

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In an abundance of caution around the pending stormy weather forecasted for this weekend, we are cancelling the Pet Blessing scheduled for Sunday at 2:00 pm in Laurel Park Green. Stay safe!

Join us tomorrow, Monday, 10/12, from 2-3 pm, for another Ice Cream Trail stop! We meet at McConnell Farms for another fellowship treat. Bring a friend, meet some people, have a laugh!

Mark your calendar for our Friendship Dinner on Tuesday, October 20th! We gather at 5 pm and begin our meal together at 5:30 pm. Bring a dish to share, and your own plates, utensils and drinks. This is a lovely time to get to know each other and welcome new friends.

Let’s Make Something Beautiful! Congregational Lunch, October 25 after worship. We will have an array of sandwiches (including vegetarian), chips, fruit and cookies. Please sign up today or by contacting Jennifer Austin-Janssen at office@fcchendersonville.org so we know how much food to order. There will be a donation basket at the door to cover the cost of the lunch.

Happening at FCCH this week:

- Mon, 10/12

10:00 am: Coffee & Conversation, Fellowship Hall

5:00 pm: LP Presentation on Native Plants, Fellowship Hall
- Tues, 10/13

11:00 am: Finance Committee Mtg, Choir Room

4:00 pm: Community Meditation, Library

4:00 pm: Church Council Meeting, Fellowship Hall
- Wed, 10/14

10:00 am: Sit & Stitch, Library

3:15 pm: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

5:00 pm: Progressive Theology Book Group, Fellowship Hall
- Thurs, 10/15

1:30 pm: Crone Talk, Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm: Buddy K Big Band Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, 10/18, Forum: Literacy Connection with Kelly Hart: Through stories of literacy and connection, Kelly Hart, Executive Director of Literacy Connection, will share how English, US citizenship, workforce development and digital literacy programs are opening doors for adults in our community and how we can be a part of that work.

Save these Future Dates:

- Oct 20 – Friendship Dinner, Fellowship Hall
- Oct 25 – Congregational Lunch after Worship, Fellowship Hall
- Nov 14 – Drum Circle, Sanctuary
- 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

- Sympathy to the family of Catherine Lynch who passed away October 7.
- Mary Brown who is recuperating from heart surgery.
- Roger Haagenson who is hospitalized in Florida.
- Cathy Sadler as she heals from fall-related injuries and corrective surgeries.
- Angie Yates and family as they mourn the passing of her mother, Barbara, age 89. Also pray for Angie as she had hip replacement surgery last week.
- Arna Campbell, friend of Trisha LaGrange, has ongoing health challenges.
- A good friend of Nancy Kaczor and Becky Rowland has been diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer and is working to find her best path forward.
- For Julius & Sukey Pratt who are dealing with Julius' various health issues.
- Kay Davis is receiving chemotherapy in Florida.

Our Birthdays this Week:

