



# CREATION JUSTICE MINISTRIES

Care for God's Planet and People.



**EARTH DAY SUNDAY**  
**4-19-2026**

HOLMDEL COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
40 W. Main Street, Holmdel, NJ 07733

*Our mission is to deepen our relationship with God,  
follow Jesus in service to our community,  
and work for justice and peace.*

April 19, 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

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**bold** type denotes collective response

❖ means please rise in body or in spirit.

*Large print bibles, bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers.*

*Hearing enhancement devices are also available.*

*Please remember to turn off your cell phones.*

### WORDS OF MEDITATION

**Beyond their ecological and aesthetic gifts—cooling, shelter, provision, water absorption, and beauty—trees can advance the work of justice by helping us tell the truth about the world we inhabit. Few things shape our perception of reality as deeply as our surroundings. As philosopher Erazim Kohák observed, the environments we construct profoundly influence how we understand existence itself. Though these human-made settings form only “the thinnest of layers covering the rhythm of living nature,” they are the layer we encounter daily.<sup>1</sup> Our homes, streets, and places of work and play continually teach us who we are and what kind of world we live in.**

**PRELUDE**

*Faces of the Forest*

David Lanz

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Nada B. Sellers



**GATHERING PRAYER**

Rev. Nada B. Sellers

*Concluding with The Lord's Prayer...*

**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  
sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not  
into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the  
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**❖ GLORIA**

to the tune of No. 35

**Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ,  
And to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end, Amen. Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Amanda Spagnolia

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Colors of the Wind*

Alan Menkin

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 96  
Genesis 1:1-2:3

Debbie Lakshman  
with Rev. Nada Sellers

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE** *Web of Beauty*

Bret Hesla  
*See Screen*

**Praise to God who has spun the threads of being.  
and turns the universe before our eyes.  
Who has woven this tangled web of beauty,  
that binds me to the earth and sky.**

**SERMON**

**“The Goodness of Everything”** Rev. Nada B. Sellers

☞ **Worship Activity: Seven Stations of Creation** ☞

*Starts on page 14*

*Consult your bulletin insert for instructions on visiting seven locations in the Sanctuary and main entry lobby at the back of the worship area (“Narthex”) in order to reflect, pray, and be guided by Scripture in Genesis 1:1-2:3.*

**SHARING OUR GIFTS**

Call to Generosity

Debbie Lakshman

Musical Offering

*A Call to Silence*

Craig Courtney

❖ **Doxology (Old Hundredth)**

**No. 48**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God, for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One!**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer –

*Congregational response is*

***“The earth is yours, and everything in it,  
the world and all who live in it.”***

❖ **CLOSING HYMN**

***Trees of the Field***

Stuart Dauerman

*See Screen & Page 12 of bulletin*

❖ **BENEDICTION**

Rev. Nada B. Sellers

**POSTLUDE**

*Take Flight*

Kerri Sherwood

***After the Postlude, you are invited to join us next door.  
This is a wonderful opportunity for us  
to connect with one another; coffee and refreshments served!***

**Liturgical Resources:** Meditation found in “The Canopy of Trees” from Creation Justice Ministries

(Footnote 1: Kohák, Erazim. *The Embers and the Stars: A Philosophical Inquiry into the Moral Sense of Nature*. University of Chicago Press, 1984.)

Response “Web of Beauty” B. Hesla, 1992 Used with permission.

Portions of liturgy adapted from “*Plastic Jesus*” *Earth Day Resource, 2024* by Creation Justice Ministries. ([www.creationministries.org](http://www.creationministries.org)) and [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) Earth Day resources;

Shabbat Shalom image from Pinterest – Mary Razzmataz

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**Land Acknowledgement: Our buildings stand on the ancestral land of the Munsee Lenape, Lenape Haki-nk (Lenni-Lenape). We acknowledge these Indigenous Peoples and decry the unjust taking of their land, the unfulfilled promises of U.S. treaties granting land access, and the still unresolved traumas of forced migration, genocide, and theft. We acknowledge and affirm Native American values and Indigenous cultures while holding space for atonement and healing.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Thank you for visiting with us today! It is a pleasure to have you here. Feel free to get information about our church from the table by the church entrance. Please sign our guest book by the door, so that we can send you our monthly newsletter and other information (make sure to include an email address!).

Thanks to today's **Worship Leaders:**

Rev. Nada B. Sellers, Minister; Debbie Lakshman, Liturgist;  
Susan F. Davies, Minister of Music;  
Amanda Spagnolia, Children's Minister;  
Michelle Ucciferri, Slide Changer;  
Matt Snodgrass & Robin Paneque, Sound Board Operators;  
Beth & Peter Mortenson, Greeters/Ushers



The Calico Cat Food Pantry helps support local families in need by supplementing their pantry shelves at home. Holmdel Community UCC is part of a cooperative of churches that support the Food Pantry.

