

The CONGREGATIONAL CHRONICLE

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United Church of Christ

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Beloved,

I don't know about you, but I am moved by the youth of our world demanding justice for our climate. 16 year old Swedish activist Greta Thunberg stormed the UN Climate Justice Action Summit with these words: "I shouldn't be up here. I should be back at school on the other side of the ocean," she said. "Yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you! You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words."

She is right. It is easy for us to romanticize the hope of our youth, we are touched by the honesty and clarity of young people, we see them as the next generation of leaders. Or, our leaders now. On a couple of recent Sundays, we have had an infant cooing and a small child chattering in worship. To me, there is no sweeter grace than small people sounds peppering our singing and praying and yes, even the preacher. Hope wrapped in Glory, I say. What could be more amazing?

Yet, it is not fair for us to look or to ask these loves to supply our hope for us. Their hope is but a grace and gift, and our responsibility as adults is to make sure there is a world in which they can cultivate hope. So we do what we can. We write letters, we march if we can, we hold our grandchildren tight, we reduce, reduce, reduce, reuse, reuse, reuse, and then recycle. We buy local. We protest how we can. We write checks and give what we can. We continue to educate ourselves, and pray and storm heaven and earth like Greta stormed the UN.

For the redwoods, the polar bears, the coral reef, and our children.

Peace, and so much love,
Karla

Moderator's View

A Short Introduction to the Ministry of Financial Resources (MFR)

Responsibility – * To bring oversight of the fiscal resources of the church. *To dedicate our efforts toward a unified spiritually led and joyous approach to giving, receiving and addressing the community struggles according to our mission and capabilities.

Established Goals must promote/ secure fiscal responsibility and support Stewardship efforts, assuring proper security of the fiscal needs of operating the church, while prudently following the church's overall Mission within the Community at large.

Reporting requires MFR to report to Church Council. The MFR Facilitator is the voting representative serving on Church Council; accountability is to the Congregants of the church.

Our Primary Aims are: *Development/oversight of a fiscally responsible fiscal Ministry, done in collaboration with our Treasurer. *Developing an adequacy of funds to assure fiscal viability of the church. Stewardship is totally necessary to function and meet church goals. Projecting a forward vision and generosity echoes through our church family and is our life-line in being all we can be within our community. *Promulgating a spirit of gratitude, generosity and glad hearts through the generosity of our people is vital. We give thanks to God for his indescribable gifts to us individually, and as a church. We believe that generosity is both fiscal and also manifests itself as our time, our hospitality and friendship.

God challenges us to be generous because He wants us to receive the blessings that come from generosity. "Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you," (Luke 6:38). God seeks people who reflect His character and model His generosity. This church understands shaking together until the cup runs over. We have seen how that good measure has been returned over and again in our people, our leadership, and strength as a unified people.

In closing, we invite anyone interested to attend our meetings and join us. Let's all commit to a Mennonite challenge to receive gratefully, to manage faithfully and to share generously. God bless this church, our faithful and dedicated leaders, and our ever-growing and amazing congregation of unified hearts.

Sheryl Mendenhall, Facilitator
John Walters, Co-Facilitator

Pledge Cards coming!



Blessing of the Animals! 11:00 am, Saturday, October 12 at the Gazebo at Laurel Park Green. Bring your creatures great and small, leashed or safely contained, stuffies, and photos to be blessed. We will have treats and water. Bring your friends and neighbors!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

We meet the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am in the Parlor. Grab some yarn and your needles and join us!



9:00 am, Friday, October 25, SAAF (Southeaster Animal Fiber Fair!), WNC Agricultural Center. Have you always wanted to check out SAAF? See all the animals that share their wool from which we get to knit? See weaving, knitting, spinning, felting and more? Then let's go together! Admission is \$5, and we can carpool from church parking lot. If you are interested in this adventure, please let Karla know.

Community Suicide Awareness Training Thursday, October 24, 2019 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Many people in our community are impacted by suicide. Due to stigma, most suffer alone. We can make our community safer for everyone. This training will provide attendees with basic conversational skills to help someone considering suicide.

For more information, please contact Kimberly Dunbar, Outreach Ministry Coordinator at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd at 828-883-3680 or kimberlylcs@comporium.net.

