

10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
August 1, 2021
Communion Sunday

Hybrid service to be conducted in person and online via Zoom 9:30 am



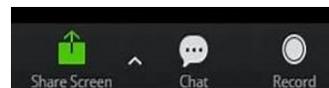
"A healthy social life is found only when in the mirror of each soul the whole community finds its reflection, and when in the whole community the virtue of each one is living."

*— Rudolf Steiner
Philosopher and Social Reformer*

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.

During the service please use **speaker view** instead of **gallery view** and **keep your mics muted** during the service.

(DON'T click on the green Share Screen icon, that's only for the HOST!)



This avoids the service being interrupted whenever you move or speak at home. At the end when we have "Virtual Coffee Hour" you will have a chance to participate.

THE SERVICE OF WELCOME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ute Molitor

PRELUDE *Allegro* from Concerto in D Major, Op. 10, No. 3, "Il Cardellino"
—Antonio Vivaldi; *Maho Hisakawa, flute; Ina Wolovitz, piano

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP from *Bread for the Journey* Jinx Hufnagle

Leader: We have gathered to rejoice in our oneness in Jesus Christ! Each of us experiences faith and life in a unique way.

People: Yet we have one God, one faith, and one baptism, and one Spirit who unites us all.

Leader: Let us lift our hearts as one, in songs of praise, in prayer, and in listening for God's word.

All: Even when we leave this place, let us be joined in common concern for humanity, like that shown by Jesus Christ. Amen.

* HYMN #356

We Your People, God, Confessing
(Read lyrics down and to the right)

We, your people, God, confessing
Jesus Christ your Son as Lord,
Gather here in common worship praising
your Incarnate Word.
Through the power of Christ within us
we are strengthened to proclaim
gospel truth in witness, service offered in
Christ's holy name.

We, your people, God, rejoicing in your
vast creative power,
bind ourselves, each with the other,
covenant in love this hour.
Through baptismal rite we enter, rising,
newly born to be
unified with your whole people here in
perfect liberty.

We, your people, God, communing through
the Holy Spirit, here,
Joined together as disciples, in obedience
now draw near.
At the table where the emblems of Christ's
sacrifice are spread,
here we celebrate his presence with the cup
and broken bread.

We, your people, God, receiving gifts of
ministry outpoured
In the light of holy scripture are set free,
refreshed, restored.
In the bonds of faith we serve you, God of
all, whom we adore.
Yours the blessing, yours the glory, one
God, reigning evermore!

* UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION from *Bread for the Journey* Jinx Hufnagle

Eternal God, we long for truths that are everlasting, yet we want our faith to be alive to the people and problems of today. As we sail forward in an ever-changing world, may faith in Christ be our anchor, and your love be our guide, through the presence and power of the Spirit. Amen

* SPOKEN GLORIA

from the *UCC Book of Worship*

Glory to God the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

* THE PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Debbie Brady

EPISTLE (LETTER) Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16

Jinx Hufnagle

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

GOSPEL

John 6:24-35

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread

from heaven to eat." Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

SERMON

Telling the Truth in Love

Ute Molitor

THE SERVICE OF GRATITUDE

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Please send your joys and concerns to Ute at ute@camdenucc.org or leave a message on Ute's voice mail (236-4821). During worship, you can write a prayer in the chat function at the bottom of the screen if you're on Zoom. Please only share if you have permission by the person you wish to pray for. Please only use first name and keep personal information to a minimum as this will be available publicly.

SILENT PRAYER AND PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 are 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

OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Cantabile* from Concerto in D Major, Op. 10, No. 3, "Il Cardellino"
— Antonio Vivaldi; *Maho Hisakawa, flute; Ina Wolovitz, piano

* UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Jinx Hufnagle

Each day we drink from your grace, mercy and abundance, gracious God. We return these offerings to you now, praying that they may still the thirst of others in need. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Adapted from an Offering by Rev. Maren Tirabassi

(For those in-person and online)

HYMN #321

Break Thou the Bread of Life

Break Thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, As Thou didst break the loaves beside the sea; Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee, Lord; My spirit pants for Thee, O living Word!	Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall; And I shall find my peace, my all in all. Oh, send Thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me; Touch thou my longing eyes that I may see: give me to eat and live with thee above; Teach me to love thy truth, for thou art love.
Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me, As Thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;	

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We invite you, though this meal is far more than any of us can understand. We welcome you, whether you are a six-foot away “pod” of one or more God-lovers, or as wireless as the Holy Spirit. We want to offer you this good news, whether you long for church or have been damaged by some church-experience in the past. This is Communion. We don’t define it; we don’t own it; but it is the greatest gift we have to give by and through God’s grace and we want to share it with each other.

PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

Christ, at our table we remember. We remember your “tabling” at Martha’s kitchen and the beach fish-fry at the homes of the self-righteous, or the disrespected.

We remember a wedding made more festive and we pray for every human relationship.

We remember loaves and fish and pray for places where there is no food.

We remember Passover, when you washed feet, shared gravy with a betrayer, and sang a hymn, and we pray for all who need to learn how to serve or be served, how to turn away from temptation or open up to a song not only vocalized but heart music.

We remember all tables, from cathedrals to campgrounds—where your people have gathered to share bread. We remember all saints in all times and places and lift before you those we have loved from the past, our saints who need healing, comfort for loss, guidance in decisions, peace in living, and many others in whom the yeast of love has not yet risen, though they may feel punched down.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Christ, yours is the wheat and yours the grape, yours is the leaven and the love. Rest your Spirit on this place of communion and these elements, in-person and online, shine your blessing on every face, now and whenever food is offered. This is the feast your heart rehearsed, eating this bread of life, we are renewed, drinking this cup, we do not thirst. Amen.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Leader: The Bread on our tables is blessed and broken.

Unison: Sharing love, we will never be hungry. (*We pause to share the bread.*)

Leader: The Cup on our tables is blessed and shared
like the overflowing of tears and joy.

Unison: Even a sip is drinking deeply. (*We pause to share the cup.*)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, O Christ, for gathering us at all our tables for word of life and sacred banquet. As we part from one another with the leftovers of your love, turn our being fed and blessed into holy takeout, as we share all we have received, slowly, sweetly and surely with all of your children. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Rooted in Your Love* by Natalia Serna (AKA La Muna)

[Rooted in Your Love.mp4 \(vimeo.com\)](#)

This song was shared at the 33rd General Synod of the UCC.

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Allegro Spirituoso from Concerto in D Major, Op. 10, No. 3, "Il Cardellino"
— Antonio Vivaldi; *Maho Hisakawa, flute; Ina Wolovitz, piano

Our Thanks to Today's Volunteers!

Liturgist: Jinx Hufnagle

Deacon On Site: Terri Mackenzie

Greeters: Jinx Hufnagle, Meg Thomas

Ushers: Melvin Achorn, Scott Achorn, John Hufnagle, Owen Thomas

Inspiring
Generations:
*The Steeple
Preservation Fund*

Help us reach our
goal of \$150,000



STEEPLE PRESERVATION PROJECT

The Steeple Preservation Committee is happy to report that as of July 29th we have raised over \$100,000 for the restoration of the exterior of the steeple. This means that we are two thirds of the way to our goal of \$150,000. We need your help to take us to our goal and beyond.

You will see as you pass by the Church that the intricate scaffolding is reaching to the heavens outside. Work is beginning this week to replace the rotting wood and to reconstruct the steeple as it exists today and has for the last 149 years. With the use of the latest composite materials, it is our hope that this new sheathing will last for another 75 years at least. It will take three months to complete the project at a cost of approximately \$330,000.

Our theme of “Inspiring Generations” is becoming a reality thanks to your generosity. We are helping to insure that our steeple remains a beacon of hope, inclusion, and a sign of our faithful commitment to our community well into the future.



Photographer: Amy Rollins

If you have not yet joined the many who have made their commitment, we hope you will do so to preserve our historic steeple. In preparation for this campaign, we made a short film entitled “A Steeple Story.” Watch it here: <https://vimeo.com/schierholt/review/567578168/8e9bd8d6a9>. It is the story of our steeple, how steeples came into being, and how steeples are constructed. It was made by a local filmmaker, Dale Schierholtz, and is narrated by our own Roger Burke.

Gifts can be made over a three-year period to the Steeple Preservation Fund by contacting the Church Office for a pledge card or by going to our Facebook page where we have a special donate button for the Steeple Preservation Fund.



Welcome Newcomers!

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH?

