



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH • HENDERSONVILLE**

July 2026 Chronicle

Sabbath and Summertime Fun! the ultimate “CO-EXIST” bumpersticker

While Rev. Karla is on pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago, our church community welcomes a slower pace during July ~ Sabbath. Business meetings are taking a one-month reprieve, though gardeners and treasurers work tirelessly through the month, and our social, educational and spiritual activities graciously continue.

FUN in July!
July 11 – “Let’s Get Outside”
Bullington Gardens and Forest
Bathing with Anne Ogburn
at 9 am

Community Coffee Hour
Each Monday at 10 am
in the Fellowship Hall

Community Meditation
Each Tuesday at 4 pm
in the Parlor



Forums and Worship in July

Sundays at 9 am and 10:30 am, respectively:

Forums:

July 5 - “Thriving as We Age” with a panel of congregants who will NOT sit still in retirement!

July 12 - “Mindfulness & Meditation” with Marcia Walker

July 19 - “Reflections on Camino 2” with Karla Miller

July 26 - Alan Yeck from the Veterans Healing Farm

Worship Sermon Series: “The Bible is Bananas!” featuring some really weird stories in the Bible – talking donkeys, women turned into salt shakers, insecure bald prophets and more.

FUN in July!
July 5 – Coffee Hour
celebrates all July birthdays!

FUN in July!
July 12 – “ICE CREAM SOCIAL”
Celtic Creamery at 2 pm

Sit & Stitch
Each Wednesday at 10 am
in the church Library

FOCUS ON FUTURE

Upcoming Dates in our Church Community

HUNGER WALK - Mark your calendars now for the 2026 Hunger Walk at Jackson Park. Online registration opens July 1 for walkers or if you wish to donate. This year's goal is \$100,000 to support local food banks and hunger initiatives in Henderson County. The 44th Annual Henderson County Hunger Walk is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2026. The walk is hosted annually by the Henderson County Hunger Coalition to raise critical funds and awareness for local food pantries, assistance programs, and outreach ministries in the area. Participants can usually choose to walk either a 1-mile or a 3-mile route, making it an accessible event for families, individuals, and local organizations. Proceeds directly benefit coalition members and local aid groups, including the Storehouse of Henderson County, Interfaith Assistance Ministry (IAM), and local church pantries

PET PICTURES! Sometime in the fall, the Service & Giving Committee will organize a “Blessing of the Animals” and a drive for pet foods and supplies. As part of this, S&G would like to create a bulletin board with pictures of Congregants' pets. Please snap some great photos of you and your fur-babies this summer, so that when the request for pictures is made, you are sure to have some beauties to submit! Stay tuned!



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS UPDATE

The current Circle of Friends groups ended in June. The purpose of these groups has been to develop relationships with people you may not have previously known by sharing food and fellowship together. It will soon be time to begin the process again.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

- Those who wish to participate will be assigned to a group of 8-10 people; partners/spouses will be assigned to the same group. Each group will have a designated convener to handle group logistics (meeting times/place etc).
- There will be a one-year commitment to meet monthly.
- Each group will determine how to shape their group experience.
- Most importantly, this is a trusted space. What happens in the group stays in the group.

Registration forms will be available during coffee time on July 12 and Aug 2. We will also have forms available on the table in the “Holy” hallway throughout the summer, please fill the form out and place in wire basket in the office. Toward the end of August, you will be notified of your new group with the expectation that groups will begin meeting in September.

For further information feel free to contact any of the committee members:

Phyllis Rhinehart 321-848-6397 p1rhinehart@gmail.com

Cathy Evans 770-841-7351 catbevans@yahoo.com

Krista Kaufman 828-513-9476 kristakaufman41@gmail.com

Worship Attendance June 2026

June 7: 146 Pride Sunday

June 14: 118

June 21: 136

June 28: 155 Brian Combs



Our sanctuary and altar were decorated for Pride month! Thank you, Diane Rose!

Focus on Future – Upcoming Dates in our Community

The Social Justice Team is pleased to announce that your used electronics can be donated on Saturday, August 1st, from 10 am - 1 pm, in the church parking lot to THROUGH THE TREES for recycling so start collecting now!

