

Announcements:

A Congregational Meeting is called for Sunday, June 21, after the worship service. We will discuss then vote upon proposed renovations to the church bathroom facilities. Your ears, voice and votes are needed.

Summer FUN begins this week! Have you seen the FCCH Summer Flyer with all the FUN, social activities we are doing this summer? Well this week we go to McConnell Farms for an ice cream social on Tuesday, and we have another FCCH Game Night on Thursday in the Fellowship Hall! Let's PLAY together!

Next Sunday, June 14, we will have a "Join-from-the-Pew" New Member Sunday! We treasure welcoming each and every soul into our FCCH church family! Some folks would rather not stand in front of the congregation. That's why we're doing it this way, again. If you are interested in joining the church or would like to speak to Karla before doing so, please contact Jennifer in the church office at office@fcchenderonville.org or by calling 828-692-8630.

Next Sunday, June 14, join us for the "Rise Up! Sing Out!" Watch Party at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. FCCH is hosting a watch party for the Rise Up Sing Out Concert sponsored by No Kings and the Committee for the First Amendment is being live-streamed from NYC. Please BYOB of choice, and your neighbors and friends~~the point is to deepen relationships, and build momentum in our pursuit of protecting our democracy.

June is FCCH Emergency Needs Fund Special Offering. 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!

Our next Friendship Dinner is Tuesday, June 16th!

Mark your calendar and invite others! This is a fun event to get to know your church community, and also to invite a friend or neighbor. Join us!

Happening at FCCH this week:

- Mon, 6/8 10:00 am: Community Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
- Tues, 6/9 11:00 am: Finance Committee Mtg, Choir Room
2:00 pm: **McConnell Farms Ice Cream Social**
4:00 pm: Community Meditation, Parlor
4:00 pm: Church Council Meeting, Fellowship Hall
- Wed, 6/10 10:00 am: Sit & Stitch, Library
11:00 am: Progressive Christianity 101, Fellowship Hall
3:15 pm: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
5:00 pm: Progressive Christianity 101, Fellowship Hall
- Thurs, 6/11 10:00 am: Service & Giving Committee Mtg, Choir Room
1:30 pm: Crone Talk, Parlor
6:00 pm: **GAME NIGHT!!! Fellowship Hall**

Next Sunday, 6/14 Forum 9 am: Bill Combs: Quantum Physics & Spirituality: In this presentation, we will look at the 5 ideas that came out of Quantum Physics and how they fit into spiritual concepts, both ancient and modern. You will come away with an understanding of these ideas, and how they might influence your life, and how they might connect with our spiritual beliefs.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember these people in your prayers this week

- Ariel Glassman, daughter of Connie Knight, is having a procedure tomorrow, June 8, and prayers are requested.
- Genie Murphy, sister of Ann Twiggs, has been recently diagnosed with lung cancer.
- Prayers for Anne Cain and family in the death of Aubrey Cain, Anne's daughter, after a short, sudden illness. Pray for all.
- Romella Hart-O'Keefe is home recuperating from a recent hospitalization.
- Dede Walton requests prayers for her daughter, Rebecca Baiet, who recovers from surgery.
- Sharon and Dody Pratt-Schultz are both recovering from recent health treatments and are home gaining strength.
- Kay Davis is receiving chemo treatments for her cancer.
- Debbie Hyslop, friend of Kristin Jordan, who is undergoing cancer treatments. Pray for peace, comfort and wisdom.
- 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.
- Prayers for LGBTQIA+ who feel unsafe or unwelcome because of religious trauma or world events and the social environment in which they live.

Birthdays this week:

Lillian Dashner	6/7
Barbara Rathbun	6/8
Clay Eddleman	6/10
Dennis Maloy	6/13

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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Ms. Jennifer Austin-Janssen
Church Administrator
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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**

June 7, 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

Imagine
John Lennon
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

Christ, You Offer All Your Welcome

**Christ, you offer all your welcome; it's a precious gift you give!
You bring reconciliation and you show us how to live. You call poor ones from their sadness, you call rich ones from their pride.
You call people who are outcast, telling all to "Come inside!"**

In a world that's often fearful, where so many stand alone, you invite us to your table and you welcome people home. Then you point us to the strangers that, it seems, nobody sees, and you say, "These are your neighbors. I am here, in each of these."

May we set a welcome table, may we find a common ground where no one will feel they're labeled, where acceptance can be found. We don't need to entertain there, or to do things that impress — just to hear folks' joy and pain there, and to love so all are blest.

First Reading

When I Grow Up
Joy Ladin

Darcy

When I grow up I want to be born, how fabulous would that be — to emerge from the ocean ready to start breathing? When I grow up I want to be a Thou like Buber's rocks and trees. I want to be lucid in my dreams, to know I'm flying even when I'm lying in the humidior of the grave. When I grow up, I want to be the aleph that preceded the bet the spirit of God made and won with formlessness. I want to hover over the face of the deep and remember the God who created Heaven and Earth is who I've always been.

Second Reading

Matthew 9:18-26

Anthem

Child of God
Mark Miller

FCCH Choir

No matter what people say or think about me, I am a child of God. No matter what people say or think about you, You are a child of God. No matter what the world says or thinks about me, I am a child of God. No matter what the world says, decisions, pronouncements on you, you are a child of God. And there is nothing and no one who can separate, they can't separate you from the truth that you're someone. You are family. You are meant to be a child, a child of God.

Sermon

Who We Always Have Been

Karla Miller

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Over the Rainbow
Harold Arlen
Bruce Mills, soloist

*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.

Celebration of Holy Communion

All are welcome at our table. The bread is gluten free. We celebrate communion by intinction. Please come to the table by the center aisle. You are invited to take a piece of bread from the plate, and dip it into the cup. If your bread falls in the cup, please take a new piece of bread to dip. Then return to your seat by the outer aisle.

Music

Gabriel's Oboe
Ennio Morricone

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of love, we give you thanks for this shared meal. Send us from here to share love in the world. Inspire in us the passion to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with You. Amen.

*Hymn

For Everyone Born

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread, a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing; for everyone born, a star overhead.

**Chorus:
And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace; Yes, God wil delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!**

For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be, to work, to speak out, to witness and worship; for everyone born, the right to be free.

Intentions and Benediction

Closing Song

We Are Marching in the Light of God

- 1. We are marching in the light of God.**
- 2. We are praying in the light of God.**
- 3. We are singing in the light of God.**

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 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: Diane Rose

Acolyte: Sharon Pearson

Cover art: The Muppets!