We would welcome the opportunity to get to know you better and to share information about the life and mission of our congregation. Please join us for a Newcomer Orientation Session: **September 19**, or **October 3** at 11:00 a.m. at the Church and via Zoom (Call 236-4821 for a link). The content of both sessions will be the same and you will

only be asked to attend one of them. Attending these sessions opens a door into getting more connected and does not come with the expectation that you will choose to join the Church. If you feel moved to join our faith community, you can do so during the Sunday morning worship service on **October 17**. You will have the opportunity to join while on Zoom or live in the sanctuary. Please contact the Church Office at 236-4821 to register for one of our Newcomer Orientation Sessions.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING CONTRIBUTIONS AND PLEDGES!

In this ever-changing pandemic, please remember to send your donations in an envelope to the First Congregational Church, 55 Elm Street, Camden, ME 04843. Our buildings may be closed but we are bustling with activity and continuing to give to the local community through Heavenly Threads, Outreach and Shields Mission Project. We have a provision for “e-giving,” on the Home page on our website (www.camdenucc.org) where you will find



our **“DONATE”** button on the top right. By pushing that button, you can set yourself up to make a gift or you can exercise a myriad of options to give to the Church. You can choose to **direct your gift to General Fund, Shields Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing, Outreach Fund, or Friends of Music.** If you have any difficulty or questions, call the Church Office.

Shop 'til You Drop and Help Survivors of Domestic Violence

Support the work of New Hope for Women (NHFV) and shop at the organization’s annual Pop Up Shop, August 19-21 at the Flanagan Community Center, 61 Limerock Street in Rockland. According to NHFV, incidences of domestic abuse increased in both number and intensity during the pandemic, for example:

- In FY19, NHFV provided 203 shelter nights; in FY20, that increased to 3,058.
- Helpline calls rose from 586 to 733.
- Electronic contacts increased from 175 to 557.
- During the first year of the pandemic, NHFV provided 5,016 emergency shelter nights, a 25-fold increase from the previous year.

The shop will have quality new and gently used women’s clothing and accessories, including boutique collections from nationally-known designers. Tickets are required for VIP night on the 19th; community shopping days are ticket-free. Visit newhopeforwomen.org for further details.

Calling Hospitality Connoisseurs

If you:

- Love to entertain
- Enjoy chatting with friends
- Want to get to know more people
- Like to organize and teach others

this volunteer opportunity is made for you!

As the Coordinator of our Sunday **Higher Ground Coffee Hour**, you’ll get to shape the new, reconstituted post-Covid coffee hour, bringing fresh new ideas to this



important hospitality service for your fellow friends in faith. And you’ll make new friends as you coordinate our team of dedicated and energetic hospitality volunteers.

Along with the once-a-year scheduling of teams, you will also enjoy the role of occasional ordering of supplies, monitoring expenses, and relishing the delivery on Sunday mornings of delicious fresh-roast coffee, fruit and pastries. It’s an opportunity unfolding in *YOUR* way that promises to be great fun! Contact the Church Office to volunteer.



**NEWS FROM
HEAVENLY THREADS**
OUR SOS SHOP URGENTLY
NEEDS GOOD QUALITY
CLOTHING

Donate and/or Shop: Tues-Sat 10-3

Thinking of donating to us? *Right now, we really need good quality clothing for our SOS shop.* And as winter approaches, we're happy to receive warm coats and jackets, all sizes. And if you're bringing food for the SOS pantry, consider donating some pop-top cans of food for homeless folks that don't have a place to cook a meal. Note: We cannot accept small appliances, electronics, or any large objects.

**IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR
CUSTODIAN OF FACILITIES &
GROUNDS**

This is a full-time year-round position.
Good pay and time-off benefits.
Wonderful opportunity for the right individual.

Request Application:

Call: (207) 236-4821

email: churchoffice@camdenucc.org

or

Send Work History/Resume to:

Custodian Search Committee

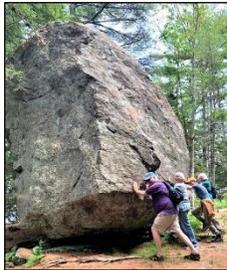
First Congregation Church, UCC

55 Elm St., Camden

Apply By: August 10, 2021

GET INVOLVED - CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Now that Sunday Worship is held again in the Sanctuary, volunteers are once again needed. We've had several calls from Church members who no longer drive and would like to attend in-person services. We'll establish a schedule, and you only need drive once a month. There are also opportunities to assist with our in-person service as a Greeter, an Usher, or as a Liturgist. And we're hoping to have Fellowship Hour in the fall and there's an opportunity to become coordinator and make new friends while you use your hospitality skills. Sign-up sheets are in the Mayflower Room or call or email the Church Office to volunteer.



