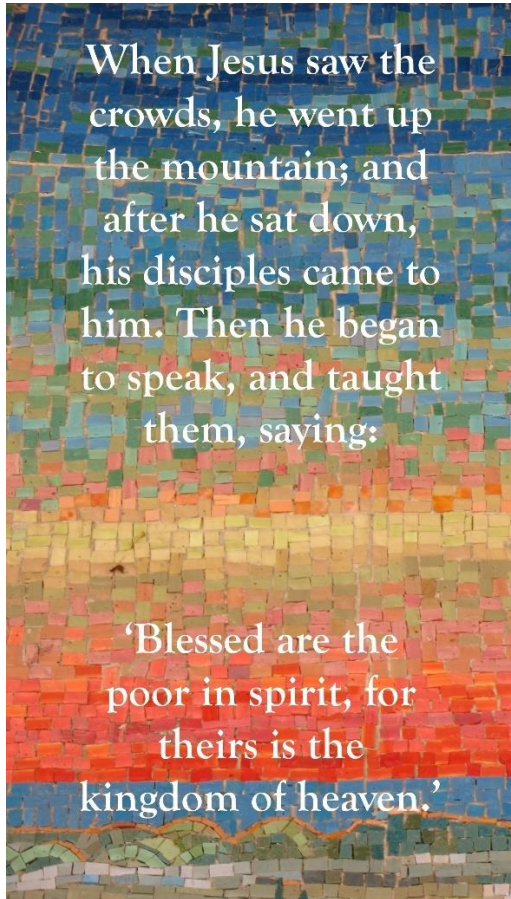


14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 14, 2025



**First Congregational Church of Camden,
United Church of Christ**

Inclusive. Inspired. Involved.

*We are an Open and Affirming Congregation embracing diversity
and affirming the worth and dignity of every person.*

We welcome everyone to share in all aspects of our church life.

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 14, 2025

THE SERVICE OF WELCOME

(indicates congregation stands, if comfortable doing so)*

Prelude

Largo --- G.F. Handel
Matt Mainster, organ

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. David J. Wood

*Blest are they, the poor in spirit. Theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow. They shall be consoled
Rejoice, and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!*

Call to Worship

Lynn Bushee

One: The glory of God shines through in all things
**All: From the rising of the sun to its setting
Let the name of the Lord be praised!**
One: The love of God is great enough to embrace the universe
Yet close enough to enter our hearts.
**All: From the rising of the sun to its setting
Let the name of the Lord be praised!**
One: Come let us worship God!

* **Hymn #22** *All Creatures of Our God and King*

* **Prayer of Invocation**

Lynn Bushee

One: Gracious God,
**All: With our alleluias,
We join with the chorus of your creation
In praise of your great love and mercy
With open hearts and minds,
We offer ourselves anew to your leading,
That we might be more truly
The salt of the earth and the light of the world.
In the name of Jesus Christ,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God forever and ever. Amen.**

* **Gloria**

*Glory to our Creator and to the Christ
and to their gift of love,
who is Spirit now among us,
and throughout all creation:
world without end, Amen, Amen.*

* **The Passing of Christ's Peace**

One: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

A Reflection on Faith and Life

Judy Cucinotta

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Scripture Reading Psalm 146 (selected verses) and Matthew 5:3
(Congregation reads **bold** print)

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The LORD keeps faith forever,
secures justice for the oppressed,
gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets captives free.

**Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

The LORD gives sight to the blind;
the LORD raises up those who were bowed down.

The LORD loves the just;

**Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

The LORD protects strangers.

but the way of the wicked he thwarts.

The LORD shall reign forever;

your God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia.

**Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit"

David J. Wood

* **Hymn #501** *There is a Balm in Gilead* (vs. 1 & 3)

Sometimes I feel discouraged,
and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again.
There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.

Don't ever feel discouraged,
for Jesus is your friend;
and if you lack for knowledge
he'll ne'er refuse to lend.
There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.

THE SERVICE OF GRATITUDE

Offertory Invitation

David Wood

We continue our worship in the giving of our offering.

Offertory Anthem

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart — Dan Edwards
*Choral Bells

* Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Praise God in Jesus fully known.
Creator, Christ and Spirit one. Amen.*

* Prayer of Dedication

Judy Cucinotta

One: Gracious God, with these offerings,
All: **we offer our lives to be instruments of your hope,
healing, and new life to those in need. Amen.**

*** Hymn**

When the Lord Redeems the Very Least

(Tune: "I'll Fly Away")

When the Lord redeems the very least, we will rejoice.
When the hungry gather for the feast, we will rejoice.
We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.
All our days we'll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

When the Lord restores the sick and weak, we will rejoice.
When the earth is given to the meek, we will rejoice.
We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.
All our days we'll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

When the Lord revives the world from death, we will rejoice.
When the word of God fills every breath, we will rejoice.
We will rejoice with gladness. We will rejoice.
All our days we'll sing to God in praise. We will rejoice!

*** Benediction**

*** Sung Benediction**

*Go my children, with my blessing, never alone;
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever,
Go my children, with my blessing, you are my own.*

Postlude

(All are invited to be seated for the postlude.)

