

“For the beauty of the earth...”



On [April 6 the Artemis II crew] got to see an "Earthset," in which the Earth dropped below the lunar horizon, and a stunning view of the moon eclipsing the sun:

"No matter how long we look at this, our brains are not processing this image in front of us. It is absolutely spectacular, surreal. I know there's no adjectives. I'm going to need to invent some new ones to describe what we are looking at out this window."

Reid Wiseman

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 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

A prayer of hope is a prayer that disarms you and extends you far
beyond the limits of your own longings.

- Henri Nouwen

PRELUDE

Brother James' Air

Dale Wood

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Nada B. Sellers

❖ GREETING YOUR NEIGHBOR

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

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

INTROIT

Web of Beauty

Bret Hesla

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP

Tammy Yesalonis

One: As we gather, may we open our hearts to receive newness of life.

People: We come with hope for renewal.

One: In our time of worship, may we be inspired by God's wisdom.

People: We come seeking to learn and to draw closer to God.

All: Come, let us worship, as the beloved children of God.

❖ OPENING HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth*

No.56

GATHERING PRAYER

Rev. Nada B. Sellers

Cultivating God,
we want to learn what growth means for our church,
because you are the divine Grower.

**God, we desire for you to abide within us,
and for your grace to be revealed anew daily.**

As your branches, we ask you to nourish us
for the changes we need to embrace.
May you transform our hearts and minds
as we hear your word, sing your praises,
and engage in holy dialogue through prayer.

**May you help us to bear good fruit
through Jesus Christ, the Vine,
in whose name we pray, 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.**

FOOD PANTRY DEDICATION

Rev. Nada B. Sellers

When Jesus met with his friends in the upper room, he shared common meal items -- bread, water, wine -- and he made them holy. May we, in kind, participate in the holy act of sharing these simple items so that all may be nourished, both in body and spirit, at God's great table. Food is a holy and humbling mystery, a shared sacrament that unites us all. God's love is present in the food we receive. God's love is present in the food we give.

God, inspire us to lovingly, joyfully, share with our neighbors.

OFFERING OUR FOOD

Let us bring our food offerings forward mindfully and dedicate them to God, to our church, and to our neighbors, near and far.

DEDICATION OF FOOD

Tammy Yesalonis

Bless this food so that all who receive it may be nourished in both body and spirit by these gifts. We feed others, for what we do for the least of our neighbors, we do for you.

Bless the receivers.

Bless those who have grown, harvested, packaged, and distributed it.

Bless the workers in the fields and factories.

Bless those who have given this food and all who will distribute it.

Bless the givers.

We dedicate this food in the name of our Creator, our Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Blessed be the God who is our daily bread.

God be with us all. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Amanda Spagnolia

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 *Creator God, Creating Still* No. 62

❖ BENEDICTION Rev. Nada B. Sellers

POSTLUDE *Allegro Moderato* G. F. Handel

*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: Cover image taken by the Artemis II crew of NASA;
Portions of liturgy adapted from *Worship Ways*, 5-2-21
by Rev. S.H. Guillaume – Easter 5 – May 2.

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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; Tammy Yesalonis, Liturgist;
Susan F. Davies, Minister of Music; Amanda Spagnolia, Children's Minister;
Michelle Ucciferri, Slide Changer; Stephen Polly, Sound Board Operators;
Vera Kradjel, Greeter/Usher



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 April, the Church School is collecting **canned vegetables**. Donations for Calico Cat will be offered up **TODAY** 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
www.holmdelucc.org

Please plan to stay after the service next week, May 3, for a second hour presentation regarding our upcoming capital campaign.



**YOUTH
GROUP**

Sunday, April 26th
5pm - 6:30pm
Youth Group

Fellowship Hall

Please contact

Tara at tmhennessy81@gmail.com or
Val at valthansen@gmail.com

Monday, April 27th
10:00 - 12:30pm
Bayshore Lunch Program

Community Church of Keyport,
42 Elizabeth Street, Keyport

Please contact Judy at
judybacon52@gmail.com



Monday, April 27th
5pm - 6:30pm
Men's Fellowship Group

Conference Room in
Fellowship Hall

Please contact
Bill at snaponbill@aol.com

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 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 10am-12pm: Sea Bright Municipal Beach Clean-up
MAY						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10am Service with Children's Communion & Bible Sunday 2nd Hour: Capital Campaign		7:15pm Scouts	8pm Lifeline Group of AA	7:30pm Choir		10am Meditation with Grace Font Color Key Conference Rm Fellowship Hall Zoom or Other Sanctuary

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.

**Friday, May 1
Beach Clean-up in Sea Bright
10am to 12pm**

Join us for this Waterspirit event at the Municipal Beach as we work together to protect the sacred waters off the Jersey Shore.

Sea Bright Municipal Beach
1085 Ocean Ave.
Main Parking Lot – Meeting Place
Sea Bright, NJ 07760

Please bring gloves and wear boots or old shoes that can get muddy. After the clean-up Karen Chesney has invited us for pizza on her deck overlooking Sandy Hook. Please register and also let Liz or Karen if you'd like to join us.

Register at: <https://waterspirit.kindful.com/e/beach-cleanup-with-waterspirit-1>.

If you can't attend, you may want to donate to Waterspirit at <https://www.facebook.com/donate/2300512253773429/>





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





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 or follow us on Facebook.