The THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS TO YOU

Thanksgiving Prayer
by Ralph Waldo Emerson

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.

For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS TO YOU
This is “Re-opening Task Force Chair” Phil, horning in and taking over “Moderator” Phil’s column this month. (He didn’t seem to mind.)

I wanted to address some recent actions and issues, and give you an idea of the pathway we see for First Congregational over the next few months.

First, I’d like to address a question that has surfaced from several people lately. That is, “Other churches are opening for indoor worship, why don’t we?”

There is a multi-pronged answer to this question. First, from the beginning, we have adhered to the principle of following the science and CDC/government guidelines. We consider the Henderson County case numbers as the most important, because that’s local. Sadly, the numbers are rising -- the county has been in a position of “accelerated spread” since late September. It just isn’t safe.

Second, the safety and health of the congregation is our most important priority. Many in the congregation are seniors, and many have various underlying conditions. So we’ve taken a very conservative approach in considering indoor activities.

Third, the results of two congregational surveys taken months apart strongly support this caution. Over 70% say they don’t feel comfortable returning to in-door worship until there is a vaccine, or the local case numbers drop dramatically.

Considering these factors, we aren’t comfortable recommending that we open the church in the foreseeable future.

In other survey results, we were pleased that 90% of respondents watch the worship videos and think they are about right. Karla and Mark work hard and put in many hours to produce them.

In the one-word answer to how you are feeling in the pandemic, over 70% responded with some sort of negative word. So if you are feeling frustrated, afraid, exhausted, isolated or something like that, know that you have lots of company. If you’re feeling down or just want to talk, Karla and Mark would love to have you call them.

We recommended to Council that FCUCC continue Laurel Park’s polling place, which Council approved. The Fellowship Hall will be open for voting on November 3, with strong restrictions in place.

Phil Taylor and the Task Force Team
HIGHLIGHTS FOR OCTOBER

◊ The October meeting included 18 visitors or guests in addition to Council members. Those interested in attending future meetings should request the Zoom link from the Moderator.

◊ Discussed the Conflict Mediator’s Report. There were many comments from both Council members and guests, but no consensus on how to proceed. Council will appoint a committee to review the report and recommend action. Those interested in serving should contact the Moderator.

◊ Approved installation of a “Little Library” along 5th Avenue by friends of the church.

◊ Approved replacement of the back roof at a cost of $9,713. This will include replacement of damaged sheathing and repair of some rafters.

◊ Learned that 113 people “attended” the online Ashley Lecture by Matthew Fox.

◊ Heard an update on our Initiative for Civil Discourse.

◊ Learned that the church garden has produced 1,200 pounds of produce so far this year.

◊ Learned that the first outdoor worship service was well received. These will continue through October.
Welcome to the **FCCH Little Library** located on 5th Ave by the east entrance. Free and open to the public.

We hope you visit often. Little Libraries thrive on community involvement. **“Take a book; leave a book”** explains how it works. You don’t need to leave a book to take one. If you have extra books for any age, bring them to the Little Library. Darcy curates. Bill maintains the building. Problems or suggestions? Trailwoman@hotmail.com

https://littlefreelibrary.org/

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I wanted to take the time to say THANK YOU!! And to share this awesome graphic created by our Director of Finance to commemorate going over $120,000 in products distributed! We couldn’t have done this without your help!

We’ve now served too many families to count (we tried, but counting cars and diapers takes more fingers and toes than we have!) at 20 drive-thru events. We plan to have another BIG DIAPER BLOWOUT (pun intended) in December and going forward, plans are underway to establish a full-fledged Diaper and Infant Formula Bank at the center for weekly access to families in need in the community.

I say all of this to say again – WE COULDN’T HAVE DONE ANY OF THIS WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT! So, THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!

With so much gratitude,

Paula Roberts, Director of Development
Children & Family Resource Center
SERVING AS A DELEGATE
ON THE UCC SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING
by Dawn Kucera

To re-work an old phrase, “Ten years ago, I didn’t know what a Congregationalist was — now, I am one.” And as such, I recently served as a delegate to the UCC Southern Conference Annual Meeting. Our Administrator, Sheryl Tellier, got wind of it and asked me to write a piece for the Chronicle with my impressions and observations. Of course! Have YOU ever tried to tell Sheryl "No"!

So, we were over 200 people, gathered virtually on Zoom, to attend a conference with the theme of Hope and Unity. The organizers were completely self-taught on all the technology, and yet managed to pull this off brilliantly, with only a few minor glitches. There were music, prayers, Bible reflection, sermons, worship services, workshops, a business meeting, as well as discussion, voting and approval of some resolutions that help define us. After some heartfelt and emotional testimonials, the Conference overwhelmingly supported resolutions to declare ourselves anti-racist and against the discriminatory cash bail-and-bond system.

