

FOUNDED 1716
North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Generosity Sunday



**Beloved,
let us love one another,
because love is from God;
everyone who loves
is born of God
and knows God. 1 John 4:7**



North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

**NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Sunday, November 8, 2020

9:30 a.m.

**Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 27
Generosity Sunday**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Solemn Melody*

Philip Kreckel

***OPENING HYMN:** "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

V703

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: God has given us this beautiful earth and all that grows and runs upon it.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

Leader: God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

Leader: God has gathered us into a community of care and worship.

ALL: Let us worship God with love, thanksgiving, and praise.

***LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE ~unison**

Creator, open our hearts
to peace and healing between all people.

Creator, open our hearts
to provide and protect for all children of the earth.

Creator, open our hearts
to respect for the earth, and all the gifts of the earth.

Creator, open our hearts
to end exclusion, violence, and fear among all.

Thank-you for the gifts of this day and every day.## Amen.

Native American - Micmac - Alycia Longriver - 1995

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:~unison

Holy Spirit of God, who gathers the church into one body, gather us once again in your presence and strengthen the bonds of affection that hold your people together. Bless us with grace to cooperate with one another in love and service that we may be the signs of your uniting love to our fractured world. Teach us to show compassion for those in need, to face challenges with imagination, and to counter disappointments with prayerful trust. So may your church bring forth your will and your reign.** We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER (trespasses)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON OF GENEROSITY

Wendy Glynn

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac;

“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

HERE ENDS THE READING. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

ANTHEM: *Yes, God Is Real* Words and Music by Kenneth Morris (1917-1988)
Sung by Jeffrey Hutchins Arranged by Horace Clarence Boyer (1935-2009)

SERMON: "Great Love" Scott G. Morrow

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE OFFERTORY

*Doxology

Tune: Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

GREETING OF PEACE

***CLOSING HYMN:** "Forth in Your Name, O Christ"

V416

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: *Moderato Maestoso*

Kreckel

*Those who are able, please stand.

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WORLD PRAYERS –www.worldprayers.org - retrieved 9/4/15

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The flowers this morning are given by Barbara Massey. God has once again created a beautiful AUTUMN for all of us to enjoy. Perhaps it is a familiar and "normal" time watching nature's colors change outdoors right before our eyes.

We revel in past memories of attending church services, playing fall sports, visiting church fairs, baking and celebrating holidays with family and friends.

God asks us to stay connected with our "normals" even through new channels of change.

Enjoy the autumn colors, watch the sports, visit a "Virtual NHC Church fair" (and buy a few items to support the Women's Fellowship humanitarian causes) and smile while FaceTiming with family and friends.

Keep wearing your masks and social distance so we can all be seen in person and up close again soon. You are all part of my "normal" and I miss you.

In Our Prayers This Week are: Heather Purcell, Ona & Sam Gott, Ben & Cole Purcell, Heidi Welch, Mary Cestaro, Tim Peiffer, David Bellonio, Marlene Belonio, Stefan McKosky, Rose Monaco, Sabrina Selmer, Linda Shannon, Elaine Burr, Joyce Bellonio, and Betsy Gumbart.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Peter Hall 11/08, Bette DeMayo 11/08, Chery Solecki 11/08, Max Scoppetto 11/09, Annette Grant 11/10, Audrey Tilley 11/12, Lauren Bogaert 11/12, Theodore Manzo 11/13.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Carmen & Melissa DeLuca 11/09, William & Mary Ellen Adams 11/10, George & Flo Coulston 11/14, Jim & Joan Bennett 11/14.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	11/8	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (Generosity Sunday) – Online OASIS (Zoom)
Monday	11/9	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Tuesday	11/10	12:00 p.m. 5:00 6:00 7:30	BUILDING & GROUNDS (Zoom) PASTORAL RELATIONS (Zoom) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom) Nutmeg Treasure Hunters (CH)
Wednesday	11/11	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	VETERANS DAY FOOD PANTRY OPEN STAFF MEETING (Zoom) RE-OPENING (Zoom)
Thursday	11/12	7:00 p.m.	CHANCEL CHOIR (Zoom)
Friday	11/13	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Saturday	11/14	8:00 a.m.	Scouting for Food Drop off
Sunday	11/15	9:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	WORSHIP – In person & Online OASIS (Zoom)

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer With The Holiday Food Drive!!

