## FOUNDED 1716 North Haven Congregational Church United Church of Christ



North Haven, Connecticut An Open & Affirming Congregation

## NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

#### Sunday, November 5, 2023

9:30 a.m.

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 26 The Sacrament of Communion

### **GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

 PRELUDE: Versetto
 Giovanni Battista Fasolo

 \*OPENING HVMDIa "All Graateria of Oran Contract Visua" and Visua" and 12,45

**\*OPENING HYMN:** "All Creatures of Our God and King" vs 1-2, 4-5 V 217

## **\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Bring praise to our Creator who kissed life into our mortal bodies.

# **PEOPLE:** We bring praise to our Creator who trusts us to preserve God's most precious things.

- Leader: Bring praise to our Creator who invites us into sacred partnership to tend to each other and all of creation.
- ALL: We bring praise to our Creator, seeing the beauty around us and sensing our sacred responsibility. Let us worship God!\*\*

## \*LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE ~unison

- We pray to the great Spiritual Power in which we live and move and have our being.
- We pray for the victims of violence and war, for those wounded in body and for those wounded in mind.
- We pray for the multitudes of refugees, forced from their homes to alien places through war or through the utter destruction of their environment.
- We pray for an end to cruelty, for an end to bullying, and torture in all its forms.
- We pray that we may learn the peace that comes with forgiving and the strength we gain in loving.
- We pray for these things with humility.
- We pray because of the hope that is within us.
- We pray because of our love for Creation, and because of our trust in God.

We pray, above all, for peace throughout the world.<sup>##</sup> Amen.

Dr. Jane Goodall

#### **\*THE GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen. Amen.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**~*unison*

Gracious God, we come before your throne of grace, seeking forgiveness for our shortcomings and for not loving you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We have failed to see you in your neighbor. Lord, have mercy on us for not loving our undocumented neighbors, the homeless, the hungry, the imprisoned, the thirsty, the sick, and the naked. You said that everything we do for the least of our siblings we do for you. But we have ignored your command to love and care for the least among us, and we have been too selfcentered. Merciful God, return us to you; receive us, redeem us, transform us into good stewards. Renew our hearts, touch our hearts, soften our hearts to feel and care. Strengthen us to be the voice to the voiceless, and stand with the weak and vulnerable to protect, provide, and defend their rights. May our solidarity with the least of these siblings give birth to justice and peace in the land.\*\* Amen.

~ silence ~

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON ALL: Thanks be to God**

### THE COVENANT OF MEMBERSHIP

Presentation of New Members \*Owning the Covenant

#### The Congregation's Welcome

We, the members of this Church, most affectionately receive you into our fellowship, and welcome you to our communion. We likewise promise to pray for you, to watch over and help you, and to advocate for your gifts and ministries among us. God grant that loving and being loved, serving and being served, blessing and being blessed, we may be prepared while we dwell together on earth for the perfect fellowship of the saints above.

The Right Hand of Christian Fellowship

Prayer

**THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON**: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 P. 2 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

V509

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

\* **HYMN:** "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 25:31-46 P. 1174 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are

accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

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

#### **GIFT OF MUSIC: Harvest Hymn**

Words by Henry Alford

Tune DIX by Folliot S. Pierpoint Music/Accompaniment by Mary McDonald

#### Sung by the Chancel Choir

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin. God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied; come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home. All the world is God's own field, fruit as praise to God we yield; wheat and tares together sown are to joy or sorrow grown; first the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear; Lord of harvest grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

Even so, Lord, quickly come, bring thy final harvest home; gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin, there, forever purified, in thy presence to abide; come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

Amen. Amen!

**MEDITATION:** "Transformation in Generosity"Scott Morrow**PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS** 

## PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS PASTORAL PRAYER

**Choral Response** 

#### **THE OFFERTORY**

\*Doxology

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. Amen.

\*Prayer of Dedication

## ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE

## THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Hymn of Preparation: "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" V468 Invitation and Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Distribution

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**GREETING OF PEACE** ~*unison* 

May the peace of God in Jesus Christ be with you always!

\*CLOSING HYMN: "For All the Saints"

## **\*THE BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE:** Fabordon glosado, 'Dic Nobis, Maria'

Antonio de Cabezon

V705

\*Those who are able, please stand.

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## WORLD PRAYERS –www.worldprayers.org - retrieved 8/21/15

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We extend a warm welcome to New Members Wendy Civitello, Jen Febboriello, Ross Lanius, and Abigail Klutse.