- Janet Granger

10/11
- Lori Garrison

10/14
- Sadie Crum

10/15
- Andrea Berndt

10/18

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
- Mr. Mark Acker

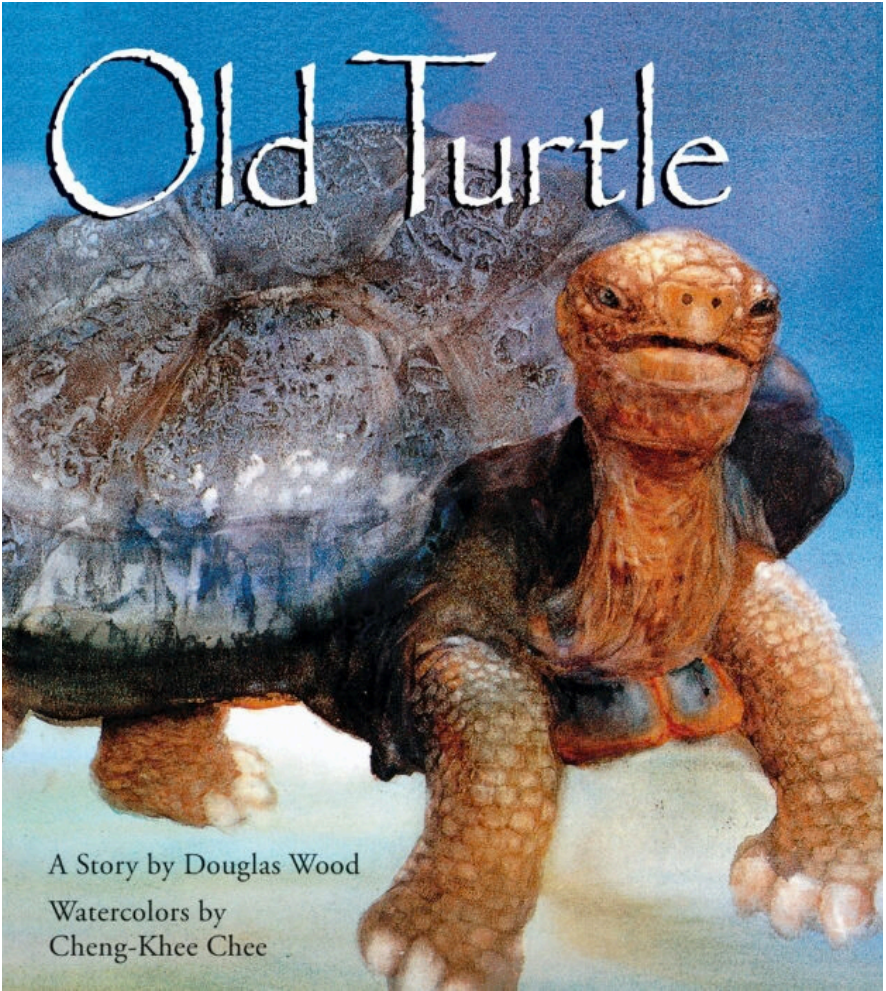
Minister of Music
& Pastoral Associate

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- Ms. Jennifer Austin-Janssen

Church Administrator

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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

October 11, 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 for Centering		
Story Time	Old Turtle Douglas Wood	
*Hymn	All of Life Is Filled With Wonder	
All of life is filled with wonder, so we thank you, God of love — For the crash of evening thunder, clearing clouds, then stars above; For the night that turns to glowing as we feel the morning mist, God, we praise and thank you, knowing every day we're truly blessed.		
For the joy of daily waking, for the gift of each new day, For the smell of fresh bread baking, for the animals at play, For the ways we seek to serve you as we work and volunteer, God we humbly praise and thank you for your presence with us here.		
For your love in times of trouble, for your peace when things are tough For your help when hardships double, for your grace that is enough, For a stranger's gentle kindness, for a doctor's healing skill — God, we thank you that you bless us, and you bless your world as well.		
Scripture Reading	Psalm 148:1-10	Stephanie Lowder
Anthem	Look at the World John Rutter	FCCH Choir

Look at the world, everything all around us; look at the world, and marvel every day. Look at the world: so many joys and wonders, so many miracles along our way. Praise to thee O Lord for all creation, give us thankful hearts that we may see: all the gifts we share and every blessing, all things come of thee. Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower; look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain; look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains, valley and flowing river, field and plain. Every good gift, all that we need and cherish comes from the Lord in token of God's love; we are God's hands, stewards of all God's bounty; God is the earth, and God the heavens above.

Contemporary Readings		
excerpt from <u>The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness</u> <i>Sy Montgomery</i>		
“Isn't this what we want to know about those whom we care about? What is it like, we wonder at each meeting, in shared meals and secrets and silences, with each touch and glance, to be you?”		
excerpt from <u>The Outermost House: A Year of Life on the Great Beach of Cape Cod</u> <i>Henry Beston</i>		
For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours, they move finished and complete, gifted with the extension of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren, they are not underlings: they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendour and travail of the earth.”		
Sermon	On Old Turtles & Octopuses	Karla Miller
A Time for Reflection		
Prayers of the People		
Loving God, hear our prayer.		
Congregational Prayer		
God of love, We give thanks for every living thing: for trees and flowers, birds and animals, for one another, and for the precious gift of life itself. Most of all, we give thanks for your presence in our lives, and in the lives of everyone in this beautiful, fragile, interconnected world. 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	Harmony Glorraine Moone	FCCH Choir
Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for everyone to dwell together in harmony. God we pray for harmony.		

***Doxology**

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah. Halle, halle, halle-lu-jahH
Halle, halle, hall-lu-jah. Halle-lu-jah, hallelujah.

***Prayer of Blessing**

***Hymn** Creator, We Thank You

Creator, we thank you for all you have made:
For trees by the sidewalk that give us cool shade,
For grass-covered ball fields, for flowers downtown,
For wide autumn leaves that turn crispy and brown.

God, thank you for gardens on back corner-lots,
For insects that hide out in old flower pots,
For turtles and octopus living in zoos,
For high mountain trails that have beautiful views.

O God, we give thanks for the places of light,
For cool mountain lakes and for trails in the snow,
For each city park and for all sunlight bright,
For gifts of creation we see everywhere.

Intentions and Benediction

Postlude Thine Is the Glory
 Georg Frederick Handel

The light of Christ is carried into the world.

*Please rise in body or spirit

Worship Notes