

Announcements:

On Tuesday, August 11, please join us at Whit’s Frozen Custard in Hendersonville at 2:00 pm for the final stop on our Summer Ice Cream Trail. It’s the best way to spend an hour on an early August afternoon.

On Thursday, August 13th is our last Summer Game Night at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a game and snack to share. It’s always so much fun!

Join the Choir! We begin a new choir season this Wednesday, August 12, at 3:15 pm. If you have experience singing and are looking for a wonderful group of people to sing with, please join us! For more information, contact Mark Acker at mark@fcchendersonville.org.

Happening at FCCH this week:

Mon, 8/10	10:00 am:	Community Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
Tues, 8/11	11:00 am:	Finance Committee Meeting, Choir Room
	2:00 pm:	Ice Cream Trail Social at Whit's Frozen Custard
	4:00 pm:	Community Mediation, Parlor
	4:00 pm:	Church Council Meeting, Fellowship Hall
Wed, 8/12	10:00 am:	Sit & Stitch, Library
	3:15 pm:	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Thurs, 8/13	10:00 am:	Service & Giving Committee Mtg, Choir Room
	1:30 pm:	Crone Talk, Parlor
	6:00 pm:	Game Night, Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, 8/16, 9 am Forum: Sacred Space: Creating Altars in our Homes and Hearts. How do we create visual spaces in our homes and lives to remind us of the sacred in the everyday? Karla will lead a brief discussion and then we will make personal “pocket” altars as a hands on way to think about these things. We will provide the little tins and other ways to enhance your tiny altar! BUT NOTE: If you have any tiny rocks or mementos or photos or artwork that you want to put into your Altoid mint tin pocket altar, please do! Also, think about a word or mantra or line of scripture you want to include. In addition, if you have a little box you would rather use, that is fine, too.

Save these Future Dates:

- August 11 – Ice Cream Trail: Whit’s Frozen Custard
- August 13 – Game Night, Fellowship Hall
- August 18 – Friendship Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- August 23 – John Pavlovitz speaks in Forum and worship

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember these people in your prayers this week

- Lori Garrison, and the recipient of her donated kidney, from surgery this week.
- Jeannie Stewart is having knee replacement surgery on Wednesday, August 12.
- Gail Blate is having back surgery on Wednesday, August 12.
- Ericka Fagerlin has been back in hospital and going to rehab to help with weakness.
- Jean Glasgow-Hawkins is in the hospital after emergency surgeries.
- Reba Austin, Jennifer Austin-Janssen's mother, fell last week, had surgery to repair a fractured wrist, and is in rehab.
- George and Linda Hemingway, friends of Bruce Mills and Jim Hollingsworth, are dealing with the difficulties of ALS that George has.
- Phil Brown is home recovering from hospitalization and cardioversion.
- Danielle, dear college friend of Sheri Wilson, has Stage 4 cancer and despite all treatments and a positive attitude the cancer is winning.
- Jean Glasgow Hawkins and her daughter, Janice, are grieving the recent passing of Janice's husband, Ron, who was only 62 years old.
- Kathy Martin, partner of Pete Heuberger, has had to have knee replacement postponed due to more emerging health concerns.
- Mindy Myers is dealing with health issues and treatments.

Birthdays this week:

Linda Sanders	8/12
Sherie Wilson	8/13
Joanne Helppie	8/14
Joyce Tierney	8/14
Sharon Linnea	8/15
Kevin Tierney	8/16

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 mental health conditions. 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

August 9, 2026

Justice*Compassion*Belonging

Order of Worship

WelcomeKarla 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

VoluntaryMy Faith Has Found a Resting Place
Brant Adams
Joel Helfand, soloist

Opening Words

Come, let us gather in the presence of the Holy One, who is beyond every name and image.

We gather as a community to experience companionship for the journey.

Let us worship today the Holy One--Sophia, Wisdom, Spirit, Creator and Friend.

With grateful hearts, open minds, and compassionate spirits, let us worship.

*HymnBring Many NamesNo. 6

First ReadingProverbs 8:1-4Bruce Jayne

Second ReadingAntiphon for Divine Wisdom
Hildegard of Bingen, translated by Barbara Newman

Sophia!
you of the whirling wings,
circling encompassing
energy of God:

you quicken the world in your clasp.

One wing soars in heaven
one wing sweeps the earth
and the third flies all around us.

Praise to Sophia!
Let all the earth praise her!

SermonWhat is God/Goddess' Name?Karla Miller

A Time for Reflection

Prayers of the People

Loving God, hear our prayer.

Congregational Prayer

Sophia, Spirit, Creator Friend, when we are weary, cradle us in your peace. When we are afraid, strengthen us with your courage. When our hearts grow hard, soften them with your mercy. Teach us to reflect your nurturing love in our homes, our communities, and our world. May we honor the sacred dignity within every person, work for justice with compassion, and be bearers of healing wherever we go. In the many beautiful names through which we know you - and in the Holy Mystery beyond every name - we pray. Amen.

Response

All shall be well. All shall be well. All manner of things shall be well. All shall be well.

Invitation to Offering

OffertoryWhat a Wonderful World
Louis ArmstrongFCCH Choir

I see trees of green, red roses too, I see them bloom for me and you, and I think to myself, what a wonderful world. I see skies of blue and clouds of white, the bright blessed day, the dark sacred night, and I think to myself, what a wonderful world. The colors of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky, are also on the faces of people going by. I see friends shaking hands, saying "How do you do?" They're really saying "I love you." I hear babies cry, I watch them grow. They'll learn much more than I'll ever know and I think to myself, what a wonderful world.

*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.

*HymnGod of Many Names

God, Creator, Source of Being, Breath of life in earth and sky,
Loving Presence, never leaving, Closer than our heartbeat sigh.
God of justice, God of mercy, Wisdom deeper than the sea,
Still you call us into courage, Shaping what the world can be.

Christ, our Teacher, Friend, and Healer, Breaking chains of fear and shame,
Tender Shepherd, Liberator, Still you know us each by name.
Living Word and Hope eternal, Light no darkness can contain,
Through compassion, truth, and service, Love arises once again.

Spirit moving through creation, Wind of comfort, fire of grace,
Sacred Rhythm of communion, Binding all in one embrace.
God, the Many-Named and Nameless, Ever ancient, ever new,
May our lives become a blessing, Filled with love forever true.

Intentions and Benediction

PostludeMy Good Lord's Done Been Here
Moses Hogan
Joel Helfand, soloist

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: Cindy LarrisonAcolyte: Karen Monks

Cover art: Sophia by Mary Plaster, found on www.maryplaster.com