

The CONGREGATIONAL CHRONICLE



Volume 44, No. 4

United Church of Christ

June 2020

Beloved FCCH,

As I write this, we are in global pandemic of COVID-19, and a global outcry against systemic racism. As I write this, I am staring out my window at the most gorgeous Carolina blue sky of early summer listening to the workday traffic on I-40, signaling commerce and business and whatever else the sounds of traffic imply. As I write this, my heart is broken wide open, holding this tension and contradiction, including the unrest around the personnel policy regarding former pastors at FCCH. As I write this, I know that many of you are holding similar tensions in your own hearts with other added pressures of grief, worries, and isolation.

If only we had a glittery magic wand to wave all this away. We don't, but we have resources. We know how to keep ourselves safe from the virus. If we are able, we contribute financially to ease the burden of communities affected disproportionately by COVID-19 because of race, class, and economics. We have voices to speak out against systemic racism, and minds to learn (see "75 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice" at <https://tinyurl.com/y7ou7rkd>). We have the ability to minister to others and ourselves by picking up the phone or writing a note. In conflict, we are called to love one another in disunity, we are called to listen bravely and wholeheartedly. We are called to seek ways in which we can connect and not divide.

In the midst of COVID-19, everything has become harder and slower with community, happening virtually through sketchy wifi on Zoom, and if safe enough, six feet apart outdoors. But, the one thing I know, while church is an institution made up of glorious and flawed humans, church is also stunningly resilient if we choose to soften into vulnerability and seek understanding.

"When you pass through deep waters and roaring rivers you will not drown, when you walk through the fires they will not consume you, for Love is with you, beside you, surrounding you" (Isaiah 42). Friends, we might get drenched in the depths, and the fires might leave a few scars, but in everything, Love prevails. My prayer is that we can be patient with Love's time, and be that Love to one another.

Faithfully yours,
Karla

COVID-19 REPORT

On May 12th, Church Council established an advisory group called the Reopening and Moving Forward Task Force. This group is responsible for advising Council about safe actions during this time of pandemic and for providing recommendations on how to apply this information to our practices. Our goal is a safe balance between everyone's desire to get back to being "church," and the realization that "church" as we knew it in the past will not be the same in the future.

In our first two meetings, we planned the survey that many of you (150 – WOW) completed on-line, reviewed the survey results, and strategized about using the Fellowship Hall as a polling place later this month.

The basis of our recommendations and advice to Council will be the science about this virus and how it spreads – science that is frequently changing as more is learned and reported. In the last month, it's become clear that there is a significantly greater risk from indoor activities as compared with outdoor activities. Thus, we expect the building to remain closed for the foreseeable future.

We realize that this method of operation is hard on many of us - we miss the contact and just seeing each other. We'll be exploring potential outdoor events, and looking for safe ways to interact. However, we know the virtual activities are extremely important and will be for a very long time. This may require developing additional IT support, so Karla can spend more of her time on ministerial work and less on creating, editing and uploading the videos.

And a final note – communication is especially important at this time. I'll be writing regular Constant Contacts about the Task Force activities and what we are thinking -- to keep the "conversation" going between us. Please continue to send me (pntaylor1234@yahoo.com) both your ideas and any scientific-based information that you think we should see. I forward your messages on to the Task Force and also post links for the group to read. Many of you are already doing this, and I would encourage you to continue. Look for our next Constant Contact update on June 5th.

Phil Taylor, Chair, Reopening and Moving Forward Task Force

Mark Acker

Sheryl Mendenhall

John Caldemeyer

Karla Miller

Dawn Kucera

Mindy Myers



COME TO THE WELL
June 2020

You are all ever in our hearts, minds, and in our prayers.

Even though we can't physically pray with you one-on-one as we have in the past at church, both before and after Sunday services, we are available for private telephone prayer.

For words of encouragement, appreciation, hope, caring, gratitude and love, just take a breath, pick up the phone and call:

Ben Coonrod 828 284-0695
Helle Gylling 623 282 5528
Nancy Keswani 617 833-2819
Ed O'Keefe 828 890-4889
Joady Perrett 828 243-3337
Sammye Whitney 570 664-1141

Diane Rhoades 828 696-9969
Susan Huff 828 217-5944
Judith Nourse 828 606-2558
Romella Hart-O'Keefe 828 890-4889
Jim Rash 828 450-0986

The Light of God surrounds you
The Love of God enfolds you
The power of God protects you
The presence of God watches over you.
Wherever you are, God Is.