The Holiday Food Drive is preparing for Thanksgiving and there are opportunities to volunteer and help beginning next Sunday. Food items will be sorted beginning next Sunday, 11/15, through Tuesday, 11/17. Food Boxes will be packed on Thursday and Friday, 11/19 & 20. Fresh produce will be sorted and packed on Friday, 11/20. The Holiday Food boxes will be picked up or delivered on Saturday, 11/21. **Please sign up to volunteer on the CHURCH WEBSITE starting Tuesday, 11/10.** Call the Church Office with questions.

Make your Church Pledge Online!

We are trying many new ways of reaching out to members and friends this year. In conjunction with the **Season of Generosity** this year, you have the opportunity to make your pledge of financial support for the church next year online, through the church website (www.northhavenucc.org). On the homepage of the website you will see a bright purple banner invitation "Make Your 2021 Pledge Today." Click on the purple banner, and the Generosity page will open. Here you will find some comments from church members reflecting on their giving to the church, and a Pledge Card form which you can fill out and submit from the web page. If you would like a copy as your confirmation, you can print the screen before you submit your pledge, or call the Church Office and Julie Schweickert will send it to you.

Evaluation of the Pastor ONLINE!

Here is yet another opportunity to respond online! The Evaluation of the Pastor is being conducted now, and the evaluation team from the Pastoral Relations Mission Team is seeking responses from as many members and friends as possible. Please take a few minutes and complete the Pastoral Evaluation online! Go to the church website (www.northhavenucc.org) and click on the green banner on the homepage "Annual Evaluation of the Pastor." This will open the Pastoral Evaluation page. Here you will find a brief explanation of the purpose of the evaluation and instructions. You are asked to answer 8 questions, and your specific thought and feelings and examples will be most helpful. **Please complete your evaluation by Nov. 10.** Thank you for helping to guide, affirm, and improve pastoral leadership at North Haven Congregational Church.



New England "VIRTUAL" Fair has begun on line!

Please go to the website northhavenucc.org to place your orders.

Need help placing an order, call the office and Julie will be happy to help you!

Place and pay for your order on line, or check payable to NHCC Women's Fellowship!

Orders available for pick up Sunday Dec 13th, 12-2:00 p.m.

In order to allow Parishioners to have priority in purchasing our FAMOUS FROZEN APPLE PIES, they will be sold by calling or emailing the Church Office.

9" READY TO BAKE PIE \$10.00 each.

ONLY 1 PIE PER FAMILY AS THERE ARE ONLY 12 PIES AVAILABLE!!

FIRST COME FIRST SERVE!!

Church Office Staff:

All the Members, Ministers to the World
The Reverend Scott G. Morrow, Senior Pastor
Karlee Etter, Ministry Coordinator for Children
Jeffrey Hutchins, Director of Music
Gary Snowbeck, Organist
Julie Schweickert, Office Manager
Todd Swarney, Sexton
Telephone: 203-239-5691
Fax: 203-234-1751
Email: churchoffice@northhavenucc.org
Website: northhavenucc.org

MISSION

Our church's mission is to bind ourselves with Jesus Christ in:

- Worship together;
- Nurture of Christian discipleship; and
- Compassionate service to our community and beyond.

VISION

We are a hub for the larger community as a church of action:

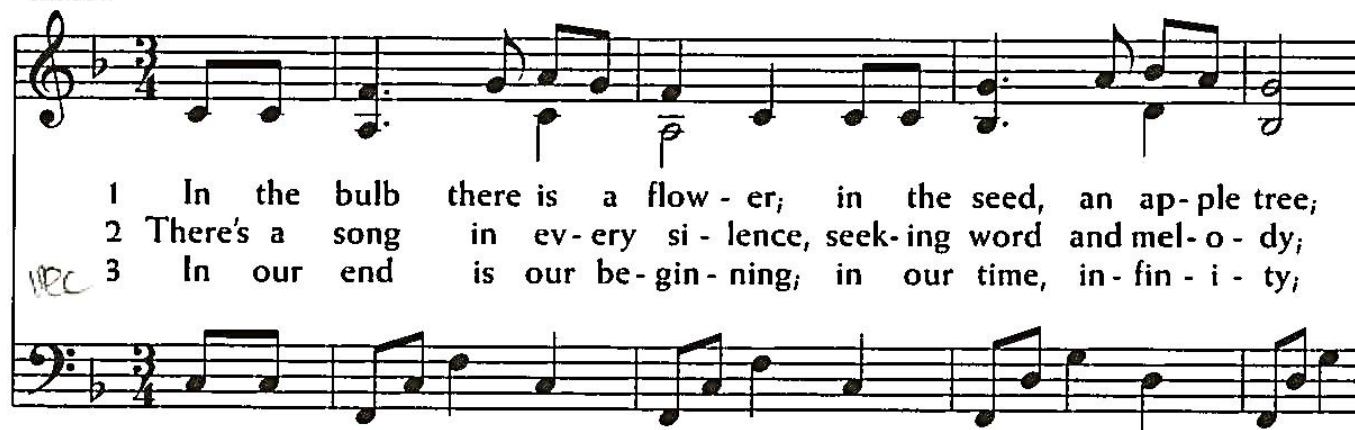
- Conducting regular, robust worship in a responsible and relevant way in an ever changing and challenging world;
- Welcoming all people from different and diverse backgrounds to become a community of disciples together; and
- Involved in purposeful action and activities through the structure of self-directed Mission Teams.

