayer Shawlians also make small (pocket or purse size) square and round pieces that the Ministry of Worship includes in our welcome packets.

The Prayer Hugs were also passed out to attendees at the Christmas morning worship service.

They are also available to anyone for the asking.



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02/01	Maralee McMillan
02/02	Ginger Zemp
02/03	Rand Bishop Jr
02/03	Elle Travis
02/04	Carolyn Wilson
02/06	Dr John Caldemeyer
02/08	Sammye Whitney
02/15	Linda Yopps
02/17	Mary Woolsey
02/20	Susan Jahnke
02/22	Jan Caldemeyer
02/22	Joan Jaeger
02/27	Xavier Cone
02/28	Anne Ogburn



Is your February birthday not listed?  
Call or email the office and let Jo know!



# ANGELS WHO WALK THE EARTH



Social workers are surely among those who fill that job description. They are professionals who use a variety of means to improve many people's quality of life and advocate on their behalf. This work can be emotionally draining, require long hours and doesn't pay nearly enough – and yet they carry on.

And right there with them are the Guardians ad Litem, working for the best plan for each child in Henderson County.

In March, these special people are going to be honored with a dessert party, as a way of thanking them. Additionally, the Guardian Ad Litem office would like to present each of the about 50 workers with a gift basket, and has reached out to the community to help them.

Is this right up our alley, or what? How wonderful it would be for individuals and/or groups within the church to put together some baskets!

Suggestions for the baskets include self-care items, gift certificates to local restaurants, or craft gifts, such as if you make jewelry, pottery, or hand-crafted wood items. I'm sure we could include a prayer shawl for each one FCCH sponsors. And if you aren't able to do a whole basket, would you donate one of your craft items?

These members of our Service and Giving team are contacts. Please let them know if you'd like to put together a basket, or want to contribute to one.

Bill Shaffer [wdsiii333@gmail.com](mailto:wdsiii333@gmail.com)

Sheila Clendenning. [bsheila.nc@gmail.com](mailto:bsheila.nc@gmail.com)

Nancy Kaczor. [nancy.kaczor53@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.kaczor53@gmail.com)



My friend Annie sees hearts everywhere – in the clouds, leaves, and rocks. I've tried to learn from her and see hearts everywhere too. How about tire tracks in the snow?



# ADVENT COUNTDOWN



Karla and the whole congregation blessed the Advent Countdown Bags at the Christmas morning service.



Sorting out the Advent bag "booty" for the 4 food pantries. 55 to 60 bags returned. about \$5,000 worth of food split between Calvary Episcopal Food Pantry, Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry of Etowah Methodist Church, Edneyville Food Pantry and Sharing House in Brevard. All thanks to our generous congregation.





Nancy Kaczor and Becky Rowland made a delivery. Becky wrote:

Here are the boxes Nancy and I delivered to Calvary Episcopal Food Pantry today. They were so thankful. The fact we had everything divided out by type was above and beyond. They were excited about the cooking oil. That is something they don't get very often. The food was weighed and we delivered 375.5 lbs of food.

Nancy added more info about Calvary. They have started a garden also, and like ours, staffed by volunteers. When a family comes to them for help, they leave with enough food for 11 meals, with a mix of fresh and packaged goods.

Becky and Nancy are on the left. 



## PURPLE HEART

In 1792, General George Washington created the Badge for Military Merit, a decoration consisting of a purple, heart-shaped piece of silk, edged with a narrow binding of silver, with the word *Merit* stitched across the face in silver. It would be presented for any “singularly meritorious action.” Only three are known to have been presented.

After the Revolutionary War, it was largely forgotten until the early 1930's when Gen. Douglas MacArthur revived interest in it. It was re-designed with Washington's profile added.

It is now presented to all military members who are killed or wounded in combat.

This is a photo of my father's Purple Heart. He was wounded (strafed by a German plane) on 31 December 1944, while driving his jeep in France during WW II.



# CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

**JANUARY 29, 2023**



The Annual Meeting took place right after the worship service on January 29. Here are the major highlights.

