

Announcements:

Support the upcoming Hunger Walk on September 19th! There are many congregants collecting donations for the walk, and our Service & Giving team can provide a donation packet with registration information. See Dede Walton or Sheila Clendenning today!

We will welcome New Members into our FCCH church family on Sunday, September 13! 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@fcchhendersonville.org or by calling 828-692-8630.

Happening at FCCH this week:

Mon, 8/24 10:00 am: Community Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
2:00 pm: Lake Pointe Landing Small Group

Tues. 8/25 4:00 pm: Community Meditation, Parlor

Wed, 8/26 10:00 am: Sit & Stitch, Library
3:15 pm: Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Thurs, 8/27 1:00 am: LWV Committee Mtg, Library
1:30 pm: Crone Talk, Parlor
4:00 pm: Pisgah Chpt Trout Un'ltd Board Mtg, Choir Room

Next Sunday, 8/30, for Forum: The Life and Times of Romella Hart-O'Keefe: Romella has lived such a rich, open, free and life of love! She will share her life's journey of spirituality, vocation and wisdom learnings. You will not want to miss this ~ her stores will have you awed & rolling in the aisles!

Opportunities for Prayer

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. Circular paper is provided on which you may write your prayer and attach it to the wall.

Altar Artist: Carolyn Maloy **Acolyte:** Sharon Pearson

Cover art: "The Art of Being Human"

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember these people in your prayers this week

- Phyllis Rhinehart had surgery on her ear this week.
- Hilarie Glasgow and family of Jean Hawkins, her wife, who died recently.
- Lori Garrison, and the recipient of her donated kidney, from surgery last week.
- Jeannie Stewart had knee replacement surgery last week.
- Gail Blate had back surgery last week.
- Kay Davis is receiving chemotherapy in Florida.
- Ericka Fagerlin is in rehab to gain strength.
- Reba Austin, Jennifer Austin-Janssen's mother, is going to her home in Lenoir after healing in rehab for a couple of weeks.
- George and Linda Hemingway, friends of Bruce Mills and Jim Hollingsworth, are dealing with the difficulties of ALS that George has.
- Danielle, dear college friend of Sheri Wilson, has Stage 4 cancer and despite all treatments and a positive attitude the cancer is winning.
- Mindy Myers is dealing with health issues and treatments.

Our Birthday this Week:

Lori Cipot	8/24
Fern Carter	8/27
Jolanda Cook	8/27
Milton Stewart	8/27
Mark Mitchell	8/27
Carol Woeppel	8/29

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@fcchhendersonville.org

Jennifer Austin-Janssen
Church Administrator
office@fcchhendersonville.org

Mr. Mark Acker
Minister of Music
& Pastoral Associate
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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 belong here and are welcome just as you are.

August 23, 2026

Justice*Compassion*Belonging

Order of Worship			(cont.)			Offertory We Will Be the Change Victor Johnson FCCH Choir		
Welcome					Do not fall away now. This is the time to rise. Your light is being summoned. Your integrity is being tested That it may stand more tall. When everything collapses We must find within us That which is indomitable. Rise, and find the strength in your heart. Rise, and find the strength in each other Burn through your devastation, Make it your fuel. Bring forth your light. Now is not the time To be afraid of the dark.			
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								
Voluntary	Imagine John Lennon Linda Laderach, violin							
Reading	Here and Now and Small and Close	John Pavlovitz	Second Reading		Mark 14:3-9			
			Sermon		John Pavlovitz			
			A Time for Reflection					
*Hymn	God of Love		Prayers of the People		Loving God, hear our prayers.			
	God of love, may we in worship welcome all diversity. May we reach in trust and friendship to the poor and refugee. May we seek Christ in the stranger, breaking bonds of hate and fear. By your Spirit, may we offer glimpses of your kin-dom here.		Community Prayer		Loving God, who meets us in the tenderness of human touch, in a stranger’s courage and kindness, and in the extravagant love of a woman who poured out what she had—remind us that this is what it means to live as followers of The Way of Jesus. Like the woman with the alabaster jar, give us the courage to love generously, to offer kindness even when it seems small, and to pour ourselves into the lives of others when love is what the moment requires. And when we ourselves are weary, remind us that we, too, are worthy of care. May we go into each new day a little more willing to see one another, a little more ready to care for one another, and a little more determined to make this difficult world a better place. Amen.			
First Reading	It's When the Earth Shakes <i>Chelan Harkin</i>	Jan Aplin	Response		All shall be well. All shall be well. All manner of things shall be well. All shall be well.			
	It's when the earth shakes That our light is called To rise up. It's when everything falls away And shakes us to the core And awakens all Of our hidden ghosts That we dig deeper to find Once inaccessible strength. It's in times when division is fierce That we must reach for each other And hold each other much Much tighter.		Invitation to Offering					
						*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.		
						*Hymn Miracles of Justice		
						Could miracles of justice surround all lives on earth, till those who sit in darkness find healing, light, and birth? Can we imagine prisoners, allowed to start anew? Can we who’ve been discouraged now trust again in you?		
						Could those who’ve faced oppression find love and welcome here? Could hungry, homeless children be free of want and fear? Could we your church find blessing in reaching to the poor? Can we your church imagine what we’ve been called here for?		
						O God of love and justice, may we imagine, too, how faith, put into practice, can change the world for you. May what we each imagine when we are at our best. Be miracles of kindness till all your world is blessed.		
						*Intentions and Benediction		
						*Closing Song (congregation singing) I am sending you light to heal you, to hold you. I am sending you light to hold you in love.		
						The light of Christ is carried into the world.		
						*Please rise in body or spirit		