VALUES

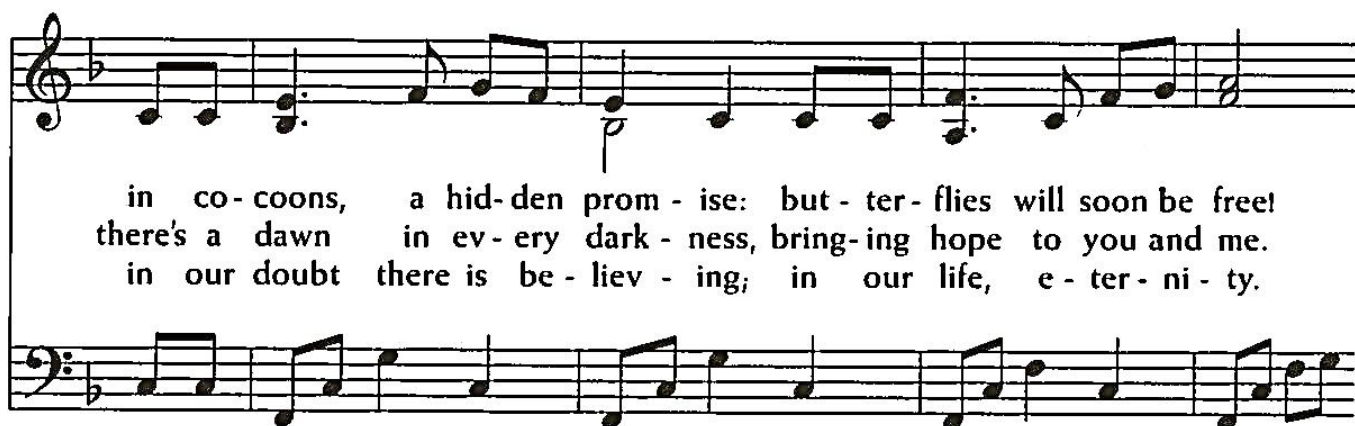
We:

- Pray together, encourage each other, and trust one another;
- Take personal responsibility for fellowship and our community; and
- Celebrate with honored traditions.

