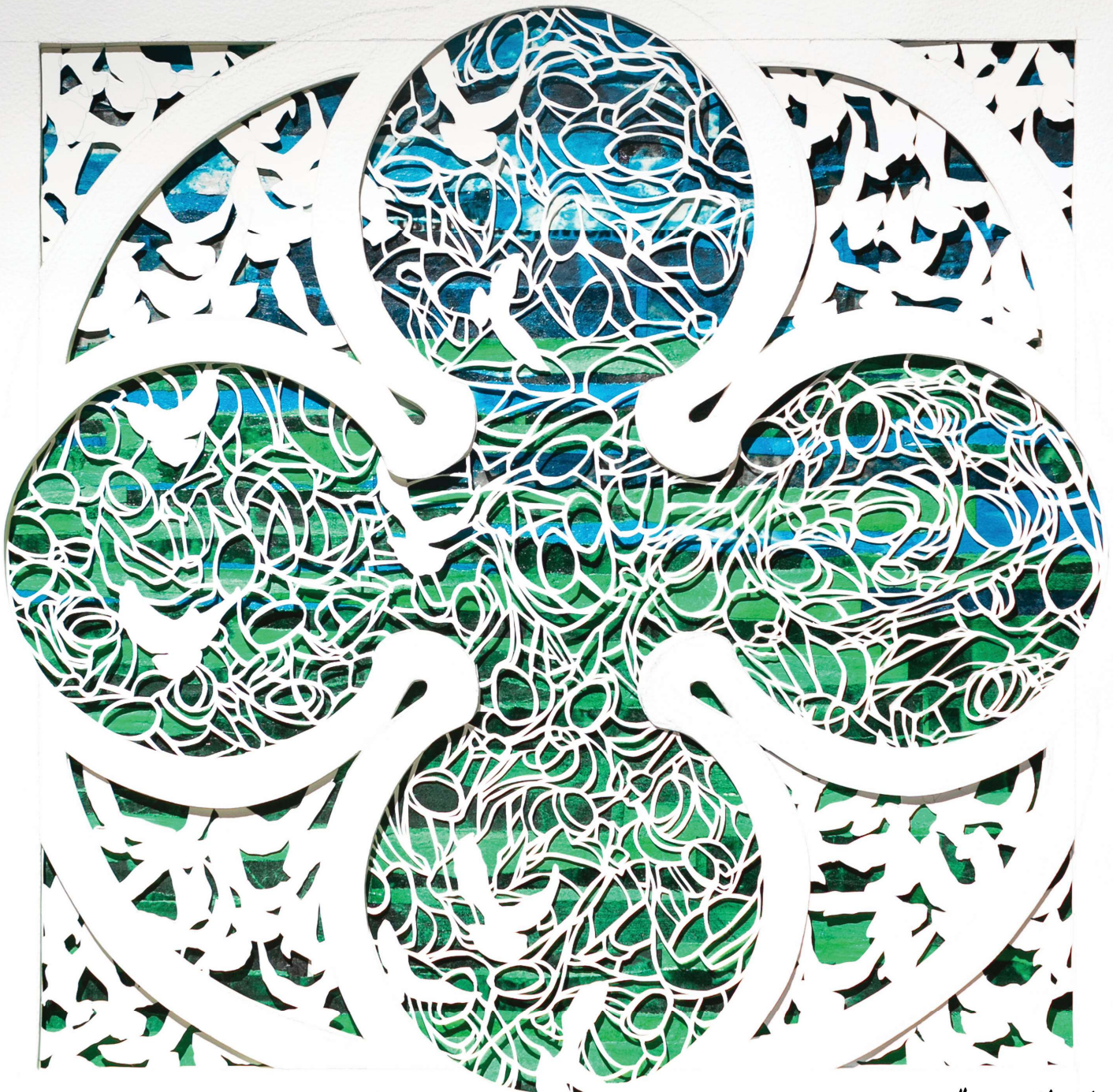


Easter Sunday – April 5, 2026



Harriet Davis

**THE GOOD NEWS IS....
ALIVE IN THE WORLD!**

HOLMDEL COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
40 W. Main Street, Holmdel, NJ 07733
Phone (732) 946-8821; E-mail: administrator@holmdelucc.org
www.holmdelucc.org

