Beloved FCCH,

When you read this, we will have had our first in-the-sanctuary worship in quite a while!

**HOORAY!!!**

And now we are returning!

I am wondering, what is the sweetest experiences of return or reunion in your life? How did you celebrate?

All I know is that we are just beginning to celebrate our reunions, as it gets safer and safer to be together in our space in old ways and new ways.

What a gift! What a joy!

With love and peace,

*Karla*
Dear First Congregational Members and Friends,

The pandemic has basically kept the church closed for nearly two years, as hard as that is to believe. We’ve stayed active and vibrant: offering both outdoor and video worship services; all basic infrastructure operations have continued (thank you Council, Sheryl Tellier, and Ron Miller); and we’ve continued our community outreach via the garden produce donations and Service and Giving drive-throughs.

But that said, many aspects of our church life that we loved have, of necessity, gone dormant - activities like Coffee Hour, Forum, Fellowship Dinners, and the various interest groups in which so many of you participated.

The COVID numbers are dropping. As we contemplate re-opening, it is clear there is much work to do - and it will take many willing hands to get it done.

But first, I think we need to reconnect with one another after so much time of being separated. So as we look to reopen the building, we'll also be looking for ways to connect and be in fellowship with one another – possibly in small groups at first.

As we become more connected, we'll need to consider which activities to start – restart old favorites or create new ones? We'll need to do some thinking about how we want to “do church” and “be church” as we go forward. I see two big tasks in making all this happen:

1 - We’ll need many volunteers to help lead and support our ministries in the future.

2 - We’re considering the creation of a Visioning Team, to work on a new vision for our church future, as well as addressing the recommendations of the Reconciliation and Renewal Team.

These are unprecedented times, a phrase you’ve no doubt heard before. And it also applies to First Congregational. We could have buckled under the strain of the events of the past year and a half, but we didn’t. We’ve shown our heart and strength. And we will come through stronger than ever.

There are individual articles elsewhere in this Chronicle giving more details on these topics. I hope you will read them with care, and open your ears and hearts to see if you hear a call to join in.

Thanks for reading, be safe, and especially, be kind.

Phil Taylor, Moderator
October 2021 (on Zoom)

1) **Treasurer’s Report.** We are operating within budget, and on track year-to-date. Operating income is down $17,462, expenses down $26,026, for a net surplus of $8,564.

2) **Live Streaming.** We’ve had a site visit by one company, Selah Productions. The Tech Team is setting up a visit from another company, and is hoping to have enough information to make a recommendation soon.

3) **Building closure.** The building remains closed. The numbers in Henderson County are trending downward, but are still in the Red Zone. We will notify the congregation via Constant Contact with updates.

   Council approved opening the sanctuary on 13 November for the wedding of Ron and Jayne Miller’s daughter, who grew up in this church. Only family will be in attendance.

4) **2022 Preliminary Budget.**
   Ron presented the preliminary budget, which is the same as this year’s final budget.

5) **Ministry Reports.**
   a. **Physical Resources.** Mindy Myers reported they are starting to explore what it will take to re-pave the parking lots.
   b. **Larger Community.** Ken Whitney reported that the Hunger Walk collected over $9,000 and two full vans of food for IAM.

6) **Karla’s report.**
   a. She drew attention to the upcoming annual meeting of the UCC Southern Conference and WNC Association. Barbara Rathbun will be taking the Chairmanship of the Conference.
   b. She noted that we have new visitors almost every week at our outdoor service, and would like to set up a hospitality/welcoming group. Let her know if you are interested.

Dawn Kucera
Clerk

REMINDER: **Council Meetings are open to all congregation members and friends.**

Please notify Phil Taylor at pntaylor1234@yahoo.com if you would like to attend.
Our successful Hunger Walk & Drive-Thru raised $10,500. Funds are still coming in and Ken Whitney will keep us updated. Two vans were filled with 600 lbs. of food. Thanks to all members, friends and community.

October’s meeting centered on the team’s determining the guidelines for the Annual Matching Gifts Drive which is from **Nov. 14-Dec.12**. The guidelines are listed on the flyer for the drive elsewhere in this issue.

The Team added the Medical Loan Closet to our list of agencies and allocated funds to these last agencies for the year:

Safelight, Henderson County Educational Foundation, MLK Day of Service, Free Clinics, Asheville Planned Parenthood, Thrive, Medical Loan Closet.