- ~ Approved the Final Budget (Amended from the Preliminary one that had been previously approved)
- ~ Moderator Sheryl Mendenhall announced that the Human Relations Ministry (HRM) is changing its name to Personnel and Pastoral Relations Ministry (PRM) to more correctly reflect their function.
- Elected the following slate of officers:
  - Moderator – Sheryl Mendenhall
  - Asst Mod – Bob McClendon
  - Clerk – Lin Stogner
  - Treasurer – Phil Taylor
    - Asst Treasurers – Becky Evens, Joan Nobling, Ron Miller, and Linda Yopps
- The following members were elected to the PRM:
  - 2-year term: Becky Rowland, Angie Yates and Bruce Mills
  - 1-year term: Bruce Jayne
  - Ken Whitney will continue in his current term.

The whole congregation joins in saying:

A blue-bordered box containing the text "Thank YOU FOR serving". "Thank" is in a large, elegant script font. "YOU" is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. "FOR" is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. "serving" is in a smaller, elegant script font.

To these people who have stepped up, as well as the leaders of our Ministries: Worship = Linda Laderach, Physical Resources = Mindy Myers, Financial Resources = Mark Fagerlin, Ministry to the Larger Community = Bill Shaffer, and the many dozens of other volunteers who give so freely of their time and talents to make everything work at First Congregational.





Forum meets in the Fellowship Hall at 9 – 10 am.

**EVERYONE IS INVITED!**

## **FEBRUARY SCHEDULE**

**February 5:** Join Krista Kaufman who is spearheading **Circle of Friends small group program**. Are you on the fence about signing up? Have questions? Want to have a mini-small group experience? Then please join us as we explore the impact of this new program in our church.

**February 12:** “Safe Zone” micro-training. Josh Bledsoe (they, them), Communications professor at Blue Ridge Community College and facilitator of PFLAG Hendersonville will **lead us in a discussion of being allies to the GLBTNBQQI community** as part of our Open and Affirming mission. How can our congregation continue to be a safe place for all gender identities, queer folx, and more. Why are pronouns important? How can we be louder in our welcome?

**February 19** Our own Larry Anderson and his guitar will lead us in a discussion **about major Biblical figures as metaphors**. Larry offers this: Just as the Bible will likely be misunderstood if taken literally, so God, Jesus, Moses, Job, even Mary and Joseph, may best be approached as metaphor. But what are they meta for?

**February 26** Linda Laderach recently traveled to **Vietnam and Cambodia**. While taking in the beautiful poignancy of the land and people, she and her group were posed **with provocative questions**. She will share her experience with us!



From the garden –  
bleeding hearts  
(*Lamprocapnos  
spectabilis*)





# Silent Immigration Vigil

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month

Old Courthouse

Contact Catherine Lynch at [cjnc137@gmail.com](mailto:cjnc137@gmail.com)  
for more info.

Bring a sign, or we have them for you.

February 17 ~ 4– 4:30 pm



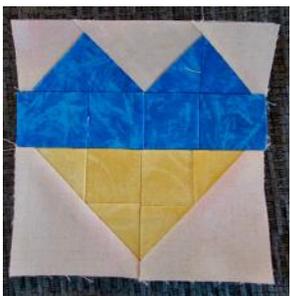
Sheila Clendenning, Rabbi Rachel Jackson and Becky Reid from the UU

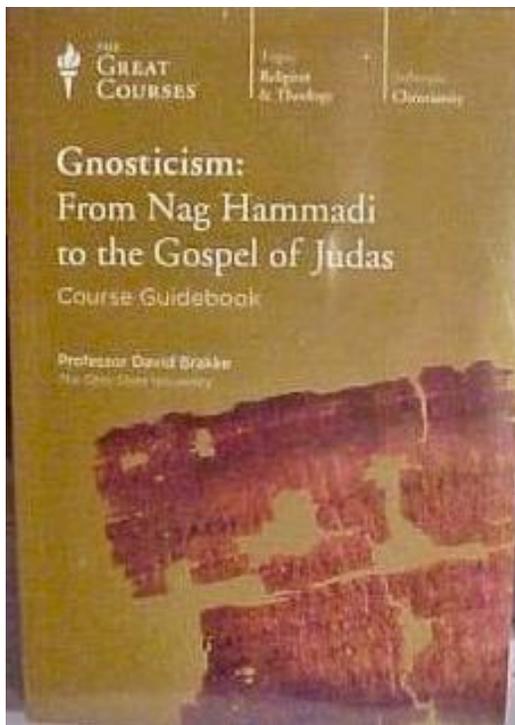
Our friends down the street at Agudas Israel celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022. FCC joined with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hendersonville to present a celebratory cookie and floral arrangement.



