Holmdel Community United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

November 2026

From The Pastor

Rev. Nada Sellers
revnsellers@holmdelucc.org



It's the day after the 2026 midterm elections and the news of a resounding victory for another way of being a democracy is reverberating everywhere! Thank you to all who have voted, written postcards, marched and protested, in hopes for a better way; there are new possibilities and hopes! Many of us have been struggling with the rancor and inhumanity of the present administration's policies, attempting to witness to another way of living together, and persisting despite the challenges. I recognize just how tired I am…

We enter a season of holidays with the encouragement that significant changes are coming! On local, national and international levels. What this means for you and me at HCUCC and beyond is front of mind for many of us, and I encourage you to continue the holy imagination that brings about the ministries of love and justice as part of our Christian commitment. The visioning process to finalize choices for more effective

(continued)

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From The Pastor *(continued)*

work together awaits completion and your participation matters; second hour planning and holiday support for partners in caring are underway – please see information elsewhere in this issue and make plans to show up! Special thanks to our ministry leaders and staff for all that is going on behind the scenes to bring about these offerings.

An extra important 'thank you' is due to the new website completion team that has helped get us to the finish line as far as a completely new and updated presence in virtual spaces. Many have shared in wonderful collaborations to arrive at this point, including Liz Mueller, Karen Chesney, Carrie Virgillio, Tammy Yesolonis, and especially Lynn Hudzik, our administrative wizard, who continues to handle the research and fill in the details. Photographic prowess from Tracy Mackey and many others of you throughout months of observation, has brought so much of this to life. Thank you! Please take a look if you haven't already and share your thoughts as we continue to fine tune this important element of telling our story: www.holmdelucc.org Together we are continuing to share a message of God's extravagant welcome and purpose in the world!

I have also recently been able to catch up with the reorganized Bayshore Ministerium group – a collection of area interfaith clergy who join together for coordinated efforts in local ministry. We will join together for the return Thanksgiving service of worship on Sunday, November 22 at 4pm at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Middletown. I plan to participate in this service, and I hope you can be there to enjoy this larger gathering of faith and hope!

Pastor Nada

Worship & Music

Carol Schreier, Co-Chair, *boola8801@verizon.net*
Howard Kradjel, Co-Chair, *howardkradjel@gmail.com*

Welcome to November at Holmdel Community UCC, where we have so many reasons to be grateful!

We began the month remembering loved ones we have lost with our All Saints Day observance. We welcome our own Don Pope to the pulpit on November 8th, and then wrap up our "Living Waters" series on November 15th. On November 22nd, we pause to give thanks with our Harvest Table and monthly Food Dedication.

From there we head into ADVENT! Your Worship & Music committee has been planning with Pastor Nada for all the festivities of the Christmas season. Please join us! Christmas caroling, "festive" sweaters and weekly readings with the lighting of our advent candles. And maybe a surprise or two….

As we celebrate the birth of our savior, please think about how you can add to our worship experience. Be a reader. Or an usher. Or sign up to learn how to run the sound board. Our next meeting is Wednesday November 4th. Let us know how you can help us serve our church community!

And don't forget, your health and safety are our priority. If you are not feeling well, please stay home and watch us online. While you are there check out our collection of video anthems and sermons. And thanks for your support!

Stewardship News

Don Pope, Stewardship Trustee, wellfitnj@gmail.com
Karen Chesney, Capital Campaign Chair, *karen.a.chesney@gmail.com*

The 2027 Generosity Campaign will kick off in January. This is earlier than usual as we do not want to overlap with the Capital Campaign. Planning for Generosity will commence in early December. We will continue efforts to drive down the budget deficit and to minimize any damage to our endowments.

The Capital Campaign will commence in the spring of 2027. Planning for that initiative is ongoing and will require a church wide effort to implement and achieve the success we are hoping for. We are looking for new volunteers for both Stewardship and for the capital committees. Anyone interested can see Don Pope, Karen Chesney or Pastor Nada.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Pope
Stewardship Trustee

Karen Chesney
Capital Campaign - Chair

Justice & Peace

Liz Mueller, Chair, *lizmueller11@gmail.com*

Loving Our Neighbor -- Village Foster Closet of Holmdel

Holmdel UCC will be partnering with our neighbor, Village Foster Closet, to sponsor a winter coat drive in November. We are seeking NEW WINTER COATS in all children's and adult sizes. To ensure we have the proper mix of sizes, please select a coat ticket from our autumn wreath in Fellowship Hall. We will also be collecting NEW children's hats and mittens in all sizes.

