

May 17, 2026 – *The Ascension*



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.*

May 17, 2026

Seventh 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 for Meditation:

In this beautiful rendering of the ascension, Jesus holds out his hands in blessing as he begins to rise to the heavens. The disciples, among whom is one of the women, gaze up at him. Their faces express mixtures of adoration, amazement, curiosity, fear, sadness, and joy. The disciples are finally beginning to realize and understand Jesus' mission. May we too realize that we can embody the risen Christ in the world—loving extravagantly, living abundantly, and promoting justice and peace for all peoples. *(See end of bulletin for information about the artists.)*

PRELUDE

A Heart in the Clouds

Wayne Gratz

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 *Dazzling Bouquet (Mine is the Church)* Bret Hesla

❖ CALL TO WORSHIP *(inspired by Ps. 68)* Jonathan Gilpatrick

Sing to God, lifting your voices to the One who rides the clouds. Let us exult this great Sky-Rider together!

Let the righteous be joyful; let them be jubilant with joy!

Let God rise up! Awesome is God, full of majesty and power.

Let the righteous be joyful; let them rejoice and be glad!

Let God rise up! God's splendor and power extends to God's people.

Let the righteous be joyful; let us join our voices in praise!

❖ OPENING HYMN *I'm Goin'-a Sing When the Spirit Says Sing No.117* in *Lift Every Voice & Sing II*

I'm goin'-a sing* when the Spirit says sing!

I'm goin'-a sing when the Spirit says sing!

I'm goin'-a sing when the Spirit says sing

And obey the Spirit of the Lord!

***pray...shout...sing...**

GATHERING PRAYER

Rev. Nada B. Sellers

❖ 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

Give Us a Vision

Pepper Choplin

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 1:6-16

Jonathan Gilpatrick

Music

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

No. 248 v.3

Come Holy Spirit, heavenly dove,
with your enlivening ways;
come, shed abroad the Savior's love,
and teach our hearts to praise.

John 17:1-11

Rev. Nada B. Sellers

SERMON

"Spirit of Witness"

❖ HYMN

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

***Back of Bulletin
Screen***

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Call to Generosity

Jonathan Gilpatrick

Musical Offering

Revelation Song

Richard Kingsmore

❖ **Doxology** (*Tune is 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 ending with the Casa del Sol version of The Lord's Prayer

**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 are 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.**

❖ **CLOSING HYMN**

*We, Your People,
God, Confessing*

**No.356,
v.1,3,4**

❖ **BENEDICTION**

Rev. Nada B. Sellers

More background information about today's bulletin cover
Our bulletin cover comes from a project by a Christian community of artists in Cameroon, Africa, referred to as "JESUS MAFA." This collaboration from JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were transcribed into paintings.

Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr>

***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 art from JESUS MAFA. "The Ascension," from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, used with permission

@ <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

Portions of liturgy adapted from ucc.org @ *Worship Ways*,
Easter 7A-May 17 by Rev. Dr. C. Lindsay.

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And ONE LICENSE, License #A-700000. All rights reserved.

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; Jonathan Gilpatrick, Liturgist;

Susan F. Davies, Minister of Music;

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

Heather & Dave McGoldrick, Greeters/Ushers;

Stephen Polly, Sound Board Operators

Pastor..... Rev. Nada B. Sellers

Ministers..... Members of the Church

Minister of MusicSusan F. Davies

Children's MinisterAmanda Spagnolia

Office Manager Lynn C. Hudzik

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

Pastor's Office Hours: **Tuesday**, 10am – 3pm; **Thursday**, 10am– 1pm

and as arranged

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

www.holmdelucc.org



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

IMPORTANT: In preparation for our Capital Campaign, Karen Chesney will be sending out email invitations to some of our congregation. Please be on the lookout for these. Please contact Karen at karen.a.chesney@gmail.com if you have any concerns or questions.

Congregational Meeting

The 2026 HCUCC Congregational Meeting will be held on **TODAY** May 17, 2026 following the worship service, at approximately 11:15am in the Sanctuary. All are invited to come and participate, and members may vote. The three main business items are: voting on the 2026-2027 operating budget, election of new lay leaders, and voting to convert the pastor position to full time. Please plan to attend in-person or via zoom. An email was sent on May 1st with all relevant information, including the Zoom link: (<https://bit.ly/HCUCC2026-congregational>). There are hard copies in the Narthex and in Fellowship Hall. If you did not receive a copy, please contact the office.



