In addition to our Sunday worship services and our other activities, the month of October also includes two very important events.

**HUNGER WALK AND FOOD COLLECTION...**
Please join us on Saturday, October 2 for a walk (meet at 9 a.m. in our parking lot). You can also register to participate at hendersoncountyhungercoalition.org/walkers-calendar, or simply show up on Saturday, October 2 at 9:00 a.m.

We will have a drive-thru food collection and COLLECTING OF CHECKS (made payable to HCHC) for persons in our county who are in need of food in our parking lot from 10AM to 12 Noon. Pottery by Ken Whitney will be for sale, with all proceeds going to the Hunger Coalition. And, prayer shawls will be available for you to share with others.

**ASHLEY LECTURES ON ZOOM WITH DIANA BUTLER BASS...**
Diana will present three lectures on Zoom, followed by Q and A, all based on her newest book "Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way and Presence."

- **Saturday, October 16** at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, October 17** at 3:00 p.m.

Diana will also offer the sermon on our video worship service (we will still have our parking lot service at 10 a.m. with Karla). Check out our website for more information. Fcchendersonville.org/Ashley lectures.

Know of our love for each of you. If your church can be of any help to you, please let us know.

With love and blessings,

Mark
MODERATOR’S REPORT

Dear First Congregational Members and Friends,

I want to start by thanking you for the many good wishes and prayers you’ve sent my way as I recover from my broken wrist. They have meant a lot to me. In a brief update, I’ve had successful surgery and am now in physical therapy. It’s all going well.

I next want to note some of the upcoming activities going on in the church. This might seem a bit hum-drum, but it’s important -- to let you know that even though we are not meeting much in person, the church continues most of its normal operations and is functioning well.

Fall is here, and in the church calendar that means Stewardship time. Every year, every church will tell its members how important it is, this year. And that’s true. However, as we close in on the end of the second year operating under the onus of the pandemic, it’s even MORE important this year.

Our Treasurer, Ron Miller, reports that we are in okay shape. That’s excellent news. But it’s REALLY important that we maintain at least our current level of giving, through pledges, to see us into the next year, as we can only budget against pledged income. Look for the preliminary budget in late October, as it requires congregational approval.

I want to highlight the upcoming Ashley Lecture featuring Diana Butler Bass, a progressive Christian pastor and speaker -- she has been an Ashley Lecturer in the past. This will occur on October 16 and 17, via Zoom, and is free. To participate, you will soon be sent a link to register, or you may contact fccinfo@fchendersonville.org. Diana will also offer the sermon by recorded video that weekend.

Outdoor worship continues in the parking lot, in the area between the Memorial Garden and the labyrinth. We’ve been pleased with attendance averaging 70-75. Even better, we are often welcoming first-time attendees. Come check it out!

Let me close with another First Congregational good-news story: our participation in the Henderson County Hunger Coalition’s annual Hunger Walk is on October 2nd. It’s virtual again this year, but we anticipate great participation - with some folks walking in local parks, and many others contributing.

I hope you’ll be able to get out and enjoy our beautiful mountain colors. Be safe, and especially, be kind.

Phil Taylor, Moderator
HIGHLIGHTS
September 2021 (on Zoom)

1. Treasurer’s Report. Operating Fund income is down $6334, expenses are down $21,258, for a new plus of $14,924. The lower expense is explained by not having yet filled the IT and pastoral assistant slots.

2. Live Streaming. We are in the process of getting technical solutions and estimates from two different companies. Hope to have a report ready for the October Council Meeting.

3. Building closure. The building remains closed. The Council granted an exception for a small memorial service for Alan Schmalz. All COVID protocols will be required.

4. RRT Recommendations. Discussion continues on how to proceed during this period of church closure. We would like to form a Visioning Team - to develop a strategy and oversee smaller groups working on the various proposals. Please contact Phil or Karla if you are interested.

5. Ministry Reports.
   a. HRM, Gary Cyphers is stepping down from active participation due to health issues.
   b. Larger Community, Ken promoted participation in the Hunger Walk. It is virtual again this year, and will be the subject of our next Drive-By donation event on 2 October, 10 am - 12 pm.
   c. Physical Resources. A group called Friends of the Labyrinth is forming, to include community members.

   a. She will be gone on vacation from 20 September through 5 October.
   b. Called attention to upcoming Ashley Lecturer, Diana Butler Bass. Three free Zoom lectures on 16 -17 October.

Dawn Kucera
Clerk

REMINDER: Council Meetings are open to all congregation members and friends. Please notify Moderator, Phil Taylor (pntaylor1234@yahoo.com), if you would like to attend.
August’s School Supplies Drive raised $1,950 in cash. $900 went to Rugby Middle School and the rest to the Boys and Girls Club. All three vans were filled with supplies which were delivered to the three locations.

Most of September’s meeting dealt with arrangements for the October 2nd Hunger Walk Drive Thru which has been well-described in bulletins and Chronicle newsletters. Elle reminded all about the many opportunities around the city and county for reducing food insecurity by using sustainable methods. We continue to be proud of our garden, its team, and its tremendous production.

The team discussed and agreed on the following monthly allocations:

For three of our giving categories (Food Insecurity and Homelessness, Environment and Inclusivity), we’ve allocated the amount we budgeted for 2021. So, for September and October we’re focusing on the giving categories of Crisis Intervention, Education and Healthcare. For September we donated additional funds to Pisgah Legal Services, the Children and Family Resource Center, the Dream Scholarship and Blue Ridge Health. Next month we’ll have about $2,500 left to allocate which should enable us to catch up most of the remaining agencies and still leave $7,000 for the matching funds program in November and December.