Through the Trees is a community-based nonprofit based in Brevard whose mission is to bridge the digital divide. www.throughthetrees.us It supports rural broadband expansion, internet and computer access for low-income households, and is working on digital literacy initiatives related to technology in the area

It currently accepts the following items, so we will, too:

- Computers (desktops and laptops) ·Computer accessories/cables
- Cell Phones ·Tablets ·TV sound bars & Desktop speakers
- Digital Cameras (3.5mm Aux) ·Gaming systems

It accepts old and broken computers to utilize working parts and recycle responsibly. There will be someone on site to help clear personal information from devices for anyone who isn't able to do that themselves.

It does NOT accept the following so neither will we:

- TVs & AV Equipment (DVD, Blu-Ray, etc.) ·Printers & Ink Cartridges
- Stereos & bare-wire speakers ·Household appliances

We would love your help. We will need a couple of volunteers to handle donations and a van or truck to take items to Brevard. Please contact Connie Knight at knightcolor@gmail.com

Our first electronics recycling event is for our congregation only but spread the word among our members and friends. Our donations will help to build a community where everyone is connected, knowledgeable, and supported in the digital world. Together, we can empower every individual to thrive online. Hooray!!

(SEE FLYER on next page)

June Sunday School Fun – learning about and feeding our birds!



(Above) Emily plays games with children, James (middle) creates chalk bird drawings in the parking lot, and (far left) Ginger helps them fill the feeders!



DONATE YOUR USED TECHNOLOGY

Help us bridge the digital divide!

ITEMS WE ARE COLLECTING:



- Computers (desktops and laptops)
- Computer peripherals & cables
- Cell phones & tablets
- Soundbars
- Digital cameras
- Gaming systems



We will be unable to accept Printers and TVs

Your personal data will be digitally wiped or physically destroyed before we re-purpose or recycle your devices. We take old and broken computers for parts and recycling.

WHERE

The First Congregational Church
UCC, 1735 Fifth Ave West
Hendersonville, NC 28739

WHEN

Saturday, August 1st, 2026
10 AM - 1 PM

LEARN MORE HERE:



<https://throughthetrees.us>

FCCH JULY BIRTHDAYS!

FRANCES YODER	7/1
LYDIA GOSSETT	7/6
MINDY MYERS	7/7
ANN CRISP	7/10
JIM MORSE	7/11
DEDE WALTON	7/12
BAL GOLEMAN	7/13
GAIL BLATE	7/13
SHARON SCHULTZ-PRATT	7/13
ROGER DASHNER	7/14
MARY RATHER	7/15
CATHERINE FAIRBANKS	7/16
BOB MCLEONDON	7/18
JEANNE CONDREN	7/20
KRISTIN JORDAN	7/21
RENEE GIPSON	7/21
PHIL TAYLOR	7/25
FE AVIS	7/26
RITCH YOUNT	7/27
HELEN VENNARD	7/28
LYNN CONCHADO	7/28
SUSAN HUFF	7/30



PRIDE and June 2026 Highlights



Did you know? . . . Camino de Santiago

El Camino de Santiago (the Way of Saint James) is a historic network of ancient pilgrim routes stretching across Europe, all leading to the shrine of the apostle Saint James the Great in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain - also known as the 'Way of Saint James' - has been popular among Christians for well over 1,000 years. It is believed that the remains of Jesus' apostle James are buried under the main altar of Santiago de Compostela Cathedral.

According to Christian legend, the apostle James preached on the Iberian Peninsula before returning to Jerusalem in 44CE, where he was beheaded by Herod Agrippa - leading to his martyrdom. After his death, his disciples put him on a boat which sailed across the Mediterranean to Padrón, in northwest Spain. A local ruler, Queen Lupa, provided a small tomb for him to be buried.

