

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 28, 2024

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



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.

55 Elm Street, Camden, Maine 04843 207.236.4821 phone 207.236.4822 fax

www.camdenucc.org churchoffice@camdenucc.org

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

Sweet Hour of Prayer — Joel Raney
♪ Matt Mainster

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ute Molitor

CALL TO SPECIAL MEETING

Tim Sheehy

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP from Bread for the Journey

Karen Giansiracusa

Leader: Christ said, "This is my commandment: Love one another."

People: We come to worship God who is love, that we may learn to love one another.

Leader: Christ said, "No longer do I call you servants, but now I call you my friends."

People: We come to worship God whose friends we are through Christ.

ALL: Let us sing praise to God, and live in love and friendship toward the human family and all of creation, through Jesus our Christ. Amen.

* HYMN #687

In Christ There Is No East or West

(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 Bread for the Journey

Karen Giansiracusa

O source of all living things, we praise you for the power of the recurring re-creation of life we see around us, and for the timeless resurrection of Jesus our Christ. May these signs inspire us to manifest your presence in our relationships and actions, that those cries of joy first heard on Easter morning may echo through the centuries to our time and place. Amen.

* 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

NEW TESTAMENT LETTER 1 John 4: 20-21

Karen Giansiracusa

Those who say, "I love God," and hate their sisters or brothers, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love their sisters and brothers also.

GOSPEL READING John 15:1-8

I am the true vine, and my Father-Mother is the vinegrower. God removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit God prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father-Mother is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

SERMON

When Things Get Tough

Ute Molitor

THE SERVICE OF GRATITUDE

* HYMN

Not My Brother, Nor My Sister (519 NCH) **Hymn at end**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Ute Molitor

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

You are the Branches — Michael Jothen
♪ Sanctuary Choir with Kim Murphy and Hayden Sears

* 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

Karen Giansiracusa

We are the branches on the vine of your love. It is your grace which yields the fruits we bring today. Bless them that we may use them to spread love, well-being, and justice in our world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

OUR TIME OF PRAYER

Ute Molitor

THE LORD'S PRAYER (traditional)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF BLESSING

* HYMN # 490

Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant

* 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.*
Abide with Me — Ashford
♪ Matt Mainster

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OUR THANKS TO TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS!

Altar Flowers: **Sign up on the Flower Chart in the Pilgrim Room, or let the office know, if you'd like to bring flowers for the altar on a particular Sunday.**

Liturgist: Karen Giansiracusa

Greeters: Terri Mackenzie, Pam Brown, Natalie & Larry Ward

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 H: "Heavenly Hosts" Mary Brett, Mary & Craig Wells, Sarah Reynolds, Karrie & Allie VanRyn, Lynn Bushee, Marion Brown

Tablescapes: Nan Haid



**ONE GREAT HOUR
OF SHARING WILL
BE CELEBRATED ON
SUNDAY, MAY 12
DURING WORSHIP**

In May, envelopes will be in the pews and elsewhere in church. Your donations are most welcome; put OGHS on your checks, and you can donate directly on our



website by choosing One Great Hour of Sharing. Thanks to you, our church gives generous support to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering each year. This UCC ministry sends resources worldwide to fund health, education and agricultural development, give emergency relief, support refugee ministries and bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravaged by national disaster.

A special 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. Approve a modification to the ONA statement;
2. Formal adoption of the new Core Values Statement;
3. Formal adoption of the Right Relations Covenant;
4. Certain administrative changes to the annual budget approved by the Congregation in the Annual Meeting.

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 24-29			
		Rev. Patty Fox away	
Sun. Apr. 28	9:30 am	Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. Apr. 28	11 am	Congregational Meeting following worship	Sanctuary
Wed. May 1	6:30 pm	CCE	
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
Mon. May 6	6 pm	Justice & Witness Event with Rev. Jodi Hayashida, from the Poor People's Campaign. All are welcome.	Pilgrim Room
Tues. May 7	12 noon	Combined CCE/AFEC	
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 ~ One Great Hour of Sharing	Hybrid
Tues. May 14	4:30 pm	Communications	Conference Rm
Tues. May 14	6 pm	Justice & Witness Event with Rev. Jodi Hayashida, from the Poor People's Campaign. All are welcome.	Pilgrim Room
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	7-9 pm	2nd Annual Camden Poetry Festival – Open Mic	
Sat. May 18	1-5:15 pm	2nd Annual Camden Poetry Festival To register on website: thepoetscorner.org/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	
Thu. May 23	3 pm	Care Team	
Fri. May 24	DEADLINE	JUNE Beacon	
Sat. May 25	9-11 am	Men's Breakfast	Pilgrim Room
Sat. May 25	4 pm	Nature in the Wild – Gather at Fernald's Neck	All welcome
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

Not My Brother, nor My Sister

(Standing in the Need of Prayer)

African-American spiritual; alt.

Leader

1 Not my broth-er, nor my sis-ter, but it's me, O God,
 2 Not the preach-er, nor the dea-con, but it's me, O God,
 3 Not my fa-ther, nor my moth-er, but it's me, O God,
 4 Not the strang-er, nor my neigh-bor, but it's me, O God,

All *Leader*

stand-ing in the need of prayer; Not my broth-er, nor my sis-ter, but it's
 stand-ing in the need of prayer; Not the preach-er, nor the dea-con, but it's
 stand-ing in the need of prayer; Not my fa-ther, nor my moth-er, but it's
 stand-ing in the need of prayer; Not the strang-er, nor my neigh-bor, but it's

All *Refrain*

me. O God, stand-ing in the need of prayer.
 me. O God, stand-ing in the need of prayer. It's
 me. O God, stand-ing in the need of prayer.
 me. O God, stand-ing in the need of prayer.

me, it's me, O God, stand-ing in the need of prayer;
 it's me.

It's me, it's me, O God, stand-ing in the need of prayer.
 it's me.

James Weldon Johnson included this African-American spiritual in his historic collection of 1925, The Book of American Negro Spirituals. It was popularized by Mahalia Jackson, who specialized in such spirituals when she began her public singing career.

Tune: NEED OF PRAYER 13.7.13.7 with refrain
African-American spiritual