

Holmdel Community, UCC – March 15, 2026



***“The Good News is  
...protection and care for the vulnerable.”***

## Let the Little Children Come

by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

Inspired by Matthew 19:13-15

*11"x14" Acrylic, gold leaf, pen on paper*

*For my little niece, Angelina, whose art rests at the heart of this composition, and in whose joy we glimpse the Kingdom of God—alongside her sisters, Angelika and Ariana.*

At the center of this work is a drawing made by my five-year-old niece, Angelina. I watched her joyfully scribble it in under three minutes, churning out drawing after drawing and handing each one to me with an eager smile. In this piece, she first drew a self-portrait (her wearing a crown), then graciously decided to include me (taking some creative liberties in giving me a third arm!).

I imagine the scene in Matthew 19: toddlers wailing, little ones slipping from their parents' arms, parents offering apologetic glances toward the frowning disciples as the scene around Jesus grows increasingly disorderly and loud. Those of us who've participated in group infant baptisms and baby dedications (when one cries, the chain reaction begins!), have led children's sermon moments with restless kids squirming about, or had the joy of watching our little ones participate in a kids' choir performance that goes delightfully rogue, can easily relate.

The disciples, feeling the weight of being seen as serious leaders alongside their rabbi, Jesus, may have tried to preserve a sense of reverence by shooing away the parents bringing their children to him. Yet here, Jesus reorients his disciples (and us) away from the illusion of control and reminds us that it is the joyful, unruly, sincere presence of a child to whom the kingdom truly belongs. Just a chapter earlier, in

Matthew 18, Jesus tells his followers that unless they become like little children, they will not even enter the kingdom. Surely the disciples thought Jesus couldn't mean that literally—right?

While I've been busy making art, Angelina has been busy *being* an artist. I surely could learn a thing or two from her about inheriting the kingdom.

—Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

**Look:** *Contemplate the gold shapes in the image. What do they represent to you?*

# 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.*

March 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent

**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 for Meditation**

*...The question for us...to ask ourselves and our congregations is  
why do we fear immigrants?*

Luisa & Patrick Cabello Hansel  
*Former Co-pastors in Minneapolis, MN*

## **PRELUDE**

*Surrender*

Marc James

Shared by Robin Paneque & Ginny Smith

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Nada B. Sellers

## **“MAKING ALL THINGS NEW”**

Susan F. Davies

## ❖ GREETING YOUR NEIGHBOR

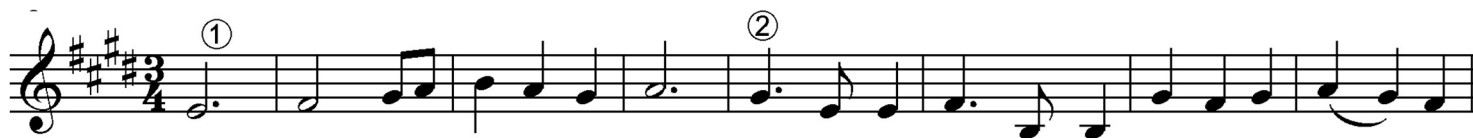
*(Don't forget to turn around and wave to our church family online!)*

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**INTROIT**      *Come, Come Whoever You Are*

Adapted from Rumi/  
Lynn Adair Ungar



Come, come who-ev-er you are, wan-der-er, wor-ship-er, lov-er of leav-ing.



Ours is no car-a-van of\_\_ de-spair. Come, yet a-gain come.\_\_\_

## ❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

Debbie Lakshman

God loves the field mouse.

**God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.**

God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

**God loves the child who rocks and claps.**

God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

**God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.**

God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

**God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens,  
standing strong over all of us.**

God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

**There is no part of creation that God does not love.**

So let us worship this good-news God!

**Amen.**

## ❖ OPENING HYMN

*This is My Father's World*

**No. 59**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*responsively*)

Rev. Nada B. Sellers

God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

**Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.**

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

**We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.**

God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."

