Beloved,
I awoke this morning to a beautiful advent devotional centered around this poem by one of my favorite writers, Madeleine L’Engle. May it be a blessing for your journey through this season and new year.

Observe and contemplate.
Make real. Bring to be.
Because we note the falling tree
The sound is truly heard.
Look! The sunrise! Wait —
It needs us to look, to see,
To hear, and speak the Word.

Observe and contemplate.
The cosmos and our little earth.
Observing, we affirm the worth
Of sun and stars and light unfurled.
So, let us, seeing, celebrate
The glory of Love’s incarnate birth
And sing its joy to all the world.

Observe and contemplate
Make real. Affirm. Say Yes,
And in this season sing and bless
Wind, ice, snow; rabbit and bird;
Comet and quark; things small and great.
Oh, observe and joyfully confess
The birth of Love’s most lovely Word.

— Madeleine L’Engle

Karla
There were about 25 people gathered to decorate the church -- inside and out! Dawn Kucera reported that it was so much fun and people just jumped on projects and ran with them! People who didn’t know each other were connecting by working together, and it was all done in about 2 hours! Here’s some of the fun moments and finished product!
MODERATOR’S REPORT

Bookends

This edition of the Chronicle covers two months - December and January. The two months are sort of like bookends - but in reverse. Usually two bookends sit apart, with things between them. But in this case, the bookends are backed up against each other, with one being the end of one year and other bookend starting the next one.

December is the bookend on one side, with the year 2021 stretched out behind it. Not to mince words, it was a tough year. When it started, almost no one foresaw how it would unfold. We’d already had a tough 2020 and we were hopeful - COVID numbers were down and a vaccine was imminent. Most of us believed the worst was behind us, and life would get “back to normal.” However, that isn’t what happened.

It’s been a hard time for our church, as well. The building was closed and many activities remained dormant. Sadly, we lost two beloved members of our church family to COVID - Alan Schmalz and Steve Hogenboom.

BUT. And this is a good “but.” We learned some things - some good things. We figured out ways to live “a new normal.” We learned that we are resilient - more so than we imagined. We didn’t expect to spend most of the year holding worship services in the parking lot - but we did. We met in fellowship and communion with each other. Our finances held firm, we continued our outreach into our community, and a number of groups and activities carried on. We grew - adding new members regularly throughout the year.

Now, the other bookend, January, sits with the next year stretched out into the future. It’s an unknown entity; but just like last year, we are starting it with hope in our hearts.

It’s a time of bright expectations for our church as we look forward to the coming year. We expect to continue meeting in our sanctuary. Gradually, many of the dormant activities will resume. And we remain a beacon of light in our community.

As we enter the holiday season, please be happy and be safe. And especially, be kind.

Dawn Kucera and Phil Taylor
Church Clerk and Moderator
I’m dreaming of a white Christmas

visions by Dawn Kucera
Treasurer’s Report. Operating Fund income is down $9,582, expenses are down $28,170, for a net plus of $18,588. Our investments continue to do well.

Stewardship update. To date, 55 pledges have been turned in, which is good progress so far.

Reopening Status.
- Extended discussion about the status of COVID, and a strategy for going forward: continue to follow the pandemic path of the past 20 months, or move forward on an endemic path by acknowledging COVID is here to stay. Agreed on sending a survey to take the pulse of the congregation - not as a vote, but info gathering. (As of writing this report, 80 responses have come in - an excellent return.)
- Agreed to allow the local PFLAG group to meet in Fellowship Hall in December.

Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, 1/30/22. We hope it can be in person.

Ministry of Physical Resources Report. Needed a major repair on one of the furnaces, completed. Heating/cooling fans are on continually now, to clean the air better.

Karla’s Report. Will take a part-time continuing education class in early December. Announced that Barbara Rathbun is the new president of the UCC Southern Conference Board of Directors.

Dawn Kucera
Clerk
The “Holiday Joy” Giving Drive Thru on was held on November 20. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation and the wider community it was a great success. We collected hats, gloves, and scarves for IAM, toys for the Boys and Girls Club and senior gift bags for the Council on Aging. In addition, we were able to make generous monetary donations to each of the three agencies and to Bounty of Bethlehem. IAM had a table at the event with its publicity materials. They are always looking for new volunteers, especially now that the thrift store is about to open. If you were unable to make it to the drive but still wish to contribute, there are donation boxes inside the sanctuary doors or you can always send a check.

The church’s Annual Matching Drive will run November 14 to December 12. Once again, anonymous donors have generously contributed to the fund, so the total amount we have to match is now $10,000. This is a wonderful opportunity to have your personal charitable donation matched by the church doubling its benefit. Details of the program can be found on a flier distributed at Sunday services or by contacting the church office.

We are in the process of reviewing and revising our list of charitable agencies that we will donate to in 2022. We have made an effort these past two years during the Covid pandemic to focus more on local agencies that assist those in our local community.

Service & Giving hopes to help facilitate some small, in-home gatherings for members and friends to share a meal and to brainstorm new ideas for FCC outreach to our community. Stay tuned for details after the new year!

In 2022 we will be conducting several more drive thru donations. Anyone wishing to assist at a drive or participate on the Service & Giving team is welcome to any meeting and should contact wdsiii333@gmail.com. Everyone’s participation and support is critical and much appreciated. We will not have a meeting in December, so the next meeting will be on January 13 at 10 using the usual Zoom login below.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81532270036?pwd=bENCWFpBdGdrOHFFZ3NZUTBZUnNqdz09

Written by:

Pat Argue, Secretary
2021 FCC MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN
Nov. 14 – Dec. 12!