Church Council Highlights - September 2019

Treasurer Ron Miller announced that we are ahead of plan for 2019. A preliminary 2020 budget will go to the congregation for approval at the November 3 Congregational Meeting. Three minor bylaws changes will also be voted on at this meeting.



We had 218 worshippers September 8. But this is creating a parking challenge! Members and friends are **strongly urged** to use the overflow spaces at Laurel Green Park and the Laurel Park Town Hall. Thank you for your help.

Pastor Karla and Mark Acker provided an update on the upcoming church retreat on November 9. Watch for more information on “The Big Yes!” Small groups are planned with an emphasis on community building.

Pastor Karla reported:

- ◆ Bulletin and Chronicle submissions are too long. Bulletin announcements will be limited to 50 words and Chronicle articles to 400 words.
- ◆ On October 5, Karla, Richard Brantley, and Barbara Rathbun will be attending the Annual Meeting of the Western North Carolina Association of the Southern Conference of the UCC.
- ◆ A blessing of the pets will be held at Laurel Green on October 12.
- ◆ Compassionate Action is collecting clothing and other supplies to protect migrant workers from the sun.

Ken Whitney reported the Mental Health Social Justice Group will be focusing on the disinformation about a correlation between mental illness and gun violence.

John Bodamer shared:

- ◆ Gary Cyphers is organizing monthly Forum sessions on “The 8 Habits of Love”.
- ◆ This fall, the Friday Great Courses lecture series will be “Lost Christianities: The Battle for Scripture and the Faiths We Never Knew” with Bart Ehrman.
- ◆ Details of Sunday school activity are now available in the Chronicle. We have 17 children registered.

Mindy Myers reported:

- ◆ There will be a workday in October to include resetting the Labyrinth bricks and other outside cleanup.
- ◆ The building temperatures have been monitored and the posted thermostat settings have been updated. Please **do not** make changes to thermostat settings.

Karla and Mark will be meeting with the Sunday school teachers to plan for more involvement of the children in the worship experience.

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER

Tuesday, October 15, 2019
5:30 - 7:30 pm

October's Fellowship Supper begins with a social time at 5:30, followed by supper at 6:00. After supper, first-timers, amateurs and experienced actresses from Brevard Little Theater and Hendersonville Community Theatre (HCT), including our own, Martha Hogenboom, will present **Stories from Mothers of the Brides**. Included with these funny and charming stories will be fabulous Mother-of-the-Bride dresses. This play was written and directed by Doreen Blue, who was a costume manager for Hendersonville Community Theater. She commented to a friend about the abundance of mother of the bride dresses that had been donated over the years and then she decided to write this play.



So mark your calendars and come on October 15th to this exciting evening. **Bring a dish to share plus your utensils, plate and mug for coffee or tea.**

MENTAL HEALTH MINUTE

What to do in a mental health crisis

In a crisis, you should seek help, especially if you feel concerned about your safety or the safety of someone else. The number you call will depend on the type of situation.

If there is an immediate threat of danger or risk to you or someone else, such as physical harm, call **911**.

Otherwise, a **Regional Mobile Crisis Management Team** will come to you for mental health support. 1-888-573-1006.

These services provide a rapid response to care for yourself or someone you love.

Focus on Forum - October 2019



Oct 6 – Habit of Love 3: Truth

Karel Bodamer

We continue our monthly discussions of Ashley lecturer Ed Bacon's *8 habits of Love* with a focus on **Truth**. What does Truth have to do with Love? How does Truth help you find your path to knowing "how deeply the Beloved treasures you and every other human being"? Are you following your own guidance or the script that has been passed on by other's fear-based conditioning? Karel will share her story of claiming her truth following the death of her son. Questions and discussion will encourage others to share their stories.

Karel has been a member of FCUCC since 2006. She's been a religious education teacher, social worker, counselor for the blind, interior contractor, massage therapist and energy healer. She is currently coordinator of the church's mental health group.

Oct 13 – Healing Stories

Darcy

Too often we focus on our shortcomings and troubles within and around us. Story can offer a fresh perspective. Hear Darcy tell a relatable folktale that illustrates the healing power of story. The heart of this program is our group experience. With a few guided exercises we honor and celebrate our own strengths. We talk, draw and write a little. These activities foster connections with ourselves and others. In the closing circle we share gratitude and appreciations. Expect a lively group. Join us for a fun, interactive experience.

