

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 14, 2024

Service to be conducted In Person at 9:30 am and online via Zoom



Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now.
Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.

Jewish Wisdom

First Congregational Church of Camden, United Church of Christ

Growing in Faith, Centered in Christ, Committed to Community

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation embracing diversity
and affirming the worth and dignity of every person.

We welcome everyone to share in all aspects of our church life.

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Home of Boy Scout Troop & Pack 200

If you are joining on Zoom during the service please use **speaker view** instead of **gallery view**
and **keep your mics muted** during the service.

THIS AVOIDS THE SERVICE BEING INTERRUPTED WHENEVER YOU MOVE OR SPEAK AT HOME.

PLEASE DON'T CLICK THE GREEN SHARE SCREEN ICON, THAT'S FOR THE HOST!

THE SERVICE OF WELCOME

(* indicates congregation stands, if comfortable doing so)

PRELUDE

Clouds – Luke Faulkner

♪ Matt Mainster, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ute Molitor

* RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP Iona Abbey Worship Book (by Chief Seattle)

Allie VanRyn

Leader: This we know, the earth does not belong to us:

People: we belong to the earth.

Leader: This we know, all things are connected:

People: like the blood which unites one family.

Leader: For we did not weave the web of life:

People: we are merely a strand of it.

Leader: Whatever we do to the web,

People: we do to ourselves, and to God.

ALL: May our worship reconnect us, with God and with all things now living.

* HYMN #56 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

(All joining us on Zoom receive a PDF link to words & music for all today's hymns. In the sanctuary, we use the hymnals.)

* UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION From Earth Prayers, Mary Goergen

Allie VanRyn

Be praised, our God, by butterfly and dragonfly wings exercising for their first flight.

Be praised by lightning and thunder causing spring showers.

Be praised by the silent voice of grass growing and trees budding.

Be praised by all the colorful flower trumpets of spring.

Be praised by downy feathers freshly dried on newly hatched ducklings and chicks.

Be praised by the songs of birds, crickets and frogs.

Be praised, our God, by all your creation which tells of new life.

* GLORIA

Glory to our Creator

and to the Christ

and to their gift of love,

who is Spirit now among us,

and throughout all creation:

world without end,

Amen, amen.

* THE PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

Ute Molitor

Leader: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

CHILDREN'S TALK

Elizabeth Lally

FROM THE MYSTICS Hildegard of Bingen 12th Century Allie VanRyn
The earth is at the same time mother. She is mother of all that is natural, mother of all that is human. She is mother of all, for contained in her are the seeds of all. The earth of humankind contains all moistness, all verdancy, all germinating power. It is in so many ways fruitful. All creation comes from it, yet it forms not only the basic raw material for humankind but also the substance of the incarnation of Christ.

GOSPEL John 1:1-4
In the beginning was Logos, and Logos was with God, and Logos was God. Logos was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Logos, and without Logos not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Logos was life, and the life was the light of all people.

SERMON *Relationship at the Heart of All That Is* Ute Molitor

THE SERVICE OF GRATITUDE

(Please write prayer requests on the slips of paper found at the entrances to the sanctuary and in some boxes in the pews. Place completed prayer request slips in the offering plate)

HYMN #14 *Womb of Life, and Source of Being*

OFFERTORY INVITATION Ute Molitor

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Like a Songbird that has Fallen* — Reeltime Travelers
♪ Ben Perry, voice & guitar

* DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Praise God in Jesus fully known.
Creator, Christ and Spirit one. Amen.*

* UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION Allie VanRyn

Thank you, Creating Spirit, for blessing our lives with so much abundance, beauty, and diversity. We pray that these gifts may be used to strengthen a sense of belonging, interdependence and hope within your wider creation. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

OUR TIME OF PRAYER Ute Molitor

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Philip Newell, Casa del Sol)

Ground of all being, Mother of life, Father of the Universe, Your name is sacred, beyond speaking. May we know your presence, may your longings be our longings in heart and in action. May there be food for the human family today and for the whole earth community. Forgive us the falseness of what we have done, as we forgive those who have been untrue to us. Do not forsake us in our time of conflict, but lead us into new beginnings. For the light of life, the vitality of life, and the glory of life are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF BLESSING

* HYMN #2 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

* BENEDICTION Ute Molitor

* SUNG BENEDICTION

*Go my children, with my blessing, never alone; Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever, Go my children, with my blessing, you are my own.*

POSTLUDE *We are seated for the postlude.*

Under the Stars

♪ Matt Mainster, organ

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OUR THANKS TO TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS!