**This serves as a formal announcement
as required by our church bylaws.**



Celebrate 250th Anniversary of our County with Monmouth County! Scan the QR Code at right to participate in the HCUCC Contribution to this wonderful and fun event throughout the month of May!



We're Hiring!

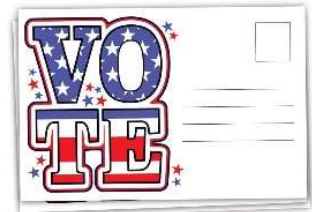
Amanda is looking for a Nursery Caregiver for Sunday Mornings and anyone interested should contact her directly at YouthMinister@holmdelucc.org

POSTCARD WRITING

May 18th, 9:15am-11:15am.

Honeybell Coffee in Bell Works, Holmdel NJ.

Contact Liz at lizmueller11@gmail.com



2nd Hour, May 31

Seeking the Way of Welcome

Reflections from a Pilgrimage along the Camino Sanabrés
This spring I completed a seven-day bicycle pilgrimage along Spain's Camino Sanabrés, an ancient route leading to Santiago de Compostela.

On May 31, I will share a special second hour with photographs, stories from the road, and reflection on what the pilgrimage taught me about welcome, humility, gratitude, and spiritual growth in everyday life. I hope you will join me as we consider how these simple practices can shape our lives of faith and our life together as a church community.

Make a Difference...

Join a Committee!



Would you like to be more involved in our church?
Look no further!
Email or speak with these folks about the teams
they are leading!

Bayshore Lunch Program	Judy Bacon	judybacon52@gmail.com
Buildings & Grounds	Diane Paquet	dlighting625@gmail.com
Capital Campaign	Karen Chesney	karen.a.chesney@gmail.com
Care Team	Val Hansen &	valthansen@gmail.com
	Kiff Barnes	kiff.barnes@gmail.com
Christian Education	Allie Colella	alcolella8616@gmail.com
Choir/Music	Susan Davies	musicminister@holmdelucc.org
Fellowship	Regina Criscione	regcris35@gmail.com
Justice & Peace	Liz Mueller	lizmuellern1@gmail.com
Stewardship	Don Pope	wellfitnj@gmail.com
Sunday School	Amanda Spagnolia	youthminister@holmdelucc.org
Worship & Music	Carol Schreier	boola8801@verizon.net

MAY						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10am Service	6:30pm Pastoral Support Meeting	7:15pm Scouts	8pm Lifeline Group of AA	7:30pm Choir		10am Meditation with Grace
2nd Hour: Congregational Meeting						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.



Holmdel Community
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ASBURY PARK PRIDE PARADE & FEST

June 7, 2026

12pm: Parade starts at
Asbury Park City Hall

11am-6pm Festival

We need:

- volunteers to staff the table
- marchers to represent us in the parade
- donations of giveaways for the table - think rainbow-themed stuff like beaded necklaces, candy, pencils etc....

Celebrate the
Freedom of Love

mmojica129@hotmail.com



WE'RE EXPLORING THE IDEA OF STARTING A CHURCH-BASED BOOK GROUP FOR ADULTS – SOMETHING RELAXED, WELCOMING AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING. WHETHER YOU'VE BEEN PART OF ADULT LEARNING BEFORE OR NOT, THIS COULD BE A GREAT WAY TO JUMP IN!

RIGHT NOW, WE'RE GAUGING INTEREST! IF THIS SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING YOU'D ENJOY, WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

PLEASE REACH OUT TO ALLIE OR AMANDA BY **5/22 TO SHARE YOUR INTEREST OR IDEAS (MEETING TIMES, FORMATS, ETC.). YOUR INPUT WILL HELP SHAPE THE GROUP!**



Allie: alcolella8616@gmail.com

Amanda: YouthMinister@holmdelucc.org

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

120



1. There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, _____ And I
 (2. There are) bless - ings you can - not re - ceive _____ Till you
 (3. If you) say He saved you from your sin, _____ Now you're



1. know that it's the Spir - it of _ the Lord. _____ There are
 2. know Him in His full - ness, and _ be - lieve. _____ You're the
 3. weak, you're bound, and can - not en - ter in, _____ you can



1. sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, _____ And I
 2. one to pro - fit when you say, _____ "I am
 3. make it right if you will yield; _____ You'll en -



1. know they feel the pres - ence of _ the Lord. _____
 2. going to walk with Je - sus all _ the way." _____
 3. joy the Ho - ly Spir - it that we feel. _____