Interested in learning more about Village Foster Closet of Holmdel? Please come to our Second Hour after church on Sunday, Nov 15. Director Belinda Ruiz will be talking about all the wonderful things her organization does for foster children in Monmouth County. It will also be an opportunity to tour their space in our basement.

Christian Care

Val Hansen, Co-Chair, valthansen@gmail.com
Kiff Barnes, Co-Chair, kiff.barnes@gmail.com

If I need some help, who might I reach out to?

The HCUCC Christian Care Committee is here to offer comfort and practical support to our members and friends who are dealing with mental or physical illness, recovery, or any kind of loss. Please feel free to get in touch with us for prayers, rides to the doctor's office, meals when you're feeling under the weather. We're also often asked to offer our prayers for various situations.

Here's a list of the Care Team members and their contact information:

Valerie Hansen	(732) 977-8642
Kiff Barnes	(972) 571-6538
Susan Shaw	(609) 317-5984
Karen Chesney	(908) 577-6370
Jen Brill	(540) 449-2044

GREAT NEWS FROM SYLVIA's CHILDREN

Update on Sylvia's Children in Uganda, Africa:

On Sunday, November 8th, our four-person team will be meeting with our five-person Ugandan team for breakfast, a trustee's meeting and then visiting the construction site. This is the sign that will identify the site. The last three months have been harrowing as so much has had to get done before we arrive…land purchased, fence erected, well dug, 300 coffee trees planted and bushes planted on both sides of the fence to ensure a safe enclosure…thorn bushes on the outside and no thorn bushes on the inside! Guaranteed to put a smile on your face!

Our last step is to dig a well. Based on a hydrologic test there IS water; however, we are having to try different locations throughout the land. Luckily, the General Manager of Sylvia's Children in Uganda had the well drilling company sign a contract which read, in essence, they would drill until they found water without additional charges!

Now the real work begins … we need to raise a minimum of $300,000 to build the clinic and housing location for the medical staff. Want to help? We need 2,000,000 bricks which are only 10¢ each. Care to buy 1,000? It would only be $100. Please go to **Sylvia's Children** to donate … we make it easy!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Please remember how much we all have to be thankful for and how even a small donation can help these underdeveloped countries have a better life.

Sylvia

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064429039969

Announcements



www.holmdelucc.org

It's still a work in progress but email us - we'd love to know what you think!



November 2026 Flowers

As Thanksgiving approaches, we pause to reflect on life's blessings and give thanks to God for the people and experiences that enrich our lives.

Sanctuary flowers offer a meaningful way to express gratitude, celebrate special occasions, or remember loved ones.

Dedication dates are still available in November and December. To reserve a Sunday, contact Vera Kradjel.

November Flower Dedications

November 22: With gratitude for family and friends. — Vera and Howard Kradjel

Contact Vera Kradjel
(732) 673-8588
verakradjel@gmail.com

Thank you for helping make our sanctuary a place of beauty, warmth, and welcome.



If you can help, or would like more information, please contact Regina at regcris35@gmail.com or (732) 320-6210.

Announcements *(continued)*







2nd Hour
November 15th
11:30am
Belinda Ruiz
Village Foster Closet of Holmdel

FOSTER CLOSET OF HOLMDEL

ANNUAL FRIENDSGIVING CELEBRATION

Sunday, November 15th
Fellowship Hall
6 - 7:30 pm!!!

We'll be gathering for fun, games, and a meal together where we'll be giving thanks for all of our blessings!

Please join us!
Friends and siblings are welcome!!!



A Taste of Holmdel

Delicious Pies

40 Main Street

Order now for Thanksgiving

Please indicate how many of each item:

_____ 10" Apple crumb $17

_____ 10" Pumpkin $12 GF

_____ 10" Pecan $17 GF

_____ 10" Blueberry $17 GF V

_____ 10" Cherry $17 GF V

GF Available Gluten-Free upon request
V Available Vegan upon request

When will you pick up your pies?

_____ Sunday, 11/22/2026

_____ Tuesday, 11/24/2026

Name:
_____

Email:
_____

Cell Phone:
_____

Please note if you need vegan or gluten-free.