The Rejoicing — G.F. Handel

Matt Mainster, organ

GRATITUDE FOR TODAY'S VOLUNTEER PARTICIPANTS

You are invited to bring an altar arrangement any Sunday. Please sign up on the chart in the Pilgrim Room or call the office to select a date. **In addition to cut flowers, we encourage natural arrangements from your yard, such as berries, seed pods, cones, driftwood, flowers and greens.**

Altar Flowers: Elaine Lohrman
Liturgist: Lynn Bushee
Greeters: Karen & David Giansiracusa, Meg & Owen Thomas
Ushers: Melvin Achorn, Scott Achorn

Coffee Team L: "The Lemon Tarts"
Jinx & John Hufnagel, Ann Rafferty, Jan Kelsey, Janae Novotny,
Laura, Steve, & Kay Amerman

OUR CHURCH OFFICERS

Sarah Reynolds & Natalie Ward, Co-Moderators
Jane Babbitt, Clerk
Owen Thomas, Treasurer

OUR CHURCH MINISTERS & STAFF

Rev. David J. Wood, Interim Senior Minister
david@camdenucc.org

Matthew Mainster, Minister of Music
Jeanne Denny, Shields Fund Administrator
James Cook, Heavenly Threads Manager
Ryan Berry, Custodian of Buildings & Grounds
Amy Smith, Full Charge Bookkeeper
Becky Brace, Office Administrator
Kayleigh Amerman, Interim Christian Ed Assistant

First Congregational Church of Camden, United Church of Christ

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207.236.4821 phone 207.236.4822 fax

www.camdenucc.org

Email: churchoffice@camdenucc.org

HOME OF SCOUTING AMERICA TROOP & PACK 200



Notices

Shields Benefit @ Flatbread Sept. 16th
Come to Flatbread between 4-8 pm on on Tues.
9/16 and order pizza---all pizza sales benefit Shields
Fund that evening.

Women's Potluck Supper NEXT WEEK
Thurs. Sept. 25 5:30-8:30 pm
All Women Welcome
Sign up on the clipboard

Stewardship Silent Auction and Potluck Dinner
5:30-9 pm Thurs. Oct. 16th. Sign up on clipboard.
Save the Date and think of auction items you can
donate!

Housing request for our October **Friends of Music concert:**

Our Friends of Music concert series picks back
up on Sunday, October, 5th with the folk collective
band, Floyd's Row. This concert comes with special
needs: two of the group's musicians will need
housing for the nights of October 4th and 5th: two
separate beds, preferably separate spaces, though a
shared bathroom is fine. We would love to hear
from anyone who might be able to help us in
housing one or both of them. Please reach out to
Matt at matt@camdenucc.org. Many thanks in
advance!

Church Calendar

Tuesdays	8:30-9:30am	Lectio Divina Meditation ~ call office for Zoom link	
Tuesdays	5am-noon	VOLUNTEER at SOS	
Tues, Wed & Thurs	3 days	VOLUNTEER at Heavenly Threads	(shop open)
Tuesdays	1-6 pm	Heavenly Threads OPEN-New Hrs	
Wed & Thurs	10 - 4	Heavenly Threads SHOP OPEN	
Wednesdays	9:30 am	Staff Meeting	
Thursdays	Noon-1 pm	Prayer Shawls, Knit & Crochet ~ in person and Zoom	Call for link
Sun. Sept. 14	9:30 am	Sunday Worship	
Sun. Sept. 14	10:30	Justice & Witness Information Table at Coffee Hour	
Tues. Sept. 16	4-8 pm	Shields Fundraiser @Flatbread, all pizza orders benefit Shields	
Wed. Sept. 17	5 pm	Trustees	
Thur. Sept. 18	9 am	Outreach	
Thur. Sept. 18	4 pm	Vespers Planning – all welcome	Mayflower
Sun. Sept. 21	9:30 am	Sunday Worship	
Tues. Sept. 23	4 pm	Cabinet	
Wed. Sept. 24	4 pm	Grief Study Mayflower Room	
Thur. Sept. 25	5:30 pm	Women's Potluck Supper	
Sun. Sept. 28	9:30 am	Sunday Worship	
Sun. Oct. 5	9:30 am	Worship & Communion	
Thur. Oct. 9	8:30 am	Stewardship	
Sun. Oct. 12	9:30 am	Worship & Communion	
Tues. Oct. 14	12 noon	Membership	
Thur. Oct. 16	5:30-9pm	Stewardship Dinner & Silent Auction	Pilgrim & Mayflower
Sun. Oct. 19	9:30 am	Worship & Communion	
Thur. Oct. 22	4 pm	Care Team	
GREAT MUSIC COMING YOUR WAY			
Sun. Oct. 5	4 pm	FOM Concert – Floyds Row Folk Music	Sanctuary
Sun. Dec. 7	2 pm	Down East Singers	Sanctuary
Sun. Dec. 14	4 pm	Surprise FOM Concert-Cello/Piano	Sanctuary