Announcements:

Brian Combs, from Haywood Street Congregation in Asheville, is our featured guest preacher in Worship next Sunday, November 15. Brian always brings a vibrant, meaningful perspective, and this will be another opportunity that you will want to hear. Join us and invite friends!

FCCH Office Hours: for the weeks of November 9-20, the church office schedule will be 9 am-12 pm Monday-Thursday, and closed on Fridays. If you need anything outside of that timeline please contact Karla (781) 835-6893 or Mark (615) 430-3506.

Community Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil is Friday, November 20th at 6:30 pm in our Sanctuary. All are welcome and encouraged to attend as we stand up for our Trans siblings around the world.

A Celebration of Life for Richard Tyler will be held in the Memorial Garden, Wednesday, November 18, at 11:00 am. All are invited.

On Sunday, November 22nd, after the worship service, we will hold a "Tell Me More!" informational session with Rev. Karla. If you are interested in learning more about our church, the UCC, or becoming a member, please join us in the Parlor (just off the Sanctuary) for an informal conversation with Karla.

Happening at FCCH this week:

Mon, 11/9	10:00 am:	Community Coffee Hour, Fellowship Hall
Tues. 11/10	11:00 am:	Finance Committee Meeting, Choir Room
	4:00 pm:	Community Meditation, Parlor
	4:00 pm:	Church Council Meeting, Fellowship Hall
Wed, 11/11	10:00 am:	Sit & Stitch, Library
	3:15 pm:	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Thurs, 11/12	10:00 am:	Service & Giving Committee, Choir Room
	1:30 pm:	Crone Talk, Parlor
Fri, 11/13	6:30 pm:	Love & Respect Stone Soup Supper, Fellowship Hall
Sat, 11/14	9:00 am:	Blue Ridge Ikebana Workshop, Fellowship Hall
	10:00 am:	Drum Circle, Sanctuary

Next Sunday, 11/15 Forum: Single Life: FCCH Member panel and discussion: As a follow up to our November 1 forum with Richard Allen Taylor, a panel of FCCH members will share their experiences with singleness. Persons who are single after the death of a partner, divorce, or single by choice or circumstance will share their experience. We will also open the floor to a group discussion of this important topic.

Save these Future Dates:

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
Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Sanctuary

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember these people in your prayers this week

-Al Diaz was hospitalized with pneumonia, and is now in Hendersonville Health and Rehab while he recovers.
-For the family and friends of Richard Tyler who passed away last week.
-Jenn and Ray Kirby, and their family in the death of Ray's mother on last week.
-Suzanne Morrow, friend of Patti Clay, had a shoulder replacement as a result of a fall, and she and her family could certainly use our prayers.
-Alice Pfirrmann is now in the Med Center at Carolina Village for rehab.
- Prayers for Syrus, great niece of Ann Twiggs & Bill Shaffer, whose 16-year-old, friend died by suicide.
-Margie Acker, sister-in-law of Mark Acker, who is being treated for cancer, and for David, her husband and caregiver.
-Gary Perry, nephew of Trisha LaGrange, who is recovering from a stroke.
-For Sukey Pratt and the family of our friend Julius Pratt, who died recently.
-For Mark Fagerlin and the family of our friend Ericka Fagerlin who passed away recently.
-For 16-yr old Gabe, and his family who are friends of Karla's, who is in hospice care.
-Roger Haagenson who is now in hospice care in Florida.
-Kay Davis is receiving chemotherapy in Florida.

Birthdays this week:

Bob Battle	11/13
Ben Coonrod	11/13
Carol-Ann Carlin	11/15
Sukey Pratt	11/15

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. We also hold a "Tell Me More" meeting on the first Sunday of each month, which provides the opportunity to talk with Karla about our church.

MINISTERS
All of the Congregation

Rev. Karla Miller
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Mr. Mark Acker
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& 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.

November 8, 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

Voluntary Cavatina
Joachim Raff
Linda Laderach, violin

Opening Words

People of God, look around you now and see the faces of those we know and love --

Neighbors and friends, siblings in spirit, a community of kindred hearts.

People of God, take a moment now to look around you and see the faces of those we hardly know --

Strangers, sojourners, forgotten ones, those who need an outstretched hand.

People of God, members of this church, newcomers, and guests, take a moment now to look around you and see all the images of God assembled here.

God's spirit shines in me, in you, and in every person and creature on earth.

People of God, come, let us worship together.

***Hymn** All Are Welcome

Jesus' wondrous words of grace welcomes all to God's embrace:
Welcome if you're rich or poor, if you're knocking at the door,
If you come from far away, if you need a place to stay,
If you suffer want or pain, you are welcome in God's reign!

Do you live in fear and doubt? Do you seek to leave some out?
Do you think that some can't get to the table God has set?
Think there is no room for you? Jesus says you're welcome, too.
Think you're different, sinful, odd? You are welcome, child of God!

Jesus says to all the church: Welcome in the ones who search,
Welcome in the ones who mourn, Welcome in the tired and worn,
Welcome those who live in fear, Welcome in the strugglers here.
As you do to these, you see, So you also welcome me.

First Reading Acts 2:42-27 Nolleen Kelly

Second Reading On Peace
Thich Nhat Han

Our true home is in the present moment. To live in the present moment is a miracle. The miracle is not to walk on water. The miracle is to walk on the green Earth in the present moment, to appreciate the peace and beauty that are available now. Peace is all around us—in the world and in nature—-and within us —-in our bodies and our spirits. Once we learn to touch this peace, we will be healed and transformed.
It is not a matter of faith;
it is a matter of practice.

Sermon For the Love of the World Karla Miller

A Time for Reflection

Prayers of the People

Loving God, **hear our prayers.**

The Lord's Prayer

God, heart of the world: revealed through every aspect
of creation, understood through our awareness.
May we honor the holiness of creation.
May your love be reflected in the way we live.
May we always be thankful for the food we eat
and the friends we have.
May we forgive those who transgress against us
and be forgiven for our own.
May we live as your heartbeat without fear or hesitation
But with courage, compassion and imagination.
Through our hope and freedom, may your justice-love be seen
and heard and experienced forever and ever. Amen.

Response

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

A Moment for Stewardship Dawn Kucera

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Down By the Riverside FCCH Choir
Mary McDonald

Gonna lay down my burden down by the riverside. I ain't gonna study war no more. It's me, it's me O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. Not my brother, not my sister, it's me O Lord standing in the need of prayer. Not my mother, not my father, but it's me O Lord standing in the need of prayer. Gonna lay down my sword and shield down by the riverside.

***Doxology**

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

***Prayer of Blessing**

***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

Postlude We Are Marching in the Light of God

1. We are marching in the light of God.
2. We are praying in the light of God.
3. We are singing in the light of God.

The light of Christ is carried into the world.

*Please rise in body or spirit

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: Fern Carter **Acolyte:** Marcella Lesher

Cover art: Stewardship package from UCC SALT, media graphic