MINISTRY OF PHYSICAL RESOURCES ACTIVITES

Mindy Myers, Facilitator

- Ron & Jayne Miller have been trimming & cleaning to keep our Memorial Garden beautiful.
- Milton Stewart, Nick Pence and Jon Nobling have built the frame & roof of our new tractor garage complete with shingles and will start working on the sides.
- John Caldemeyer has been plowing our garden, and Milton, Nick, Jon & I have been tending to our greenhouse plants. Carolyn is back and despite the rain, planting has started.
- Our new dishwasher has been installed.
- Lin Stogner has finished planting in the Atrium including annual flowers for the 3 new blue pots (with husband, Craig's help). It looks gorgeous, and we will be blessed by the Atrium's year-round beauty! She has also placed a podium at the entrance to the Atrium that holds a Pet Memorial Book & 2 children's books. Thanks again to Mark Acker for his Atrium donation in memory of his parents! A plaque will be placed in their honor.
- Dawn Kucera & I have been cutting out the dead juniper & pruning in front of the Church. Have also been clearing a spot to plant the tree given in Karla's honor for her Ordination. Lin will get soil samples soon so that we can determine the right type of tree to plant.
- I have been feeding the birds in the Atrium and doing a walk-through of the building a few times a week just to check on things.
- Craig Stogner cut down the tall, dead shrub near front of Church. He & Lin loaded it & hauled it plus a full trailer of yard debris to the dump. (Laurel Park is not picking up yard waste at this time.)

CHURCH FINANCES

Ron Miller, Treasurer

Members and Friends,

Church finances continue to be better than expected during this period of pandemic and church closure. Because of your continuing contributions we have been able to cover church operation costs through May without having to draw down from our church endowment investment funds. Looking ahead, we have sufficient working capital on hand to carry us through the month of June. At that time we may have to consider using endowment funds that are included in our current 2020 annual budget. Thank you for your continuing support during these unusual times.

NEW SMALL GROUP OFFERINGS COMING IN JUNE

MORNING PRAYERS - Beginning Tuesday June 16, 8:30 am, for six weeks, a brief time (less than 30 minutes) of centering, reflection, and prayer on Zoom will be offered. To sign up, and to receive the Zoom link, please email Karla (karla@fcchendersonville.org).

FCC SALON - Beginning Thursday, June 18, 1:00 pm for six weeks. Salon, says the dictionary, is a gathering of persons for discussion. Weekly, we will view a short film or TED talk and discuss it via Zoom. Our first two weeks will focus on racial justice. Karla and Mark will lead the gatherings. Please sign up by emailing Mark @ (mark@fcchendersonville.org).

"JOURNEY TO FREEDOM" STUDY Starting Tuesday, June 16, 1:00 pm for six weeks. Mark will lead a book study on "Journey to Freedom" (JTF) by Scott Reall. JTF takes us on a journey of personal growth and change. This small group will be a safe place in which we can be open and honest with each other. Please email Mark to sign up or if you have questions (mark@fcchendersonville.org). You will need to purchase the book. Mark says, "I have been in many JTF groups and found them to be meaningful for all kinds of people."

SERVICE & GIVING
Linda Laderach and Bill Shaffer, Co-Facilitators

The Service and Giving Committee is back in operation! Covid-19 may keep us at home, but it can't keep us down. Thanks to the wonders of Zoom and with help from technology guru Karla, we met virtually in May after taking April off. Because of church budget constraints and the pandemic, we chose to depart from our planned April focus on diversity and inclusivity and instead allocate monies to agencies that had emergency needs during the pandemic crisis. Allocations were made to Safelight, the Free Clinics, Blue Ridge Health, the Calvary Episcopal Food Pantry, and the WNC Worker's Center.

In June we will again meet virtually on Thursday the 11th at 10 AM.