Questions? crafts@holmdelucc.org

Deadline for ordering Wednesday 11/18/2026



Pie Making Workshops

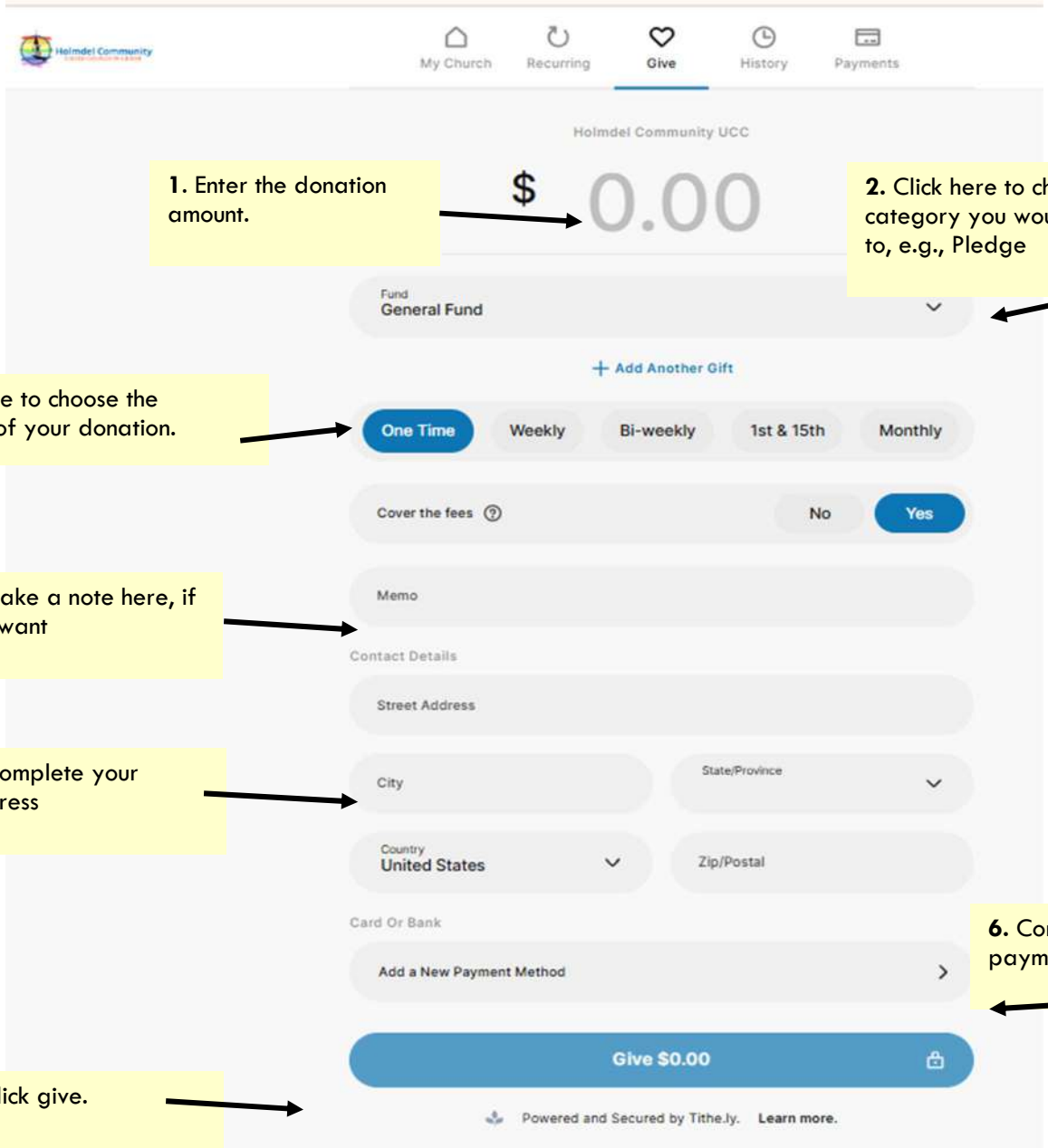
11/19, 11/20, 11/21

9:30am – 4pm

Contact Sue Field at sfield@georgian.edu

Holmdel Community UCC is Adopting a New Giving Platform

Simply scan the QR Code at right:



Bible Study Group

7pm Wednesday, **November 11th**
Conference Room
Studying the Acts of the Apostles



New Directions Book Group

6:30pm Monday, **November 16th**
Conference Room
Reading *Finding Phoebe: What New Testament Women Were Really Like* by Susan E. Hylen
Chapters 3 – 7

Bread & Wine Fellowship

All are welcome!
Monday, November 30th @ 6pm
Join us for fellowship, conversation & encouragement.
Bring your beverage of choice.





Bayshore Lunch Program

Prepare & Serve a Meal
42 Elizabeth St, Keyport, NJ 07735
Contact Judy Bacon at judylbacon@gmail.com



Angel Sharing Tree

Calico Food Pantry & Cupboard
Christmas Gift Certificates for
Children & Seniors
November 29 - December 13

During this Advent season, let us put some time aside to reflect on our spiritual gifts that would bring the light of love to others. There is power in our love for God and for God's children, and when that love is given through acts of Christian kindness, it nourishes us and the world with the life-sustaining nectar of faith, hope, and charity.