This month marks the one-year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Remember. Care. Pray for the people of the Ukraine.

Last year, I was part of on-line quilting group, where we got a new pattern every week. After the invasion of Ukraine, the instructor sent out a special block – a heart in the colors of the Ukrainian flag, so we could express our support for the people of Ukraine in our craft.





## The Great Courses Series Returns!

### Great Courses Gnosticism: From Nag Hammadi to the Gospel of Judas

The series will start **on Friday, March 3, 10:00** am, and go for nine weeks (skipping Good Friday).

There are 24 ½ hour lectures, we'll do three each week, with some time for discussion.

Contact Catherine Fairbanks with any questions.  
[catherine.fairbanks@yahoo.com](mailto:catherine.fairbanks@yahoo.com)



**Dody:** Born and raised in Southern Illinois, lived in a large plantation home as a child. I was inducted into the Army and attended Michigan University where I gained a degree in Political Science and then on to Michigan State, graduating with a degree in forensic science. After that, I was in the Marines in Naval Intelligence, then went to University of California for nursing. This is where I met Sharon, and we were married in 1981.

## Dody & Sharon Shultz-Pratt



**Sharon:** Born and lived in western New York in a small farming town on the Erie Canal. I joined the Army and went to Germany where I became a nurse. I was a manager at UPS for 20 years until I was in a car accident. Friends suggested Dody and I look at property here in Hendersonville. It was love at first sight. We moved here 15-1/2 years ago. We found FCC about two years ago and started coming on a regular basis about a year ago. Now, I can honestly say, "Here we are, Lord."



## (Another) Note from the Editor

### Continuity, Change, and Transition



These three words are descriptive of how organizations (like our church) evolve. All are needed. **CONTINUITY** consists of the how we used to, and still do things. The people in this camp are masters of what used to be and what is now. They know where stuff is stored, who gets called to fix the whatever-needs-fixing, and they remember when something happened, and who was in charge of it. Continuity people are the past and the present.

But **CHANGE** is needed, too. Change is the new folks, who don't know how things used to be. Change people bring new ideas, have a fresh outlook to whatever processes are going on and inject infectious energy that gets everyone excited about what's going on. Change people have a foot planted in the present, but are also looking to the future.

**TRANSITION** is the bridge between those two. I think it's the trickiest one of this trio – that part the takes us from what-used-to-be to what-is-to-come.

Yes, there are transition people – one example is when an interim pastor comes to mind/care for a church between the outgoing and incoming settled pastors.

But I tend to think of transition as a process, the business of moving us from what was to what's ahead. All this leads me to thoughts about my little slice of the pie.

Last year when Sheryl Tellier became ill, I volunteered to take care of putting out an edition of the Chronicle.

When Sheryl didn't come back, I stayed on for "just a couple more months." Then, that stretched out until the end of the year. It was a longer transition period than I had imagined, and by now, I've sort of become "the way things are." But me doing it was never going to be permanent: putting the Chronicle together is part of the Administrator's job.

And now we're coming to ... I'm not sure what to call it – a transition from the transition? Jo Freeman is rapidly settling into her Administrator's job, and she will be taking on responsibility for issuing the Chronicle, starting with the April edition.

And, as in the cycle I described above, change will be involved. I had some big advantages coming in. I knew the software, had extensive experience in writing and doing this kind of work. But probably most importantly, I had the 25-30 hours a month that it took to create the Chronicles that I did.

When Jo becomes the Chronicle editor, it will be different – she is eager to put her own stamp on it. But rest assured, you will still be getting the news of what's going on around the church – that won't change.



# Business of the Church



*Stewardship*  
a way of life

1. FCC had a very successful Stewardship campaign, Treasurer Ron Miller said it was the best one he can remember.

There were **99 pledges** for There were 99 pledging units for a total of **\$246,356**.

2. The Financial audit continues, and is not complete yet.

## Attendance

In-Person Worship		Sunday School	
December	4	111	1
December	11	98	5
December	18	121	4
December	25	47	No Sunday School
January	1	90	1
January	8.	125	4
January.	15	103	3
January.	22	106	2
January	29.	119	4



Minding my friend Annie's advice to be on the lookout for hearts, I saw this one while hiking in Dupont Forest. It is a broken heart rock. And while many people associate a broken heart with a lost love (cue Billy Ray Cyrus and Achy Breaky Heart), it can also be emblematic of how our hearts break for all the injustice, poverty, and disasters that are in the world. Something to meditate on.

