Beloved FCCH,

When you receive this edition of the Chronicle, we will be in the depths of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday (and possibly Easter if you don’t get around reading it until then).

No more than this year have I felt the depths of death and despair and the bud of hope of resurrection. I suspect this is true for many of you as well. In the wake of the pain of everything, we need to remember that our hopes are tender and vulnerable. This is a good time for us to remember how vulnerable everyone else is, and treat them with gentle kindness, above all.

I am reminded of what Anne Lamott wrote: “Never compare your insides to everyone else's outsides.” I love this wisdom, and want to add to it: “everyone else’s insides are as tender as your insides.”

I pray your Holy Week is blessed with time for reflection and inspiration, and I am so eager for us to celebrate Easter together in our outdoor worship!

Love and peace,

Karla
MODERATOR’S COLUMN

Dear First Congregational Members and Friends,

Last month, we marked the one-year anniversary of our last in-person worship service. In some ways, it’s hard to believe it has been that long, and in others, it seems like this has gone on forever.

I’m very proud of how we invented new ways “to be church.” Karla figured out video worship, ably assisted by Mark. We had book clubs, met for parking lot worship, and many church functions carried on via Zoom. We continued our outreach to the community through the Service and Giving drive-through events. And behind the scenes, vital work has gone on - Sheryl Tellier pretty much runs the church from home, and Ron Miller hasn’t missed a beat in maintaining our finances.

For the first time in a year, I am hopeful about the possibility of re-opening, at some level, in the not-too-distant future - maybe mid-summer. The COVID numbers are slowly trending down and a number of our members are fully vaccinated. In addition, Mindy Myers, our Physical Resources Facilitator, has researched ways to make our building safer. We have installed air purification systems in all our HVAC systems and soon will have permanent hand sanitizer stations. The Re-opening and Moving Forward Task Force continues to track all of this.

When we can go back, we expect to continue observing COVID protocols: a limited number of people at one time, social distancing, possibly requiring masks, and no singing for a while. Plus we’re starting to investigate live streaming. Changes are coming! I believe “inside church” will have a different look and feel. And it will take people to do it: both people who have helped before and new people - there will be a spot for everyone. Please consider being a part of that team - contact Mark Acker at mark@fcchendersonville.org if you’d like to help.

Meanwhile, Spring is here, the days are getting longer, the vaccine program is gaining traction, and there is hope in the air. It is truly a time for prayers of thanks. And, in the midst of this, it is also a time to remember with prayers of gratitude and celebration for the lives and service of Alan Schmalz and Steve Hogenboom, whom we lost to the virus.

Happy Spring, Happy Easter, be safe, and especially, be kind.

Phil Taylor, Moderator
HIGHLIGHTS
Church Council Meeting
March 10, 2021

New Member on Council
We welcomed Linda Yopps to Council as the new Facilitator of Financial Resources.

Financial Report
Ron Miller reported that all is well - income is up, and expenses down, our investments are performing well. Sheryl Mendenhall reported that as of mid-February, there are 103 pledge units for a total of $203,744.

Reconciliation and Renewal Update
The dedicated email address has received a few mails, and all have been sent a consensus reply.

Live Streaming
We obtained a quote for live streaming, but subsequent research shows that this is going to be more involved and expensive than we first thought. Plan to put together a team to do further research.

Building Updates related to COVID
◊ Building will remain closed for the near future.
◊ We voted to install air purification and ultra-violet light systems on our HVAC’s. The cost will be about $4,400 and will come from the property maintenance fund. Looking into hand sanitizer stations and changing the filters more frequently.

Karla’s Report
◊ Karla announced a virtual Retreat for 8 May, 9.45am - 12 noon. Speaker is Paula D’Arcy.
◊ Karla will be away on vacation from 15-25 June.
◊ Upcoming services will be a drive-by communion on Maundy Thursday, 4-5 pm, and parking lot open-air service for Palm Sunday and Easter.

Dawn Kucera
Clerk
At this meeting the team discussed various service opportunities including individually supporting disappearing local newspapers by subscribing to the Times-News, “adopting a street,” and helping the Veterans Healing Farm with seasonal planting. These ideas will be further researched.

We decided to first have a drive-thru collection for returning Migrant Workers Needs as described on the flyer elsewhere in this issue on April 10 from 12-2.