With your help, the Calico Food Pantry and Cupboard will give a $50 Christmas gift certificate to each child and Senior.

We will have a Christmas tree in the Narthex. For every donation you give, please hang an angel with your name on the tree.

Please make your check payable to "Holmdel Community UCC" and note in the memo section, "Sharing Tree", or place your donation in the special donation box in the Narthex. You may also mail your check to the church: 40 West Main St., Holmdel, NJ 07733.

Thank you and Merry Christmas to all!
Janice Liebenow, Calico Cat Food Pantry Volunteer

"It is not how much we give
but how much love we put into giving

This month's Calico Cat Food Pantry collections: **canned corn, ramen noodles, side dishes (like in Knorr's packet), Chef-Boyardee, mac & cheese cups, dish detergent & paper towels** for food dedication on **November 22nd!**





We're Hiring!

Amanda is looking for a Nursery Caregiver for Sunday mornings. Interested? Contact her directly at YouthMinister@holmdelucc.org or (908) 770-7265.

SAVE THE DATE!

HCUCC Christmas Potluck Party

December 5, 2026 5:30 pm



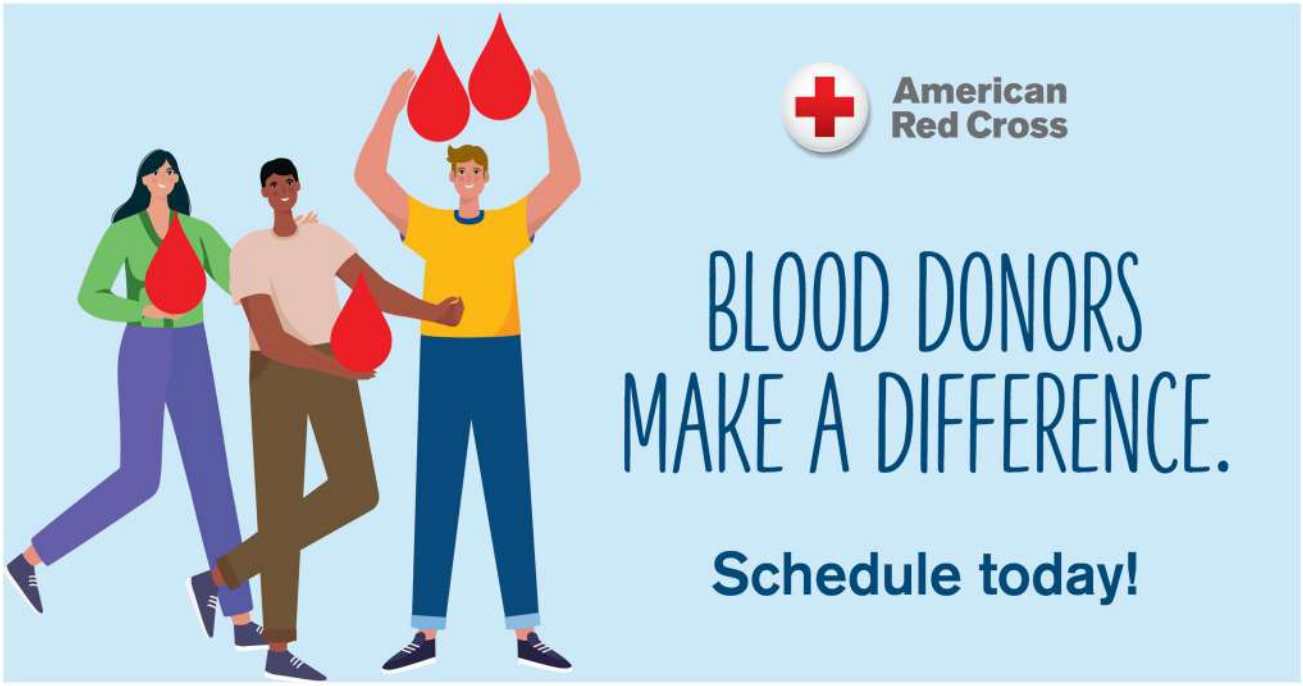
All ages are welcome for this family event.



There will be Christmas carols, festive crafts, and scrumptious food!

Check your bulletin throughout November for more information.