Service & Giving, with Linda Laderach (lladerac@mtholyoke.edu) and Bill Shaffer (wdsiii333@gmail.com) co-facilitating, usually meets monthly on the second Thursday. We would love to have you join us. Please e-mail Linda, Bill or Karla to get the zoom link and invitation. As ever, all are welcome!

•••••
• **Food Drive June 20 12-2pm** in
• FCCH parking lot. This food drive is
• for several local food banks. For
• more information, email either Bill
• Shaffer wdsiii333@gmail.com or
• Linda Laderach
• lladerac@mtholyoke.edu.
•
• Rain date June 21 12-2pm.
•••••



COMPASSIONATE ACTION

Bal Goleman, Co-Chair

During this most challenging and distressing of times, the Compassionate Action Group members have continued to meet (thanks to our capable Zoom director/pastor), continued to seek means to be of service, and continued to strengthen our ties to each other in a strong spiritual community.

In the past three months, we have been inspired by a thought-provoking and timely message from Fe Avis, a beautifully crafted video presentation on nature by Dawn Kucera, and a spirited workshop experience led by Pam and Charley Rogers.

Fe spoke hopefully to us of our common need to share with each other our life stories, the benefit of relating to the life experiences of Biblical figures, the importance of personal introspection in discerning our individual "assignments" in this life, and the profound value in deepening our spiritual faith. Click on video link below:

<https://youtu.be/hOYz9Hudqdl>

Dawn's colorful video is a delightful panorama of the power and diversity and blessings of Nature. (click on video link: <https://youtu.be/daPFs7Hd2Tk>) The experience led by the Rogers proved the immense value of sharing with each other. In terms of our most recent service commitment, our request for donations to help our most deserving migrant workers has resulted in \$1,405 sent to Blue Ridge Health Ministries as of May 28. The Compassionate Action Group always welcomes new members.

BRIAN McLAREN ZOOM LECTURE - Sunday, June 14 @ 2pm

Although our original Ashley Lectures weekend with Brian McLaren had to be canceled, The Anderson Forum for Progressive Theology has invited FCCH members to be part of a live Zoom lecture and discussion with Brian. Brian's topic is: "What Is Progressive Christianity? (And Why Does It Matter?). Thank you to Tom Richie for making this happen. To register for the free event, please click:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pqIFffQOS7quZoF8pP_PjA

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Contact mark@fchendersonville.org if questions.

PRAYER LIST

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)

Suzie Edell

Jackie Green

Sympathy to the family of Gordon Jones (brother of Virginia Erwin)

Richard Kamis

Fran McKendree (friend of FCCH)

Family of Donna Mayeaux (sister of Ellen Honea)

Karene Passmore (friend of Becky Rowland)

Glory & Fred Stack (friend of Mills/Hollingsworth)

Victoria Tatum

Richard Tyler

David Vandre

Patti Woeppel (sister of Carol Woeppel)



And for those names of persons being impacted in any way by this pandemic that we hold in our hearts as a church community:

Debbie Callis - nurse at a nursing home

Helene Cohen - wife of Bob Rhue, Administrator of Medical Practice at Transylvania Hospital (friend of Ed & Romella O'Keefe)

Ruth Colwell - 97 years old in a nursing home in Connecticut where the number of infected patients is doubling weekly (mother of Jane DuBois)

Alison Federlein - medical staff (granddaughter of Hank & Pamela Federlein)

Geoffrey Flick - whose mother died from COVID-19 in Chicago (friend of Linda Laderach)

Friends and Family of Dona Harmon - died from COVID-19 on April 30 (friend of Anne Cain)

Joshua Inman - ER Charleston (relative of Carol Inman)

Jawid Family - out of work (friends of Kevin & Joyce Tierney)

Those impacted by pandemic continued.....

