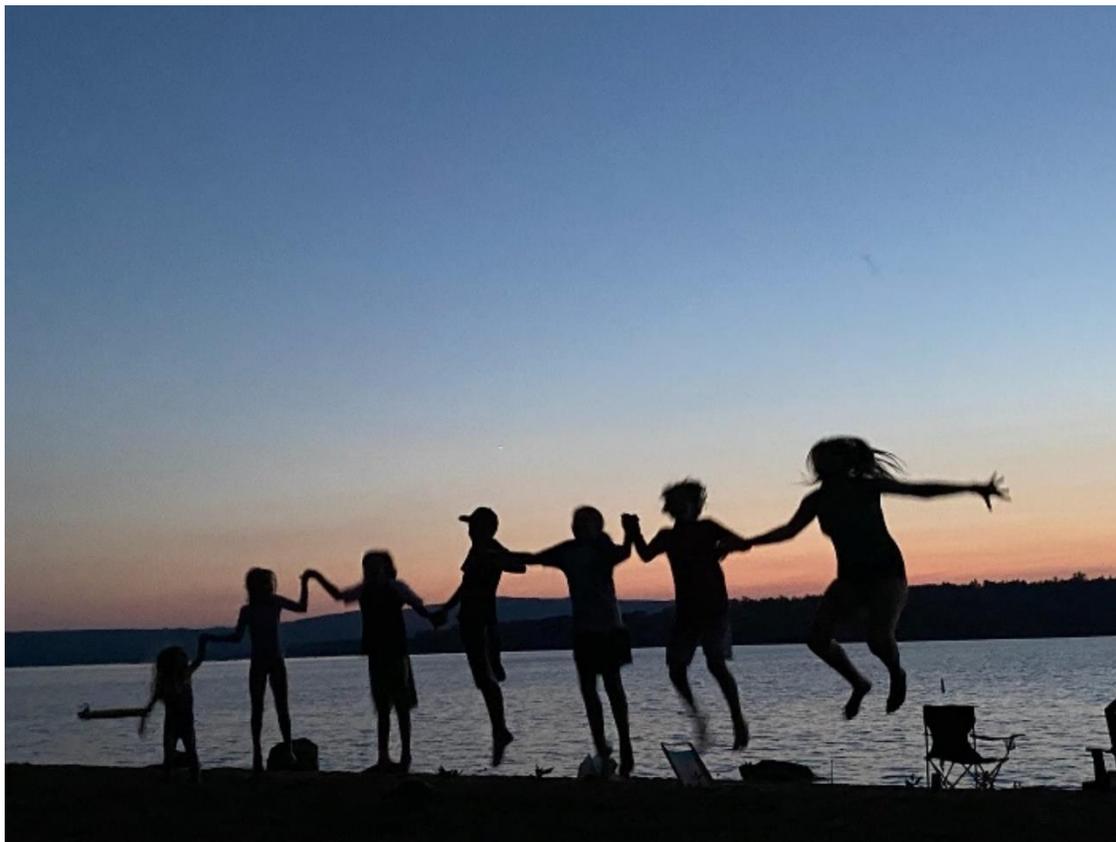


**16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**SEPTEMBER 12, 2021**

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

**FAITH FORMATION SUNDAY & SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF**



**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 the green Share Screen icon, that's only for the HOST!**

This avoids the service being interrupted whenever you move or speak at home



## THE SERVICE OF WELCOME

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE      Selections from *Six Songs, Op. 13* — Clara Schumann  
\* The Edgewater Duo: Dean Zhang, piano and Ben Chen, clarinet

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP Allie VanRyn

Leader: Calling all children of the living God.

**People: Let us worship together, the young and the old.**

Leader: The good news is proclaimed in God's words, in how we care for each other,  
with pencils, crayons, songs, and snacks.

**People: Let us worship together, every generation.**

Leader: Let us learn together how God's great love sustains us all even in this pandemic.  
We are one whether we are here in person or participating from home.

**All: Let us worship together with our family of faith, united in Christ.**

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

For the beauty of the earth  
For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies.

