

# The CONGREGATIONAL CHRONICLE



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United Church of Christ

April 2020

Beloved FCCH,

A month ago, I would have never dreamed we would be living in the world we are living in today. It's really mind-boggling how everything is changing on a dime, from day to day and even hour to hour as we are living into the COVID-19 pandemic.

I appreciate what my friend and colleague Rev. Molly Baskette wrote in her UCC Daily Devotional this past Monday:

*We are at the moment when we know everything is going to change, but we don't yet know how—and that is the hardest part. We know people we love will be taken from us, but we don't know who. We know it will threaten our retirement funds, our livelihoods and jobs, our mental health. We know that it will put some people who are already at the edge, economically and emotionally, over it.*

*We ask God the ultimate question, "What if it changes everything?"*

*And God answers, "What if it doesn't?"*

*Because some things need changing.*

*Good things can be caught from this pandemic, as well as bad. Already, you are calling friends you haven't talked to in ages... [Fill in the blank here with the good things you catching...]*

*The pandemic is revealing, once again, what really matters, and what the good gifts of life are that don't arrive by two-day shipping. A particle one-900th thousand times the width of a single human hair has done what we were not able to do by ourselves: stop us in our tracks, personally and communally.*

*God didn't send this disaster, but God will for dang sure use it. (UCC DD, 3.30.20)*

I am grateful, dear church, to be in this "everything is changing on dime new world" journey with you.

Faithfully, and with love,

Karla

## Moderator's View

### A Short Ministry Report

With the COVID-19 situation overriding all other news, I thought I would provide brief outlines of what many of our ministries are doing:

**Financial Resources** reported that we were near budget at the end of February. Since then our investments have lost significant value and our contributions are very low with only virtual worship services. Finance would like to encourage all those who can to continue to contribute either by mail or by using the link on our website.

**Physical Resources** reported that the Parlor décor upgrade is nearing completion, the atrium is being completely redone and will include a pet memorial, a new kitchen dishwasher will be replacing our 27-year-old one, and changes to the sanctuary sound system are being investigated.

**Members and Friends** reported that most activities are proceeding with little new to report. Obviously, much has changed recently as activities are now either virtual (such as using Zoom) or on-hold until we can safely reopen the building. Virtual Coffee Hours on Sundays are being tested using Zoom as this is written.

**Worship** reported on the plans for Holy Week. These are also going to be different until we can worship together in the Sanctuary. Karla and Mark are posting an abbreviated service on You Tube and then sending the link. I personally have found these to be very meaningful and would encourage everyone to check them out.

**Service and Giving** has welcomed new members to the group and has switched to a thematic reporting system where all agencies supporting a particular category are discussed at the same time. The March agency reports were in the Environmental category.

**Compassionate Action** held a panel discussion on “Navigating Today’s Troubled Waters” with four individuals providing perspectives on their own personal supportive practices. Considering the current state of the world, this was a very timely event!

**Environmental Stewardship** has been continuing with the stream restoration work at the edge of the church property. Eight group members have been trained by MountainTrue in stream testing. Further outreach on global warming issues is planned.

**Bible Study** continues and may already be trying to use Zoom for meetings by the time you read this.

And a final note – please reach out to Karla Miller ([karla@fcchendonville.org](mailto:karla@fcchendonville.org)), Mark Acker ([mark@fcchendonville.org](mailto:mark@fcchendonville.org)), Sheryl Tellier ([sheryl@fcchendonville.org](mailto:sheryl@fcchendonville.org)), or me ([pntylor1234@yahoo.com](mailto:pntylor1234@yahoo.com)) if you are in need of any assistance or support during this time, and we will get you some help.

Phil Taylor, Moderator

## USING THIS TIME WELL

What a crazy, scary time we are living in. Karla and I continue to work on church things each day – like making calls to people, planning our worship videos and having meetings. But we both desperately miss seeing each of you in person.

One of the things I've been thinking about is that I want to use this "Shelter in Place" time well. I don't want to spend the extra time that I have just watching television or catching up on the latest Netflix series.

When this is all done, I want to feel that I have done something worthwhile with my extra time.

I've been thinking lately about persons who have impacted my life. And I've written a short letter to each of these persons, letting them know how grateful I am for their impact on my life.

Who has been a blessing in your life? How have they helped you in your journey through life? Perhaps now would be a good time to write them a short letter, or email them, or call them.

Expressing gratitude is good for us. And it is a huge gift to others.