The tomb was forgotten until 814 CE, when it was discovered by a hermit known as Pelagius. The local bishop declared the remains to be of Saint James (known in Spanish as Santiago). The king, when this was announced, had a church built around the burial site. 'Compostela' is a word deriving from the Latin 'componere' ("to bury") or 'compositum' ("cemetery") - so Santiago de Compostela means 'the burial place of Saint James'.

As news of the discovery spread, more pilgrims began to arrive. The simple church was replaced with the cathedral we know today. Just as with the creation of modern hiking trails, infrastructure sprung up to cater to the needs of pilgrims, like bridges over rivers - unlocking access to remote towns - inns and shops, which provided economic benefit to local communities (and continue to do so). Today's pilgrims have a similar experience to their medieval counterparts. They'll be crossing mountain passes, traversing wind-battered coastlines and meandering through quiet forests. They'll be hiking up to 20 miles (32km) a day, carrying everything they need with them on their backs.

There are more than 200 recognised camino routes across Europe. However, the best-known are the Camino Francés (which is hiked by 49% of pilgrims) and the Camino Portugués, hiked by 32% of pilgrims. The Camino del Norte, Camino Inglés and the Camino Primitivo are also relatively well known, and each is hiked by around 5% of pilgrims each year (that's around 20,000 people).

Which route is Karla taking this summer? Camino del Norte (Northern Way)

- The Camino del Norte begins in the town of San Sebastián and traces the northern coast of Spain to Santiago. You'll hike across the verdant hills of the Basque Country, the rugged coastline and unspoilt fishing villages of Cantabria and Asturias. You'll pass through historic towns like Gernika, made famous through Picasso's masterpiece, and cosmopolitan Bilbao, home to the famous Guggenheim Museum. At the town of Ribadeo, you'll head inland, through the forests and farmland of rural Galicia towards Santiago.
- This is considered one of the more difficult Camino routes, due to its length, hilly terrain and cool northern climate (especially in the more exposed coastal areas). However, it's within the grasp of experienced hikers.

HAVE YOU SEEN the NCDOT signs on Hwy 64/Brevard Rd announcing the closure of White Pine Dr beginning Monday, July 6th!?!?

This means that all access to First Congregational Church will need to come off 5th Avenue only.

Please be careful during this time.

Community News & Involvement

Discussion to Understand the Declaration of Independence

★★★
Saturday, July 4
1:30–3:00 PM

Community Meeting Room
Main Street Courthouse
Hendersonville, NC

★
Following the Declaration of Independence reading from the Courthouse steps after the parade, join us as we explore the document more closely, reflect on its history, and discuss its relevance in today's world.

★★★★★
For more information:
Bob Miles
rmiles6514@sbcglobal.net



Back to School Fest 2026

Where: Nissan of Hendersonville
1340 Spartanburg Hwy.
Hendersonville
(Sponsored)

When: Saturday July 11, 2026

From: 10am to 3:00 pm

Seats are limited - Please bring your own

👉 Backpack/ School Supply Give-Away

👉 Free Food

👉 Games, Arts & Crafts, Face Painting, Community Outreach, etc.

👉 Vendors of Local Organizations / Resources

ASHEVILLE GAY MEN'S CHORUS

SINGING • COMMUNITY • PRIDE

Live in Concert!



SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026
4:00 – 5:30 PM (AFTERNOON)

Suggested Donation
\$25
AT THE DOOR



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP OF HENDERSONVILLE
2021 Kanuga Rd,
Hendersonville, NC 28739

An afternoon of powerful music,
joy, and community.
All are welcome. Everyone belongs.



LOVE. EQUALITY. HARMONY. *Stronger Together.*

Progressive Alliance
of Henderson County

POSTCARD PARTY & SOCIAL TIME

OUR CROSS TO BEAR

BEWARE OF PROFITEERS AND FALSE PROPHETS

SEPARATION
of
Church
and
HATE

FRIDAY, JULY 17th

4:30–6:00pm at Trailside Brewing
874 Lenox Park Dr. (off S. Whitted St)

We're writing to remind legislators of the 1st Amendment:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

We provide suggestion sheets, postcards & addresses

Parking can be tricky- consider carpooling, walking or biking