*Refrain*  
*Lord of all, to Thee we raise,*  
*This our hymn of grateful praise.*

For the beauty of each hour,  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon, and stars of light.  
*Refrain*

For the joy of ear and eye,  
For the heart and mind's delight,

For the mystic harmony  
Linking sense to sound and sight.  
*Refrain*

For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth and friends above,  
For all gentle thoughts and mild.  
*Refrain*

For thy church, that evermore  
Lifteth holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore  
Her pure sacrifice of love.  
*Refrain*

\* UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION Jenna VanRyn

**God our teacher, who helps us to understand the world around us. You have given our children minds that grow and develop in unique ways, at unique speeds, and we are astounded by that miracle. Your Spirit speaks to us all through the words, actions, play, and feelings of children. You speak to us through the wisdom of our elders. Bless us all with curiosity and courage that we may learn together who you are calling us to be in our time and place. As we celebrate the beginning of this school year and Sunday School year, we ask for your special blessings upon our children and all who teach and support them. In Christ's name we pray. 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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Elizabeth Lally and Zella Walker

HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Proverbs 1: 20-33

Allie VanRyn, Aaron Dowd

Wisdom shouts in the street, she raises her voice in the public square; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the gates in the city she declares her sayings: "How long, you naive ones, will you love simplistic thinking? And how long will scoffers delight themselves in scoffing And fools hate knowledge? Turn to my rebuke, behold, I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. I called and you refused, I stretched out my hand and no one paid attention; and you neglected all my advice and did not want my rebuke; I will also laugh at your disaster; I will mock when your dread comes, When your dread comes like a storm and your disaster comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you, then they will call on me, but I will not answer. They will seek me diligently but will not find me, because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD. They did not accept my advice; they disdainfully rejected every rebuke from me. So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own schemes. For the faithlessness of the naive will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them. But whoever listens to me will live securely and will be at ease from the dread of evil."

GOSPEL

Mark 8:27-38

Jesus and his disciples headed out for the villages around Caesarea Philippi. As they walked, he asked, "Who do the people say I am?" "Some say 'John the Baptizer,'" they said. "Others say 'Elijah.' Still others say 'one of the prophets.'" He then asked, "And you—what are you saying about me? Who am I?" Peter gave the answer: "You are the Christ, the Messiah." Jesus warned them to keep it quiet, not to breathe a word of it to anyone. He then began explaining things to them: "It is necessary that the Human One proceed to an ordeal of suffering, be tried and found guilty by the elders, high priests, and religion scholars, be killed, and after three days rise up alive." He said this simply and clearly so they couldn't miss it. But Peter grabbed him in protest. Turning and seeing his disciples wavering, wondering what to believe, Jesus confronted Peter. "Peter, get out of my way! Satan, get lost! You have no idea how God works." Calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; *I* am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to saving yourself, your true self. What good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you? What could you ever trade your soul for? If any of you are embarrassed over me and the way I'm leading you when you get around your fickle and unfocused friends, know that you'll be an even greater embarrassment to the Human One when he arrives in all the splendor of The Holy One, with an army of the holy angels."

## THE SERVICE OF GRATITUDE

### HYMN

*Christ The Lord is With Me*

Performed by Steffany Gretzinger

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O99QX5qdZkA>

### SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

*Please send your joys and concerns to Ute at [ute@camdenucc.org](mailto:ute@camdenucc.org) or leave a message on Ute's voice mail (236-4821). During the worship time, you can write a prayer in via the chat function at the bottom of the screen. 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 (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.**

### OFFERTORY INVITATION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *The Heavens are Telling* — Haydn/arr. David Len Allen)

\* Sanctuary Choir

### UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of all life, we thank you for your generosity which fills our universe. We ask your blessings on the gifts we bring today. We pray for the gift of knowing how deeply we are interconnected with all others in this world. May we learn to share our resources in the way you have intended so that no child may go hungry or feel abandoned. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

\* CLOSING HYMN #487 *Help Us Accept Each Other*

Help us accept each other  
as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother,  
each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us  
and bring us to believe  
we are ourselves accepted,  
and meant to love and live.

Let your acceptance change us,  
so that we may be moved  
in living situations  
to do the truth in love,  
to practice your acceptance  
until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness,  
and laughter's healing art.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,  
as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human  
and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people,  
for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them,  
or as they may become.

Lord, for today's encounters  
with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance,  
for righteousness and bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing,  
new hands for holding on;  
renew us with your Spirit,  
Lord, free us, make us one!

\* BENEDICTION

\* SUNG BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Go My Children* —Jaroslav J. Vajda  
*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 *Vals Venezolano* — Paquito D'Rivera  
\* The Edgewater Duo: Dean Zhang, piano and Ben Chen, clarinet

**OUR THANKS TO TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS!**

Deacon on Site: Terri Mackenzie Greeters: Meg Thomas, Rich Stuart, Allie VanRyn  
Deacon on Site/Zoom: Michael Griffiths Ushers: Melvin Achorn, Scott Achorn

**AND TO TODAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS!**

Main Entrance Greeter: Allie VanRyn  
Sanctuary greeters: Finlay Woodbury, Jenna Van Ryn  
Bell Ringer: Cian Lally  
Candle Lighters: Lorelai Crosslin, Torin Lally  
Prayer leads: Allie VanRyn (Call to Worship), Jenna VanRyn (Prayer of Invocation)  
Scripture Readers: Allie VanRyn, Aaron Dowd

Please join us for Virtual Coffee Hour, an on-line zoom conversation for  
fellowship following the service. Get your coffee ready!  
Welcome to all who worship with us today.