Altar Flowers: *You are welcome to bring flowers for the altar any Sunday. Sign up on the flower chart in the Pilgrim Room, or call the office.*

Liturgist: Allie VanRyn

Greeters: Judy & Rick Schleder, Pam Brown, Jane Babbitt

Ushers: Melvin Achorn, Scott Achorn

IT & Tech Support: Lou Finston-Fox, Nathan Scott

Quilted "Prayers for Ukraine" behind Altar: *Designed, pieced and quilted by Jan Kelsey.*

Coffee Team F: "Faithful Coffee Brewers" Tim & Jean Sheehy, Gloria Guiduli, Maria Ryan, Elizabeth Lally, Lara Webb

Tablescapes: Nan Haid

A meeting of the membership of the First Congregational Church, UCC, Camden, Maine, is called by Moderator Tim Sheehy for Sunday, April 28, 2024 immediately following the 9:30 am worship service.

The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the following four items:

1. Formal adoption of the new Core Values Statement; ([read here](#))
2. Formal adoption of the Right Relations Covenant; ([read here](#))
3. Certain administrative changes to the annual budget approved by the Congregation in the Annual Meeting.
4. Approve a modification to the ONA statement, including the following after "faith backgrounds": **acknowledging that many have experienced previous religious trauma.**

Our intentions are to present the worship service on April 28, 2024 in hybrid format; those attending in person should remain in the sanctuary for the vote. Those attending through Zoom should remain on Zoom for the vote. In order to take action on this item, a combined quorum of 40 members must be present.

Voting will take place by unanimous consent:

- If there are no objections, motions are passed unanimously.
- If someone objects, an actual vote will be taken.

Jane Babbitt
Clerk

Tuesdays	8:30 am	Lectio Divina Meditation ~ call office for Zoom invite
Wednesdays	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
Thursdays	Noon-1 pm	Prayer Shawls~Knit & Crochet ~ call office for Zoom invite

April 11-15 & Apr. 24-29 Rev. Patty Fox away

Sun. Apr. 14	9:30 am	Worship	Sanctuary
Mon. Apr.15	5 pm	Choral Bells rehearsal	
Tues. Apr. 16	1-3 pm	HT/SOS Ad Hoc	Conf. Rm/Hybrid
Wed. Apr. 17	12 noon	Cake & Community~ Bring lunch	Dessert provided
Wed. Apr. 17	5 pm	Trustees	
Thur. Apr.18	8:30 am	Membership	By Zoom
Thur. Apr.18	4:30 pm	Church of the Wild ~ Series with Ute	By Zoom
Sat. Apr. 20	9-11 am	Men's Breakfast	Pilgrim Room
Sun. Apr. 21	9:30 am	Worship	Sanctuary
Mon. Apr. 22	5 pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Tues. Apr. 23	4 pm	Cabinet	
Wed. Apr. 24	12 noon	LAST Cake & Community~Bring lunch	Dessert provided
Wed. Apr. 24	3 pm	Care Team	
Thur. Apr.25	5:30 pm	Potluck Supper CamdenCAN	Pilgrim Room
Sun. Apr. 28	9:30 am	Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. Apr. 28	11 am	Congregational Meeting following worship	Sanctuary
Thur. May 2	10 am	Stewardship	
Thur. May 2	3 pm	Deacons	
Sun. May 5	9:30 am	Worship & Communion	Hybrid
Mon. May 6	5 pm	Choral Bells Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Wed. May 8	All day 9-5	RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE	Pilgrim Room
Wed. May 8	2:30-3:30	Ping Pong, Scout Room	
Thur. May 9	9 am	Outreach ~ in person	Conference Rm
Thur. May 9	1 pm	Shields	
Sun. May 12	9:30 am	Worship	Hybrid
Tues. May 14	4:30 pm	Communications	Conference Rm
Wed. May 15	3 pm	Care Team	
Wed. May 15	5 pm	Trustees	
Thu. May 16	5:30-7:30 pm	Women's Potluck Supper	Pilgrim Room
Fri. May 17	2-9 pm	2nd Annual Poetry Festival	
Sat. May 18	11 am-6 pm	2nd Annual Poetry Festival	
Sun. May 19	9:30 am	Worship	Hybrid
Sun. May 19	4 pm	Friends of Music Concert ~ Jessica Deskin	
Mon. May 20	5 pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Fri. May 24	DEADLINE	JUNE Beacon	
Sun. May 26	9:30 am	Worship	Hybrid
Mon. May 27	Holiday	Memorial Day – Church closed	

OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

Tim Sheehy, Moderator

Jane Babbitt, Clerk

Fred Bucklin, Treasurer

OUR CHURCH MINISTERS & STAFF

Rev. Dr. Ute S. Molitor, Senior Minister

Rev. Patty Fox, Associate Minister

Matthew Mainster, Minister of Music

Jeanne Denny, Shields Fund Administrator

Elizabeth Lally, Faith Connections Program Director

Lara Webb, Nursery Caregiver

Amy Smith, Full Charge Bookkeeper

Becky Brace, Office Manager

Ryan Berry, Custodian of Buildings & Grounds

Kristy McKenney, Manager, Heavenly Threads

Beth Gerrish, Assistant Manager, Heavenly Threads

Melissa Chapman, per diem Manager, Heavenly Threads