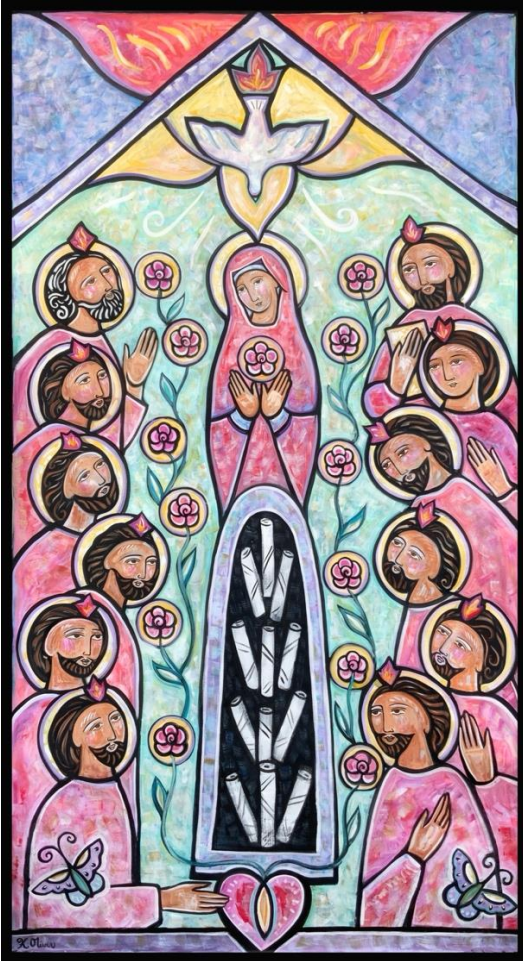


Pentecost Sunday

May 24, 2026



Pentecost ~ by Kathryn Oliver

Note from Kathryn Oliver on the imagery:

On Pentecost the Holy Spirit has been sent to unite all people no matter race or language. The twelve Apostles are seated in slightly different ways, symbolizing the diversity of gifts within the Church — harmony without conformity. St. Paul, shown at the upper left despite not being historically present, signifies that this is not merely historical but a timeless image of the universal Church. St. Peter, holding a book, represents the rock of the Church, while St. John appears as the youngest Apostle without a beard. Mary sits at the center in the “teacher’s seat” as the first Christian and model disciple. The tongues of fire above them represent the Holy Spirit, who unites all in one body through divine love and enables them to proclaim the Gospel in many languages. At the bottom, twelve scrolls emerge from darkness, symbolizing the Apostles bringing light through their teaching. The roses beside each figure symbolize that not only humanity, but all creation, is raised up in the new creation.

**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.*

May 24, 2026

(indicates congregation stands, if comfortable doing so)*

Prelude *Adagio from Oboe Concerto in D minor*—Alessandro Marcello
*Holly Thompson, oboe

Musical Note: Today's prelude and postlude composers,
Alessandro and Benedetto Marcello, were brothers who lived
and composed in Venice during the early 18th century.

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. David J. Wood

Gathering Song

*Come Lord Jesus, send us Your Spirit, Renew the face of the Earth.
Come Lord Jesus, send us Your Spirit, Renew the face of the Earth.*

* **Call to Worship** (congregation reads the **bold** print)

Becky Brace

Come, Holy Spirit,
The wind of God, the breath of Life.
Come, Holy Spirit,
Our Advocate, our Comforter.
Come, Holy Spirit,
Granter of forgiveness, giver of peace.
Come, Holy Spirit.
Renew, inspire, and awaken us!

* **Hymn** *Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us*

Come, O Spirit, dwell among us,
Come with Pentecostal power;
Give the church a stronger vision,
Help us face each crucial hour.
Built upon a firm foundation,
Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone,
Still the church is called to mission
That God's love shall be made known.

Come, O Spirit, dwell among us;
Give us words of fire and flame.
Help our feeble lips to praise You,
Glorify Your holy name.
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Three in one; what mystery!
We would sing our loud hosannas
Now and through eternity.