Did you know "SOUP" can be a verb? As in, an action word?

You may not find it listed that way in your Funk & Wagnall's dictionary, but we want you to think ACTION when you see SOUP!

As in,

- GO to the grocery,
- BUY lots of cans of soup, and
- PUT them in the boxes at the church entrances
- So our community neighbors can SOUP!

**THROUGH FEBRUARY 12<sup>th</sup>**



**S & G**

Service and Giving have started their annual planning, and already there is a lot on the horizon! Something for almost every month,

February - collection of canned/dried soup for **Souper Bowl Sunday**. (Bins at sanctuary doors.)

March - **Migrant needs collection**, bags distributed to congregation for filling.

April - Linking **Growing God's Garden** event with Hendersonville Environmental Expo and church garden group

June - drive through **school supplies** collection

September - **Hunger Walk**/ food drive

November/December - **Matching funds**

December - **Advent Giving Countdown**

We will be vetting agencies and distributing the monies allocated by the church at our monthly meetings.

We are looking to find ways to involve the congregation in the "service" party of Service and Giving by highlighting volunteer opportunities at the local agencies we support.

Bill Shaffer, Facilitator

# Christmas tide at First Congregational

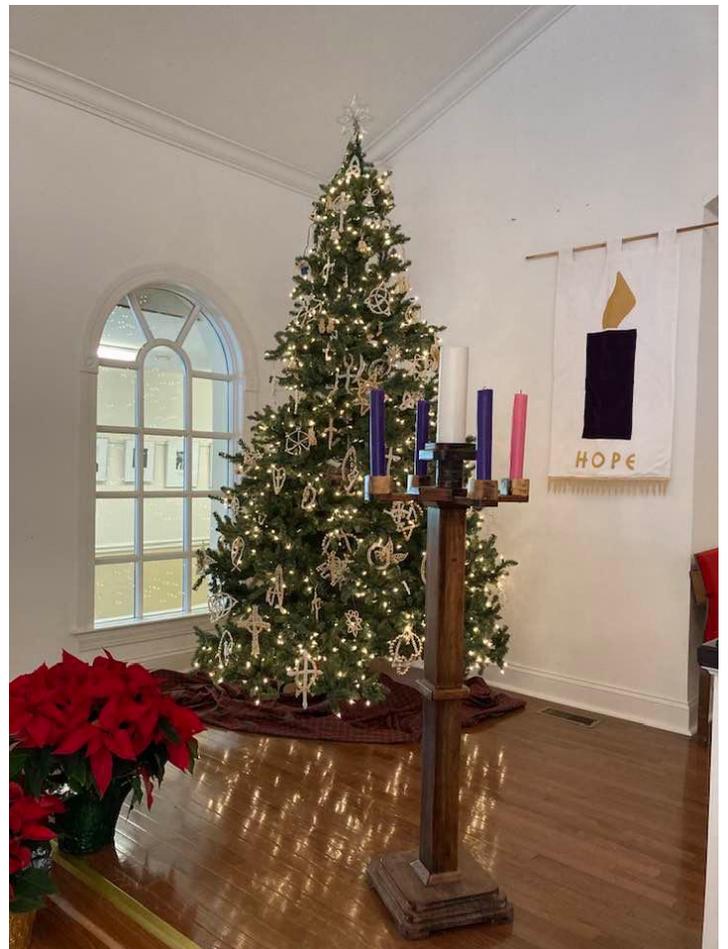
Before we head off into 2023 and all the new year offers, let's take a quick look at how we closed out 2022, and revisit our Christmas in pictures.

Christmas at FCC was actually spread over two full weekends. On December 18 was our traditional Music Sunday – a really fun service! The Café String Quartet accompanied the choir and played on almost every piece. And it was Bell Sunday, too, where we rang bells on the chorus of several songs. Some folks brought bells from home, and there were jingle bells for everyone else.

Joel Helfand was rocking out, and the quiet beauty of candles reflect the sacred space and feeling.



# More images from the Christmas season



**Sunday School Monthly Report**  
**December, 2022**



**Sunday School Teacher: Ginger Zemp**  
**Nursery Teacher: Virginia Tegel**

The children who attended Sunday School this month were very excited about the upcoming Christmas holiday. We spent time talking about the meaning of the season and made a variety of holiday projects. Using a hand loom, the children made yarn patches for the city's yarn bombing project. Their work can be seen adorning the large trees next to the Hendersonville train station. Other projects included making Christmas balls and cardboard tree decorations, gingerbread houses, and cranberry strings to hang outside for the birds. It was a joyous and busy season for everyone!