- Nancy Keller** - in assisted living facility in Tucson, AZ (friend of Linda French)
Cindy Kemp - hospice care provider (sister of Sheryl Tellier)
Friends and students of **Charles Krigbaum**, who died April 30 from COVID-19
(friend of Linda Laderach)
Leigh Luke - nurse currently with COVID-19 (niece of Karen Jackson)
Patsy McCurry - moving from Hendersonville to Alabama to be near her daughter
Andrew Neck - ER physician (friend of Mark Acker)
Liam O'Neill - who was intubated on May 8th at hospital in Ireland with COVID-19 (friend
of Glenn and Donna Gross)
Nicki, Jill, Deborah - out of work (friends of Kevin & Joyce Tierney)
Joe O'Keefe - visiting nurse in Worcester, MA presently under a Coronavirus quarantine
(son of Ed O'Keefe)
Sandy Rowland - nurse (niece of Becky Rowland)
Allison Ruhe - Physician Assistant in a COVID-19 ward at Boston Hospital and her fiancé,
John Harris, PA who is in charge of a COVID-19 tent for the Homeless in Boston (friends of
Ed & Romella O'Keefe)
Greg Santini, FDNY Fire Marshall in Nyack, NY returning to work in the city after testing
positive and spending 3 weeks in quarantine (son-in-law of Chris & Sherry Carmichael)
Heather Santini and grandchildren, Athena and Neil. Pray they will continue to stay
healthy in Nyack, NY as Greg starts work again (daughter of Chris & Sherry Carmichael)
Family of Alan Schmalz - who died from the virus (husband of Carolyn Schmalz)
Carolyn Schmalz - recovering in nursing home from the virus
Mike Sharpmack & Adam Smitley - out of work (sons-in-law of Mindy Myers)
William Spencer - EMT Paramedic (cousin of Donna Gross)
Angela Williams - ER nurse (friend of Mark Acker)

New Address

Patsy McCurry has moved! Her new address can be found in the church directory at fchendersonville.org. Go to **MEMBERS** and enter password.

Need help? Contact your Administrator

sheryl@fchendersonville.org



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June Birthdays

- 1: Ed O'Keefe
- 3: Janet Bostwick
- 4: Jan Kelly
- 6: Tony Simpson
- 6: Sheryl Tellier
- 7: Lilian Dashner
- 8: Barbara Rathbun
- 10: H. Clay Eddleman
- 12: Evelyn Teerlinck
- 16: Joan Nobling
- 17: Mark Cigal
- 18: Ellen Brazauskas
- 19: Donna Jones
- 19: Melissa Fleig
- 23: Justin (Jace) Kahn Sr.
- 24: Kitty Howell
- 24: Elizabeth Johnson
- 25: Gary Cyphers
- 28: Barbara Major
- 28: Lin Stogner
- 29: Pam Rogers
- 29: Dell Orr

June Anniversaries

- 3: John & Sandra Ariatti
- 4: Reid & Deborah Barwick
- 5: Richard & Elizabeth Kamis
- 6: Joel & Anna Helfand
- 8: Ken & Sammye Whitney
- 9: Jim & Donna Jones
- 10: Chris & Sherry Carmichael
- 10: David Vandre & Dell Orr
- 12: Richard & Ruth Howe
- 16: Ed & Romella O'Keefe
- 21: Nancy Kaczor & Becky Rowland
- 23: Bill & Jacqueline Green
- 26: Mike & Virginia Erwin
- 29: John & Carol Towle
- 29: John & Janice Walters



ATTENDANCE

May 2020 Virtual Worship

Service YouTube Views	Zoom Sunday School
Palm Sunday - 304	6
Easter Sunday - 459	5
May 3 - 254	5
May 10 - 294	6
May 17 - 311	Zoom Down
May 24 - 184	6
May 31 - 203	6

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1735 Fifth Ave. West
Hendersonville NC 28739-4013
Phone: 828.692.8630
E-mail: fccinfo@hendersonville.org
Website: www.fcchendersonville.org

Rev. Karla Miller, Pastor
(karla@fcchendersonville.org)
Mark Acker, Minister of Music/
Pastoral Associate
(mark@fcchendersonville.org)
Sheryl Tellier, Administrator
(sheryl@fcchendersonville.org)
Dora & Charles Littleton, Custodians
Rev. David G. Kelly, Jr., Pastor Emeritus

Did you know.....
Sunday sermons are
available to view to on our
website. Go to
fcchendersonville.org and
click on **Sunday Sermon**
or view from **Home Page**.

Next Chronicle deadline
June 23 2020

**First Congregational UCC
1735 Fifth Avenue West
Hendersonville NC 28739-4013**



Justice, Compassion, Inclusion