Writer, teller, teacher, actor. It's all in the stories! Darcy has been a storyteller and workshop presenter since 2007. A retired psychiatric social worker, Darcy considers storytelling her third act. Watching living history characters come to life was so compelling she created a one-woman show, performing in costume as Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Oct 20 – Ashley Lecture: The Quest for Balance

Rev. Dr. Molly Marshall

The Adult Forum will be the third talk from this year's Ashley Lecture Series speaker. *The Quest for Balance: Prayer, Work, and Holy Leisure*. Join us as Rev. Marshall leads us in a lively discussion in how Benedictine spiritual practice can inform our eternal quests for balance in our lives. We long for the rhythm in our lives of prayer, work, and leisure, and the Rule of Benedict can help us!

Oct 27 - Post Ashley Lecture Discussion

Rev. Karla Miller

Moving Forward with the Rule: Post Ashley Lecture Forum. Rev. Karla Miller will create the space for us to share our learnings and experiences from the weekend with Molly Marshall. How will we integrate our learnings and take-aways? What was amazing for you? What questions do you still have? Join us!

ARE YOU READY TO SERVE AS A LEADER IN OUR CHURCH? The Nominating Committee is now at work finding persons who are ready to be a part of our ministries. If you are ready to become more involved, or serve as a leader, or if you want to suggest others who could serve as a leader or helper, please email LiB Shore, chair of the Nominating Committee, at machelpnow@mac2you.biz, or please see Karla Miller, Mark Acker, or Linda Simpson.

For Those Tears I Died



Christian singer-songwriter **Marsha Stevens-Pino** will appear in concert on Saturday, October 12, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary at First Congregational United Church of Christ, Hendersonville, sponsored by Sacred Journey MCC. Known for her 1969 folk hymn “For Those Tears I Died”, Marsha and her wife Cindy Stevens-Pino will present an evening of music and sharing their uplifting faith journeys. There is no admission charge; a freewill offering will be received during the concert.

THE WRITERS' ROUNDTABLE

Writers--whether members of the church or not -- who would like to read from their work (any genre) at a Writers' Roundtable, are invited to register with Rand Bishop (697-0090 or randbishop33@gmail.com). Listeners are also welcome. The Writers' Roundtable meets on the fourth Thursday of every month in the Church Parlor at 11:30 am. If you're reading, please bring 5-6 duplicates of your work to share. Check with Rand for details. The next meeting time is Thursday, October 24th at 11:30.

From Climate Talk to Citizen Action

A public forum about climate change solutions for Henderson County, NC

WHAT: A citizen-organized forum about the state of the climate crisis and its effects in Henderson County, and what citizens, employers, farmers, nonprofits, congregations, community groups, and government at all levels can do to address its impacts effectively and systemically.

WHEN: October 27, 2019 from 2 - 4 PM

WHERE: Stull Hall, Grace Lutheran Church, 6th Avenue and Blythe Street, Hendersonville, NC

WHY: The climate crisis is becoming worse and its effects more widespread. Henderson County is not immune. Extreme weather events -- severe flooding in particular -- are increasingly common in most parts of the county. Flooding disrupts traffic, endangers public safety, ruins crops, threatens livelihoods, and damages infrastructure. Our region also is now more prone to extreme heat, prolonged droughts, forest fires, and hail storms that claim increasing tolls in lives and property.

Now is the time for everyone concerned about the climate crisis to be informed and prepared. Please join us for this important event.

WHO: This forum is being convened and organized by a grass-roots group of volunteers called *Citizens Concerned about the Climate Crisis*, with support from the following sponsors:

Citizens' Climate Lobby (Asheville)
Conserving Carolina
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Hendersonville
Green River Preserve
MountainTrue
Sierra Club of North Carolina (Pisgah Group)
The Free Clinics of Hendersonville

COME TO THE WELL

River Current: The Physics of Prayer

-Excerpts from an 2018 article by Frank Lesko



I liken the spiritual life to the current of a river.

We are born into this river and that's where we live our lives. It is all around us, and it has energy and movement. Like a person swimming in the river, we are a part of it and yet also have some autonomy. Life and all the world we know are like the river itself. The Spirit is the current of this river.

