

The Chronicle October 2026



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH • HENDERSONVILLE

Beloved,

October is finally here! I think October is my favorite month, or at least it is today. AND, I hope you read carefully this edition of the Chronicle, as it has some important information around updates on our parlor bathrooms, the launch of our "Let's Make Something Beautiful" Stewardship Campaign at the end of the month, a Progressive Theology Book Group led by Angie Buchanan and myself, a Fall Ice Cream Trail opportunity, Blessing of the Animals, Game Night, and more.

I hope you can join us for one or all of these great opportunities to be with one another and grow together.

Big Love + Deep Peace,
Karla

let's make something
beautiful together!

"Let's Make Something Beautiful"

Congregational Lunch, October 25 after worship ~ Please save the date for our fall congregational lunch after worship. We will have box lunches with a suggested donation of \$10. We will enjoy each other's company as we wonder together what is BEAUTIFUL about our experience of being a part of the FCCH community.

Progressive Theology Book Group with Revs. Angela Buchanan and Karla Miller

Join us for a four part book study on *Out Lives Matter: A Womanist Queer Theology*
Wednesdays at 5:00 pm.

October 7, 14, 21 & 28

Please sign up by emailing
office@fcchhendersonville.org

OCTOBER at a GLANCE

FCCH Game Night

Thursday, October 8

6 pm

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 11

2 pm

Fall Ice Cream Trail ~ McConnell
Family Farm, Mon, Oct 12 2:30 pm

Friendship Dinner

Tuesday, October 20

5 pm

Congregational Lunch

Sunday, October 25

11:30 am

Singing Songs of Resistance

Thursday, October 29

6:30 pm



LET'S MAKE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

2026 Stewardship Campaign “Let’s Make Something Beautiful”

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.

What is Stewardship within a church framework?

Stewardship in church campaigns refers to the responsible management of a church’s resources — financial, physical, and human — to fulfill its mission and benefit the community.

What is a Stewardship campaign?

This is the period in the church calendar when we ask you to consider your financial contribution for next year, and sign a pledge card to make that commitment. These campaigns usually have a theme, and ours this year is Let’s Make Something Beautiful.

What does it do?

This is congregation members’ commitment to support the financial infrastructure of the church – paying the staff salaries, keeping the lights on, and financing maintenance, among other needs.

But, two things can be true at the same time. While it is about the money to provide the financial support we need, it does much more than that. What that money does serves as the gateway through which we can Make Something Beautiful for our church and community.

By making your commitment through a pledge, you show your support for First Congregational and the work we do – think of it as proudly taking ownership of our values and having skin in the game.

How will the campaign unfold?

Over the next 5-6 weeks, you will get more information, you’ll see signs of the campaign throughout the building, you’ll hear from fellow congregation members about how they want to Make Something Beautiful through their commitment.

Stay tuned!

The Stewardship Team

October Forums

Sundays, 9:00 AM

Each Sunday at 9 am we have a "learning" hour called Forum on a range of topics. Join us!

October 4 - Mountain Aging Partners with Andres Schmidt: Learn about the care for aging adults, caregivers and communities offered by this organization

October 11- Writers Roundtable with Darcy: Calling all writers! What do you write? Poetry, flash, non-fiction, short story, memoir, novel? Choose a sample and share your creation in an Open Mic format. No critiques. Just applause. A safe place for new writers. Listeners, we need you! We can't wait to hear what you wrote.

October 18 - Literacy Connection with Kelly Hart: Through stories of literacy and connection, she 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.

October 25 - Strengthening the Human-Animal Bond in our community with Angela Prodrick: Blue Ridge Humane Society is dedicated to improving the lives of animals and the people who love them through adoption, affordable veterinary care, community outreach, and pet support programs.

Could Sunday School actually be ... **FUN????**

Each Sunday Virginia and Emily make sure our children have fun opportunities to learn, play and grow!



Roddy and Ames draw on the parking lot.



