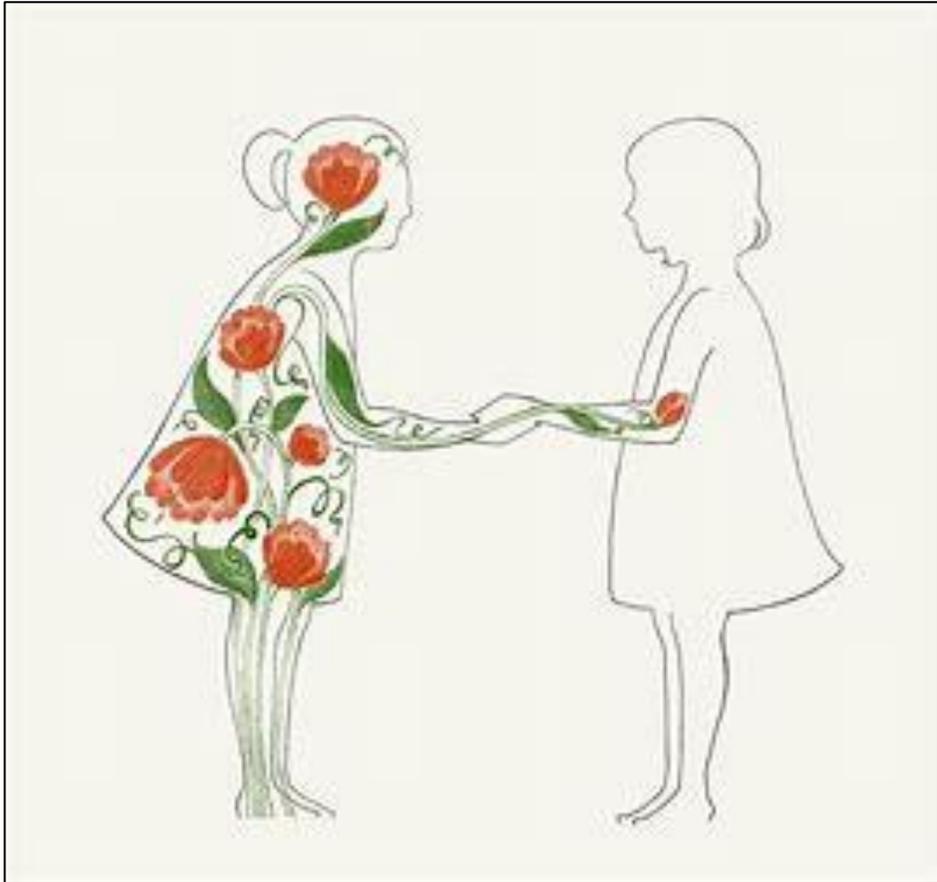


**8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**July 18, 2021**

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



***My work is loving the world.***

**- Mary Oliver -**

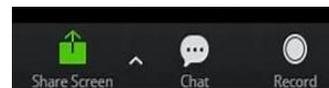
**First Congregational Church of Camden, United Church of Christ**

*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

*Minuet in A major, D. 334* — Franz Schubert  
\*Matt Mainster, piano

### RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP *Adapted from a Wee Book of Worship*

Donna Crane

Leader: Way beyond all journeying, truth behind all mystery, life within all living:

**People: We praise you.**

Leader: Salve for our soreness, mender of our brokenness, midwife of a better future:

**People: We praise you.**

Leader: Ground of all being, conscience of the universe:

**People: We praise you.**

Leader: Maker, redeemer, confessor, companion, befriender, inspirer, God beyond all names:

**All: *We come together from our homes and in this sanctuary in praise for the gift of life and your abiding presence.***

### HYMN #14

*Womb of Life, and Source of Being*

*(Read lyrics down and to the right)*

Womb of life, and source of being, .

home of ev'ry restless heart,

in your arms the worlds awakened;

you have loved us from the start.

We, your children, gather 'round you,

at the table you prepare.

Sharing stories, tears and laughter,

we are nurtured by your care.

Word in flesh, our brother Jesus,

born to bring us second birth,

you have come to stand beside us,

knowing weakness, knowing earth.

Priest who shares our human struggles,

Life of Life, and Death of Death,

risen Christ, come stand among us,

send the Spirit by your breath.

Brooding Spirit, move among us;

be our partner, be our friend.

When our mem'ry fails, remind us whose we are,

what we intend. Labor with us,

aid the birthing of the new world yet to be,

free of servant, lord, and master,

free for love and unity.

Mother, Brother, holy Partner;

Father, Spirit, Only Son:

we would praise your name forever,

one-in-three, and three-in-one.

We would share your life, your passion,

share your word of world made new,

ever singing, ever praising,

one with all, and one with you.

### UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION *Adapted from Bread for the Journey*

Donna Crane

**God of love, you have called us into the church. We thank you for opportunities to grow in understanding and concern for one another. May our congregation be an incarnation of your love within and beyond these church doors, wherever there is loneliness, injustice, or misunderstanding, by the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling within and through us. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

### SPOKEN GLORIA PATRI *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 VIRTUAL PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

*Not an easy peace, not a conditional peace, not a half-hearted peace, but the peace of Christ is with us now.*

*Let us share it with each other:*

**Leader:** The Peace of Christ be always with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Roy Hitchings

### EPISTLE

Ephesians 1: 8b-14

Donna Crane

With all wisdom and insight God has made known to us the mystery of God's will, according to God's good pleasure set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of God who accomplishes all things according to God's counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of God's glory. In Christ you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in Christ, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of the glory of God.

### GOSPEL

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized Jesus, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring those who were sick, on mats, to wherever they heard he was. And wherever Jesus went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid those who were sick in the marketplaces, and begged to touch even the fringe of Jesus' cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

### SERMON

*The Gift of Compassion*

Ute Molitor

## THE SERVICE OF GRATITUDE

### HYMN #546

*Amazing Grace*

(<https://youtu.be/BA7pdABvpnc>) Lyrics included in video

\*Please end video at 3:46 marker

### 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 f*

*or. Please only use first name and keep personal information to a minimum as this will be available publicly.*

### SILENT PRAYER & 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 *Love One Another* — Hal Hopson

Pick-up Choir: Deb Brady, Essie Sexton, Roy Hitchings, Kathryn DerMarderosian

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION *Adapted from Flames of the Spirit*

Donna Crane

**Thank you, God, for the opportunity to share in your creative and restorative work among people. We share our offerings knowing that all people are our kin, in hard times and in good times. May your Holy Spirit guide us as we share with the world from your abundance. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

HYMN #517

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
All thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
Pure unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in thee inherit;  
Let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away our love of sinning;  
Alpha and omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
Let us all thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise thee without ceasing,  
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in thee;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*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

*Rondo from Sonata in A Major, D. 959* — Franz Schubert

\*Matt Mainster, piano

**Our thanks to today's volunteers!**

**Liturgist: Donna Crane**

**Balcony Pickup Choir: Deb Brady, Essie Sexton, Roy Hitchings, Kathryn DerMarderosian**

**Deacon On Site: Terri Mackenzie**

**Greeters: Jane Babbitt, Deborah Cautela**

(names will be updated as our volunteer schedules are put back in place)

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



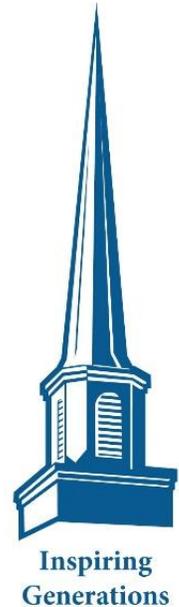
## STEEPLE PRESERVATION PROJECT

Here's a link to our original film, "The Steeple Story." If you haven't seen it, you're in for a treat.

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

The 12-minute video is the story of our steeple, how steeples came into being, and how steeples are constructed. It was made by a wonderful local filmmaker Dale Schierholt and is narrated by our own Roger Burke. Through drone footage taken by Todd Anderson, you will have the opportunity to see the exterior damage which alerted the Trustees to start our initiative to restore the steeple. For those of you who have never been inside a steeple before, you will have a trip up and through the interior of our steeple and will view the bell that has been a part of our church life since 1835.

*Graphic shows Donations as of 7-15-21*



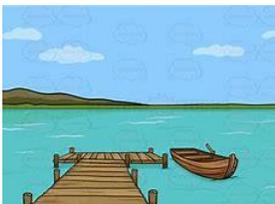
**GOOD NEWS #1: Reservations are NO LONGER NEEDED to attend Worship in person. We are now allowed to have 90 persons in the sanctuary. Masks are still required. Hope to see you on Sunday!**

**GOOD NEWS #2: Now that Sunday worship is held again in the Sanctuary, volunteers are once again needed! Ushers will once again be coordinated by Deacons, and Greeters will be scheduled by Membership. People who want to bring flowers for the Altar can call the office to sign up for a particular Sunday.**



### THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING CONTRIBUTIONS AND PLEDGES!

In this ongoing 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 now have a provision for "e-giving," on the Home page on our website ([www.camdenucc.org](http://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.



### NEW OUTINGS PLANNED FOR CONNECTING WITH NATURE

- 1) On **Sunday, August 22** we're planning a swim/boat event on Megunticook Lake. Stay tuned.
- 2) On **Sunday September 12th** beginning at 1:30 pm we will have a hike on the Round The Mountain Trail in Hope. Details will be sent out as we get closer to that date.
- 3) On **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.