Love and blessings to each of you,

Mark



## COME TO THE WELL

Each one of us certainly is in a sea of quandary about recent events encompassing the globe. We hear information minute by minute in most cases, and still, we starve to gain more information and knowledge. We have families and friends affected across these and other lands. We have friends with weakened immune systems and other health-related concerns that are at a higher risk of contagion. However, we have been given a good measure of guidance during these times and with the scripture's and other readings keeping we can find places to be more at peace in the Present moment.



I invite everyone to reflect on the words from Matthew 6:25-27

“Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can anyone of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

So, as you go about your days and weeks ahead, I would invite one and all to think about putting these words into action:

### **SING AND DANCE**

Sing and dance, turn yourself about!  
Enhance your time as days go by.  
The things not known, you should not doubt  
Sing and Dance!  
Just take some time to dream blue skies,  
these are the beauty of nature's healing clout,  
which for certain wipes away the strife.  
So, toss away your tense thoughts fouled!  
Romance, ring bells, pray, stay lively,  
this darkness surely will be trounced.  
Sing and Dance!

Jim L. Rash, II, Prayer Chaplain

## PRAYER LIST

All of our Health Care Workers  
Rita Addonizio (Ericka Fagerlin's sister)  
Carol Bishop  
Jan Bullard  
Al & Joan Diaz  
Sue Eastin (*friend of Becky Rowland*)  
Don Emon  
Hank Federlein  
Jackie Green  
Jan Kelly  
Gabriel Kerr and Family (*friend of Karla Miller*)  
Trisha LaGrange  
Diana & Fran McKendree  
Kelly O'Toole & Family (*friend of Mindy Myers*)  
Matthew Oelking (*nephew of John Ariatti*)  
Betsey Parker  
Ingrid Perry  
Alan & Carolyn Schmalz  
Glory Stack (*friend of Mills/Hollingsworth*)  
Victoria Tatum  
Katie Ann Twiggs and Mehgan Heelse (relative of Ann Twiggs)  
Richard Tyler  
David Vandre  
Janice Walters  
Donalee Wermeister (*friend of Koopman's*)



***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. Please contact your Administrator ([sheryl@fcchendersonville.org](mailto:sheryl@fcchendersonville.org))***

**Non-Easter Lilies!** Since it's the regular time to order lilies and flowers for the altar on Easter Sunday in memory/honor of someone, why not send a check to a non-profit like IAM that needs support? If you need suggestions, please contact Karla. If you decide to do that, let us know~~to what organization you gave, and in whose honor/memory. We will print the listings in the Easter electronic bulletin. Please note: Give **DIRECTLY** to the organization and then let us know by emailing Sheryl ([sheryl@fcchendersonville.org](mailto:sheryl@fcchendersonville.org)) for publication in the bulletin.

## April Birthdays

02: Kathy Heckathorne  
02: Jean Gower  
03: Ann Puryear  
03: John Bodamer  
04: Joel Helfand  
05: Nancy Irving  
08: Jim Jolly  
08: Frances Gullyes  
11: Mark Fagerlin  
13: Jon Nobling  
14: Jen McKinley  
14: Raymond Stone  
14: Charlotte Shipley  
15: John Towle  
16: Joan Diaz  
16: Hilarie Glasgow-Hawkins  
17: Jean Glasgow-Hawkins  
19: Bruce Jayne  
21: Jackie Green  
23: Glenn Gross  
23: Angela Musselwhite  
23: Deborah Barwick  
27: Sheryl Mendenhall  
30: Fred Yopps

## April Anniversaries

03: Hilarie & Jean Glasgow-Hawkins  
03: Barry & Jill McMillion  
05: Joe & Gillian Streer  
07: Alan & Carolyn Schmalz  
14: Kevin & Joyce Tierney  
15: Roy & Jimmie Harris  
21: Arthur & Jane DuBois  
27: John & Karel Bodamer  
29: John & Jan Caldemeyer



# ATTENDANCE

March, 2020

## Worship

Worship	Children's Sunday School
03/01 - 196	8
03/01 - 158	5

No services beginning 3/15 due to  
COVID-19

Average Worship Attendance:: 177

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Did you know.....  
Sunday sermons are  
available to listen to on our  
website. Go to  
[fcchendersonville.org](http://fcchendersonville.org) and  
click on **Sunday Sermon**

**Next Chronicle deadline**  
**April 22, 2020**

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**Justice, Compassion, Inclusion**