On **November 20** from **10-12** there will be a **Holiday Joy” Giving Drive Thru** in the parking lot. Donation options include:

- New, **UNWRAPPED** toys for younger children
- Cash, checks (payable to FCC, “Holiday Giving Drive” as memo)
- **WRAPPED** gifts for Council on Aging senior clients.
  (You MUST pick up Santa Wish cards at Sunday service 10/24 – 11/14)

**Recipient agencies:** Boys’ and Girls’ Club, Interfaith Assistance Ministry, Council on Aging.

Please see the flyer and spread the word about the “joyful” event.

Anyone wishing to assist at a drive or on the Service & Giving team are welcome to any meeting & should contact lalderac@mtholyoke.edu or wdsiii333@gmail.com. Everyone’s support is critical and much appreciated. Next meeting: Thursday, November 11 at **10:00** with the usual Zoom link. **TO CLICK HERE JOIN.**

Written by:

Pat Argue, Secretary
Nominating Committee Work Begins

The Nominating Committee has begun working to find candidates for both officer and ministry openings for 2022. We have identified the following vacancies that need to be filled:

- Assistant Moderator
- Church Clerk
- Assistant Treasurer (we have one and will need a second one)
- Member of the Human Relations Ministry (we will need two)
- Facilitator of the Ministry of Worship
- Facilitator of the Ministry to Members and Friends
- Leader of the Needs of the Church Fund

If you have an interest in being considered for any of these positions or if you simply have questions about them, please feel free to contact any member of the Nominating Committee:

- Mark Acker
- Sheryl Mendenhall
- Karla Miller
- Becky Rowland
- Phil Taylor (chair)

GET YOUR SANTA WISH CARDS NOW!!!

Santa Wish cards from Council On Aging let you choose a specific Meals On Wheels client for whom you can provide a Christmas gift wish.

Each card has an individual's special gift request. You try your best to fulfill or maybe even exceed the client's Santa wish, then drop off the WRAPPED package at FCC's drive-thru collection Nov. 20. (Other drop-off arrangements can be made, too!)

Thanks to all who picked up Senior Santa Wish cards last Sunday. Sheila Clendenning (bsheila.nc@gmail.com) distributed 20 cards recently and she has a few more left to choose from.
HENDERSONVILLE ROCKS!!!!

So - there's this thing. People paint rocks and leave them for other people to find, with a note on the back that says Hendersonville rocks! (Or whatever city you are in. Karla played in Marblehead, MA). Ken Whitney found this rock in Rhododendron Lake, and it has been left laying somewhere around on the church grounds - not hidden, but out in plain sight - somewhere.

Who will find it? If you do, hide it somewhere else on the church grounds. Let's see how many people can find it! If you want, notify Dawn Kucera (dawnkucera@mac.com) if you find it and she'll keep track of the finds.

HUNGER WALK 2021

On Saturday, October 2, FCC's wonderful Service and Giving Mission sponsored the 2021 version of our Hunger Walk. As of October 17, proceeds from your generous donations along with those provided by this great community and the proceeds from Ken's pottery sales exceeded $10,500. This amount continues to grow with additional donations and will all be given to the Henderson County Hunger Coalition to be used in funding grants to twelve local food pantries in support of our friends and neighbors in Henderson County.

In addition to your cash donations, two vans were filled with non-perishable foods and given to IAM.

This was a GREAT effort during a very difficult time. Thank you all for your love and support.
DREAM SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER IS APPRECIATED

This letter to FCCH is from one of our Dream Scholarship recipients (Evelyn Alarcon) who was also featured on Friday, October 15th on WLOS Person of the Week which had Hispanics during Hispanic Heritage month. She writes:

“This semester has been a busy one, I'm taking 4 courses and working full time at the same time but I'm very happy to be able to continue my education.

I've been thinking a lot about all the people that have supported my path since I arrived in the United States and the impact that they make for all of our immigrant community.

I just wanted to say thank you and your group for making Henderson County a better place for all and I wanted to share an interview that WLOS covered a few weeks ago- 20 years ago I was an ESL student, I was new to this country and I was working on getting my GED- I had an ESL instructor provided by BRLC and today I'm working on getting my Social work degree. I always have found wonderful community support and that is what has made a big difference in my life. THANK YOU and your TEAM!

