



North Haven Congregational Church, UCC
The Window

January 2020



Resolve

The season of Advent provided a focus of devotion and preparation for the celebration of Christmas. The promise of Emmanuel, “God with us”, was anticipated through themes of hope, peace, joy and love. The lessons and carols and candles of Christmas marked with rejoicing God’s powerful love for all of God’s people, and the gift of the holy baby in the manger.

The church year continues the celebration in the season of Christmastide, which carries us into the New Year. It is followed by Epiphany, a season which remembers and celebrates the visit of the Wise Men, the baptism of Jesus, and the wedding at Cana. These are occasions when the divine power of Jesus was recognized by others.

Epiphany is also a season of light, marking the very gradual lengthening of days after the winter solstice.

How might we nurture the spirit of Advent and the wonder of Christmas and the powerful recognition of Jesus Christ in Epiphany? The days will be cold, the darkness will lighten so slowly, and the echoes of carols and the scent of candles will fade.

The answer is resolve. We must each resolve to maintain the hope, to carry the wonder, to watch for the glimpses of Jesus’ power. We are all familiar with the idea of resolutions at the New Year. We want to take advantage of a new beginning, a fresh start, a blank page. The regular cycle of New Year’s resolutions prompts a feeling of mistrust, since so often New Year’s resolutions are recognized as so easily and frequently broken.

We might, this year, resolve to live in the hope of God’s love. We might resolve to live in active trust in the grace and new life Jesus Christ brings us. I received an interesting story by e-mail during Advent suggesting that happiness does not need to

depend on circumstances and how things turn out; it can be determined ahead of time. We might resolve to make happiness and hope and peace and joy and love our intention. In the midst of difficulty and challenge, in the grip of loneliness and loss, we can resolve to remember who we are in Christ Jesus – God’s people, no longer in darkness.

Happy New Year! Make your resolutions!

Scott



Merry Christmas

When I decided to write this article, I pondered over what I would like to talk about and share with you. As some of you may know, I was born and grew up in Malaysia. Seeing that we are in the Christmas Season, I thought it might be interesting to share with you my experience celebrating Christmas in Malaysia and the USA.

In Malaysia, there are three major races, the Malays (60+ %), the Chinese (23%) and the Indians (7%). The Muslims make up 61% of the population and the Christians make up 9%. I am from an Indian Christian family. So, we were always a minority within a minority, surrounded by people who shared very different beliefs from us. Our faith was very

important to us, because it defined us, and we sometimes felt that our beliefs could be overwhelmed or drowned out if we were not fervent and sincere in our Christianity. So, we went to church every week, joined the church choir, and went caroling during Christmas time. In our home, we had wall pictures and tapestries with Bible scripture or the picture of Jesus. Being a tropical country, there was no way we would be able to go out and cut down a Christmas tree, so everyone had artificial trees in their homes. We would decorate our Christmas tree with ornaments, lights, and cotton balls to simulate snow, which none of us had ever seen.

However, Malaysia is a place where diversity is oftentimes a call to celebration of differences, rather than a source of strife. During the holy season for each major religion, the various practitioners of each religion would have open houses, welcoming their neighbors and friends, who would be members of all the races and religions of Malaysia. Open house was a cordial exercise of religious toleration and good will, and usually involved very delicious food. I remember going to my Indian Hindu neighbor's house for a breakfast of "tosai" (an Indian version of crepe) and lamb curry during Deepavali (the festival of lights), my Chinese neighbor's house for lunch to celebrate Chinese New Year, and to my mother's best friend, a Muslim lady's house, to celebrate "Hari Raya" with "ketupat" (rice wrapped in woven palm leaves and boiled for hours) and chicken or beef "rendang". And then, we would in turn invite everyone over for dinner on Christmas Eve or lunch on Christmas Day. We would attend the midnight service on Christmas Eve, and then later in the day on Christmas Day, we would spend the time with our family, opening our Christmas gifts.



The department stores and malls in Malaysia would put out spectacular displays at Christmas time. There would be bright lights, beautifully decorated Christmas trees, glitter, and many shoppers. Christmas time was also the time for end of the year sales, so many people would be out shopping. The irony is that most of these people would be doing shopping because it was bargain time and not because they were looking to get a gift for someone at Christmas. Also, on Christmas Day, all the stores and malls would be open.