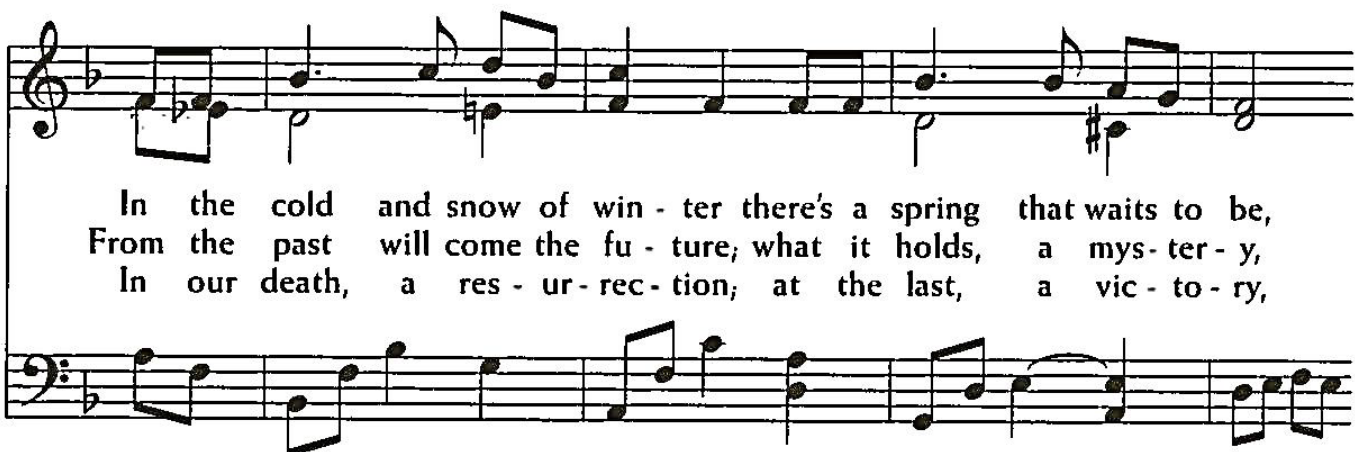
Unison



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 REC 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.



1 Forth in your name, O Christ, we go, our
 2 The task your wis - dom has as - signed here
 ♦ 3 You may we set at our right hand, whose
 4 Help us to bear your eas - y yoke, in
 5 Then with de - light may we em - ploy all

dai - ly la - bour to pur - sue, you, on - ly you, re -
 let us cheer - ful - ly ful - fil, in all our works your
 ♦ eyes our in - most se - crets view, and la - bour on at
 ev - ery mo - ment watch and pray, and still to things e -
 that your boun - teous grace has given, and run our earth - ly

solved to know in all we think, or speak, or do.
 pres - ence find, and prove your good and per - fect will.
 ♦ your com - mand and of - fer all our works to you.
 ter - nal look, and hast - en to that glo - rious day.
 course with joy, and close - ly walk with you to heaven.



Beloved, Love in Action

"Do your little bit of good where you are. It's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." – Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Love is a verb. Not simply a feeling or thought. Grounded in God's love for us, we are called to act, to love. 1 John 4:11 puts it this way, "Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another." We take seemingly small actions to live out God's love. Here's the beautiful thing: together in community, we can change the world.

In 2019, Magnolia United Church of Christ in Seattle, WA, held its inaugural Community in Action Sunday. Determining that 'church in action' was a key to their vitality, instead of holding church worship as on a typical Sunday, they were love in action. Participating in five diverse service projects, the congregants restored habitat at a local park, made blankets for children, helped at their local animal shelter, tended an elder garden at the Native American cultural center, and cleaned up and cleared brush at a homeless encampment.

While average worship attendance runs about 50, that Sunday, over 150 people took part.



After participating in their service projects, the congregants gathered. The Reverend Marci Scott-Weis, Magnolia UCC minister, commented on her service: "It was messy, chaotic, oozing in vitality and a whole lot of fun to be the church that morning." She continued, "one girl said to me, 'That was so much fun, can we do church every week like this?'"

With such positive responses, Magnolia UCC held its second annual Community in 2020. "It was such an amazing morning seeing folks from our congregation and from our community join together to help our neighbors," Scott-Weis said. "It was fun, crazy busy, church at its best."

How can you put your love into action? Who would want to join you in that work? How can you have fun doing it? Love is a verb indeed. Our church can be God's love through our serving and giving. Can you pledge to take part and live God's love?

WEEKLY GIVING IF THE PERCENTAGE IS

(Rounded to the nearest dollar)

Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	15%
16,000	1,333	308	6.00	12.00	18.00	25.00	31.00	46.00
20,000	1,667	385	8.00	15.00	23.00	31.00	39.00	58.00
25,000	2,083	481	10.00	19.00	29.00	38.00	48.00	72.00
30,000	2,500	577	12.00	23.00	35.00	46.00	58.00	87.00
35,000	2,917	673	13.00	27.00	40.00	54.00	67.00	101
40,000	3,333	769	15.00	31.00	46.00	62.00	77.00	115
45,000	3,750	865	17.00	35.00	52.00	69.00	87.00	130
50,000	4,167	962	19.00	38.00	58.00	77.00	96.00	144
60,000	5,000	1,154	23.00	46.00	69.00	92.00	115	173
75,000	6,250	1,442	29.00	58.00	87.00	115	144	216
100,000	8,333	1,923	38.00	77.00	115	154	192	288
125,000	10,417	2,404	48.00	96.00	144	192	240	361