*** Prayer of Invocation**

Becky Brace

Please pray with me:

**Gracious God,
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,
may the gifts of your Spirit equip us to be your witnesses
now and always. 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**

David Wood

The Peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Acts 2: 1-21

Becky Brace

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

‘In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

John 14: 15-19

And Jesus said, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.”

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Promise of Pentecost”

Rev. David J. Wood

Song of Response #259 *Spirit of the Living God*

(Please remain seated for this hymn)

Spirit of the Living God,
fall fresh on me.
Spirit of the Living God,
fall fresh on me:
Melt me mold me,
fill me use me.
Spirit of the Living God
fall fresh on me.

THE SERVICE OF GRATITUDE

Joys & Concerns ~ Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

(all are invited to pray the Lord’s Prayer using “debts and debtors”)

Offertory Invitation

We continue our worship in the giving of our offering.

Offertory Anthem *Gabriel's Oboe* — Morricone/arr. McGrath
*Holly Thompson, oboe

*** Doxology**

*Praise God whose breath fills all the earth
Whose love reveals our sacred worth
Whose Spirit forms one family
Whose grace brings peace and harmony. Amen.*

*** Prayer of Dedication**

Becky Brace

Blessed are you, God of all creation; through your goodness we have these gifts to share.

Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF BLESSING & SENDING

*** Hymn #592** *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

*** Benediction**

David Wood

*** 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 (Everyone is invited to be seated for the postlude.)

Psalm XIX — Benedetto Marcello

*Matt Mainster, organ

GRATITUDE FOR TODAY'S VOLUNTEER PARTICIPANTS

Altar Flowers: - - - -

You are welcome to sign up to bring altar flowers or natural arrangements on any given Sunday. Signup poster is in the Pilgrim Room, or contact the office.

Liturgist: Becky Brace

Greeters: Georgia & John Brock, Karen & David Giansiracusa

Ushers: Melvin Achorn, Scott Achorn

Coffee Team D, "Delicious Delicacies"

Carol & Gary Spinney, Jeni & Levi Mason, Jared & Kristi Todd

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
Lee Bross, Full Charge Bookkeeper
Becky Brace, Office Administrator

Do you have a **graduating Senior** in your family this year? (High School, College, Graduate School, local or away) We like to acknowledge these graduates in a June bulletin. Please let Becky know in the office: becky@camdenucc.org or 236-4821.



Non-partisan Get-out-the-vote postcards are available for anyone wishing to help. There will be at least one postcard writing party and/or

take postcards home to do on your own time. They get mailed to ME and NH registered voters in mid-October. Please contact Ru Monsell at 207-350-1020, ruthmonsell@gmail.com, or at coffee hour if you are interested in helping with this effective project.

Thanks! We did this last year and had fun and fellowship doing it.

~ An Invitation from our member, Ann McClellan ~

Hello Friends,

I am pleased to invite you to view my solo show "Measure of Air and Water", new works in porcelain. These sculptural forms are inspired by reflections on the contemplative nature of clouds and waves. Also on display in the neighboring gallery "Drawn to Monhegan, 7 Responses", features paintings by seven artists. Galleries are on the second floor and the center is open 9-4, Monday through Friday.

Kind Regards,

Ann

[@camdenhillsstudio](https://www.instagram.com/camdenhillsstudio)

Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge

Opening event: 4-6pm, May 29

June 1 - July 24, 2026

9 Water Street, Rockland, Maine

CHURCH CALENDAR			
Mondays	beg 6/15	SUMMER HRS Office Closed Mondays	
Tuesdays	8:30-9:30a	Lectio Divina Meditation~call office for	Zoom link
Tuesdays	5am-noon	VOLUNTEER at SOS	
Tue-Wed-Thurs	3 days	VOLUNTEER at Heavenly Threads	
Wednesdays	9:30 am	Staff Meeting	
Thursdays	Noon-1 pm	Prayer Shawls, Knit & Crochet ~ in person and Zoom All yarn supplied.	Call for link
Sun. May 24	9:30 am	Sunday Worship	Sanctuary
Mon. May 25	HOLIDAY	Memorial Day ~ Church Closed	
Mon. May 25	4 pm	DownEast Singers Bach Mass in B minor	Sanctuary
Thurs May 28	6 pm	Book Discussion on Dietrich Bonhoeffer	Pilgrim Rm
Sun. May 31	9:30 am	Sunday Worship	Sanctuary
Sun. May 31	4 pm	Handbells for Hope ~ Benefit Concert for Shields Fund ~ Penobscot Bay Ringers	Sanctuary
Mon. June 1	6 pm	Baccalaureate – CHRHS Senior Class	Sanctuary
Wed. June 3	7 pm	Public Lecture~ Dr. Andrew Root, “Bearing Witness in a Time of Christian Nationalism”	Sanctuary
Thurs. June 4	8:30 am	Stewardship	
Sat. June 6	9-11 am	Men’s Breakfast ~ all men welcome	Pilgrim Rm
Sun. June 7	9:30 am	Sunday Worship & Communion	Sanctuary
Thurs June 11	6-8 pm	Book Discussion “Here Comes the Sun” Bill McKibben	Pilgrim Rm
Sat. June 13	1 pm	U. Maine Jazz Ensemble – free concert	Sanctuary
Sun. June 14	9:30 am	Sunday Worship	Sanctuary
Mon. June 15	Closed	Begin Summer Hrs ~ Office Closed Mondays	
Tues. June 16	4-6 pm	PRIDE EVENT: Youth Craft Workshop	Pilgrim Rm
Wed. June 17	5 pm	Trustees	
Wed. June 17	7 pm	Penobscot Bay Singers Concert with Sierra Lary, Conductor <i>tickets online</i>	Sanctuary
Thurs June 18	9 am	Outreach	Conf. Rm.
Thurs June 18	7 pm	Public Lecture: Bill McKibben, NY Times	Sanctuary
Fri. June 19	Juneteenth	HOLIDAY ~ Church Closed	
Sun. June 21	9:30 am	Sunday Worship ~ Fathers Day	Sanctuary

There is an open rehearsal (free) on Sunday, May 24 at 4 pm for the **Down East Singers** Mass in B Minor concert, here in the sanctuary, if anyone is interested in attending.

NOT TO BE MISSED ~ PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

MOZART MENTORS ORCHESTRA
ANTHONY ANTOLINI, CONDUCTOR
present

J.S. BACH'S
MASS IN B MINOR

Part I (The Kyrie-Gloria Mass of 1733)

MEMORIAL DAY
MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026, AT 4:00 PM
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
55 ELM STREET, CAMDEN

Dessert reception to follow

\$25 ADMISSION
18 & under by donation

SOLOISTS:
Jennifer Bates, soprano
Erin Chenard, soprano

Tickets available at
downeastingers.org



**Wed. June 17 at 7 pm, in our
Sanctuary Sierra Lary,
Conductor**

Sierra is well known to us for her solos during worship. The Penobscot Bay Singers will present a concert celebrating America's 250th anniversary with a selection of music by American composers. Light reception to follow here in the Pilgrim Room.

Public Lecture
by acclaimed
environmentalist and author

Bill McKibben

Author of the bestselling book,
*Here Comes the Sun: A Last Chance for the Climate
and a Fresh Chance for Civilization*

**“Back to the Wall,
Face to the Sun”**

Thurs, June 18

7:00pm

Public Lecture
by acclaimed
MIT humanities professor,
physicist and author

Alan Lightman

Author of the bestselling book,
*Einstein's Dreams, Searching for Stars on an Island in
Maine and The Miraculous from the Material.*

**“The Miraculous
from the
Material”**

Wed., July 8

7:00pm