When I first came to the US, I thought the Christmas decorations at the malls would be amazing since they were already great in a non-Christian country like Malaysia. I must say I was initially disappointed. It wasn't anything like Malaysia. I was also surprised at how quiet everything was on Christmas Day. Stores and restaurants were closed. I was not used to this. Hardly anyone was on the streets. It seemed that everyone was at home celebrating Christmas. Now I have come to understand a lot about the US. I love the way Christmas is celebrated here. I find that there is a low key, very sincere exercise of faith among Christians. There is no show. During the Christmas Season, people talk about how they can help the homeless, the weak, and the downtrodden. The food baskets, the gifts for disadvantaged children, and the socks of love, that is what being a Christian is all about. It is not about the decorations and the hustle and bustle of busy shoppers. And, when I do go shopping for gifts at Christmas time, I am surrounded by people who are Christmas shopping for gifts just like me.

Last of all, though I am different in some ways from the mainstream in the US in terms of accent and looks, when I moved here I felt like I was "coming home", in that I was surrounded by Christians in a majority Christian country. I had a feeling that I was in a place where most people shared and understood my faith.

Have a Blessed Christmas, Elizabeth Dean

Remember Electronic Giving (eGiving)



North Haven Congregational Church, UCC
28 Church Street, North Haven, Connecticut 06473
(203) 239-3681 www.northhavenucc.org

Serving the community since 1716.



I Give Electronically

Our eGiving option provides you the flexibility to donate to the church, and view your online giving history, at your convenience, 24/7.

Electronic gifts are fast and secure:

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- Schedule and manage recurring donations, including your annual pledge.
- Make one-time donations to special appeals
- Pay for events, programs, and other activities.

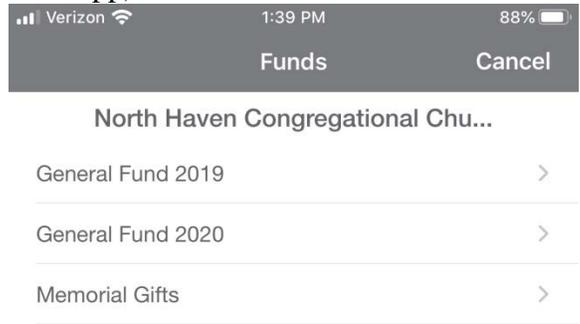
Simply follow these easy steps to start eGiving: (Website)

1. Visit the church website at www.NorthHavenUCC.org
2. Click the "Online Giving" button.
3. Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile or continue as a guest.
4. Now you are ready to make a one-time gift or schedule your recurring contributions.



Our Church Electronic Giving Celebrating Our Faith Forming Our Faith Working Together Being Neighbors Church Calendar

(Mobile App)



GIVEPLUS+

1. Visit the App Store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus Church" to download the app for free.
2. Simply type in the church's name or click "Find Churches Near Me" to select **North Haven Congregational Church**.
3. Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile or continue as a guest.
4. Now you are ready to make a one-time gift or schedule your recurring contributions.

This convenience comes at a small cost to the church. If you choose to use eGiving, you will have the opportunity to offset the fees: 1% for ACH (Automated Clearing House, using your bank routing number and account number) and 2.75% for credit cards. This is a voluntary step that you can choose at the time of your payment.

Thank you for your support. We welcome donations through any of the options we offer for giving. Of course, we appreciate donations made by Cash, Checks, and Bill-Pay from your bank, because they come with no cost to the church.

Season of Generosity

The Season of Generosity Mission Team thanks the following members and friends who have pledged their support to the mission of NHCC for 2020 by completing a pledge card.