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

April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday

❖ *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 FOR MEDITATION

...So friends, every day do something that won't compute.
Love [God]. Love the World.
Work for nothing...Ask questions that have no answers...
As soon as the generals and the politicians
can predict the motions of your mind,
lose it. Leave it as a sign
to mark the false trail, the way
you didn't go. Be like the fox
who makes more tracks than necessary,
some in the wrong direction.
Practice resurrection.

Wendell Berry
"Manifesto: The Wild Liberation Front, 1973"

PRELUDE

Christus Regnat (Jesus Shall Reign)

Joseph Clokey

EASTER GREETINGS!

Christ is RISEN!

Christ is RISEN INDEED!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

❖ **PASSING OF PEACE**

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

INTROIT

Easter Acclamation

SFDavies

❖ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Susan Shaw

On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.

On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.

On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried forever.

But today, we know the good news is alive and well.

The good news is dancing!

The good news is on the loose!

The good news is out in the world, calling your name!

Alleluia! Even death has lost its sting.

Let us worship our good-news God – Christ is alive!

❖ **HYMN**

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

No. 216

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND RENEWAL

Gracious God, we want to be Easter people. We want to shout your good news from the rooftops and follow the disciples as they ran to look for you.

We want to believe the angels, who said, “Be not afraid,” but we are afraid. We don’t know where to look; we’re worried we’ll say the wrong thing or upset the way things are.

Forgive us, for we are messy Easter people.

We are best intentions and best laid plans.

We are an out-of-tune chorus of “alleluias.”

We are on our way, but we are not there yet.

Show us how to embody your good news in this world.

Show us how to be your hopeful Easter people

Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

Just as Christ did not come to condemn but to set us free;
so too is Christ raised from death not to judge but to love.
Set aside your sorrows and instead rise up with joy!

Christ Jesus is alive in the world! We are alive!

This is the good news of this resurrection morning!

Alleluia and amen!

EASTER RESPONSE

Halle Halle Halleluja

No. 41

Hal - le - Hal - le - Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal - le - Hal - le - Hal - le - lu - ja.

G B7 Em Am D7 G C G D

Hal - le - Hal - le - Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal - le - lu - ja.

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. The first line of music is a vocal line with lyrics 'Hal - le - Hal - le - Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal - le - Hal - le - Hal - le - lu - ja.' The second line is a guitar accompaniment with chords G, B7, Em, Am, D7, G, C, G, D and lyrics 'Hal - le - Hal - le - Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal - le - lu - ja.'

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Amanda Spagnolia

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Carpenter's Son

Pamela Martin/
Craig Courtney

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Daniel 10:4-12, *The Message*

Susan Shaw

Matthew 28:1-10, *NRSVue*

Pastor Nada

SERMON

“Our New Normal”

Rev. Nada Sellers

❖ **HYMN**

The Strife Is O'er

No. 221, vv.1-3

CALL TO GENEROSITY

Susan Shaw

MUSICAL OFFERING

He Is Not Here!

Russell Nagy

❖ DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth
(alternate words)

**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!**

SERVICE OF COMMUNION *(receiving Joys & Concerns here)*

Invitation

Communion Prayer with the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father/Mother, 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.**

Institution with Prayer

Sharing Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanks

❖ HYMN

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

No. 233

❖BENEDICTION

**May we go forth from the tomb
Renewed and rededicated to witness to this good news
To live the resurrected life in spirit and in truth
And to be the good news in the world God loves.**

May the grace of Christ, our Brother, the love of God, our Parent
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be and abide with you now and
always.
Amen!

POSTLUDE *Toccata on “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”* Diane Bish

*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!*

**A special thank you to the bakers and decorators for the
Easter goodies!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for visiting with us today! It is a pleasure to have you here. Feel free to take 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!).