Inspiring  
Generations:  
The Steeple  
Preservation Fund  
Help us reach our  
goal of \$150,000



## Our Steeple Preservation Project

Our Steeple Preservation Committee is happy to report that as of September 9, 2021 we have raised nearly **\$124,000** for the restoration of the exterior of the steeple. We're moving steadily toward our goal of \$150,000 and need your help to reach that goal.

It will take three months to complete the project at a cost of approximately \$330,000. Watch "A Steeple Story" to learn more:

<https://vimeo.com/schierholt/review/567578168/8e9bd8d6a9>.

If you have not yet joined the many who have made their commitment, we hope you will do so to preserve our historic steeple. Gifts can be made over a three-year period by contacting the Church Office for a pledge card or by going to [camdenucc.org](http://camdenucc.org), where we have a button for the Steeple Preservation Fund.

## MUSIC NOTES FROM MATT ♪♪

Don't miss our LIVE Friends of Music concert

TODAY at 4 p.m.!

**Join the Edgewater Duo (clarinet and piano) as they celebrate their 10th anniversary THIS Sunday at 4 p.m. in the church sanctuary!**

A decade has flown by sharing joy and community through music making. You won't want to miss their program of surprising transcriptions, rare finds, and barn-burners that'll leave you with a tune in your ear and a smile in your heart. Masks required for all audience members; we regret there will be no reception. The concert is free but donations are cheerfully accepted at the door or on the church website: <https://rb.gy/bxzciv> (just type the desired amount into the "Friends of Music" column).

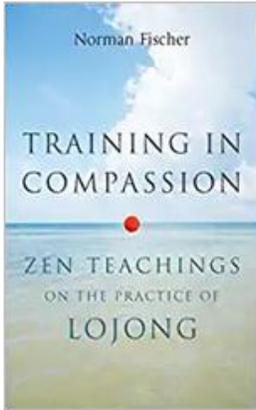
## Welcome Newcomers!

### WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH?

We welcome the opportunity to get to know you better and to share information about the life and mission of our congregation. Attending a Newcomer Orientation Session opens a door into getting more connected and does not come with the expectation that you will choose to join the Church.



Please join us either **next Sunday, September 19**, or **Sunday, October 3** at 11:00 a.m. at the Church or via Zoom (Call 236-4821 for a link by Friday noon prior). Both sessions are the same so you only need to attend one. 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 be part of the live service in the sanctuary. Please contact the Church Office at 236-4821 to register for one of our Newcomer Sessions.



## Cultivating a Compassionate and Resilient Mind

### A New Book Study beginning September 30 ~ 4 sessions

Starting this month, a new book discussion and meditation group, led by FCC member Jean Forest, RN, MA, will read and discuss *Training in Compassion: Zen Teachings on the Practice of Lojong* by Norman Fischer. The four-week course begins Thursday, September 30. Our reading and exploration will be a beginning of a lifetime practice. Join us for this engaging journey with Jean Forest. To sign up, please contact the office 236-4821 or [becky@camdenucc.org](mailto:becky@camdenucc.org), Please plan to borrow or buy the book in advance.

*The course begins on Thursday, Sep. 30, and continues for the following three Thursdays, October 7, 14 and 21, from 5 – 6:30 p.m. (place to be determined).*



## “One Night Without a Home”

Homelessness in the Midcoast is often invisible. Imagine moving through each day not knowing where you'll rest at its end. Half of the 500 people impacted daily by homelessness in the Midcoast are children.

This year we will have the privilege of participating in a fundraising and awareness campaign for the Knox County Homeless Coalition called **“One Night Without a Home.”**

Elizabeth recalls, "I will never forget the last time we did this and how cold we were. I felt like shattered glass. I also remember the feeling of deep sadness for families who deal with this, not just for one day...but everyday."

Join Team FCC to support this organization that makes a difference each and every day through thoughtful programming, wraparound case management, and long term support. **The sleep-out on the Camden Village Green will be held on Friday, September 24th.** To participate and/or support the team, or donate to a fundraiser set up to benefit this event, email Elizabeth Lally at [elizabeth@camdenucc.org](mailto:elizabeth@camdenucc.org).