## NEWS FROM HEAVENLY THREADS

Heavenly Threads Thrift Shop continues to be extremely busy with our loyal regular customers and many new people too. Here are our current biggest needs:

Large handled paper bags (need desperately!)

Jewelry of all kinds

Home décor

Anything crafty

Anything else funky or vintage!

We are grateful for everyone's support!

**Shop Hours: Tues-Sat 10-3**

**Donation Hours: Tues-Sat 10-3**

### A Pastoral Message from Ute

Today, we share the news that our former minister, Rev. Kevin Pleas, and Rev. Abby Pettee were married this past Thursday. I am personally glad that they have reconnected with each other in this loving way after losing their dearly beloved spouses, Pam and Bill, to whom they were each devoted. Of course, Pam was particularly dear to so many of you. Abby and Kevin knew each other well as colleagues during Kevin's ministry here. I imagine that this news comes as a surprise to many of you and may need some time to settle in. I wanted to mention that Kevin reached out to me some time ago and was most professional and thoughtful in our conversation. While he is moving back to Camden, he has every intention to honor professional boundaries. Please also know that I am available to you for pastoral conversation if that would be helpful (230-9068). Below, you will find a message from The Rev. Abby Pettee which was published in St. Thomas' Episcopal newsletter.

### A Message from The Rev Abby Pettee

Dear friends in Christ:

I wanted to share joy-filled news with you all. A gift of God's grace.

Yesterday I exchanged marriage vows with Rev. Kevin Pleas. Many of you likely remember him as Senior Pastor at First Congregational Church, here in Camden. He served in this capacity from 2002-2015. During the last couple of years of his ministry here he and I became acquainted with one another as clergy colleagues. In 2020 both of us experienced the death of our spouses. For me and Kevin, our long-term marriages with Pam and Bill were fulfilling and loving. We have begun our life together as husband and wife with a feeling of trust and deep gratitude in our hearts.

Thanks be to God, and to God be the glory.

The Rev. Abby Pettee

### ~ MUSIC NOTES FROM MATT ~

**Mark your calendars for our next Friends of Music concert**

**Don't miss returning favorite, Mes Amis, on Sunday, July 25th at 4 p.m. LIVE in the church sanctuary. This is a surprise addition to our FOM concert season** so please add it to your calendar! Mes Amis is a Maine-based acoustic Gypsy jazz quartet brought together by a love of good music. Theirs in particular is infectious, appealing to listeners young and old alike, with insistent rhythms, bouncing bass lines and sweetly intricate melodies. The concert is free but donations are cheerfully accepted at the door or on the church website: <https://rb.gy/bxzeiv> (just type the desired amount into the "Friends of Music" column).

## MONTHLY RACIAL JUSTICE DISCUSSION GROUP NEWS

The Racial Justice Discussion Group has decided to take the months of July and August off as summer offers us such wonderful opportunities to be out and about after our long COVID shut down.

We are excited to start up again in the fall on the third Wednesday of each month. Our first facilitators this autumn will be Rich Stuart and Skip Hoblin, leading us in a discussion about Indigenous peoples here in Maine. More information to follow in August. If you are interested in joining this group please contact Mimi Benedict: [mimibenedict@gmail.com](mailto:mimibenedict@gmail.com)

### Full Time Custodian of Facilities and Grounds

Successful candidate will perform daily maintenance of physical plant and grounds; handle preparation and after-care for events; perform basic painting, carpentry repairs; work with others to monitor needs for larger repairs and oversee such projects. Person will work supportively with other members of staff, keep buildings and grounds in clean, well-groomed and attractive condition. Must be: conscientious self-starter; reliable; skilled manager of time, materials and equipment. Experience in caretaking, cleaning, painting and carpentry required. High school diploma or equivalent and COVID-19 vaccination both required. Occasional weekend time necessary. 40-hour work week. Smoke-free workplace. Salary based on skills and experience. Call (207) 236-4821 to request application which is due by August 3. Three references required.