**We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.**

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."

**We confess, we have interpreted the good news in unfair ways.**

*Silent prayers...*

**WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. Nada B. Sellers

Fortunately for all of us, God also said, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine."

**By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings, we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.**

May this good news change our lives!

**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**

*Circle of Love*

Pepper Choplin

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Deuteronomy 24:17-22  
Matthew 19:13-15

Debbie Lakshman  
Rev. Nada B. Sellers

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE** *Thank You for the [Word], v. 4* John L. Bell/  
Graham Maule

Thank you for the word, which dark - ness can't con -  
tain, that life, laid down, is raised to life a - gain.

**SERMON**

**“What Matters Most”**

Rev. Nada B. Sellers

∞ *Stillness Music* ∞

**SHARING OUR GIFTS**

Call to Generosity

Debbie Lakshman

Musical Offering

*Lord of the Small*

Dan Forrest/  
Carl Deis

❖ **Doxology (Old Hundredth)**

**No. 48**

*Words by Mary Luti*

**Praise God whose love will never cease,  
whose justice raises up the least  
and sits all creatures at the feast –  
God’s mercy is our hope and peace!**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer 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.**

❖ **CLOSING HYMN**

*Renew Your Church*

**No. 463**

❖ **BENEDICTION**

Rev. Nada B. Sellers

**POSTLUDE**

*Jesus, Priceless Treasure* Johann Gottfried Walther

***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** Front Cover art by Lauren Wright Pittman, *Far More Abundantly*, Sanctified Art series, *Tell Me Something Good* and portions of liturgy adapted from prayers

by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Quote for meditation found at *workingpreacher.org* 2-19-19 “*Being an Immigrant is Not a Sin.*”

L.A. Unger setting of Rumi lyric, permission granted for worship use.

Scripture Response from The Courage To Say No Songbook collection, Iona Community, Wild Goose Worship Group, 1996.

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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!).

Flowers are given this week by Pru Frechette- “In memory of Bill Frechette”.

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

Rev. Nada B. Sellers, Minister; Debbie Lakshman, Liturgist;

Susan F. Davies, Generosity Message Speaker & Minister of Music;

Amanda Spagnolia, Children’s Minister; Michelle Ucciferri, Slide Changer;

Matt Snodgrass, Written Message and Sound Board Operator;

Heather & Dave McGoldrick, Greeters/Ushers

**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)

Yes, it’s only March 15<sup>th</sup>, but keep an eye out for more information  
 on the **Holy Week Services!**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Maundy Thursday                             | 6pm        |
| Good Friday Pilgrimage from the 2 mile mark | 1:30pm     |
| Good Friday Tenebrae Service                | 7:30pm     |
| Easter Sunday                               | 7am & 10am |

To more effectively meet the church’s  
 needs, Pastor Nada’s Office Hours are  
 changing as of this week!  
 ([revnsellers@holmdelucc.org](mailto:revnsellers@holmdelucc.org))

Her Office Hours are:  
 10am – 3pm Tuesdays  
 10am – 1pm Thursdays  
*and as arranged; please feel free to call or  
 email Pastor Nada directly!*



## Pause & Pray – A Weekly Vesper Service for Lent

*Be still and know that I am God... Ps 46:10*

Join us on Wednesdays, during Lent, for Pause & Pray in the Sanctuary, until Holy Week activities. Join Pastor Nada for devotional moments of calm during your busy week! Peace be with you...



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 Sunday School is collecting **pasta and/or sauce in plastic containers or cans**. Donations for Calico Cat will be offered up on Food Dedication Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.



the good news is...

protection & care for  
the vulnerable

**Today!!**

# HCUCC NEW DIRECTIONS

**2<sup>nd</sup> Hours  
March 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>**



re-imagining 2026 & beyond

And the one who was seated on the throne said,  
“See, I am making all things new.” Rev 21:5a

**Come on by for our “Community Café” conversations today, directly following refreshments. Have a seat at the tables with table cloths on them & join the discussion!**

Today!!