Amellia and Ames make Apple Festival treats for the congregation



Emillio plays in Sunday School

Service & Giving Committee October 2026

At our September meeting we discussed several upcoming Service & Giving events: a visit to the Veteran's Healing Farm, the Hunger Walk Fundraiser and the upcoming Blessing of the Animals. (And based on the successful tour of the Veteran's Healing Farm, we will be planning more "field trips" to visit area non-profits and other places that may be of interest. Stay tuned.)

On September 16th, a group of twenty toured the Veteran's Healing Farm in Mills River. Executive director Al Yeck was our host and shared their mission of enhancing the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of our nation's Veterans and their families. We enjoyed the lovely, peaceful environment which includes organic vegetable, herb and flower gardens, and beekeeping. Also offered are classes and workshops, therapeutic activities, and live events in a comfortable home-like environment. Everything grown at the farm is donated back to the greater community, distributed to the VA, IAM Food Pantry, Hendersonville Rescue Mission, The Storehouse, Safelight, Veterans Restoration Quarters, and other organizations in need. Last year they produced and gave away 75,000 pounds of produce and flowers. Check out their website for tour and volunteer opportunities. <https://www.veteranshealingfarm.org/>

On September 19, many of our congregation participated in the Hunger Coalition's Hunger Walk. And many more solicited funds for this important need in our community. It was a bright sunny morning with smiles everywhere. We will have more to share next month after all the numbers are tallied.

Please note that the Blessing of Animals will take place on October 11th at 2:00 pm. Bring your pet and join us at the park directly across from the church. Donations of dog and cat food are continued to be collected with the drive ending on Sunday, October 4th donation box's are located in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. They will be delivered to Blue Ridge Humane Society and Charlie's Angels.

If you are looking for productive ways to help others, please check out the Volunteer Opportunities Directory in the Members section of our website.

Our next meeting will be on October 8 th at 10:00 a.m. in the choir room. Our meetings last an hour and we welcome anyone who would like to join the Service & Giving Committee or just sit in on a meeting to see what we are all about.

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Wilson and Dede Walton

Staying Active and In-Touch

One of our babies has flown the nest!

Just wanted to share that Zach Cone has moved to NC School of Science & Math and his address at school *if anyone wanted to drop him a card* (hinthinthint :)

- Zachary Cone
- 901 BURKEMONT AVE NCSSM RM S1117
- MORGANTON, NC 28655-4502

HUNGER WALK 2026!

Here is the FCCH Class of '26 and a few photos of some of the MANY FCC folks who showed up at 8 am to walk!



Photos by Dede Walton and Dawn Kucera



Our October Birthdays:

Virginia Gambill	10/1
Cathy Evans	10/2
Joann Coonrod	10/2
Susan Palmer	10/2
Lynn Cigal	10/3
Angie Yates	10/5
Stephanie Lowder	10/6
Kirsten Howard	10/7
Steve Villanti	10/7
Lori Garrison	10/14
Sadie Crum	10/15
Andrea Berndt	10/18
Sheila Clendenning	10/19
Romella Hart-O'Keefe	10/21
Theo Sharps	10/22
Thom Gauthier	10/24
Susan Flynt	10/28
Dottie Koopman	10/29
Mike Brazauskus	10/31

Upcoming Elections -

Say NO to Amendments!!!

by Ann Twigg

Most of us are loath to pay more and more in property and income taxes, so a state constitutional amendment FOREVER limiting the amount we pay sounds like a good deal. IT'S NOT!! There are 2 tax related amendments on the ballot this election. If they pass, they will have dire consequences for the future of our town and county. While tax limits will be set in stone, costs for municipalities will not be. Without the flexibility to budget for the changing needs of the community, Hendersonville and Henderson County will be forced to cut services. How many of us want more potholes, less public-school funding, less food assistance for those in need, cuts in police and EMT services (talk about defunding the police!)? Also, in desperation, local governments may have to increase other fees and taxes.

To add insult to injury, corporations in NC will pay ZERO income tax by 2030!!! These vaguely worded amendments are a cynical attempt by the NC General Assembly to increase income for the rich and decrease our middle-class standard of living. Don't tie the hands of local government. VOTE AGAINST the amendments.