My success is shared success and I know you are celebrating with me! “

Click here to view WLOS segment: Person of the Week- WLOS Hispanic Heritage month

We’re at the end of Daylight Savings Time! Be sure to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 6.
Let’s Help Our Neighbors Experience Christmas Joy

Saturday, November 20, 10 a.m. - noon
Drive-thru, contact-free collection at
First Congregational United Church of Christ
1735 5th Ave. W. ~ Hendersonville

ıld DONATION OPTIONS ild

❖ New hats, scarves, gloves, mittens (adult & child sizes)

❖ New, UNWRAPPED toys for younger children

❖ Cash, checks (payable to FCC,
“Holiday Giving Drive” on the memo line)

❖ WRAPPED gifts for Council on Aging senior clients.
(You MUST pick up Santa Wish cards at Sunday service 10/24 – 11/14)

Recipient agencies: Boys’ and Girls’ Club, Interfaith Assistance Ministry,
Homes for Youth, Council on Aging

Wishing you a VERY BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON! Your generosity, as always, is deeply appreciated, and makes a BIG difference in the lives of so many of our neighbors.

www.fcchendersonville.org
Food, music, community resources, fun for the kids, bounce houses, mariachi, free pantries, art and more.
Come with your family and friends!!!

Pre Posada

13th Saturday
Nov 2021 | 12 to 4 pm

Hola Cultural Center
801 Fourth Avenue East Hendersonville, NC 28792
☎ (828)989-5248

Free event
2021 FCC MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN
Nov. 14 – Dec. 12!

Here’s how it works:

1. You choose agency(ies) from the list below.
   (Contact lladerac@mtholyoke.edu and/or wdsii333@gmail.com
to discuss an agency not on our list.)

2. You write check(s) to FCC with “Match Gift to -X-” on
   the memo line. Please! No more than 2 agencies nor more than
   a total of $500 per household. Service & Giving team has set aside
   $7,000 from this year’s budget pledges for the match campaign; we
   hope as many FCC members and friends as possible can participate.

3. FCC Treasurer Ron Miller writes check(s) for DOUBLE
   your donation to your selected agency(ies). You
   receive notification for your tax records.

2021 Matching Agencies:
* Boys’ and Girls’ Club * Calvary Episcopal Food Bank *
Community Food Pantry of Edneyville * Council on Aging * Free
Clinics * Hendersonville Hunger Coalition * Hendersonville
Rescue Mission * Homes for Youth * Interfaith Assistance
Ministry * Loaves and Fishes Food Bank of Etowah * Thrive

UNIVERSAL CHURCH
OF CHRIST

www.fcchendersonville.org
Sunday School Monthly Report

Ginger Zemp, Sunday School Teacher
Dede Walton, Nursery Teacher

Monthly Theme: Observing Seasonal Changes

The changing season brought many natural marvels for the children to explore and appreciate. They found late maturing strawberries and beans in the garden, migrating butterflies in the flowers, and squirrels and birds gathering food for the coming winter. They made pine cone feeders for the birds to help them prepare for the cold season ahead.

The children also learned about the Mexican tradition of celebrating El Dia del Muertos – the Day of the Dead. Thanks to the generosity of congregation members, they enjoyed fact wheels that told the background and meaning of this special holiday. Their appreciation for traditions and beliefs of other cultures continues to grow.

The weather will soon be too cold to meet outside regularly. As Covid rates drop, we hope to participate in the beginning of indoor church services and hold indoor Sunday School. We look forward to the time when more of our children can safely return to in-person our program!
PRAYER LIST

Richard Tyler
Family of 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)
Amy Barksdale (friend of Becky Rowland)
Diane Anderson (friend of Jim Luzadder)
Andrea Ballard (friend of Elizabeth Toledo)
Dave Elias (friend of Ann Twiggs)
Marja Nordman (relative of Romella Hart-O’Keefe)
Ed & Romella O’Keefe
Kent and Joyce Tool
Thom Gauthier & Ron Limberg
Jane Bear (sister of Catherine Lynch)
Linda Munson and partner Gary (friend of Ann Twiggs)
Mark Lussier (Carol Woeppel's nephew)
Connie Knight

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)
November Birthdays

01: Max Crum
10: John Sams
02: Linda McFadden
05: Katie Bolick
11: JoClare Wilson
13: Bob Battle
13: Ben Coonrod
17: Mireille Soss
19: Nick Pence
25: Anna Helfand
25: Thomas Kimmell
25: Anne Rutledge Thomas
26: John Walters
28: Anne Hartig
29: Marilyn McComas
29: Jeannie Stewart
30: Patricia LaGrange
30: Estelle Taylor

November Anniversaries

03: Bill & Angela Musselwhite
04: Karla Miller & Liz Thurston
07: Emery Gill & Joel Matthews
11: Jon & Judith Arthur
ATTENDANCE

October 2021 Worship

YouTube Views Sunday School & Worship

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

THANKS TO

Dawn Kucera

for your gift of photography!

Next Chronicle deadline
November 18, 2021