NATURE ROCKS! CONNECT WITH NATURE AND FRIENDS

Sunday, August 22nd we're planning a swim/boat event on Megunticook Lake.

Sunday, September 12th beginning at 1:30 pm we will have a hike on the Round the Mountain Trail in Hope. Watch for details.

Sunday, October 10th we hope to have a tour and discussion of a blueberry barren on Appleton Ridge. The blueberry fields should be in gorgeous red bloom by then. Again, more details to be sent later.



Congregational Life

SUNDAY WORSHIP: *Hybrid Worship on Sundays at 9:30 am (in Sanctuary and on Zoom): No reservation needed. People on our All-Church Zoom Mailing list will get an invitation by Friday each week, with a unique meeting number to join worship each Sunday. To add your name to this list, call the office or email becky@camdenucc.org.*

MEMORIAL SERVICES:

For **Barbara Lamb**: Saturday, August 7th at 11 a.m. in the Church and via Zoom. Call the Church Office for a link.

For **Robert Lannamann**, Nancy Laite's Father: Tuesday, August 3rd at 11 a.m. at the First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1 Central Street, Camden. All are welcome. A private scattering of ashes follows in the Memory Garden on August 3 at 4 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!			
Day/Date	Time	Event	Comments
Tuesdays	8:30 a.m.	Lectio Divina Meditation	Call the office or email becky@camdenucc.org for Zoom invite.
Wednesdays	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting	
8/5 Thursday	5-5:45 p.m.	Mindfulness Meditation (#5) with Ute	In-person at Church and via Zoom. Contact ute@camdenucc.org for Zoom invite.
Thursdays	12:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl Knitters/Crocheters	In-person (Mayflower Room) & via Zoom. Contact bbrace@camdenucc.org for Zoom invite.
8/3 Tuesday	11 a.m.	Memorial Service for Robert Lannamann, Nancy Laite's Father	First Church of Christ, Scientist, 1 Central Street, Camden
8/7 Saturday	11 a.m.	Celebration of Life for Barbara Lamb	In Church and via Zoom. Call the Church Office for a link.
8/10 Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Budget Subcommittee	In-person at Church and via Zoom
8/22 Sunday	TBD	Megunticook Lake Swimming/Boating	Stay tuned for details
9/12 Sunday	TBD	Hike "Round the Mountain Trail" in Hope	Stay tuned for details
9/19 Thursday	11 a.m.	Newcomer Orientation	In Church and via Zoom. Call Office for link
10/3 Friday	11 a.m.	Newcomer Orientation	In Church and via Zoom. Call Office for link
10/10 Sunday	TBD	Blueberry Barren Tour, Appleton Ridge	Stay tuned for details
10/20 Wednesday	TBD	Racial Justice Discussion Group: Maine's Indigenous Peoples	Rich Stuart and Skip Hoblin facilitate. Contact Mimi Benedict to join the discussion: mimibenedict@gmail.com

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Ute S. Molitor, Minister among Ministers
 Jeanne Denny, Shields Mission Project Administrator
 Elizabeth Lally, Director of Christian Ed
 Emily Bennett & Lara Webb, Sunday School Caregivers
 Matthew Mainster, Director of Music
 Tabitha Woodbury, Full Charge Bookkeeper
 Becky Brace, Office Manager (Susan Yoder/Essie Sexton covering July 20-Aug 11)
 Melissa Chapman, Manager, Heavenly Threads
 Beth Gerrish, Assistant Manager, Heavenly Threads
 Wayne Berry, Director of Facilities
 Ian Mackenzie, IT & Zoom Support
 Office hours Monday through Friday 8:30-3:30

55 Elm Street, Camden, Maine 04843 207.236.4821 phone • 207.236.4822 fax
 Web site: www.camdenucc.org Email: churchoffice@camdenucc.org
 Home of Boy Scout Troop & Pack 200, Girl Scout Troop 1341