I felt proud to be part of it.

I sat in my living room, seeing the other attendees on my computer screen. And counter-intuitive as it may sound, I felt more connected to many more of these people than if I had been in a room with them. Had we been together physically, I probably would only have met those sitting on either side of me, or just hung out with the people I went with.

In my time at FCUCC, it seems we’ve had light contact with the Conference, or the WNC Association within it. Despite that, the Conference staff have, in fact, provided “behind the scenes” support to our church, such as their guidance to our Search Team during the transition period.

In this time of isolation and having to learn new ways to “do church,” I think it’s important for us to start strengthening these ties. It could only be to our benefit for FCUCC to become more involved with the Conference.

Overall, it was an educational and illuminating experience for me.
THANKSGIVING MEAL

If you, or you and your partner/spouse, are going to be alone on Thanksgiving Day, and are not in a position to cook a Thanksgiving dinner, your church wants to provide you a dinner. We will delivering dinners on Thanksgiving morning to anyone that lets us know that they would like one. This is free of charge. If you would like a dinner or two delivered, please email Mark Acker: mark@fcchendersonville.org.

We want you to know that your church cares about you, especially as we enter the holiday season in these difficult days.

An Invitation from First Congregational Church Hendersonville
Sunday, November 1 @ 3:00 PM

YOU are invited to join in a new, civil discourse initiative, “With Malice Toward None – Live the Golden Rule.”

Partners in the initiative at press time include: First Congregational Church, Sacred Journey Metropolitan Community Church, Embracing Simplicity Hermitage, First United Methodist Church, Unity of the Blue Ridge, Brevard Friends Meeting, St. John’s in the Wilderness Episcopal Church, Trinity Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), and the Progressive Alliance of Henderson County. See the current list at www.wncLiveTheGoldenRule.com

We believe we must seek to nurture quality, mutually respectful dialogue between our fellow citizens. Therefore, we are proposing that the community unite under the banner of the Golden Rule, a principle held at the heart of many faiths and cultures, and one, when applied, will bring dignity and respect to our interactions.

Our vision is for congregations to creatively engage in actions around this “civility” theme in their own houses of worship the weekend before Election Day, November 3rd. Congregations and citizens will gather together on Sunday afternoon, November 1 at 3pm for a multi-faith, non-partisan virtual Vigil for Civility via Zoom. Participants should go to www.wncLiveTheGoldenRule.com and click on the virtual Vigil tab for the link.

We hope to improve how we see and talk to each other. We invite you to share the details of the Vigil with your congregation, friends and neighbors in the hope that they will join us in this reflection of and for kinder conversations, both before and after Election Day.

For more information see www.wncLiveTheGoldenRule.com.
Book Discussion Group
November 10, 17, 24 and December 1
1:00PM – 2:30PM on Zoom

Facilitated by Pam & Charley Rogers
“Healing the Heart of Democracy”
By Parker J. Palmer
A book of hope for “We the People”

This timely, courageous, and practical work is about us and what we can do in everyday settings like families, neighborhoods, congregations, classrooms and workplaces to resist divide-and-conquer politics. In compelling and inspiring prose Palmer explores five “habits of the heart” that can help us restore democracy’s foundations as we nurture ourselves and each other.

Palmer’s Discussion Guide is designed to encourage a thoughtful exploration of three areas of inquiry suggested by the book:

• What is most important to me as an American citizen? What are my deepest hopes for my country?

• What is the role of “We the People” at this moment in American history? How can we join with others to create more open, respectful and life-giving conversations in a quest for the common good?

• What are you and I now called to do? We are limiting the number of participants to 20. To reserve your space, please email your intention to attend by sending your name and names of anyone joining you to: pamrogers525@gmail.com. Join us!
SERVICE & GIVING REPORT

The October meeting was focused on year-end activities.

Regarding a possible December 5 Christmas event, team members will check with various agencies to discover needs. Perhaps we'll have an “angel tree” for needy families or children. We can also collect hats, socks and mittens at that time.

The team agreed to split this month’s $3,500 between IAM’s Renter’s Assistance program and MANNA Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who continues to support our church financially so these essential awards can continue.

Uncertainty about our usual year-end matching funds total this year may necessitate new disbursement methods. After much discussion the team decided to individually consider possible options before the next meeting when we may have an actual amount.