Deacon and Scripture Reader is Carol Amico.

Greeters are Cynthia Boerma Campos and Beth Anderson.

**Fellowship Hour** is hosted by The Generosity Team celebrating The Season of Generosity.

**Today's flowers** are given by Carol Mitchell in celebration of her sister Linda on her birthday.

insert

Tune: Old Hundredth

#### ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE

**Rev. Patrick C. Finleon,** February 10<sup>th</sup> Frank Natoli, November 2<sup>nd</sup> Father of Rob Natoli, Lynne & Rob Served as the 24th pastor of North Nielsen's son-in-law Haven Congregational Church February 13<sup>th</sup> Ruka Marks. from 1985 to 1991. Daughter of Dave and Michele November 8<sup>th</sup> Paul Connor, Marks, and the granddaughter of Father-in-law of Steve & Mabel Barbara Marks and the late David Peterson's son Matthew Marks. Millie Gherlone Stankiewicz, Kristiana DePrimo, February 19<sup>th</sup> November 25<sup>th</sup> Daughter of Sal DePrimo, and Mother of Richard "Dick step-sister of Thomas, Michelle, Gherlone, grandmother of Susan Michael, Matthew, Jennifer and Beth Higgins, and great-Brianne Goldfuss, and Joseph grandmother of Kristofer Collins DePrimo and Onnalee Collins March 1<sup>st</sup> Edna Urbanski, December 26<sup>th</sup> Matthias Wirtz, Friend of Doris Ferner, mother of North Haven Firefighter Rev. Felicia Urbanski December 29<sup>th</sup> Howard Creacy, June 13<sup>th</sup> **David Griffis**, Son of Denise Creacy Brother of Cathy Welch. The Rev. Dr. Thomas Stiers, June 17<sup>th</sup> Ed Hazen, January 10<sup>th</sup> Brother-in-Law/Big Brother of Served as the twenty-second pastor Cheryl Bogert. of the North Haven Congregational July 8<sup>th</sup> Dale Sharp, Church from 1967 to 1973. Father of Cheryl Dutko The Rev. Dr. Richard C. Diehl, January 13<sup>th</sup> Barbara Hill, July 31<sup>st</sup> Mother of Michael Hill, Mother-in Served as the twenty-third pastor Law of Carla () Hill. of the North Haven Congregational August 10<sup>th</sup> **Bob Holmberg**, Church from 1974-1984. Grandfather to Kerry Stewart, January 19<sup>th</sup> **Bill Hawthorn**, Great-Grandfather to Logan and Husband of Judy Hawthorn, and Eliza Stewart. they were long-time members of August 20<sup>th</sup> Paul Hill, Jr., North Haven Congregational Father of Michael Hill, Father-in Church before their move to Law of Carla () Hill. Florida. Anthony Desimone, August 24th **James J. Lianos**, February 10<sup>th</sup> North Haven Firefighter/ Son of the late George and Eleanor Paramedic Lianos, and the brother of Joann **Rev. Ernest Bodenweber**, Oct 17<sup>th</sup> Slocombe, Thomas Lianos, Long time pastor at the WH Jacqueline Smith and Richard Congregational Church. Friend of Lianos.

Sue Tibor.

**Tom Jahoda,** February 10<sup>th</sup> Brother of Wendy Glynn.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

During Generosity Season we are asked to consider how we will share our time and talents. Columbus House has sent an email stating that they were thinking about reinstating Abraham's Tent. The email asked if our church would be able to host a week. John Tibor and Priscilla Bradford have been the contacts for this program. We realize that our situation has changed since the last program about 3 years ago when we were a host church. For one thing, our building is used during the week by many groups which pay to use the building. Finding people to stay overnight has become harder. In response to this email, we will respond that we cannot be a host church but can help provide meals at another site. We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate this effort. Please speak to John or Priscilla Bradford

**TURKEYS NEEDED** The hunger needs in our community have never been greater. In response, the North Haven Lions Club last year established a Second Saturday Service Project at which club members collect non-perishable foodstuffs for the town's two Food Pantries on the second Saturday of each month (from April to November). This year, as it has for the past thirty years, the club has pledged to provide turkeys for the Ecumenical Churches Thanksgiving Food Baskets distribution. The number committed to this year is one hundred (100). To help accomplish this goal, the North Haven Lions have expanded their wish list of desired foodstuffs this month to include frozen turkeys, so please consider dropping by the church parking lot on Saturday, November 11th to donate a frozen turkey (or two) between the hours of 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. The club, and our community, will be very thankful you did.