We have the ability to either swim with the flow of the current or against it. There are things we can do-or things that can happen to us-to align ourselves more closely with the Spirit.

Prayer changes us, but not just our attitudes-it's more about energy. When we pray, we turn toward the current and allow it to carry us-like a sunflower that turns toward the sun. We vibrate at the same frequency of the Spirit. Or at least, we tune ourselves to harmonize with the Cosmos better. Prayer-and other spiritual practices-help align ourselves to go with the current rather than against it.

Instead of resisting the current, attempting to muddle along inch-by-inch through our own power, we instead submit ourselves to the current first. Then our efforts are supported and encouraged by the momentum we have put ourselves in line with. It's the same spiritual energy that gave birth to us and which is our ultimate end. After all, we're born into this river and we're going with it whether we like it or not. It's all that there is.

Religious traditions have identified methods that can put us more or less in line with the current of the river. These include prayer, meditation, academic study, works of charity, artistic pursuits, our daily labors, our family, friendships, community involvement, our humility, or poverty and our passions.

When we are moving with the current, we seem to swim more easily, cover more ground and do what we are meant to be doing. When we fight against it, it's sometimes dangerous and sometimes not dangerous-but it's a lot of effort with perhaps little gain. We're out of sync.

We don't control the river, but we can make ourselves more receptive to it. And sometimes the river will simply move us no matter what we do. Call it grace. Happy October!

The FCCH Bookclub will meet at 2:00 on October 8 in the church library to discuss “Where the Crawdads Sing” by Delia Owens.” This gripping and hauntingly beautiful novel, many weeks #1 on the NYTimes best seller list, takes place in the desolate marshlands of the North Carolina’s Outer Banks. A coming-of-age tale and an engrossing mystery sure to be enjoyed. Diane Swift will lead the discussion. Please join us.

Sunday School Monthly Report, September 2019

Ginger Fisher, Sunday School Teacher
Dede Walton, Nursery Teacher

Monthly Theme: Protecting Wash Creek

We finalized our in-depth study of the Wash Creek area in September. Each Sunday the children focused on a different aspect of the creek, and we worked together to complete individual project booklets as well as a Biodiversity Inventory. Our Inventory will complement the work of the Environmental Sustainability Group. Participating in this exciting project has been a real learning experience for all the children. We appreciate taking part in the Church’s environmental mission.

We are preparing to join the congregation at the beginning of Sunday services, and the children are excited about becoming more a part of the Church community. We look forward to seeing you all in church!

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Attendance:</u>
Sept. 1	1
Sept. 8	6
Sept. 15	5
Sept. 22	3

got philanthropy?

Our own Zachary Cone will receive the 2019 Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy award on National Philanthropy Day, November 20th, at the Crown Plaza luncheon which will be attended by over 500 people.

If you want to celebrate him and his compassion for others, please make a reservation to attend this huge event; <https://www.afpwn.org/programs/npd/>

To get to know him better.....when Zachary turned 5 in 2015, he decided that he would rather help people instead of collecting birthday presents for himself. Every year since, he has selected a charity that has touched him.

- ◇ His first birthday drive successfully collected 200 pounds of food for Interfaith Assistance Ministry's food pantry.
- ◇ When he turned 6, he again selected IAM and collected 204 pairs of socks and 74 pairs of children's shoes.
- ◇ For his 7th, he collected over \$1,040 and filled 32 backpacks with all the required school supplies for children at the Boys and Girls Club of Hendersonville.
- ◇ For his 8th, he collected over 100 toys and games for the Child Life program at Mission Hospital - HCA.
- ◇ This year Zachary collected underwear, pajamas, diapers, and socks for the 131 Henderson County foster children, and collected \$1,100.00 with which he purchased 160 pairs of underwear, 50 pajamas, and 75 pairs of socks, 8 boxes of diapers, plus toys/blankets and duffle bags.

What has been most inspirational is that Zachary has influenced other children to forego gifts and focus on charities that are meaningful to them. At least four other children from his initial 5 year old birthday party have now adopted charitable giving as a way to celebrate their birthday.