Meg Adams
Denise & Gerard Adinolfi
Elizabeth Anderson
Larry Ballantyne
David Bellonio
Joyce Bellonio
Martin & Patience Benassi
Jim & Joan Bennett
Mark Bessette
Cheryl Bogert
Priscilla Bradford
Lorraine Burdge
Elaine Burr
Mark & Martha Butterworth
Sandy Carter
Edward & Mary Ellen Collett
Onalee Collins
Susan Compton
Chris & Kristen Corcoran
Kim & Tom Coughlin
George & Flo Coulston
Gary & AnnMarie Czajkowski
Eric & Elizabeth Dean
Carmen & Melissa DeLuca
Diane & Sal DePrimo
Paula Diehl
Jim & Leslie Dockendorff
Ken & Ann Dubar
Francis & Cheryl Dutko
Doris Ferner
Carl & Lillian Flodquist
Gail Fulop
Rich & Jody Gallagher
Donald Geissler

Scott Geissler
Merrilee Gladkosky
Tom & Wendy Glynn
Susan Guckert
Nancy Gutowski
Ellie Harple
Kathleen Harple
Sue Beth Higgins
Carla & Michael Hill
Linda Howe
Bernie & Elfie Hummel
Robbie & Bruno Juliano
Florence Klemenz
Linda Lacobelli
Dan & Lynn Lafleur
Suzanne & Nigel Light
Nancy & Kenneth Mahoney
Ted & Joyce Manzo
John & Rhonda Masnato
Barbara & Richard Massey
Julie McGarry & John Peters
Jeanne & Billy Mecca
Kathi & Robert Mickolyzck
Masako Miller
Carol Mitchell
Lorraine Morehouse
Scott Morrow & Carol Amico
Bryant & Sara Munson
Lori & Michael Murphy
Lynne & Rob Nielsen
David & Joanne Nottingham
Bill Olmstead
Sally Pallatto
Tim Peiffer

David & Stephanie Perkins
Steve & Mabel Peterson
Laura Petrucci
Dot Pierce
Danielle Powers
Paul & Elizabeth Powers
Heather & David Purcell
Damon & Gressa Quinn
John & Linda Rankin
Jeanne Reardon
Lynn Reardon
Betsey Reid
Jane & Thomas Romans
Bill & Robin Rose
Tom & Shirley Ryan
Ruth & Robert Scelzo
Bob & Barbara Scheidecker
Ann & Herbert Schneider
Adam & Julie Schweickert
George & Linda Silk
Stephen & Linda Simonson
Anthony & Cheryl Solecki
Kerry & Eben Stewart
Wanda Stockman
Peter & Victoria Struk
Kevin & Cheryl Studley
Todd Swarney
Robert & Sharman Tait
John & Sue Tibor
Heather Tolisano
Doris Vigliotto
Cathy Welch
As of 12-18-19

If you have not yet shared your plans for financial support, please complete your pledge card and return it by December 16. Join us as we thank God with glad and generous hearts.

Your Season of Generosity Mission Team

Any questions can be answered by: Priscilla Bradford (203-468-9090) Joan Bennett (203 234-8531), Beth Anderson (203 234-9178), Mabel Peterson (203-234-9319) and Julie at the church office 203 239-5691.

Ministry Coordinator for Children

Sunday School Calendar for January



January 5 - Communion Sunday;
Chapel and Church School

January 12 - Church School;
Children's Choir rehearsal

January 19 - Family Sunday;
Faith Family Fun Night 5-7 p.m.

January 26 - Church School; Children's Choir
rehearsal



Annual Advent Night

Another successful Advent Night was held on December 8, with about fifty people attending. All enjoyed a variety of our usual popular crafts from gingerbread houses, to different ornaments made with acrylic paint, or beads, or glitter, markers, glue and a host of other art media. We also had a new table which included the necessary supplies to create eighteen Advent ornaments. twelve hung on an Advent tree at the end of the night during our closing worship. The other six Advent ornaments were included in worship during pageant Sunday on December 15. And of course, lots of fun, creativity and camaraderie were enjoyed by all, as well as appetizers and a light supper of pizza, beverages, and desserts.



Christmas Pageant:

Thanks to all who helped make this year's Christmas Pageant a success. The numerous men who took time from their annual December breakfast to help put the stable and manger together and set up the animals, and to the adults and children who worked very hard. I hope all had lots of fun and will have many fond memories of their participation. This year we had nearly eighty percent of the children participating! And of course, thanks to many parents for taking time out from their busy December schedule so their children could participate. We missed those of you whom couldn't join us this year - I hope we will see you next year!