Henry hangs his cranberry string for the birds.



Xavier, Carol Ann, James and Matthew show off their gingerbread houses.

Jacob and Asher  
cook a meal



Wynston loves his cars!



JANUARY,  
2023  
SUNDAY  
SCHOOL



The busy holiday season found our Sunday School children excited and ready to celebrate Christmas. They made holiday ornaments to take home and we talked about the meaning of the season's special days. The children stayed in church with their families on Christmas day. Small toy packets were provided for the children to help them focus on quiet play during the adult service.

In January the children watched a video highlighting Martin Luther King's work for racial justice, and they were excited to create a new bulletin board focusing on Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech. Later in the month the children created snowflake table decorations for the Coffee Hour, and they also made suet bird feeders to support the birds during the cold winter months. They enjoyed a book featuring a boy who lost his mitten in a snowstorm and the animals and birds who helped him find it. Nature is full of wonderful friends!

The Sunday School teachers reorganized the materials and activities in the classrooms and updated the Sunday School registration form. We're all off to a great start to the new year!



Josie crafts snowflakes for the  
Fellowship Hall



Jacob, Henry, and Xavier work  
on a bulletin board



# LENT



**Wednesday, February 22 - Ash Wednesday** Please join us for a very special beginning to our season of Lent

**5:00 p.m. - Pancake Supper** - In the tradition of "Fat Tuesday" celebration, we begin our Wednesday evening with a free pancake and sausage dinner, complete with mardi gras decorations. Please sign up to attend so we know how much food to prepare.

**6:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Service in the Sanctuary.** Following our pancake supper, we move into the sanctuary for a meaningful Ash Wednesday Service, including the imposition of glitter ashes.



# HOLY WEEK

**Thursday, April 6 - Maundy Thursday**

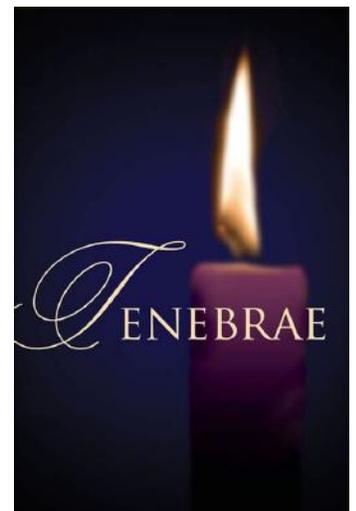
Please join us for a very special Maundy Thursday.

**6:00 p.m. - Soup and Bread Dinner.** We will have soup and bread for a dinner together. Please sign up to attend so we'll have enough food, and please let us know if you can bring soup to share.

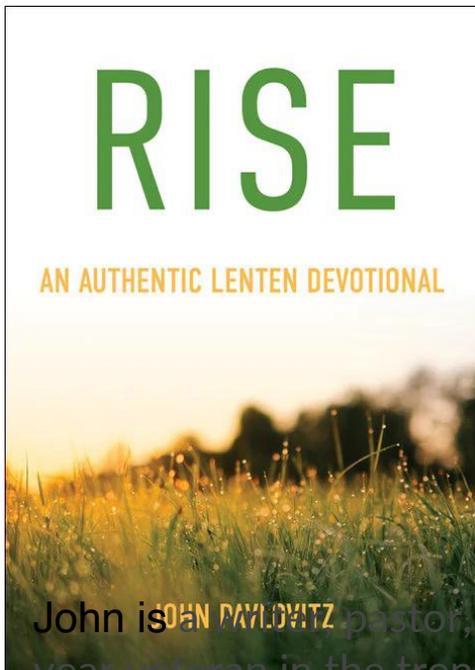
**7:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Service in the Sanctuary.** Please join us as we read the traditional Maundy Thursday scriptures and partake in communion.

**Good Friday** – No service. We will have available a self-guided reflection that people can experience at their homes.

Easter Sunday at 10:30



Our Lenten Devotional is RISE by John Pavlovitz. John is our Spring Ashley Lecturer—mark your calendars now for April 22-23.



## Lenten Devotions

We're offering this Devotional at a discount price of \$5. During the week, pick it up in the office, or see Karla or Mark after Sunday worship services.