Here’s how it works:

1. You choose agency(ies) from the list below. (Contact laderac@mtholyoke.edu and/or wdsiii333@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 *

www.fcchendersonville.org
A few weeks ago, we took our last donation of the year to IAM and the Mission. It consisted of sweet potatoes, collards, kale, and turnips, which brought the total harvest for the year to 1500 pounds. The garden is now put to rest in terms of growing anymore vegetables, but you may still see some activity on the warmer sunny days. There are raised beds to be built and maintained, Austrian winter peas to be planted as a cover crop, general maintenance of the buildings, painting, etc.

Thank you to everyone who donates vegetable scraps, egg shells, coffee grounds, etc. to our compost bin. The scraps that were added to the bin this past Spring helped produce 20 beautiful butternut squash. With your help, the soil in the garden is enhanced with the nutrients in those scraps which in turn help to increase our harvest.
Hendersonville: Our town’s MLK Day of Service **Monday, January 17** will return to its usual live format this year. That day, at **Noon**, the public is invited to the local observance of a national event which FCC supports, the family-friendly **8th Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual DAY OF SERVICE** at St. James Episcopal Church.

Youth groups will host a short opening program honoring Dr. King’s legacy. Then, attendees will safely gather to bag family meals of rice and beans for the clients of the **Storehouse**, 1049 Spartanburg Highway. The bagged meals will be delivered to the Storehouse to help those in need. Americorps.gov.

The End of Bias is a transformative, groundbreaking exploration into how we can eradicate unintentional bias and discrimination, the great challenge of our age.

In the last year or two many of us have begun to see where we have blind spots. But we aren’t quite sure what to do to shift our thoughts so that our values, convictions and minds are more congruent.

Come join us on all four Tuesday afternoons beginning February 1 from 1:30 - 2:30 PM on Zoom for an exploration into evidence-based practices that can be a new approach to this interesting topic. Discussions will be led by Racial Justice team members.

Bring a friend! The book is available on Amazon and Google in Kindle format, hardcover and Audible.

For more information, please contact Patti Clay pclay51@gmail.com
Sunday School Monthly Report
Ginger Zemp, Sunday School Teacher
Dede Walton, Nursery Teacher

Monthly Theme: Celebrating the Return to Indoor Church and Sunday School

As the weather cooled down, the children were excited to be able to attend the opening of Sunday services in the church. They were energized by seeing so many adult friends in pews and by Karla’s inventive ways of including them in the beginning of church services each week.

We are excited that our program has started welcoming toddlers, who meet for supervised play and music in the Nursery Room with Dede.

Our school age youngsters are meeting the in the Fellowship Hall with Ginger. They have spent time catching up with each other and discussing new interests and experiences of the summer months. They are preparing a surprise welcome for the congregation and hope to share it right after Thanksgiving. Thankfulness is truly a big part of their lives!

Click on calendar below for up-to-date church calendar
PRAYER LIST

Richard Tyler
Al & Joan Diaz
Betsey Parker
Sue Eastin (friend of Becky Rowland)
Yvonne Kyker
Phillip Wiles (friend of Al & Joan Diaz)
Kathleen Martini (friend of Carol Woeppel)
Mark & Jean Raymond
Amy Barksdale (friend of Becky Rowland)
Diane Anderson (friend of Jim Luzadder)
Dave Elias (friend of Ann Twiggs)
Marja Nordman (relative of Romella Hart-O’Keefe)
Ed & Romella O’Keefe
Linda Munson and partner Gary (friend of Ann Twiggs)
Mark Lussier (Carol Woeppel's nephew)
Connie Knight
Art Mendenhall (Sheryl Mendenhall's brother)
Mehgan & Katie Ann Hopper (nieces of Ann Twiggs)
Beverly Palmer (friend of Bruce Jayne)
Anne Rutledge Thomas
Betty & Bob Macintyre (friends of Ed & Pat Argue)
Charles & Dora Littleton
Craig Stogner
Maddie Weisz (friend of Ann Twiggs and Bill Shaffer)
Jim Luzadder
Joseph Orost (son of Jean Glasgow-Hawkins)
Fe Avis

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)
**December Birthdays**

01: Mark Ray  
01: Roddy Crum  
02: Ericka Fagerlin  
02: James Luzadder  
02: Ian Zimmerman  
03: Liz Brennan  
03: Carol Inman  
04: Nicolas Aguilar  
04: Kinsey Jenkins  
07: Sage Crum  
07: Donna Gross  
07: Debbie Cope  
12: Linda Laderach  
15: Richard Tyler  
16: Sherry Carmichael  
16: Charles Littleton  
17: Becky Rowland  
18: John Ariatti  
23: Lyndsey Simpson  
25: Martha Hogenboom  
27: Doreen Jenkins  
31: Charlie Rogers

**December Anniversaries**

06: Mark & Lynne Cigal  
18: Bob & Cary Battle  
28: Bob Miles & Diane Swift
January Birthdays

02: Jayne Miller
03: Bill Shaffer
05: Diane Rose
06: Nancy Anderson
07: Kathy Kircher
07: Josie Crum
10: Emery Gill
13: Bob Palmer
13: Bev Ward
16: Larry Anderson
17: Mark Acker
17: Ellen Honea
21: Mike Tenold
22: Pat Argue
29: Cynthia Bright
29: Ann Twiggs
29: Becky Evans
31: Liz Thurston

January Anniversaries

22: Richard & Diana Brantley

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Office closed
Tuesday - 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Wednesday - 9:00 AM 3:00 PM
Thursday: - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Friday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
ATTENDANCE

November 2021

Worship

YouTube Views Sunday School
& Worship

10/31 156 4
11/07 152 0
11/14 177 4
11/21 154 5
11/28 150 4

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Next Chronicle deadline
January 20, 2022