On Sunday, September 13, over 70 persons from our church and community came to our parking lot to receive communion.

Pastor Karla spoke to each person who came and gave them a blessing with the bread and juice.

Even though it was a rainy morning, there was a spirit of joy as we connected with each other, with our church and with the Spirit of the Holy.
The Liminal Space

Excerpts from a blog by Alan Seale of The Center for Transformational Presence:

Blaise Pascal, 17th-century French mathematician, physicist, inventor, writer, and philosopher, wrote:

“Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known.”

Often, I can fully embrace that philosophy. Yet, there have been times when I have felt far away from whatever that something incredible was. I’ve felt caught in a liminal space where nothing was certain, nothing was clear, and everything important to me seemed to be on hold.

The word “liminal” comes from the Latin root, limen, which means “threshold.” The liminal space is the “crossing over” space – a space where you have left something behind, yet you are not yet fully in something else. It’s a transition space.

It’s also a waiting space. You could land here for many reasons. Perhaps a particular event or circumstance has interrupted your life and now everything is up in the air. Or maybe something is unfolding around you that will have a significant impact on your next steps, yet you have no control over that circumstance and its timing. Or perhaps you are clear about your next steps, yet somehow you sense that now is not the time to take those steps.

Herein lies the power and the gift of the liminal space. The liminal space shakes us out of our habitual lives. It draws us out of what we have known, yet does not allow us to know what is coming next, or when.

Transformation happens when we are not in charge. It can’t happen when we are holding on to control. This is the space where we can finally let go of an approach, a way of being, a role, an identity, or a belief, so that something new can be created.

Every time I have landed in a liminal space and have chosen to flow with it, it has become a turning point in my life. It’s definitely a practice, and I won’t sugarcoat it and say it’s always easy. It takes focus and intention. Yet the more I trust the flow and evolution of my own life path and work with it instead of fight against it, the more I know Blaise Pascal’s words to be true:

“Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known.”

Thanks for reading,
Phil Taylor, Moderator
HIGHLIGHTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

◊ Approved the preliminary 2021 budget as identical to the final 2020 budget. Since the COVID-19 pandemic will prevent our usual in-person fall Congregational Meeting, we will conduct voting by mail and e-mail. Details on how this will be done are currently in process and everyone will be informed when they are finalized.

◊ Approved a request from a member who recently left the church for a refund of part of their prepaid 2020 contribution.

◊ Learned a Nominating Committee is being formed.

◊ Agreed to publicize to the congregation the Zoom link for Council meetings. Future Council agendas will have an opportunity for visitor comments with strict time limits. Requests from visitors for agenda items must be sent to the moderator in advance of the meeting.

◊ Approved the posting of Council minutes on the members area of the church website to increase transparency of Council actions. One year of minutes will be available starting with September 2020. Minutes will be posted after approval. Older minutes will be available upon request. Paper copies of the minutes will continue to be placed in the Fellowship Hall binder for use by auditors.

OUTDOOR SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER
Sunday Mornings in October at 11:00 AM

Please join us for a short service (about 25-30 minutes) of morning prayer in October. Masks and social distancing practices will be observed. PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR.
PRESENTATION WITH CENTER FOR CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH

Thank you to all who were able to participate in the listening groups with the Center for Congregational Health (CCH) around the conflict the former pastor policy.

A Zoom presentation will be made by Dr. Michael Cheuk/Rev. Beth Kennett based on the notes from those conversations with recommendations on a path forward. They will have a presentation to make to the congregation on:

   Sunday, October 4, 2020 from 4:00-5:30 PM

Look for the link being sent to you for the presentation on Sunday, October 4 at noon.

Even if you weren’t able to attend a listening group, each and every one of you are encouraged to attend the presentation. There will be an opportunity to ask questions via the “chat” function on Zoom. A written copy of the report will also be made available after the presentation.
ASHLEY LECTURE SERIES
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC
Hendersonville, North Carolina
Presents

MATTHEW FOX
Lecture
And a time for
Questions and Answers

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2020
4:00 – 5:45 p.m. on Zoom

Matthew’s topic will feature thoughts
From his new upcoming book:
JULIAN OF NORWICH:
WISDOM IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC AND BEYOND

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR ZOOM WEBINAR

Admission is free; donations will be accepted.

LECTURE FROM THE ANDERSON FORUM

The second event in our series Christianity and Social Justice - Looking Around and Within – The Spiritual Calling . . . with Dr. Matthew Fox and Dr. Luther Smith on

October 11 at 4 p.m.