If you have questions, please text me at 614-570-7933 – also, to further discuss this issue, we may have an informal meeting after church service one Sunday next month.

FALL - 2026 VOTING / ELECTION CALENDAR <7/24/26>
Henderson County, NC ~ **ELECTION DATES** and **DEADLINES**

JAN. 2026 – requests for absentee (mail-in) ballots opened and stays open until the Oct. 20, 2026 **Deadline**.

SEPTEMBER 2026

4 – Mail-in/Absentee voting begins (8:30 am). For help with details call BOE (828-697-4970) or go to: <https://www.ncsbe.gov/voting/vote-mail/detailed-instructions-vote-mail>. You will need two witnesses (+ their addresses and signatures or a notary) + an ID copy or 'do' the ID exception form. Be sure to seal both envelopes and mail early or take it to the BOE by 11/3/26 before 7:30 pm.

OCTOBER 2026

9 – Voter registration **Deadline** @ 5 pm.

15 – Early VOTING begins, in person, at early voting sites below – bring your ID!

Thur 10/15 and 10/16: 8 AM – 7:30 PM; Sat. 10/17: 8 am – 3 PM.
Mon 10/19 thru 10/22: 8 AM – 7:30 PM; (not open Sat. 10/23)
Mon 10/26 thru 10/30: 8 AM – 7:30 PM; Sat. 10/31: 8 AM – 3 PM

20 – **Deadline** to request an Absentee ballot by mail @ 3 pm (see 9/4 above for more info)

31 – Early Voting Ends - **Deadline** (3 pm)

OCTOBER - EARLY VOTING SITES. See **above** for days and hours. Oct. 15 – Oct. 31, 2026

			
Bd of Elections 75 E. Central St.	Fletcher Town Hall 300 Cane Cr. Rd.	Etowah Library 101 Brickyard Rd.	Edneyville Comm. Center 15 Ida Rogers Dr



Our schools are on the ballot!

North Carolina public schools could lose BILLIONS in state funding if the **Property and Income Tax Amendments** pass in November.

Take the Pledge

For our platform priorities and against the Amendments

VOTE NO on ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 4th, 2026

Early voting starts 10/15 – BRING A FRIEND



This fall, there will be NC constitutional amendments on the ballot that could PERMANENTLY stop local and state governments from being able to fund our public schools and other crucial services. These constitutional amendments are just another giveaway for the wealthy few and massive corporations like Duke Energy and corporate data centers. We won't be tricked!

<https://dhnc.info/NCIPS-thepledge>

facebook.com/ncfamiliespublicschools

instagram.com/ncfamiliespublicschools

THIS IS A BAD DEAL, NORTH CAROLINA!



A LOWER TAX CAP WON'T MAKE LIFE MORE AFFORDABLE FOR US.

Whether you're Black or white, Asian or Latine, Native or newcomer, everyone in North Carolina deserves safe communities with well-funded public schools, health care, child care, public transportation, and other essential social services.

But some state lawmakers have rigged the rules to shift our public dollars away from our communities to the pockets of the wealthiest few and profitable corporations.

Now they want you to vote to lower the maximum state income tax rate to 3.5%. While it might sound like a promise of affordability, it won't change the income taxes you pay. Instead, it could mean fewer services and higher costs through other taxes and fees.

How will this impact me and my community?



Your communities' public schools, child care providers, food assistance, and health care services will have limited funding to serve everyone.



Your local government will have less support from the state, forcing cuts to local services – especially if you live in a rural area.



You may see higher sales tax, property taxes, and fees since costs won't disappear and lawmakers will turn to these other revenue options.

Who will actually benefit from a lower tax cap?



The super-rich in North Carolina (people who make over \$870,000 a year) and highly profitable corporations operating in multiple states!

Together, we can stop this unfair tax cap and demand that lawmakers make profitable corporations and the wealthy pay what they owe. Share the facts with your friends and family so we can fund our future!

READ MORE



NCBUDGET.ORG/TAXCAP