Participants should drop off items in the church parking lot, wear masks and practice social distancing. All donated items will be sorted and delivered by our members. Any person wishing to assist at the drive are welcome and should contact lladerac@mtholyoke.edu or wdsiii333@gmail.com. Everyone’s support is critical and much appreciated.

After much deliberation, the team also allocated $6600 to thirteen local agencies dealing with Food Insecurity and Homelessness.

For more information about the Service & Giving team, for which new members are always welcome, contact co-facilitators Linda Laderach lladerac@mtholyoke.edu or Bill Shaffer, wdsiii333@gmail.com.

Next meeting is April 8 at 10 via Zoom.

Written by:
Pat Argue, Secretary
FROM THE RECONCILIATION AND RENEWAL TEAM

We conducted our first Zoom meeting on Wednesday evening, March 24. We were so pleased that about 65 folks attended — and stayed through the entire almost two hours!

We presented information in these significant areas: The chronology and context of conflict situation; how the situation fits with First Congregational’s Open and Affirming Statement; the relationships between the UCC WNC Association’s Committee on Ministry with both its congregations and its clergy members; and a summary of the observations and conclusions from the consultant’s report. The evening wrapped up with a comprehensive list of considerations and actions for us to look at as we move forward.

There were extensive Question and Answer periods after each section. If anyone has any questions, please write to us at FCCRRTeam@gmail.com.

We plan to compile the presentations from the evening into a document that will be available on the website and on paper, if requested.

We are moving forward with great hope in our hearts that we are on the path to healing and reconciliation.

Spring through the eyes of Dawn Kucera
SPRING HAS SPRUNG IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN!

by Carolyn Wilson

Spring has sprung! Besides the birds singing and building nests in the bluebird houses, there are a few other signs that Spring is here. Rhubarb is making its appearance as are the new leaves of our strawberry plants. Strawberry-rhubarb pie anyone? There will soon be other plants and flowers popping up as Spring brings longer days and warmer weather. In a few weeks the ground will be warm enough to plant the 140 squash seedlings that are sprouting in the green house.

This year we will have butternut, green and yellow zucchini, and yellow summer squash. Tomatoes, sweet potatoes, white potatoes, green beans, and okra will be planted in the next couple of months.

The garden crew has been busy throughout the Winter with improving the irrigation system, clearing out large rocks, removing dead brush from the perimeter of the garden, and repairing and adding new raised beds.

We hope to have another great harvest this year to take to IAM, Dandelion, and the Mission. A great big thank you to those of you who have contributed to our compost pile throughout the Winter.

Please remember that we ask that only the following items be added to the compost bin: vegetable and fruit scraps, egg shells, cardboard egg boxes, tea bags, and coffee grounds.

Please **DO NOT** add meat, fish, eggs or poultry scraps, dairy products, fat, or oils (these items attract rodents and insects), plants, grass clippings, bush/tree trimmings, or flowers.
Building Blocks of Emotional Resilience – Surviving the Pandemic and Beyond

The WNC Association’s Education Forum on Emotional Sustainability on March 6th was full of useful information, especially the keynote address by Dr. Jan Remer-Osborn on “Building Blocks of Emotional Resilience: Surviving the Pandemic.” On behalf of our Wellness Action Group (WAG), I will be selectively sharing some of this wisdom through two Chronicle articles. Jan’s materials are based on the WISE UCC Mental Health Network and other credible sources.

First, resilience is “…the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats or significant sources of stress – such as family and relationship problems, serious health problems or workplace and financial stressors. It means ‘bouncing back’ from difficult experiences.” The last year of COVID’s isolation, loss, and stress has significantly heightened our need for resilience.

Resilience takes everything we’ve got, including how we think; how we take care of ourselves; managing our emotions; and our Higher Power. Our three dimensions participate: Mind (I am focused and capable of greatness), Body (I am healthy and take care of myself); and Spirit (God is my ground and center). As Joshua 1:9 tells us: “I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Stress is natural, and even necessary during times of adversity as a way of preparing our mind and body for action, and calls attention to what is important. One major source of stress is our fear of the unknown, which COVID has exacerbated greatly. However, knowing how to manage that stress effectively is essential. To prevent our stress from overflowing or overwhelming us, healthy practices can include mindfulness, good time management, taking time for things you enjoy, exercise, and talking to friends and family.

In the May Chronicle information will include: resilience for those with mental health and other disabilities; chasing away catastrophic thinking and tuning up the positive; and shifting our perspective.