This year, our beloved Christmas story was presented on December 15, as a continuation and final chapter to the Advent celebration begun with Advent Night on Dec. 8. During our annual celebration, all who wished to do so, created one or more, of eighteen different ornaments, six which were added to our Advent tree at the start of our pageant and worship on December 15. All children, between the ages of three years old and 14 years old at church participated as narrators, or the Holy family, or shepherds, or angels, or wise people. The attentive and glowing faces of the all those present, pageant participants and congregation together,

A heartfelt thank you to all for your support of our Church School program and children.



Please join us for our (rescheduled) Faith Family Fun Family Game Night! January 12 5-7pm

We will be enjoying a pasta and meatball dinner and enjoying some family game time! After we have some devotional time, group games and lots of fun! Please plan to join us!

As always, contributions of food (cheese and crackers, fruit, dessert) always welcome!

Please see or email Karlee or Kerry Stewart kerry@stewartclan.net with any questions!

May you all have a blessed Christmas and healthy, safe New Year!

Karlee Etter
Ministry Coordinator for Children

Church Family News



Birthdays Evan Schweickert 01/01, Lily Corcoran 01/02, Kimberly Noel 01/05, Carl Flodquist 01/06, Matthew Noel 01/06, Bradley Schweickert 01/07, Kyle Brock 01/09, Joyce Bellonio 01/12, Neil Reardon 01/13, Diane Lacobelli 01/15, Joanne Nottingham 01/15, Lorraine Burdge 01/15, Kayla Leyerzapf 01/17, Kay Olson 01/19, James Dockendorff 01/22, Kevin Leyerzapf 01/24, Lillian Flodquist 01/25, Lynn Reardon 01/27, Hazel Jokl 01/27, Samuel Jokl 01/27, Lawrence North 01/29, Craig Miller 01/31.

Anniversaries: Suzanne & Nigel Light 01/18.

Births: Jordyn Sila Elisabeth Boerma was born on September 22, 2019 to Cynthia Campos and Marc Boerma. Lauren Campos is a very proud and devoted big sister! Joy!

Weddings: Laurie Petrucci and Pat Alden were married in the church on November 30. Laurie is the mother of Jason and Ryan, and Pat is the father of Emma. Congratulations!

SOCKS OF LOVE



SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS

Christmas is about Christ. It is about the gift God offered to humanity through the giving of his son. So, I'm asking all of you to join us again this year as we give "Socks of Love." Last year we collected more than 185 pairs of white cotton socks for Men and Women and delivered them to those attending the Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen in January on the second Thursday when we served dinner. They are one of the most requested items, and the smiles and deeply felt "thankyous" they gave us would indeed warm your heart. Why white cotton socks, you ask? Because many have skin conditions or are diabetic and these socks stay warm and are the easiest to clean. Between now and January 8th we ask if you will drop off the socks in the Narthex on Sundays or leave them during the week in a marked box in the entry level of the church. We will deliver them on January 9th to D.E.S.K

Joan Bennett
Moderator

Angel Tree Christmas Gifts

From: The Covenant to Care for Children Mission Team

Looking at the beautifully wrapped piles of gifts waiting for our social worker to pick up (so many that it requires several social workers and several vehicles get them to DCF) brought to mind all the people who are already stretched to fit in all there is to do during the holiday season. Those who despite this take the time to focus on fulfilling the



wish of a child who otherwise might not receive any. Those who are not able offered to contribute.

Santa is fun, but really the giving of gifts goes back THE ULTIMATE gift that GOD gave us in the form of the baby Jesus. Then the wise and powerful came and brought precious gifts to the Child. What Jesus taught us is that all little children are important, even when society tells them that they are not. Hopefully, our gifts will signify not only that they are getting something they want, but that they are important enough to someone to want to get them what they wished for. For those too young to know may their parents know their children are valued.

Many thanks to all who participated in this mission.



Your consideration is requested on Sunday morning!

It is important for the Sunday worship service to begin on time, at 9:30am. Scott Morrow asks for no interruptions in his office after 8:45am, when he is making his final preparations. If you have a prayer request or pastoral concern, please call or speak with him before 8:45am; after that time please give the request to the Deacon. Scott wants to avoid keeping the congregation waiting. Thank you!

2020 Sunday Worship Participants: The new signup sheets are posted in the Narthex, Please sign up for any open opportunities. We need Greeters, Scripture Readers, Flowers and Coffee Hour Hosts. Thank you.