John is **JOHN PAVLOVITZ** pastor, and activist from Wake Forest, North Carolina. A 25-year veteran in the trenches of local church ministry, John is committed to equality, diversity, and justice—both inside and outside faith communities. When not actively working for a more compassionate planet, John enjoys spending time with his family, exercising, cooking, and having time in nature. He is the author of [\*If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk\*](#), [\*A Bigger Table\*](#), [\*Hope and Other Superpowers\*](#), [\*Low, Rise\*](#), and [\*Stuff That Needs to Be Said\*](#).



**Amy Dahan**  
(pronounced Dāy-han)



Amy retired to Edneyville about 18 months ago. She is very active, volunteering for Environmental organizations, hiking, singing and playing guitar.

Her careers included commercial fishing, construction, and botanical garden management + over twenty years of practicing and teaching Tai Chi.

Amy attended an Adult Forum being presented by a friend and was so impressed by the loving, shining spirit of the attendees that she stayed for the service. The message and music were inspiring and she knew she had found her new church home.



## Church Council Meeting Highlights for January 2023 (in person meeting)

- We ended the year in a strong cash position, despite some financial struggles during the year.
  - Our December income was twice that of a normal month's income.
  - Although we had an operating deficit of \$24K for the year, it was a non-cash loss caused by a Market Value reduction in our investments.
  - \$16K less than budgeted was withdrawn from the Heritage Fund.
- Council approved an increase in the pastor's housing allowance (from \$25K - \$30K) to be off-set by a corresponding decrease in the pastor's salary compensation.
- Church locks were re-keyed, and the Church Key Policy is being enforced.
- Off duty police officers will NOT be hired for regular Sunday services; however, special events may call for police presence.
- By this time next year, Karla will have completed her fifth year with us and will be due a sabbatical. Planning is underway and a grant application is being developed. Input from both the Church Council and Congregation is needed.
- The Stewardship Event resulted in 99 pledges totaling \$246K – one of the best pledge years seen by our Treasurer.
- Treasurer duties will be split: Payroll, Accounts Payable, Contributions, and Reporting.
- Our Annual Congregational meeting is scheduled for January 29 immediately after the worship service. The annual budget for 2023 will be submitted for approval.
- The former MCC office will now house the Treasurer, the Ministry of Finance, and all secure documents. **Important Note: Council meetings are always open to all FCC Members and Friends. Please notify Moderator Sheryl Mendenhall if you would like to attend.**

Lin Stogman, Clerk



## Jenn Kirby

Jenn says:

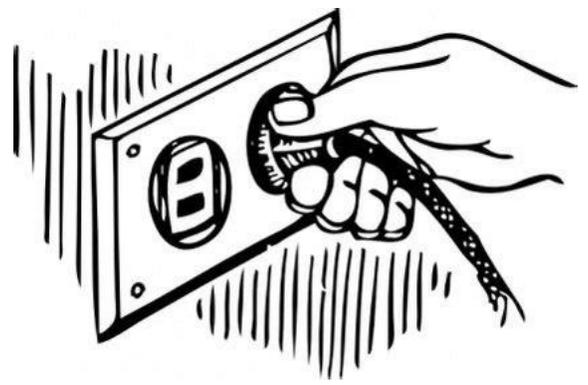
I moved here 3 years ago from Charlotte. I was a realtor and a banker and now I'm a stay-at-home mom, although my kids are 15 and 18 and that's probably too old for me to say that anymore.

I like walking my dogs, sewing, reading, and cooking.

And I found FCC because I pass the church every time I leave my house, and I loved the sign that said open and affirming!



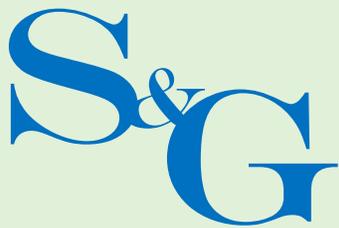
# The Plug-In Page



Help with coffee!

Fellowship Time (aka Coffee Hour) is completely back! Every week, dozens of us gather for coffee, snacks and fellowship.

Diane Rose is looking for a few people to help make the coffee, AND volunteers to supply light snacks, You just sign up for one week – sign-up sheets are on the counter. Contact Diane at [dianerose617@gmail.com](mailto:dianerose617@gmail.com) or 951-543-2771



Service and Giving has a volunteer directory of the charitable groups our church supports. See any member for info if you want to get involved in the community.