Click here to register in advance for this webinar and donate
The **Ministry of Physical Resources** has held Spring & Fall Work Days in the past to enlist volunteers to help perform chores inside & outside our Church building. COVID and closure of Church makes this a challenge, but there are several maintenance items outside that need attention. Rather than hold a group event, MPR is now requesting individual volunteers to help us at your convenience with guidance by a MPR volunteer.

Families, couples, & small groups of friends are welcome, too! Days & times can be flexible. Choose things such as washing windows, power washing siding, pulling weeds, painting railings & Memorial Garden fence, and helping to maintain the Labyrinth.

We would really appreciate your help! To volunteer or if you just have questions, please contact:

Mindy Myers, MPR Facilitator  
(919) 491-1004 (cell/text)  
mindy7myers@gmail.com
OUR SANCTUARY IS OPEN FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

Our sanctuary is open for prayer and meditation on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For safety in this enclosed space, only two persons or two family groups (like a couple) can sign up for each 30 minute time slot. Sanitizing will be done following each 30 minute time.

You can click here to sign up or email the church administrator, Sheryl Tellier, (sheryl@fcchendersonville.org) to reserve a time. We are asking that everyone wear a mask. Please join us for this time of Personal Pilgrimage.
Did Someone Say Zoom??!!

If you would like a one-to-one training session on Zoom, or even a refresher course, please reach out to your church administrator, Sheryl, to schedule an appointment. Email her at sheryl@fcchendersonville.org.

SEND PICTURES OF YOU WITH YOUR PETS
FOR OUR BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SERVICE!

This will be a part of our video worship service on October 18.

PICTURES NEED TO BE SENT BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 12th!

Send a picture of YOU WITH YOUR PET (no pictures of pets only please) to Karla Miller at fcchendophoto@gmail.com
SERVICE & GIVING REPORT

The September meeting was centered on finalizing logistics for the contact-free FOOD DRIVE AND HUNGER WALK JUBILEE, Saturday, September 19, 10:00 a.m. to Noon. We can now report the heart-warming results from that chilly morning. For the Hunger Coalition we raised a minimum of $10,899.76 with more promised!!! The Community Food Pantry of Edneyville was thrilled and grateful with our donation of 40 boxes of much needed food.

Joel Helfand's magical music was a great addition and it was also good to see many prayer shawls head to needed homes where FCCH love can spread. We are indeed thankful for our congregants’ and community’s generosity. Individual team members will be investigating the possible need for other drives this year and will keep all posted.

At its meeting, the team agreed on the following donations, totaling $3,800 for general operations that are not directed toward any specific use: $500 to Thrive; $300 each to the following: Council on Aging (Meals on Wheels), Only Hope of WNC, Hendersonville Rescue Mission, Homes for Youth, Veterans Healing Farm, WNC Sheepdog Impact Assistance, Blue Ridge Literacy Council, Camplify, Asheville Planned Parenthood and the St. Gerard House. We also allocated the reserved August $300 to the Camp Tekoa Distance Learning Academy. Thank you to everyone who continues to support our church financially so these essential awards can continue.

The next Zoom meeting is October 8 at 10:00. All are welcome. Contact Linda Laderach laderac@mtholyoke.edu or Bill Shaffer, wdsiii333@gmail.com, for more info. Everyone’s support is critical and much appreciated.
In the Fall of 2019, Mindy Myers (Facilitator for the Ministry of Physical Resources) asked me to “take a look” at the church’s atrium and make recommendations. What existed, at that time, was an overgrown, overly mature, crowded “mess.” Since I was not due to graduate as a full-fledged Master Gardener for a couple of months, I was hesitant. I called on our County Extension Agent to visit the atrium and offer his suggestions. He advised that we tear everything out and start from scratch.

As I considered the design, I thought about how nice it would be to make the area a Pet Memorial for the spreading of the ashes of our furry family members. I ran the idea and design by the Ministry of Physical Resources and gained overwhelming approval. Mark Acker was so passionate about the idea that he offered to finance the renovation in memory of his parents. With Craig’s help, I began the “demolition” of the “old” atrium. Then, the rains came, followed by COVID-19.