January 5, 2020 (Second Sunday After Christmas): Deacon is Jim Bennett. Co-Celebrant is Nancy Mahoney. Deacons serving Communion are Joan Bennett, Dot Pierce, & Doris Ferner. Prayer reader is Jim Bennett. Children begin in Chapel, then to classrooms, return to worship for Communion.

January 12, 2020 (The Baptism of Christ): Deacon is AnnMarie Czajkowski. Co- Deacon is Doris Ferner. Children begin in worship then go to Church School; Children's Choir .

January 19, 2020 (Second Sunday After Epiphany): Deacon is Nancy Mahoney. Co-Deacon is Dot Pierce Family Sunday; Children remain in worship. Faith Family Fun Night 5-7 p.m.

January 26, 2020 (Third Sunday After Epiphany): Deacon is Tim Peiffer. Co- Deacon is Sue Compton. Prayer reader is Tim Peiffer. Children begin in worship then go to Church School; Children's Choir.



Oasis Multi-church Youth Group will meet regularly on Sunday afternoon from 5-6:30. Occasionally the time will shift for special activities. The Confirmation Class will meet once a month on Sunday afternoon from 4-5pm. Here is the schedule for January:

All January meetings are at **United Church on the Green.**

Sunday Jan. 5– OASIS Youth & 5th -7th graders
Laser Tag Night; Time TBD

Sunday, Jan. 12 – Confirmation Class 4-5pm,
Confirmation & OASIS dinner and
Accessibility Justice Night 5-7pm.

Sunday, Jan. 19 – Confirmation and OASIS -
MLK Services

Sunday, Jan. 26 –OASIS Movie Night

Sunday, Dec. 29 – OASIS New Year's Party 5-
6:30.

Mission Team News

Youth Ministry Mission Team Is Working!

We hosted the December events for Oasis and the Joint Confirmation Class. The Oasis Multi-church Youth Program is an exciting, collaboration among several churches serving youth from grades 7-12. The program now involves youth in grades 5-7 on a monthly basis. The Youth Ministry MT helps provide adult support for planning, supervision, assistance with refreshments, transportation, shopping, and communication. The Oasis Program and Joint Confirmation are coordinated by Emily McKenna and the pastors of the member churches. Sign-ups for volunteer needs connected with the Youth and Confirmation programs are done online.

NHCC will host OASIS events next in February 2020. If you are interested in working with the Youth Ministry MT please speak with Scott or Julie.

PIERPONT Concerts

A splendid evening was had on Saturday the 7th of December when the fabulous musicians of BRASS gifted the NHCC Sanctuary a full program of beautiful music for the holidays. The program spanned centuries of written music with intricate brass quintet arrangements which filled the church with beautiful sounds. From Paul McCartney to Michael Praetorius, the musicians of Brass presented a fabulous program. North Haven's own Drew Mazurek, a founding member of Brass, spoke of how Brass was the first Pierpont Concert Performer many years ago! We are so grateful that they are still performing and welcome them back anytime!

Thank you to all who attended and supported this Pierpont Concert!



The next Pierpont Concert is on Saturday February 22, 2020, when the award-winning North Haven High School Jazz and Vocal ensembles fill the Church with youthful energy and great music!

Merry Christmas From the Choir of North Haven Congregational Church



*“Omega and Alpha He!
Let the organ thunder,
While the choir with peals of glee
Rends the air asunder!”*

The Music Ministry Team is starting a collection for Easter 2020 guest musicians early this year. Every little bit helps us compensate our trumpet players at proper professional rates. We will not be hiring musicians for Christmas this year, but we will be hiring musicians for Easter which is in a few short months. Thanks so much to the parishioners who keep this special offering in mind year round. It truly helps to beautify our Easter service. Please look for the pictured envelopes in the pews and/or write “special music” in the memo line of your check. Thanks!



The North Haven Congregational Church Chancel Choir

Rehearses Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm. Some very beautiful music is planned for this season. All who are interested in enjoying some good fellowship and music are encouraged to come visit a rehearsal. No music reading skills are required, but this is the perfect environment to learn!