For a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, please contact Gary Cyphers garyandjudycyphers@att.net

Gary Cyphers, on behalf of WAG
Contact-free, social-distanced

**DRIVE-THRU COLLECTION**

to support summer migrant farm workers & families in Henderson County

Our arriving farm workers’ needs include:

* Breakfast/protein snack bars
* Personal hygiene items such as toothpaste, soap, deodorant, etc. (trial sizes welcome)
* Bandanas, sun-protective hats, knee-length socks
* Men’s pants (sized S or M – 28-32” waist)
* Long-sleeved shirts (sized S or M)
  (no need at this time for women’s or children’s clothing)
* New or gently-used twin sheets (fitted & flat), pillows
* Air mattresses (“Ozark Trail” brand suggested as least expensive, most reliable)
* New or gently-used towels
* Hand-sewn 11” x 15” drawstring cloth bags (contact <sharonjohnsondvm@hotmail.com>) for instructions and/or if you need fabric) We’ll need a total of around 200!
* Cash or checks (made payable to FCC – “Migrant Needs” in memo line) also gratefully received

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We also invite you to drop off hand-written/decorated personal notes
(200 or so total will be needed; 4” x 5” ideal size)
Suggested messages to use - add your first name:
  “¡Bienvenido!” (“Welcome”)
  “Gracias por su trabajo duro” (“Thanks for your hard work”)
  “Muchas bendiciones a Ud. y a su familia” (“Many blessings to you & your family”)

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[Website URL] 828 692 8630
“If you ate today, thank a migrant worker.”

Thank them by providing some of their needs, donating items which are being collected by the Henderson County Public Schools Migrant Education department, Heartwood Refuge, UUFH, FCC, and other agencies.

Later this month, our county’s annual wave of essential migrant farm workers will begin with about 200 arriving first, to be followed by thousands more in late May and June, coming in old trucks and vans, weary from previous work and the long trip, carrying their only possessions in a plastic bag.

At this point, receiving a welcome gift bag with toiletries and a card showing they are not looked upon with contempt or dismissal, makes a weary soul smile. The hand-made, enclosed cards for the gift bags should be 4”x 5” with drawings or collage and in Spanish: “Bienvenido. (Welcome) Gracias por su trabajo duro.” (Thank you for your hard work.) “Muchas bendiciones a Ud. y a su familia”. (Many blessings to you & your family). They will know that many of us welcome them and appreciate their hard work which means so much.

For sustainability, 11” x 15” cloth drawstring bags are preferred. Bags can be sewn out of cloth scraps, hand towels or old cotton or synthetic shirts with shoe laces as the drawstrings.

Please contact Sharon Johnson by email at sharonjohnsondvm@hotmail.com for fabric. Also see the information about our drive-thru on April 10 in this edition of The Chronicle newsletter.
Get the Scoop
Help Our Community

In order to be an informed member of the community, where do you get your news?

On-line, TV, weekly magazine, national paper? All are worthwhile sources, but they have one thing in common – they don’t tell us what’s happening locally in Hendersonville.

We are lucky for a small town to have a daily newspaper. In the past 15 years almost 20% of the nation’s newspapers have closed. A report by the Federal Communications Commission found that local newspapers are the best medium to provide the sort of public service journalism that shines a light on the major issues confronting communities and gives residents the information they need to solve their problems. Without the Hendersonville Times News you probably wouldn’t know about the new hotels being built downtown, the issue of building a new asphalt plant in East Flat Rock and the proposal to put a green park along Church Street.

As a subscriber, I’ll be the first to admit the Times News can be frustrating – about 75% of it is simply copied from Associated Press or other national sources, we sometimes have delivery problems and they are often prone to grammatical or typo errors.

But at least we have them. Service and Giving would like to encourage all of us to support our local daily newspaper by subscribing. Do it for the local news or do it as an act of community charity, but please subscribe. If enough of us support them they might be able to afford a proofreader.

Visit www.BlueRidgeNow.com to subscribe on line or you can call Circulation Customer Service at 828-692-5763.
Sunday School Monthly Report - February
Ginger Zemp, Sunday School Teacher
Dede Walton, Nursery Teacher

Monthly Theme: Celebrating Lent and Preparing for Easter

The children continued to talk about the meaning of Lent and to prepare for the return to in-person church and Sunday School services at the end of the month. They interviewed Church Friends of the Week and enjoyed talking about their school and leisure time adventures via Zoom. The Sunday Schoolers are preparing a welcome-back surprise for the Congregation and are looking forward to seeing everyone again on Palm Sunday!