During the month of March, the Church School is collecting **canned vegetables**. Donations for Calico Cat will be offered up **April 26th** on Food Dedication Sunday.

**Pastor**.....Rev. Nada B. Sellers  
**Ministers**.....Members of the Church  
**Minister of Music**.....Susan F. Davies  
**Children's Minister**.....Amanda Spagnolia  
**Office Manager**.....Lynn C. Hudzik

Church Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9:30am – 2:30pm

Pastor's Office Hours: **Tuesday**, 10am – 3pm and

**Thursday**, 10am – 1pm

*and as arranged*

Phone (732) 946-8821; Email: [administrator@holmdelucc.org](mailto:administrator@holmdelucc.org)

[www.holmdelucc.org](http://www.holmdelucc.org)

## **Open and Affirming Statement of 2009**

We rejoice in the good news that in Jesus Christ we find that we are all God's children through faith without distinction. (See Galatians 3:26-28)

God calls all faithful people together to be a community of justice and peace. We lament that throughout history, and even in our own time, churches have silently allowed or actively called for hatred, hostility, and exclusion, and have failed to live up to God's call to inclusion and sanctuary.

Therefore we, the members of Holmdel Community United Church of Christ, covenant together to welcome and embrace all people into the life and ministry of our congregation regardless of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, age, mental and physical condition, race, ethnicity, nationality, or economic status. With God's help, we promise to be a church of open arms and open doors, and to celebrate the diversity that reflects the glory of God's creation. We seek to live as a compassionate community united by faith and diverse in its expression.

APRIL						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10am Service		7:15pm Scouts	2pm Care Team  7:30pm Justice & Peace  8pm Lifeline Group of AA	7:30pm Choir	7pm-9pm Hall Rental	9:30am- Noon Making Earth Day Sandwiches  10am Meditation with Grace  4pm-7pm Open House for Village Foster Closet of Holmdel
APRIL					MAY	
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
10am Service with Food Dedication  Earth Day at Bayonet Farms  5pm Youth Group	10am Bayshore Lunch Program  6pm Men's Fellowship	7:15pm Scouts	8pm Lifeline Group of AA	7:30pm Choir	7pm-9pm Hall Rental	10am Meditation with Grace  8:30am-8:45am; 11:30am-4:15pm Hall Rental
MAY						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10am Service with Children's Communion & Bible Sunday  2nd Hour: Capital Campaign		7:15pm Scouts	7pm Worship & Music  8pm Lifeline Group of AA	7:30pm Choir		10am Meditation with Grace

## “Doxastikon”

Almighty God, who created  
all things with  
wisdom and who watches over  
and guides them by your all-  
powerful hand,  
grant well-being that all  
creation may prosper and  
remain unharmed by hostile  
elements; for you, Master,  
commanded that  
the works of your  
hands should remain unshaken  
until the ends of the age; for  
you spoke and they came into  
being and they receive from  
you mercy for the turning away  
of all harm, and for the  
salvation of the human race  
which glorifies your name  
which is praised above all.  
*from the Orthodox Vespers for  
the Environment*



**Shabbat Shalom**



SPONSORED BY THE HOLMDEL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION &  
CITIZENS FOR INFORMED LAND USE



# EARTH DAY FESTIVAL & GREENWAY WALK



**Sunday, April 26th 2026**  
**Bayonet Farm**  
**12pm-5pm\***

Admission, shows, tours  
and parking are all FREE!



## Greenway Walk\*

Come early to explore the trails at Bayonet Farm! We'll walk a 2 mile loop beginning at the Harding House at **11am** and returning just as the festivities begin.

**Don't forget to visit the bake sale & Red Barn Deli!**



## Exhibits

- Holmdel Historical Society
- Holmdel Green Team
- Monmouth County Master Gardeners
- Save Coastal Wildlife
- Raptor Trust
- Waterspirit
- Master Composters



## Shows & Activities

- Monmouth County Parks Nature on the Move Van, 12pm-4pm
- Doodle Dude, 1:30pm
- Tours of the Harding House at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30pm
- Late4Lunch performs live at the Red Barn
- Mother Earth Drum Circle, 2-4pm
- Eyes of the Wild Mammal Show, 3:30pm

**Bayonet Farm is located at 41 Middletown Road Holmdel, NJ 07733**



The Earth Day Festival will take place outdoors, weather permitting. For more information and weather status updates visit [www.holmdel-cilu.org](http://www.holmdel-cilu.org) or follow us on Facebook.

# You Shall Go Out With Joy

## "The Trees of the Field"

You shall go out with joy— and be led forth with peace;—  
 5 the moun-tains and the hills will break forth be-fore you; there'll be shouts of joy,  
 11 — and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.