Anyone wishing to assist at a drive or on the Service & Giving team are welcome to any meeting & should contact laderac@mtholyoke.edu or wdsiii333@gmail.com. Everyone’s support is critical and much appreciated. Next meeting: Thursday, October 14 at 10:00 with the usual Zoom link. TO CLICK HERE JOIN.

Written by:

Pat Argue, Secretary
Autumn is here!
Beautiful weather for Sunday outside worship services.

~~Come Join Us!~~
It is time for the Henderson County Hunger Walk! FCC has long been a proud participant. This year the church event will be Saturday, October 2, 2021.

All are invited to join FCC members in a short, in-person walk leaving the church parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Please register to participate at hendersoncountyhungercoalition.org/walkers-calendar or sign up at Sunday church.

If you would like a Hunger Walk T-Shirt, you may sign up for one, giving your size, on the HCHC website before October 2.

Contact-free drive through collection will be 10:00 am to noon October 2. Especially bring cash, or checks (payable to HCHC) to FCC at 1735 5th Avenue W.

Pottery by Ken Whitney will be available for sale (the proceeds to benefit Hunger Walk 2021) Prayer shawls for the asking at the drive through.
HENDERSONVILLE: Diana Butler Bass, Ph.D., an award-winning author, popular speaker, inspiring preacher, and one of America’s most trusted commentators on religion and contemporary spirituality will be the next Ashley Series virtual Lecturer presented by First Congregational United Church of Christ. Three FREE separate lectures will be on Zoom, Saturday, October 16 at 10 am and 1:00 pm and Sunday, October 17 at 3:00 pm. There will also be time for questions and answers.

Diana’s passion is sharing great ideas to change lives and the world—a passion that ranges from informing the public about spiritual trends, challenging conventional narratives about religious practice, entering the fray of social media with spiritual wisdom and smart theology, and writing books to help readers see themselves, their place in history, and God differently.

Register in advance for this webinar by clicking: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_o81uZ9NjSYySOmM8fBNLyQ

Please join us for this wonderful lecture series!
Sunday School Monthly Report
Ginger Zemp, Sunday School Teacher
Dede Walton, Nursery Teacher

Monthly Theme: Time Capsule Project

While Covid issues have taken their toll on our Sunday School attendance, the children who joined us on Sunday mornings have been full of energy, questions, and enthusiasm. We began a new project that will have long-reaching interest for all of our church members.

Each child wrote about changes that Covid has brought, how the pandemic affected their daily lives, and what they look forward to once it is behind us. They described what they thought they would be doing 20 or 30 years from now, and we put their documents, drawings, and other small artifacts in a box that will become a time capsule. The project got the children thinking about how their lives will change as they grow up, and stimulated interesting ideas and conversations. They are full of questions about what God has in store for them.

Once all the children have had an opportunity to put their comments in the box, we hope to bury it on the church grounds with instructions to open it at a future date. We’ll publish more information as the project continues.
PRAYER LIST

Richard Tyler
Joanne Schenck (friend of Al & Joan Diaz)
Al & Joan Diaz
Betsey Parker
Sue Eastin (friend of Becky Rowland)
Yvonne Kyker
Trisha LaGrange
Phillip Wiles (friend of Al & Joan Diaz)
Kathleen Martini (friend of Carol Woeppel)
Rob Kievit (son of Nancy Irving)
Carolyn Schmalz
Mark Raymond
Amy Barksdale (friend of Becky Rowland)
Diane Anderson (friend of Jim Luzadder)
Andrea Ballard (friend of Elizabeth Toledo)
Dave Elias (friend of Ann Twiggs)
Joseph Orost (son of Jean Glasgow-Hawkins)
Marja Nordman (relative of Romella Hart-O'Keefe)
Ed & Romella O'Keefe
Carol Woeppel
Jessica Lyn Carter (friend of Carol Woeppel & Carol Inman)
Dottie Culver
Kent and Joyce Tool
Pam Hamilton (friend of Ann Twiggs & Bill Shaffer)
Family of Jean Schoendorfer
Family of Patsy McCurry
Jane Bear (sister of Catherine Lynch)

And for those who are struggling with aging and health issues
and for those who are their caregivers.
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)
October Birthdays

01: Philip Wiehe
02: Joanna Coonrod
02: Susan Palmer
03: Lynne Cigal
05: Angie Yates
06: Stephanie Lowder
06: Gillian Streer
07: Kirsten Cone
08: Chris Carmichael
13: Mark Raymond
15: Sadie Crum
15: Jim Jones
16: Diana Brantley
17: Ed Argue
17: Doris Scoville
18: Carol Towle
19: Sheila Clendenning
21: Pamela Federlein
21: Romella Hart-O’Keefe
24: Thomas Gauthier
27: Ellen Shaw
29: Beth Cotter
31: Mike Brazauskas
31: Marjorie Pence

October Anniversaries

05: Mike & Ellen Brazauskas
07: Ed & Pat Argue
21: Roger & Lilian Dashner

Autumn photos in this issue are provided by Dawn Kucera.
ATTENDANCE

September 2021
Worship

YouTube Views Sunday School & Worship

08/22: 149 1
08/29: 165 2
09/05: 144 0
09/12: 166 2
09/19: 140 0

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Next Chronicle deadline
October 21 2021