Announcements *(continued)*



American Red Cross Blood Drive

held at

Holmdel Community United Church of Christ

40 Main Street

Holmdel, NJ

Thursday, December 17th

10am – 3pm

Appointments preferred,
please visit RedCrossBLood.org
or call 1-800-RED-CROSS

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Announcements *(continued)*

American Cancer Society

fundraiser

Natasha Beck-King is running the Philadelphia Marathon on November 22nd with the American Cancer Society. This fundraiser helps continue ACS's work to end cancer. After losing two grandparents to cancer, this fundraiser is incredibly personal. Every mile ran is a mile for both her Granny and Pepa.

Please consider donating what you can to the link below. With your help, we can reach our goal of ending cancer forever!

http://main.acsevents.org/goto/BK





Announcements *(continued)*

Keep these items out of the landfill!

Recycling Reminder: The Justice & Peace Committee is collecting the following items that are not accepted at curbside recycling. They are **eye care products** and **Swiffer refills**. We are continuing to collect **oral care products**. **All items must be dry.** Place them in the blue recycling bins on the counter in the kitchen. Questions? Contact Regina at regcris35@gmail.com or 732 320-6210.

Do your part to keep these items out of the landfill!



EYE CARE PRODUCTS

All brands of contact lenses and cases, lens blister packs, and eye drop single dose vials.

SWIFFER REFILLS

All types of Swiffer duster, dry pad, and wet pad refills. **Must be dry.**





TOOTHPASTE CONTAINERS

Toothpaste tubes and caps, toothbrushes, plastic outer packaging, and floss containers. **Not accepted:** Electric/battery toothbrushes, or their parts. Remove as much toothpaste as possible.

We have a variety of collections: eyeglasses for New Eyes (bin in Fellowship Hall kitchen), books for Legal Books Bin and clothing next to the book donation bin in the parking lot.



Virtual Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

We will start live streaming the service at 9:55 a.m. via this link: http://bit.ly/hcucclive. We start early, so that you can be sure your technology (internet connection, audio, video) is working properly. We'll display our pre-service announcement slides for five minutes until the service starts, at around 10am.



Can we be friends?

Like us on Facebook!

https://www.facebook.com/HolmdelUCC/

https://www.instagram.com/holmdelucc/?hl=en

YouTube Please follow our YouTube channel as well.
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtmDSw0RSSbtDPqXfZaLuuw

NOVEMBER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10am Worship Service with Communion 11:30am Marketing Meeting		7:15pm Scouts 	7pm Worship & Music 8pm Lifeline Group of AA	7:30pm Choir	Office Open Noon-3pm	COLOR KEY Fellowship Hall Sanctuary Conference Room Zoom or Other
8	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**
10am Worship Service	7:30pm Council	7:15pm Scouts Office Closed	2pm Care Team 7pm Bible Study 8pm Lifeline Group of AA Office Closed	7:30pm Choir Office Open Noon-3pm		5:30pm-9pm Line Dancing 
15	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**
10am Worship Service 11:30am 2nd Hour: Village Foster Closet of Holmdel 6pm Friendsgiving	6:30pm New Directions Book Group	7:15pm Scouts	8pm Lifeline Group of AA	9:30an - 4pm Pie Baking Workshop 7:30pm Choir	9:30an - 4pm Pie Baking Workshop	9:30an - 4pm Pie Baking Workshop
22	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**
10am Worship Service with Food Dedication 4pm Interfaith Service 7pm Girl	10am Bayshore	7:15pm Scouts	7pm Bible Study 8pm Lifeline Group of AA			
29	**30**					
10am Worship Service Angel Tree Begins 1st Sunday of Advent	10am Bayshore Lunch Program 6pm Bread & Wine Fellowship					

Church Leadership

Pastor	Rev. Nada Sellers
Moderator	Matthew Snodgrass
Interim Head Trustee	Carol Schreier
Treasurer	Judy Bacon
Council Secretary	Lynn Nelson
Pledge Secretary	Jen Brill
Christian Care	Valerie Hansen Kiff Barnes
Christian Education	Allie Colella
Fellowship	Regina Criscione

Justice & Peace	Liz Mueller
Missions	- Open -
Pastoral Support	Tracy Mackey
Personnel	Carrie Virgilio
Worship & Music	Carol Schreier Howard Kradjel
Buildings & Grounds Trustee	Diane Paquet
Contracts & Insurance Trustee	Brian Yesalonis
Stewardship Trustee	Don Pope



The church has a variety of methods for your contributions:

ONLINE: www.holmdelucc.org – just click on the "Donate" button in the top left menu or use our QR Code at right.

ONLINE BANKING: Set up regular payments to "Holmdel Community UCC" via your online baking service.

BY CHECK: Jen Brill will be collecting checks from the church weekly.

Your generosity to HCUCC throughout the year is always much appreciated.