## Our Teens Need Your Gently Used Furniture

The Christian Education Committee is updating one of the basement classrooms for our older youth. We would like to welcome them back to church **this month** with a space that is just right for them. The older youth need a room that doesn't scream "boring conference room." We're hoping to design a room that has more of a lounge feel with comfortable couches, armchairs, and coffee tables. And we need your help! We are looking for furniture donations. Do you have a piece of furniture that might work? A couch, armchair, coffee table, side table, lamp, bookcase? If you think you might have something you would like to donate that is still in good condition, please call Tabitha at 207-415-8177.



## AN INVITATION: Help re-launch a prison circle in the Maine State Prison

*Beginning in the Fall of 2021, the Midcoast Maine Jericho Circle group is planning to re-launch their men's circles in **Maine State Prison in Warren, Maine**. These circles were interrupted by COVID, and have now been approved to resume. Circles run for eight consecutive weeks, and are facilitated by trained teams from The Jericho Circle Project. Each session lasts two hours and gives both 'inside men' and 'outside men' an opportunity to explore forces deep inside themselves. You are invited to learn more about joining them and taking the journey to self-discovery and healing with dedicated men.*

To learn more about joining the Midcoast Maine Jericho Circle Men's Group, and participating in men's circles inside the Maine State Prison in Warren, **contact Jonathan Purinton at [jonathan.purinton@jerichocircle.org](mailto:jonathan.purinton@jerichocircle.org)** You can also contact the church office to obtain a brochure.

## CANCELLED TODAY: CONNECT WITH NATURE HIKE IN HOPE THESE TWO EVENTS WILL BE RESCHEDULED:

- 9/12 Nature Hike on the Round the Mountain Trail in Hope~to be rescheduled.
- 10/10 Tour and discussion of a blueberry barren on Appleton Ridge~to be rescheduled, in order not to interfere with our retirement celebration for Wayne Berry.



### NEWS FROM HEAVENLY THREADS

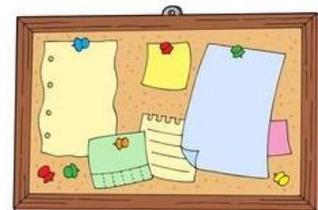
We are embracing fall and all the beautiful colors!  
Come in and see!

**OPEN for shopping & donating  
Tuesday-Saturday 10-3**



## Emporium Listings

**Need a Ride to Church from Quarry Hill?** Marty Martens, Camden UCC church member and Quarry Hill resident, will drive other Quarry Hill residents to church services on Sundays. If you'd like to join the in-person service, give Marty a call at 446-5900. And remember masks are recommended in cars and required in Church!



# SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING CONTRIBUTIONS AND PLEDGES!

Despite the continuing pandemic, we are bustling with activity and continuing to give to the local community through Heavenly Threads, Outreach and Shields Mission Project. In this ever-changing pandemic, please remember to send your donations to the First Congregational Church, 55 Elm Street, Camden, ME 04843. We also have a provision for “e-giving,” on the Church website homepage ([www.camdenucc.org](http://www.camdenucc.org)). Look for the **“DONATE”** button on the top right. By clicking that button, you can exercise a myriad of options to give to the Church. You can choose to **direct your gift to General Fund, Shields Mission, Steeple Fund, Outreach Fund, or Friends of Music.** If you have any difficulty or questions, call the Church Office.



### GET INVOLVED – CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS...

Now that Sunday Worship is held in the Sanctuary, volunteers are once again needed.

### OFTEN, IT'S GIVING SOMEONE A RIDE TO & FROM CHURCH ON SUNDAY

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.

### HELPING DURING THE CHURCH SERVICE ON SUNDAY

There are also opportunities to assist with our in-person service as a Greeter, an Usher, or as a Liturgist.

### HEADING UP THE COFFEE HOUR TEAMS

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 outside the office, or contact the Church Office to volunteer yourself and your time. 236-4821 or [becky@camdenucc.org](mailto:becky@camdenucc.org)**

### BRINGING FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR ON SUNDAY

**Sign-up on the flower poster in the Pilgrim Room** or contact the office to list your name. You can also mention whether the flowers are in honor or memory of someone. 236-4821 or [becky@camdenucc.org](mailto:becky@camdenucc.org)