Please contact Jeff at JeffHutchinsMusic@gmail.com or 203-508-2108 with any questions. Sincerely, *Jeff Hutchins*
Director of Music



Christmas Food Drive As this issue of the WINDOW goes to press, the final pick-ups and deliveries are set to distribute food to **110** households in North Haven. The North Haven Lions Club, the Rotary Club of North Haven, and many businesses in town have made donations of food items and money. Volunteers from the churches in North Haven, along with school and town sports teams, volunteer firefighters, and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have helped with food collection, sorting, packing and delivery. This is the highest number of household we have ever served, and we are very glad our neighbors will be able to enjoy a brighter and more delicious Christmas dinner.

Welcome to our New Members!

We extend a friendly and warm welcome to the three new members who joined our church on December 1: **Shirley Ryan** and **Jeff Whipple**. We invite all of our members to greet and welcome them, and to get to know them.

Shirley Ryan lived all her life in North Haven until moving to Hamden recently. She is married to Tom Ryan, and they have seven children in a blended family. Shirley is retired from her work as the office manager at Yale University Health Services. She grew up as a Baptist, and was a member of the Montowese Baptist Church for many years.

Jeff Whipple the son of Shirley Ryan and stepson of Tom. He lives in North Haven, and has a very interesting job working in a greenhouse at Growers Inc.! He works with planting, landscaping, and caring for flowers in commercial buildings. Jeff enjoys coming to church with Shirley and Tom, and likes to help collect the offering.



Annual Meeting and Annual Reports – The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is tentatively scheduled for **Sunday, February 2**, following the worship service. **Annual Reports** from Mission Teams and staff are due in the church office on **Friday, January 3**.

Weekly Bible Study on Tuesday resumes Jan. 7– Join Us!

We continue with a weekly Bible Study on Tuesday afternoons at 6pm. We will meet for an hour for study and prayer in the Heath Room. Stop in on your way home from work, or just before supper!

NHE Pulpit Rotation

One of special traditions in the New Haven East Consociation (our group of 10 local churches) of the CT Conference of the United Church of Christ is our annual “pulpit swap”. The name “Consociation” emphasizes an organization of clergy and lay members; the pulpit rotation offers members an opportunity to meet and hear from other clergy in the area. On Sunday, **January 12**, we will welcome the Reverend Suzanne Personette from the First Congregational Church of Branford to our pulpit. Pastor Scott will preach at the First Congregational Church of Madison.

Interfaith Service Commemorating Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr on Fri. Jan. 17

Congregation Mishkan Israel will hold its annual interfaith service to remember and celebrate Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and his legacy. The service will be led by Rabbi Brian Immerman. The service is scheduled for 7pm Friday, January 17, at Congregation Mishkan Israel, 785 Ridge Road, Hamden.

Call Today: January 18th 2020

Intrigue, Investigation, Food, & Laughs



The North Haven High School Drama and Improv groups will be facilitating the second annual Mystery Dinner on Saturday,

January 18th beginning at 5:00pm. The evening will begin with music from the NHHS Jazz Band followed by an interactive show that is performed as you enjoy a delicious meal. Join us for a fun and intellectually stimulating evening! Call the office to reserve your seat.

Abraham's Tent

Our Church will participate in Abraham's Tent again this year. We will providing overnight

hospitality at NHCC during the week of February 3-10, from dinner on February 3rd through breakfast on February 10th. This year, Priscilla Bradford and John Tibor will serve as the overall coordinators for our efforts. We are confident that many people will volunteer to help. If you would like to serve as a volunteer for Abraham's Tent this year, please contact the church office. You will find a special joy in participating in this undertaking.



Mark your calendars for April 25th 2020. We will once again be involved with Rebuilding Together

New Britain and would like to have even more people participate. Look for more details as the date gets closer. If you have any questions you can call the Priscilla Bradford, John Tibor or the office.

We Have A New Electric Snow Shovel!!



Men's Fellowship has purchased a new electric snow shovel for clearing snow from stairwells around the church. Todd is grateful for this new tool.

This new electric shovel will complement the Snow blower we purchased last year.