Today is Communion Sunday. The invitation to the Lord’s Supper is extended to all. All of our bread is gluten-free and we serve grape juice. We will take a collection for the Loaves & Fishes Fund. The Pastor uses this fund to support people, within and outside of our church, who come to us in crisis.

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

Rev. Nada B. Sellers, Minister; Susan Shaw, Liturgist;
Susan F. Davies, Minister of Music; Amanda Spagnolia, Children's Minister;
Michelle Ucciferri, Slide Changer; Stephen Polly, Sound Board Operator;
Heather & Dave McGoldrick, Greeters/Ushers

AN URGENT UPDATE from PASTOR NADA:

I have been informed by several of our members and friends that on Wednesday April 1st, fraudulent text messages were received on their cell phones from someone pretending to be me. The phone number is not mine, and I am not in any danger or seeking gift cards from you! Do not reply as this is a fraud. Please disregard and report if possible. I'll take any steps I can on my end. By going to <https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-report-spam-text-messages>, you can learn more about how to spot and report spam texts.

Apologies for any inconvenience - See you soon.

Pastor Nada (the real one!)

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
www.holmdelucc.org

Open and Affirming since 2009

We rejoice in the good news that in Jesus Christ we find that we are all God's children through faith without distinction.

“For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” 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.

Liturgy Resources: Front image is *Meet Me in Galilee* by Hannah Garrity, created for *A Sanctified Art* series, “Tell Me Something Good.”

Quote published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc. 1973

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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.



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.



the good news is..

alive in the world

Seeking the Way of Welcome

Beginning April 10, our HCUCC member, Howard Kradjel, will begin a seven-day bicycle pilgrimage along the Camino Sanabrés in Spain.

Each day on the road he'll carry one simple practice of welcome:

To offer financial support for Ward's partnership with the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), please the QR Code below.



**Day 1 — Slow Down
Make space to notice people and places.**

**Day 2 — Listen First
Give others the gift of full attention.**

**Day 3 — Learn and Use Names
Recognize the dignity of each person.**

**Day 4 — Accept Help
Allow yourself to receive hospitality.**

**Day 5 — Practice Curiosity
Meet difference with openness rather than assumption.**

**Day 6 — Honor Dignity
See every person as worthy of respect.**

**Day 7 — Offer Gratitude
Acknowledge the many gifts received along the way.**



Follow along Howard's journey:
<https://www.facebook.com/howardkradjel>

APRIL						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>7am Sunrise Service</p> <p>10am Service with Communion</p> <p>2nd Hour: Children's Program</p> <p>EASTER SUNDAY</p>		<p>7:15pm Scouts</p>	<p>10am-12pm Meeting</p> <p>7pm Worship & Music</p> <p>7:15pm Scouts</p>	<p>7:30pm Choir</p>	<p>7pm-9pm Hall Rental</p>	<p>8am-Noon FH Basement; Large Item Drop-Off</p> <p>10am Meditation with Grace</p>



**American Red Cross Blood Drives
Held at**

**Holmdel Community United Church of Christ
40 Main Street
Holmdel, NJ**

Friday, April 17, 2026 and Friday, June 26, 2026

12p to 5p

Monday, July 20th

1p to 6p

Tuesday, August 25th

12:30p to 5:30p

**Appointments preferred, please scan QR Code to make an
appointment or call 800 RED CROSS**



RedCrossBlood.org/LGBTQ | 1-800-RED CROSS | Download the Blood Donor App



HOLMDEL'S AMERICA 250TH COMMITTEE

SCAVENGER HUNT

APRIL 1-30, 2026

VISIT VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT HOLMDEL

Get Ready to learn about
Holmdel's history and its role
in the Revolutionary War

Scan the QR
code to join
on the
Goosechase
App



- PRIZES FOR TOP TEAMS
- FUN CHALLENGES FOR ALL AGES
- FREE TO JOIN
- FORM A TEAM WITH YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY OR NEIGHBORS

Don't miss out on the adventure of the season — spots are limited!

FREE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE
RECREATION OFFICE AT 732-946-2820 EXT. 1225