**SUNDAY WORSHIP: Hybrid Worship on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. (in the 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 Zoom meeting number to join worship each Sunday. To add your name to this list, call the office or email [becky@camdenucc.org](mailto:becky@camdenucc.org).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!			
Date/Day	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	
Thursdays	12:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl Knitters/Crocheters	<b>Note: by Zoom only at this time.</b> Contact becky@camdenucc.org for Zoom invite.
9/14 Tuesday	4:00 pm	Communications Committee	Meet in person at Proforma
9/14 Tuesday	4:45 pm	Membership Committee	
9/15 Wednesday	4:30 pm	Women's Retreat Committee	
9/19 Sunday	11 a.m.	Newcomer Orientation	In Church and via Zoom. Call Office for link.
<b>9/29 Wednesday</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Loving Kindness Meditation</b>	<b>Note change of date from 9/22</b>
<b>9/30 Thursday</b>	<b>5-6:30 pm</b>	<b>Book Study with Jean Forest begins, Week #1</b>	<i>Training in Compassion</i> , Norman Fischer please obtain the book & call office to sign up.
10/3 Sunday	11 a.m.	Newcomer Orientation	In Church and via Zoom. Call Office for link.
10/7 Thursday	5-6:30 pm	Book Study with Jean Forest Week #2	<i>Training in Compassion</i> , Norman Fischer Place to be determined
<b>10/10 Sunday</b>	<b>After worship</b>	<b>Retirement Party here</b>	<b>To appreciate &amp; thank Wayne Berry</b>
10/14 Thursday	5-6:30 pm	Book Study with Jean Forest Week #3	<i>Training in Compassion</i> , Norman Fischer Place to be determined
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
10/21 Thursday	5-6:30 pm	Book Study with Jean Forest Week #4	<i>Training in Compassion</i> , Norman Fischer Place to be determined

### Would you like to help a UCC Pastor with her research?

Gayle Bach-Watson attended church here as a child. She is now an ordained UCC minister and is in a doctoral program. Her topic has to do with trust and change in local congregations. She is inviting anyone who is interested to participate in her survey (see link below): it takes about 10 minutes. Here is her intro to the topic:

*One of the most serious issues that congregations face is how to make changes necessary to respond to changing circumstances. I am studying how trust affects the resistance to change in the local congregation. I am hoping that my findings can be used to help local churches as they navigate these difficult times.*

Participation is totally anonymous.

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/summary/d83lsa9t0l8X03cNF9UHZ0xky6aXajgZ3rYcTbCyr14auUnhaxQfMC7lOukv\\_2Bive?ut\\_source=my\\_surveys\\_list](https://www.surveymonkey.com/summary/d83lsa9t0l8X03cNF9UHZ0xky6aXajgZ3rYcTbCyr14auUnhaxQfMC7lOukv_2Bive?ut_source=my_surveys_list)



As many of you already know, after 11 years of meaningful hard work, our wonderful **Wayne Berry retired as Custodian of our Buildings and Grounds**. Friday, September 3 was his last day. As difficult as it is to say goodbye to him, one thing that does help is that we have been lucky enough to hire a new custodian who has thankfully had the opportunity to train with Wayne this past week. The new custodian is Ryan Berry – and yes, he is Wayne's son! Ryan lives in Hope, and comes to us having many years of experience including working as a maintenance engineer at Point Lookout until its closure and most recently as the sole proprietor of his own carpentry and repair business. Please join us in welcoming Ryan.

**On Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, following worship, we will celebrate Wayne's retirement here in the church building.** It is not yet clear how COVID restrictions will affect the way we honor him on that day, but please save the date.

In the meantime, we are putting together a basket of notes and thank-you cards to give to Wayne. **Please take this opportunity to send your note to Wayne Berry at the church (55 Elm Street, Camden, ME 04843).** If you happen to be at church before then, there are blank cards and notes available for your use on the Opportunities Table outside the church office. The notes will be held and presented to him all together on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

**We are also offering an opportunity for anyone who wishes, to make a contribution to a monetary retirement gift from the whole church to Wayne.** If you wish to donate, please send your check paid to the order of **First Congregational Church** to the church office at the above address and mark in the **memo line “Wayne gift”** so Tabitha can keep track of contributions. You will also find a “Donate” button on our web page if that is more convenient. Thank you.

Amy Rollins, Moderator  
Donna Crane, Personnel Chair  
Meg Thomas, Membership Chair  
Jinx Hufnagel, Membership

## 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  
Melissa Chapman, Manager, Heavenly Threads  
Beth Gerrish, Assistant Manager, Heavenly Threads  
Ryan Berry, Director of Facilities **Welcome, Ryan!**  
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](http://www.camdenucc.org) Email: [churchoffice@camdenucc.org](mailto:churchoffice@camdenucc.org)  
*Home of Boy Scout Troop & Pack 200, Girl Scout Troop 1341*