BETWEEN FRIENDS

WANTED Pet Sitters
Daily drop-in visits, possible overnights, for two adult cats in Hendersonville.
For occasional weekends or longer times when we’re away. Someone you have hired or a service you offer.
Contact Darcy at trailwoman@hotmail.com

ART EXHIBITION
Come to The Art Mob Studios and Marketplace (124 4th Avenue East, Hendersonville) during the month of April to see my exhibition 'Rising Up', an expression of hope in our country. Although African Americans are dealing with strife right now, I have noticed increasing examples of kindness, respect, inclusion, and restitution towards them and other people of color. I use the blackbird as a symbolic representation of people of color. My exhibition pieces will be interpreted by an expert floral designer and a poet. Although a reception is not advised at this time, there will be a guest book to sign if you visit the exhibition.
Contact Connie Knight for more information.
www.costanzaknight.com
828-693-4545
knightcolor@gmail.com
### April 2021

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<td>31 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Maundy Thursday Community Drive Thru</td>
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<td>6 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:30 PM Reconciliation and Renewal Team 3:30 PM - 3:30 PM Reopening Task Force</td>
<td>7 2:00 PM Asst. Moderator Planning</td>
<td>8 Worship Video Recording 10:00 AM Service &amp; Giving</td>
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<td>12 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM - 11:00 AM Racial Justice Group</td>
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<td>14 1:30 PM Human Relations Ministry</td>
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Hummingbirds are arriving now! Have you filled your feeders?
*Photo compliments of Dawn Kucera*
PRAYER LIST

Norma Daly and family (friend of Anne Cain)
Al & Joan Diaz
Sue Eastin (friend of Becky Rowland)
Joy Greenfield (friend of Trisha LaGrange)
Marnye Heaton (Dawn Kucera’s sister-in-law)
Martha Hogenboom
Esther Jillson (friend of Becky Rowland)
Yvonne Kyker
Trisha LaGrange
Carol Marra (friend of Kevin & Joyce Tierney)
Kathleen Martini (friend of Carol Woeppel)
Patsy McCurry
Anne Ogburn
Betsey Parker
Linda Sanders
Joanne Schenck (friends of Al & Joan Diaz)
Richard Tyler
David Vandre
Phillip Wiles (friend of Al & Joan Diaz)

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.

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
Ed O’Keefe      828-890-4889            Joady Perrett   828-243-3337
Sammye Whitney  570-664-1141            Romella Hart-O’Keefe 828-890-4889
April Birthdays

02: Jean Gower
03: John Bodamer
05: Richard Howe
05: Nancy Irving
08: Frances Gullyes
08: Jim Jolly
11: Mark Fagerlin
13: Jon Nobling
14: Charlotte Shipley
14: Rachel Stone
16: Don Culver
16: Joan Diaz
16: Hilarie Glasgow-Hawkins
17: Jean Glasgow-Hawkins
19: Bruce Jayne
21: Bill Green
23: Deborah Barwick
23: Dottie Culver
23: Glenn Gross
23: Angela Musselwhite
27: Sheryl Mendenhall
29: Herb Jacobitz
30: Fred Yopps

April Anniversaries

03: Hilarie & Jean Glasgow-Hawkins
03: Barry & Jill McMillion
05: Joe & Gillian Streer
14: Kevin & Joyce Tierney
15: Roy & Jimmie Harris
16: Linda Sanders & Sharon Stepp
27: John & Karel Bodamer
29: John & Jan Caldemeyer
The Congregational Chronicle is published monthly, except for December/January and June/July issues, by First Congregational UCC
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(mark@fcchendersonville.org)
Sheryl Tellier, Administrator
(sheryl@fcchendersonville.org)
Dora & Charles Littleton, Custodians
Rev. David G. Kelly, Jr., Pastor Emeritus

ATTENDANCE

March 2021
Virtual Worship

Service Zoom
YouTube Views Sunday School & Outside Worship & Zoom Worship

Feb. 28 213 5
Mar. 6: 189 5
Mar. 14: 155 No Sunday School
Mar. 21: 183 3

Next Chronicle deadline
April 22, 2021