## Ministries

Two things are true:

1. All the ministries of the church are now up and running (YAY!!!)
2. Everything about the church is under a ministry umbrella.

So - look around, and see where you'd like to plug in. There's someone to help you do it. See Karla or Mark for who to go to.

# Spiritual Formation Groups Round-up



## MINDFUL COLORING

Contact Catherine Fairbanks  
[catherine.fairbanks@yahoo.com](mailto:catherine.fairbanks@yahoo.com)

Drop-in group every Thursday  
10.30 am – Library

## MEN'S LUNCH GROUP

Contact Larry Johnson  
[naturallarry51@gmail.com](mailto:naturallarry51@gmail.com)

Meets every Thursday  
12 noon  
Choir Room

## MEDITATION GROUP

Contact Kathy Martin at  
[katmart516@gmail.com](mailto:katmart516@gmail.com)

Meeting  
Tuesday, 4 pm  
Fellowship Hall

## POETRY CLUB

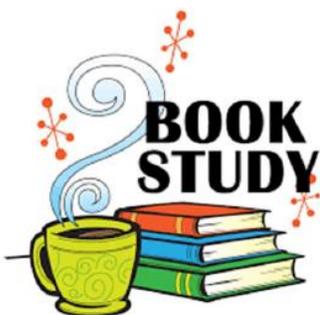
Contact Joan McKinney  
[jmckinneynew@gmail.com](mailto:jmckinneynew@gmail.com)

Second Tuesday of the  
month, 3 pm  
Parlor

## RACIAL JUSTICE GROUP BOOK STUDY

Contact Patti Clay at  
[pclay51@gmail.com](mailto:pclay51@gmail.com).

Third Tuesday of  
each month, at 11  
AM on Zoom  
Start date TBD



# COMING ATTRACTIONS

Through February 12 –  
Souper Bowl Sunday Food Drive



February 22  
Pancake Supper and Glitter Ash Wednesday service

Starting March 3  
Great Courses Gnosticism: From Nag Hammadi to the Gospel of Judas

March 5 – Kick off Sunday for  
Circle of Friends small groups



April 6 – Maundy Thursday  
Soup and Sandwiches dinner and Tenebrae service

April 9 – Easter Sunday

April 22-23 – Ashley Lecture – John Pavlovitz

First Congregational UCC  
 1735 Fifth Ave. West  
 Hendersonville NC 28739-4013  
 Phone: 828.692.8630

E-mail:  
[office@fcchendersonville.org](mailto:office@fcchendersonville.org)

Website:  
[www.fcchendersonville.org](http://www.fcchendersonville.org)

Rev. Karla Miller, Pastor  
 (karla@fcchendersonville.org)  
Mark Acker, Minister of Music  
 / Pastoral Associate

([mark@fcchendersonville.org](mailto:mark@fcchendersonville.org))

Jo Freeman, Administrator  
 (office@fcchendersonville.org)

Dora & Charles Littleton,  
 Custodians

Rev. David G. Kelly, Jr., Pastor  
 Emeritus

## RECURRING INFORMATION AND SCHEDULES

Church Office Hours	
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	9 am – 3.30 pm
Wed	9 am – 3.30 pm
Thurs	9 am – 3.30 pm
Friday	9 am – 3.30 pm
Closed on Holidays	