The goal in replanting the atrium was to have year-round color and interest, a peaceful and thoughtful place to honor our fur babies, and a quiet spot for bird watching and spiritual reflection. The area is now planted with Encore Azaleas, Lenten Roses, Nandina, Coral Bells, Daffodils, Easter Lilies, Hosta, Illicium, and three pots that are planted with annuals/perennials that are seasonally appropriate. A podium holds a memory book for families to create a page honoring their special pet’s memory. Two children’s books are also stored on the podium: Dog Heaven and Cat Heaven by Cynthia Rylant.
Sunday School Monthly Report
Ginger Zemp, Sunday School Teacher
Dede Walton, Nursery Teacher

Monthly Theme: Learning About Different Religions

In September, the children deepened their understanding of Christianity, Native American Spirituality, and Judaism. They gained insights into different ways of worshiping, celebrating, and thinking about God. Music and art projects and games stimulated their interest and understanding. They are now preparing to begin their exploration of Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. We all enjoy and appreciate active weekly participation by Karla and Mark!

The children have also been sharing stories about favorite family members. This activity has given them the opportunity to appreciate the special bonds they feel within their families, especially during this time of COVID restrictions.
Fe Anam Avis has just published a new book titled The Broken Guitar. *The Broken Guitar* chronicles the final months of his 50-year journey to find closure on the death of his high school friend who was killed in Vietnam in 1970. It combines reminiscences of childhood with the stark realities of war and its losses. Beyond a simple recitation of historical facts, *The Broken Guitar* unfolds along a series of remarkable coincidences that lead to a moving conclusion, that David Maze died while engaging in a game he had played since his days as a teenager, something others had seen him do a hundred times. To the end, he was, yes, a soldier, but also a playful soul and a musician, who left for the world the instrument he used to soothe the frayed nerves of other soldiers, a broken guitar. The book is part of Fe Anam’s commitment to keep alive the memory of Vietnam veterans.

Available at https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=5PWUGMRS8NMKU
PRAYER LIST

Rand Bishop
Steve Byerly
Nancy Colvin (friend of Ann Twiggs)
Norma Daly (friend of Anne Cain)
Al & Joan Diaz
The family of Cathy Dunn (friend of Joan Diaz)
Betty Gilliam (sister of Frances Yoder)
Bal Goleman
The family of Joyce Heaton (mother of Dawn Kucera)
Carol Inman
Esther Jillson (friend of Becky Rowland)
Trisha LaGrange
Gary Lowder (Stephani8e Lowder’s husband)
Patsy McCurry
Ed & Romella O’Keefe
Betsey Parker
Johnny Ramsey (friend of Becky Rowland)
Cindy Royce and spouse Barb Gingrich (friends of Ann Twiggs)
Lenore Schultz (friend of Becky Rowland)
Cathy Smith, Joanne Shenk, Family of Barbara Musy (friends of Al & Joan Diaz)
Judy Smith (friend of Dawn Kucera)
Richard Tyler
David Vandre

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)

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   Diane Rhoades 828-696-9969
Helle Gylling 623-282-5528   Susan Huff 828-217-5944
Nancy Keswani 617-833-2819   Ed O’Keefe 828-890-4889
Joady Perrett 828-243-3337   Sammye Whitney 570-664-1141
Romella Hart-O’Keefe 828-890-4889
October Birthdays

01: Philip Wiehe
01: Virginia Gambill
02: Joanna Coonrod
02: Susan Palmer
03: Helle Gylling
03: Lynne Cigal
05: Angie Yates
06: Stephanie Lowder
06: Suzanne Hewett
06: Joe Streer
07: Kirsten Cone
08: Chris Carmichael
13: Mark Raymond
13: Claudia Schopper
15: Jim Jones
15: Sadie Crum
16: Chris Cone
16: Diana Brantley
17: Ed Argue
17: Carol Towle
19: Sheila Clendenning
21: Romella Hart-O'Keefe
21: Pamela Federlein
24: Thomas Gauthier
27: Ellen Shaw
29: Dorothy Koopman
29: Beth Cotter
31: Mike Brazauskas

October Anniversaries

05: Mike & Ellen Brazauskas
07: Ed & Pat Argue
08: Chris & Sherry Carmichael
21: Roger & Lilian Dashner
21: Steve & Martha Hogenboom
# Attendance

## September 2020

**Virtual Worship**

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**Did you know……..**

Sunday worship services are available to view on our website. Go to [fcchendersonville.org](http://fcchendersonville.org) and click on *Sunday Sermon* or view from *Home Page*.

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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

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**Next Chronicle deadline**

**October 22, 2020**