We anticipate we may need assistance with clearing snow on evenings and weekends when the need arises. If you are interested in helping with clearing snow, please call the church office to become a

Snow-Angel!!! There is a "Snow Angel Lottery" sign-up on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the church office. Please sign up with the understanding you will clear snow from the walks and entryways (either by shovel, electric shovel or snowblower) on the indicated days. If it doesn't snow, you're off the hook! Experience has shown that hiring snow-shovelers can be expensive, particularly since no plowing is involved. We are also interested in developing a list of youth who would like to be paid to shovel on weekdays particularly. However, we have agreed to hire outside contractors for snowfalls greater than 6".

What is Pastor Scott doing on Wednesday nights? Scott is enrolled in the

Spiritual Direction Practicum at Mercy By The Sea in Madison. This is a two-year program leading to certification in spiritual direction. There is one semester remaining in this program from mid-January through mid-April. Spiritual direction is conversation about one's relationship with God, or spiritual journey in life. The conversation might touch on prayer, making a faithful decision, or seeking a deeper or closer relationship with God. The students in the class need to practice with interested 'directees' (Scott cannot practice with church members) If you are curious to know more, please get in touch with Scott.

STORM CLOSINGS; If church programs or activities should need to be cancelled due to bad weather, this information will be broadcast on WTNH TV channel 8 and WFSB TV channel 3. It will also be listed on our website (www.northhavenucc.org), and on our outgoing telephone message.

It is church policy that afternoon and evening activities for youth are cancelled if school is cancelled or there is an early dismissal.

10th Anniversary of Open & Affirming at NHCC! Next year marks the 10th anniversary of our congregational study and vote to adopt our Open and Affirming Policy. Our Open & Affirming Policy proclaims our welcome to participation and membership in the Church of "women and men of all ages, tongues, races, abilities, circumstances, and sexual orientations who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and declare their commitment to the purposes and ministries of this congregation."

This is an occasion for celebration! We will gather a Mission Team to plan a celebration of our Open & Affirming commitment in the coming year. Such a celebration might include worship services, public displays, education for the congregation and the public, and consideration of how to increase the visibility and influence of our ONA welcome. If you are interested in helping to plan and coordinate some of these events, please contact Pastor Scott or Julie Schweickert.

Women's Fellowship

January 2020 Happy New Year!!

Women's Fellowship gathered for the Annual Christmas Party with 26 women joining in to enjoy a wonderful dinner catered by Bellini's. After dinner, gift bags for 15 homebound members were assembled and later delivered. The evening continued with lots of laughs as the "tacky grab bag" took place. Outrageous, funny, hilarious gifts were opened, each funnier than the one before! It was a fantastic night all around, and the Executive Board thanks everyone for attending and making the party a huge success!

As 2020 begins, we have several SAVE THE DATES to add to your calendar:

Wednesday, January 22: At 7:00 p.m. Lynne Nielsen will host a "brainstorming" gathering at her house to discuss new ideas and suggestions for the 2020 Fair. Details to follow. Check your email!

Monday, February 10: At 6:30 p.m. in Carroll Hall, we will have our Valentine Party Pot Luck Dinner, and we will get Valentine cards ready to send to our homebound members.

Saturday, March 7: At 6:00 p.m. there will be a St Patrick's Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner.

Friday, April 17: Military Whist Party at 6:15 p.m. Details to follow. There are many opportunities coming up to join us and have some fun. Please plan on attending; we would love to see you!

Dot Pierce, President

Executive Board: Lynne Nielsen, Carol Mitchell, Kathy Harple, and Cheryl Bogert

Men's Fellowship

14 men braved the cold December weather to convene for our twice per month breakfast in the kitchen in Carroll Hall early on Saturday morning, 12/7.

We discussed many important subjects relevant to our church community and also lots of other "stuff" like sports, restaurants and local craft breweries.

Breakfast was prepared by John Tibor who was scheduled to have rotator cuff surgery the following Thursday. I'm happy to report that he was spied happily shopping with his wife in Stop & Shop very same afternoon as his surgery!

It's hard to keep a good man down.

Please don't forget that we're packing Christmas food boxes for the needy families in our area on Friday night, December 20th at 7 pm in Carroll Hall. Volunteers are needed for approximately 45 minutes to perform this noble service for our extended community.

Our 1st Annual MF Christmas Dinner



A strong contingent of men (16) from our group gathered for dinner and refreshments at J. Roo's Restaurant on December 9th to usher in the Christmas season. The food and drinks were great. Lots of fun was had by all!