### Refrain:

(clap!)  
 X X  
 5 And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;—  
 X X  
 10 the trees of the field will clap their hands;—  
 X X  
 15 the trees of the field will clap their hands—  
 while you go out with joy.—

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN

*Open House*

FOSTER CLOSET



OF HOLMDEL

*Life For All*

APRIL 25 | 4-7PM | HOLMDEL

Learn how the Village Inc leverages local donations and community partnerships to provide essentials to Central NJ's foster families. By keeping generosity local, we help neighbors help neighbors.

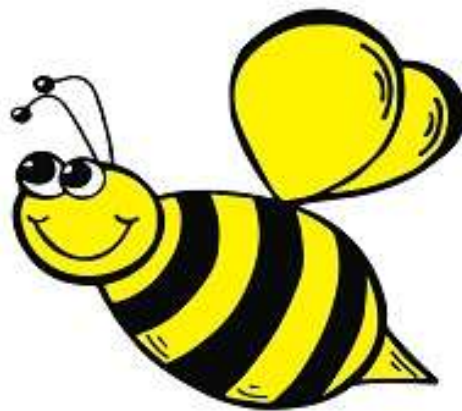
**KINDNESS STARTS**

*With you.*



Attendance includes food, drinks, swag bag. Scan QR code to RSVP.

# BE THE CHURCH



## *Bee for Creation*

,

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

# Seven Stations of Creation Activity

## Earth Day, 2026 @ HCUCC

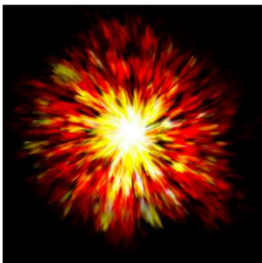
*Find the station for each “day” of creation, by matching the image on the left with the stations in the Sanctuary & Narthex (entry lobby, front steps)  
Reflect as suggested*

### DAY ONE



The “wind from God” or “the spirit of God” = רוּחַ or *rûah* meaning the “breath” of God, lit. How does the presence of God’s breath/spirit at the very beginning of this account, impact your understanding of how much God is invested in Creation and creating? Try following your breath by breathing in – hold 3 seconds – breath out for 3 seconds— pause 3 seconds... REPEAT. Thank God for the breath that lives in you.

### AND



Light and the absence of light powerful metaphors in the Bible. Can you recall some examples – Old or New Testaments? The creation of light is described by the poet as God “separating” light from darkness. What might this indicate about the sources for both?

[Suggestions; Gen 1:14-15, Psalm 112, Isaiah 9:2, 42:16; John 1]

### DAY TWO



Our new musical response for Spring, which we sang earlier during today’s worship service, uses these words: “Praise to God who has spun the threads of being and turns the universe before our eyes...” Consider how God moves in time and space, creating and affecting the

cosmos. Offer a prayer of gratitude as well as petition for God's on-going protection for this beautiful world we live on.

## DAY THREE



The closing part of our new musical response is, “...who has woven this tangled web of beauty that binds me to earth and sky”. Are you an “earth person” or a “sea person”? Why?

## DAY FOUR



Stardust and the beginnings of all that exists come into being here; two “Big lights,” and stars. Day and night and seasons... these cycles are planned and implemented by the Divine. Sit in awe...

## DAY FIVE



Swarming, flying, jumping, splashing... the texts in English but especially in Hebrew are alive and active with the beauty of life in every way. Reproducing, expanding, joyful... Give thanks for all creatures great and small. Use your phone to find some birdsongs, or whale sounds, and rejoice!

Try this one:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/gOKwsujQRiw>

## DAY SIX



*According to the psalmist...*

The Lord has been **mindful of us**; God will bless us...

<sup>13</sup> God will bless those who fear the Lord, both small and great...

<sup>16</sup> The heavens are the Lord's heavens, but **the earth [s/he] has given to human beings.** (115:12b,13,16)

*What has God given to you and how will you respond in caring for earth creatures of every sort?*

## **DAY SEVEN – SABBATH REST**



If God pauses for Sabbath rest, and commands us to do the same (Exodus 20:12-17), how are you doing with keeping sabbath? What changes will you make to deepen your sabbath rest and grow closer to the Holy God, Maker of heaven and earth?

*Bonus Question: When is “sabbath” – Friday or Saturday or Sunday?*

REGISTER & ATTEND...maybe a church watch party?!



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**SAVE THE DATE**

**EARTH SUMMIT**

*A Future with Hope*

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup> @ 1:00 PM ET**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**  
**REV. DR. KENNETH SAMUEL**

**LIVE**

COORDINATE A  
**VIEWING PARTY**  
WITH YOUR CHURCH!

Sources:

Day 3 video: YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/gOKwsujQRiw>

Day 4 image: Webb Image – NASA

Day 7 image: ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK:

<https://www.thetrumpet.com/6377-why-rest-on-the-sabbath-day>