### Schedule of Regular Meetings

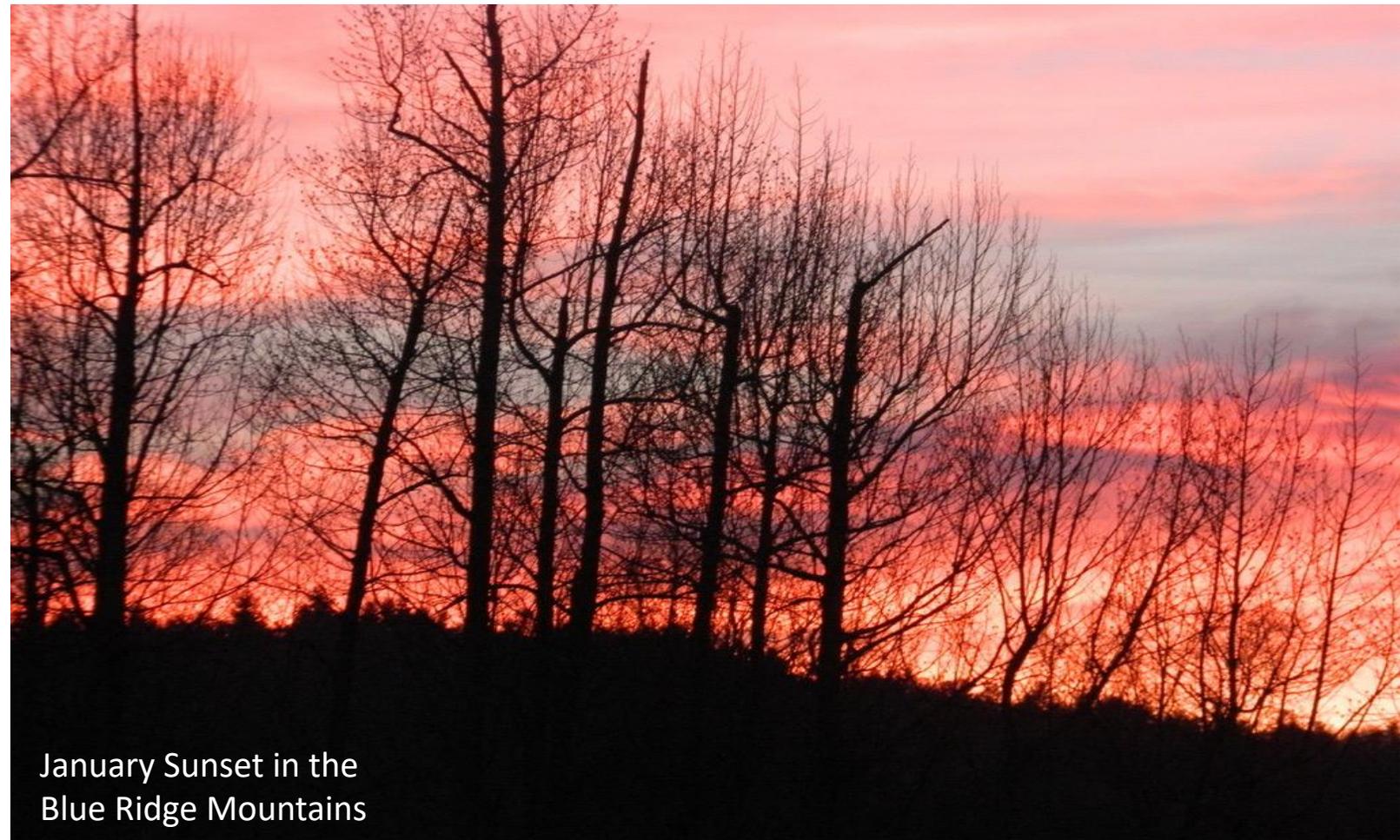
Council	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday after first Tuesday, 10 am	Sheryl Mendenhall, Moderator <a href="mailto:sherylmendenhall@rocketmail.com">sherylmendenhall@rocketmail.com</a>
Choir	Every Wednesday, 3.30	Mark Acker <a href="mailto:mark@fcchendersonville.org">mark@fcchendersonville.org</a>
HRM	“closed” except by non-member request	Becky Rowland <a href="mailto:rowland53@gmail.com">rowland53@gmail.com</a>
Financial Resources		
Larger Community (Service and Giving)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 10 am	Bill Shaffer <a href="mailto:wdsiii333@gmail.com">wdsiii333@gmail.com</a> 614-570-7990
Members and Friends	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 3.30 pm	Mark Fagerlin <a href="mailto:mfagerlin@gmail.com">mfagerlin@gmail.com</a>
Physical Resources	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 10 am	Mindy Myers <a href="mailto:mindy7myers@gmail.com">mindy7myers@gmail.com</a>
Worship		Linda Laderach <a href="mailto:lladerac@mtholyoke.edu">lladerac@mtholyoke.edu</a>

**Church Moderator**  
 Sheryl Mendenhall  
**Assistant Moderator**  
 Bob McLendon

Chronicle Deadline:  
 26<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Chronicle editor:  
 Dawn Kucera  
 email: [dawnkucera@mac.com](mailto:dawnkucera@mac.com)

**First Congregational UCC  
1735 Fifth Avenue West  
Hendersonville NC 28739-4013**



January Sunset in the  
Blue Ridge Mountains