We shared a room with the CT Bird Watching Society and they too seemed to have lots of fun.

Our group laughed all night, and they all chirped incessantly! Several of their members were named Robin and Jay and I overheard them say that they would all soon be migrating south for the winter.

Several members of our group stated that this was really a fun event and that we should definitely schedule another one soon. Maybe in February?

Bottom line, we all respect, appreciate and enjoy one another in our group. We support each other and the commonalities that bind us together. And isn't that what Men's Fellowship is all about?

Our next Breakfast will be on Saturday, December 21st. Chef John will NOT be cooking as he rehabs his newly repaired shoulder. Who will be the MYSTERY CHEF? Come and find out!

Merry Christmas to you all,
Rob Nielsen

Hold These Dates

- January 18** (Saturday) – Mystery Dinner at 5pm!
- February 2** (Sunday) NHCC Annual Meeting following worship.
- February 3-10** NHCC will host Abraham’s Tent
- February 22** (Saturday) Pierpont Concert: NHHS Jazz and Choral Groups
- March 14** (Saturday) Super Saturday
- April 25** (Saturday) Rebuilding Together New Britain, Day of Mission
- May 2** (Saturday) Pierpont Concert: Mark Platt
- May 31** (Sunday) Confirmation Sunday NHCC
- June 20 - 22** 2nd Annual Mtng of the SNE Conference at Bryant College in RI

Pastoral Visits in Hospital

If you would appreciate a visit from the pastor when you are in the hospital or rehabilitation center, please call the church office and let us know of your hospitalization. Privacy guidelines now make it difficult for the pastor and other non-family members to confirm your presence in the hospital.

PRAYER REQUESTS

In this month’s *Window* we continue to list the names of persons for whom we pray in our worship each Sunday. Please add these special people to your prayers at home. Watch the *Window* each month for changes in this list.

In Our Prayers This Month are: Heidi Welch, Mary Cestaro, Tim Peiffer, David Bellonio, Marlene Bellonio, Stefan McKosky, Rose Monaco, AnnMarie Czajkowski, Francis Dutko, Sabrina Selmer, Dot Pierce, Kathie Gant, and Linda Shannon.

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS



If you are unable to receive Communion on the first Sunday of the month in church, we would be happy to bring this Sacrament to you, whether you are at home or in the hospital. Please call the church office at 203-239-5691 to set a time that would be convenient for you.

Cards & Letters

Some of our church members who are homebound are unable to be present for worship on Sunday mornings. We keep in touch with them through visitation such as home Communion and gifts of holiday flowers. We also include names and addresses for members in each copy of the *Window*. We invite you to send them a card and include them in your prayers.

Mary Cestaro
c/o Marilyn Odell
21 Marion Lane
Brewster, MA 02631



Audrey Tilley
1211 Ashlar Village
Wallingford, CT 06492

Marlene Bellonio
Advanced Nursing & Rehab
169 Davenport Ave. Unit S2,
Rm 205a
New Haven, CT 06519



David Bellonio
Masonicare Health Center
Ramage 6, Rm 616
Wallingford, CT 06492

**NORTH HAVEN
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**
United Church of Christ
An Open & Affirming Congregation

28 Church Street
North Haven, CT 06473

203-239-5691
203-234-1751 (fax)

Church Office@NorthHavenUCC.org
www.NorthHavenUCC.org

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 am to 2:30 pm

SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Scott Morrow

MINISTRY COORDINATOR

FOR CHILDREN

Karlee Etter

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Jeffrey Hutchins

ORGANIST

Gary Snowbeck

OFFICE MANAGER

Julie Schweickert

SEXTON

Todd Swarney

WINDOW DEADLINE

January 15, 2019

LECTIONARY READINGS

January 5, 2020 (Second Sunday after Christmas):

Jerimiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12

Psalm 147:12-20 or

Wisdom of Sol 10:15-21

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1(1-9), 10-18

January 6, 2020 (Epiphany):

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

January 12, 2020 (The Baptism of Christ):

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

January 19, 2020 (Second Sunday after Epiphany):

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

January 26, 2020 (Third Sunday after Epiphany):

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
28 Church Street
North Haven, CT 06473

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