The next Zoom meeting is November 12 at 10:00. All are welcome. Contact Linda Laderach lladerac@mtholyoke.edu or Bill Shaffer, wdsiii333@gmail.com. for more info. Everyone’s support is critical and much appreciated!
In October, The Western North Carolina Quilts of Valor presented our very own Charles Littleton a Quilt of Valor for his service in the US Army. The ceremony took place at the Beginnings Quilt Shop in Hendersonville.

After information was given on Charles’ service, he was presented with the Quilt of Valor.

Part of the ceremony is for a family member (wife Dora) to wrap the Quilt of Valor around the veteran - wrapped in the love and caring that went into creating the quilt.

Charles is a loved and long-time part of our FCCH community and we thank him for his service!

A special thank you to FCCH church member, Dona Tyler, who nominated Charles for this honor, and to Judy Thurman who made his quilt.
Sunday School Monthly Report - October
Ginger Zemp, Sunday School Teacher
Dede Walton, Nursery Teacher

Monthly Theme: Learning About Different Religions

The children continued their study of different world religions in October. We learned about Islam and Hinduism, and discovered similar faith beliefs that people around the world share. Listening to music and participating in art projects helped the children understand basic religious themes. Their questions and comments showed a growing understanding of various faith traditions. The children led us in the Unity Prayer, and both adults and children took turns giving a blessing at the end of each week’s lesson.

If your church can help you in any way, whether through providing a listening ear or picking up a prescription, we are here for you.

Please email Karla or Mark:

karla@fcchendersonville.org
mark@fcchendersonville.org

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!!
OUTDOOR WORSHIP CONTINUES

We have had a great response to our outdoor Morning Prayer services. We will continue to have Outdoor Morning Prayer services at 11 am on Sunday mornings in November. If it is raining, or if it is too cold or windy, we will not meet, and we will email you to let you know of any cancellations.

Please join us!

Did you know?

There are many things of interest on the website (fcchendersonville.org) click on links below

CHURCH CALENDAR (Activities)
WEEKLY SUNDAY SERVICE VIDEO (Sunday Worship Videos)
CURRENT WEEK’S ANNOUNCEMENTS (Members page)
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES (Members page)
CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT (Members page)
CHURCH DIRECTORY (Members page)

The church directory is password protected. If you don’t have the password or have other questions, please contact Sheryl (sheryl@fcchendersonville.org)

If you would like to join Zoom meetings but are not familiar with it, please contact Sheryl (sheryl@fcchendersonville.org) to schedule a 1-1 training session.
PRAYER LIST

Rand Bishop  
Janet Bostwick  
Nancy Colvin (friend of Ann Twiggs)  
Lynn & Ray Conchado  
Judy Cyphers  
Norma Daly (friend of Anne Cain)  
Al & Joan Diaz  
The family of Cathy Dunn (friend of Joan Diaz)  
Betty Gilliam (sister of Frances Yoder)  
MJ Heubach (friend of Jace Kahn, Sr.)  
Esther Jillson (friend of Becky Rowland)  
Geit Johnson (aunt of Liz Thurston)  
Trisha LaGrange  
Gary Lowder (Stephanie 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)  
Family of Emma Simmons (sister of Milton Stewart)  
Cathy Smith, Joanne Shenk, Family (friends of Al & Joan Diaz)  
Eve Teerlinck  
Richard Tyler  
David Vandre

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  
Ed O'Keefe 828-890-4889  
Sammye Whitney 570-664-1141

Diane Rhoades 828-696-9969  
Susan Huff 828-217-5944  
Joady Perrett 828-243-3337  
Romella Hart-O'Keefe 828-890-4889
### November Birthdays

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<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Lily Crum</td>
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<td>John Sams</td>
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<td>Linda McFadden</td>
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<td>Anee Rutledge Thomas</td>
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<td>Luther Dowdy</td>
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<td>Jeannie Stewart</td>
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<td>Estelle Taylor</td>
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<td>Patricia LaGrange</td>
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### November Anniversaries

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<tr>
<td>03</td>
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<td>04</td>
<td>Karla Miller &amp; Liz Thurston</td>
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<td>07</td>
<td>Emery Gill &amp; Joel Matthews</td>
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<td>Jon &amp; Judith Arthur</td>
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## ATTENDANCE

### October 2020

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<tr>
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<td>Oct. 04</td>
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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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(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**

**November 19, 2020**
WE BELIEVE
BLACK LIVES MATTER
NO HUMAN IS ILLEGAL
LOVE IS LOVE
Women's Rights Are Human Rights
SCIENCE IS REAL
WATER IS LIFE
Injustice Anywhere Is a Threat to Justice Everywhere