First Congregational Church, 55 Elm Street, Camden, Maine 04843



#### **SUNDAY WORSHIP: *Hybrid Worship on Sunday from now on, 9:30 am (in Sanctuary and on Zoom):***

*No reservation needed as Sanctuary approved for 90 persons.*

*People on our All-Church Zoom Mailing list will get an invitation by Friday each week, with a unique meeting # to join worship each Sunday. To add your name to this list, call the office or email [becky@camdenucc.org](mailto:becky@camdenucc.org).*

**Lectio Divina Meditation:** every Tuesday at 8:30 am via Zoom

*If you would like to be added to the group, contact [becky@camdenucc.org](mailto:becky@camdenucc.org)*

**Care Team meets: Tues. July 20, 3 pm**

**Committee Reports to Cabinet due to office Thurs. July 22 by noon**

**Memorial Service for Nan Lasbury Thurs. July 22, 10 am in the Sanctuary: Zoom live link available, contact the office to have it emailed to you: [becky@camdenucc.org](mailto:becky@camdenucc.org)**

**Mindfulness Meditation with Ute, #3: Thurs. July 22, 5-5:45 pm, in-person at church & Zoom**

*If you would like to be added to the group, contact [ute@camdenucc.org](mailto:ute@camdenucc.org)*

**Staff meetings** (online via Zoom) every Wednesday at 9:30 am

**PRAYER SHAWL KNITTERS/CROCHETERS): every Thursday at noon**

(online via Zoom and also in-person, Mayflower Room, pre-registration necessary)

*Contact Becky to be added to the Prayer Shawl Zoom email list.*

## THESE IN-PERSON MEMORIAL SERVICES ARE NOW PLANNED

Contact the office with questions: 236-4821 or [becky@camdenucc.org](mailto:becky@camdenucc.org)

### Nan Lasbury

Thursday, July 22 here in sanctuary, 10 am

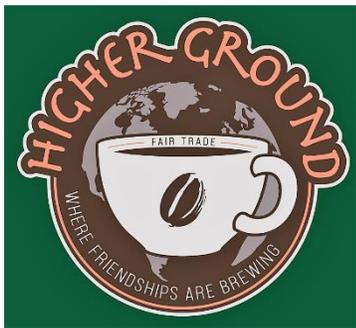
\* Zoom invitation to Nan's service is available, call the office to have it emailed to you.

### Barbara Lamb

Saturday, August 7 here in sanctuary, 11 am \*pre-register

### Betty & Paul Killoran

The family will hold a private graveside service in July, to be followed by a public service later this fall.



## Barista Opening!

Exceptional opportunity for  
Higher Ground Coordinator(s)

It won't be long now before we can greet each other in person after church and enjoy time catching up. Be the *mover and shaker* that you are known for while sharing your gift of hospitality.



As you offer your generous, giving spirit in partnership with your fellow friends in faith, help shape the **new post-COVID-19 Higher Ground Coffee Hour** and get to know each of us in a very special way.

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 for more information at [becky@camdenucc.org](mailto:becky@camdenucc.org)

### 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](http://www.camdenucc.org) Email: [churchoffice@camdenucc.org](mailto:churchoffice@camdenucc.org)  
*Home of Boy Scout Troop & Pack 200, Girl Scout Troop 1341*

## Sweet & Spicy Apricot-Glazed Chicken

This chicken makes a delicious and easy-to-prepare addition to any backyard barbecue. And speaking of backyard barbecues... If you are planning to host a themed barbecue this summer, allow me to offer you some advice: a day at the DMV, a surprise wedding, and the Donner party are all terrible theme ideas. The combination of sweet apricot jam, tart cider vinegar, and spicy Cayenne pepper make this an interesting and delicious recipe for grilled chicken.

### Ingredients: Serves 4 to 6

- Canola oil, for greasing
- 1 cup apricot jam, melted
- 2 tablespoons red bell pepper, finely minced
- 1 scallion, thinly sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled and finely minced
- 2 teaspoons cider vinegar
- ¼ teaspoon ground ginger
- ¼ teaspoon Cayenne pepper
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 whole (4- to 5-pound) chicken, cut into 8 serving pieces and patted dry
- 6 apricots, halved and pitted



### Directions

1. Preheat the grill to medium-low and grease the grate with canola oil. In a mixing bowl, combine the melted apricot jam with the bell pepper, scallion, and garlic. Stir in the vinegar, ginger, and Cayenne pepper. Season the sauce to taste with salt and black pepper. Then, cover with plastic wrap and store in the refrigerator until ready to use.
2. Season both sides of the chicken pieces well with salt and black pepper. Place the chicken on the preheated grill, skin-side-down, and cook until the underside is golden brown, 12 to 15 minutes. Flip the chicken over and brush with half of the reserved apricot glaze. Continue to grill until the chicken is cooked through, another 12 to 15 minutes. (If the chicken gets too dark before it is cooked through, move the chicken to a cooler part of the grill.)
3. Brush the chicken with the remaining half of the apricot glaze. Then, transfer the chicken to a serving platter and allow it to rest for at least 10 minutes before serving.
4. Meanwhile, arrange the apricots, cut-side-down, on the preheated grill. Grill the apricots, turning halfway through, until soft and juicy, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Remove and serve the apricots with the grilled chicken.