# THE GAMES ARCADE

MARCH 15, 2026  
7PM AFTER CHURCH

Yestercades  
80 Broad Street  
Red Bank, NJ 07701

YOUTH  
GROUP

CONTACT TARA OR VAL



The poster features a grid of six icons: a uterus, a magnifying glass over a cell, a pregnant woman, a person with a heart, a bra, and a clock with a uterus. The Interfaith RISE logo is centered below the grid.

**Women's Health Fair**  
Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> | 10AM - 2PM  
1003 Asbury Avenue,  
Asbury Park, NJ

Free health services, wellness talks, and  
community health resources

SEE YOU THERE

Check with Liz for  
carpooling information -  
lizmueller11@gmail.com

| MARCH   |  |   |  |                                   |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 15  | 16                                       | 17  | 18   | 19                                | 20  | 21   |
| 10am Service<br><br>2nd Hour:<br>HCUCC New<br>Directions<br><br>1pm Youth at<br>Yestercades |  | 7:15pm<br>Scouts  | 7pm Pause<br>& Pray<br><br>8pm<br>Lifeline<br>Group of<br>AA                         | 7:30pm<br>Choir                   | Set-up for<br>Pasta<br>Dinner   | 10am<br>Meditation with<br>Grace<br><br>4:30pm - 9pm<br>Pasta Dinner |
| 22  | 23                                       | 24  | 25   | 26                                | 27  | 28   |
| 10am Service<br>with Food<br>Dedication &<br>Confirmation<br><br>Pledge Sunday              | 10am<br>Bayshore<br>Lunch<br>Program     | 10am-12pm<br>I-RISE<br>Women's<br>Health Fair<br><br>7:15pm<br>Scouts | 7pm Pause<br>& Pray<br><br>8pm<br>Lifeline<br>Group of                               | 7:30pm<br>Choir                   |   | 10am<br>Meditation with<br>Grace                                     |
| MARCH   |  |   | APRIL  |                                   |   |  |
| 29  | 30                                       | 31  | 1  | 2                                 | 3   | 4  |
| 10am Service<br><br>Easter Egg<br>Hunt  | 6pm Men's<br>Bible Study &<br>Fellowship | 7:15pm<br>Scouts  | 2pm Care<br>Team<br><br>7pm Pause<br>& Pray<br><br>8pm<br>Lifeline<br>Group of<br>AA | 6pm Maundy<br>Thursday<br>Service | 1:30pm<br>Good<br>Friday<br>Pilgrimage<br>to Delaney<br>Hall<br><br>7:30pm<br>Good<br>Friday<br>Service<br><br>Good<br>Friday | 10am<br>Meditation with<br>Grace                                     |

# *A Taste of Holmdel*

## **SAVE THE DATES**



### **Italian Night! - March 21**

Mar 21, Reservations by Mar 15  
3 seatings - 4:30pm, 6pm & 7:30pm  
**Takeout is available!**



### **Cooking Workshop - Italian Night Prep**

Tues, Mar. 17, Thurs, Mar 19, Fri Mar 20 evenings



### **Earth Day at Bayonet Farm - April 26**

Sandwich Selling on Apr 26

### **Cooking Workshop - Sandwich Prep**

Saturday, April 25, 9am - Noon



### **Mother's Day Brunch - May 10**

### **Father's Day Brunch - June 21**



**Questions & More Information:**

**Email Sue or Diane at [crafts@holmdelucc.org](mailto:crafts@holmdelucc.org)**

# Good Friday Pilgrimage to Delaney Hall Friday April 3

Join us on an ecumenical Good Friday journey from Montclair to Delaney Hall, the ICE Detention Center in Newark. Together we will pray with our feet, show solidarity with our immigrant neighbors, and bear witness to the cruelty towards and crucifixion of immigrants today.