Friday Morning Video Series-Fall Term

We will begin a new series of video courses on Friday October 4th from 10 - 12. This series is “The Lost Christianities – Battles for Scripture and the Faiths We Never Knew.” The lecturer is Dr. Bart Ehrman, an early Ashley Lecturer at First Congregational.. All are welcome and encouraged to bring a few goodies for the snack table. Coffee and tea will be provided.

October 4

- The Diversity of Early Christianity
- Christians Who Would Be Jews
- Christians Who Refuse To Be Jews

October 11

- Early Gnostic Christianity – Our Sources
- Early Christian Gnosticism – An Overview
- The Gnostic Gospel of Truth

October 18

- Gnostics Explain Themselves
- The Coptic Gospel of Thomas
- Thomas' Gnostic Teachings

October 25

- Infancy Gospels
- The Gospel of Peter
- The Secret Gospel of Mark

November 1

- The Acts of John
- The Acts of Thomas
- The Acts of Paul and Thecla

November 8

- Forgeries in the Name of Paul
- The Epistle of Barnabas
- The Apocalypse of Peter

November 15

- The Rise of Early Christian Orthodoxy
- Beginnings of the Canon
- Formation of the New Testament Canon

November 22

- Interpretation of Scripture
- Orthodox Corruption of Scripture
- Early Christian Creeds

PRAYER LIST

Family of Josie Adamack
Cheri Barget
Marilyn Brain
Ken Cagle (friend of Trisha LaGrange)
Howard Carl
Susan Corn (friend of Trisha LaGrange)
Barbara Dextr (mother of Angie Yates)
Sue Easton
Elizabeth Fisher
Mildred Gardner
Hilarie & Jean Glasgow-Hawkins
Jackie Green
Mildred Gardner
Carol Inman
Karen Jackson
Gabriel Kerr and Family (friend of Karla Miller)
Tammy Maclsaac (friend of Trisha LaGrange)
Bruce Mills
Priscilla Milo (friend of Joady Perrett)
Charles Ogle
Bob Palmer
Betsey Parker
Joady Perrett
Ingrid Perry
Lois Popanz
Bonnie Rash
Pamela Ray (friend of Joady Perrett)
Family of Robert Schneider
Jessica Smith (Tierney's niece)
Priscilla Smith (friend of Joady Perrett)
Raymond Stone
Victoria Tatum
Eve Teerlinck
Family of Wiley-Taylor
Jane Wilson (friend of Joady Perrett)
Pius Yorio



Thank you for letting us know of people who need to be added to our prayer list as well as those that are ready to be taken off.

October Birthdays

01: Philip Wiehe
01: Virginia Gambill
02: Greg McKinley
02: Susan Palmer
02: Joanna Coonrod
03: Lynne Cigal
04: Andrea McGuire
05: Angie Yates
06: Stephanie Lowder
06: Suzanna Hewett
06: Gillian Streer
07: Kirsten Cone
08: Jane DuBois
13: Mark Raymond
13: Claudia Schopper
15: Jim Jones
16: Diana Brantley
16: Chris Cone
17: Ed Argue
18: Carol Towle
19: Sheila Clendenning
21: Romella Hart-O'Keefe
21: Pamela Federlein
27: Ellen Shaw
29: Dorothy Koopman
31: Marjorie Pence



October Anniversaries

07: Ed & Pat Argue
21: Steve & Martha Hogenboom



October Lectionary

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost October 6

Lam 1:1-6 and Lam 3:19-26 or Ps 137 or
Hab 1:1-4, 2:1-4 and Ps 37:1-9
2 Tim 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

Free to Grieve

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 13

Jer 29:1, 4-7 and Ps 66:1-12 or
2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c and Ps 111
2 Tim 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

Planting Life

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 20

Jer 31:27-34 and Ps 119:97-104 or
Gen 32:22-31 and Ps 121
2 Tim 3:14-4:5
Luke
18:1-8

Ask Boldly; Live Justly

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 27

Joel 2:23-32 and Ps 65 or
Sirach 35:12-17 or Jer 14:7-10, 19-22 and Ps
84:1-7
2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

Just Worship

ATTENDANCE

	Worship	Children's Sunday School
09/01 -	161	1
09/08 -	218	6
09/15 -	183	8
09/22 -	153	3
09/29 -	174	2
Average Worship Attendance: 178		

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Justice, Compassion, Inclusion