Join us starting at 8am for the full 10 mile walk, or you may join in the first or last section, or the culminating prayer service at 3pm at Delaney Hall. Return rides will be provided.

**8am Gather at First Congregational Church, Montclair (40 S. Fullerton)**

- Option: Join us for the first mile from FCC, Montclair to Christ Episcopal Church in Bloomfield/Glen Ridge

**1:30pm Gather at St. Stephan's Grace Community – ELCA, Ironbound (7 Wilson Avenue Newark NJ)**

- Option: Join us for the 2 mile final leg of the journey from St. Stephan's to Delaney Hall

**3pm Prayer Service at Delaney Hall , 451 Doremus Avenue, Newark**

RSVP and  
Accessibility  
info here:

SCAN ME



[bit.ly/DelaneyHallPilgrimage](https://bit.ly/DelaneyHallPilgrimage)

Join us for the last 2 miles of the march. We will meet in the HCUCC parking lot and carpool. For more information, contact Liz at [lizmueller11@gmail.com](mailto:lizmueller11@gmail.com)



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
BLOOMFIELD & GLEN RIDGE  
St. Stephan's Grace Community - ELCA



UNION  
CONGREGATION  
CHURCH  
United Church of Christ



Glen Ridge Congregational Church



Church of  
Montclair  
Unitarian  
Universalist  
Congregation  
at Montclair



**A TASTE OF HOLMDEL**  
**ITALIAN NIGHT**

**SAT MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> RESERVE TODAY**

TO BENEFIT SYLVIA'S CHILDREN AND THE OPERATING FUND

*Saturday, Mar 21st, Three Seatings: 4:30, 6:00, 7:30*  
*Reserve by March 15th!*



**DINNER MENU**

SERVED FAMILY STYLE  
PENNE & MEATBALLS

MARINARA, VODKA  
OLIVE OIL & GARLIC  
SALAD~GARLIC BREAD  
DRINKS ~ BYOB  
HOME MADE DESSERTS  
VEGAN & GF OPTIONS

**SENIORS**

**\$15**

PER PERSON

**ADULTS**

**\$25**

PER PERSON

CASH~CHECK  
CC\*~VENMO  
@UCCHOLMDEL

**KIDS \$10**

KIDS UNDER 6 FREE

ALL TAKE OUT

**\$25**

\* CC HAS 5% CONVENIENCE FEE

**PICK UP FOR TAKE OUT IS 30 MINS AFTER START OF SEATING TIME**



**HOLMDEL COMMUNITY UCC CHURCH**  
40 MAIN ST, HOLMDEL

**FOR RESERVATIONS: 732 946 8821**  
**OR CRAFTS@HOLMDELUCC.ORG**



I'm here for a reason. If you're reading this, you're also here for a reason. What I'd challenge you to do is take just 10 seconds and think about what that reason is. I'll wait ...

(10 long seconds)

From all of the people reading this, I'm sure there's a variety of reasons that everyone is here at Holmdel Community UCC.

- It's where I grew up.
- My parents took me here.
- My spouse goes here.
- I love the music.
- I love the pastor's message.
- I'm thrilled to see so many children at this church.
- My kids feel like they have friends here.
- I like singing in the choir.
- I feel fulfilled when I volunteer or give back to the community.
- I love how Pastor Nada walks among us during prayer requests.
- This church is aligned with my belief system.
- This serves as my connection to Jesus.

The reasons are many — as varied and different as we each are, and that's a great thing. And for all of the above to happen, it needs our support in the form of our time, talent, and treasure. It's that last one that keeps the lights on, pays salaries, fixes the electricity, provides us new

choral music to enjoy, and gives us a communal home to join with each other in fellowship.

For whatever reason you're here, please consider what you get out of Holmdel Community UCC when you give back to Holmdel Community UCC.

With blessings and love,  
Matthew Snodgrass