Jim Bennett, President North Haven Lions Club

## Holiday Food Drive Donations will be matched by Rotary

Monetary donations made to the Food Drive from now until November 13th will be partially matched by the North Haven Rotary. For every \$1 given, the Rotary will donate \$0.25. If you plan on giving to the Food Drive, please make your donation go further and give before November 13<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support.

## **Stop & Shop Benefit for Food Pantry**

The Leadership Team at Stop & Shop, 79 Washington Avenue has designated the Food Pantry benefit from the Bloomin' 4 Good Program. The Pantry will receive \$1 from every specially marked \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet sold during the month of November 2023.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS\***

Sunday	11/5		DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
-		9:30 a.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream)
Monday	11/6	9:30 a.m.	Music Together (DBL)
		10:30	Music Together (DBL)
		1:00 p.m.	Retired Federal Employees (CH)
Tuesday	11/7	9:30 a.m.	Al-Anon-Luncheon (CH)
		12:00 p.m.	PLP (L)
		3:30	United Girls Choir (CH, DBL, SANCT)
		6:00	Bible Study (Zoom)
Wednesday	11/8	9:30 a.m.	Music Together (DBL)
		10:00	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
		10:30	Music Together (DBL)
		7:00 p.m.	MLB (L)
		7:00	OASIS: Worship Wednesday (Zoom)
Thursday	11/9	10:00 a.m.	Music Together (DBL)
		7:00 p.m.	Garden Club (CH)
		7:00	CHANCEL CHOIR
Friday	11/10	9:30 a.m.	Music Together (DBL)
		10:00	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
		10:30	Music Together (DBL)
		7:00 p.m.	Danish Brotherhood (K)
Saturday	11/11		VETERANS DAY
		8:00 a.m.	FALL CLEANUP
		9:30	Music Together (DBL)
		10:30	Music Together (DBL)
		7:00 p.m.	PIERPONT CONCERT: Mark Platt
Sunday	11/12	9:30 a.m.	<b>WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream)</b>

Bold print starts new day.

**In Our Prayers This Week are:** Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marcia Foulds, Marlene Bellonio, Shirley Ryan, Joyce Bellonio, Ellen Robert, Meg Adams, Paul Menillo, David Gould, and Sarah.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:**, Eliza Stewart 11/05, Jason Petrucci 11/05, Bette DeMayo 11/08, Cheryl Solecki 11/08, Peter Hall 11/08, Max Scoppetto 11/09, Annette Grant 11/10, Audrey Tilley 11/12.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Carmen & Melissa DeLuca 11/09, William & Mary Ellen Adams 11/10.



Light Refreshments to follow Tickets \$15 (\$10 with student ID)

Please join us for a special concert on Saturday November 11, at 7:00pm. Performing in the sanctuary that night is Mark Platt, Christian singer/songwriter who is a proficient musician, acoustic guitar and harmonica player, with a unique style appealing to both young and old. We would love to bring in audience for this event. Tickets are \$15. Students, \$10, and under age 12, free. Please come and support the church as we rebuild the Pierpont Concert Series after a long hiatus. We will also need volunteers to help with the reception. Please call the office or contact members of the Music Mission to get your tickets!

BECAUSE OF

## **OUR CHURCH CHANGES LIVES.**

## Stewardship for a Thriving Planet

## by Dr. Carol Frances Johnston

t each stage of creating in Genesis 1, God "saw that it was good." When human beings were created last, "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good." There are two crucial aspects of this to notice here: First, not only that everything created is "good", but also that it is the whole together that is "very good". Second, it is crucial to consider the importance of God seeing that it is good. One of my students once asked about this, and together our class unpacked it. We soon realized that God "seeing" and so noticing (and knowing) God's creatures, and how the whole is greater than the sum of the parts ("very good") is a crucial element of life. Everyone needs to be seen and understood by others and learning that God "sees" and understands them as individuals and how they are connected to everything else can be transformative.

A few years ago, I interviewed about 75 faithful, creative, and generous church and community leaders across the U.S. Gradually I noticed that they shared an experience that comes before gratitude, generosity, and

learning how to practice stewardship, and makes them possible. What I saw in those congregations was attention and care to helping people - often very wounded, anxious, and fearful people - to receive God's love into their lives in a variety of tangible ways through the preaching, worship, teaching, and above all the sharing of that love in the practice of a form of hospitality that included seeing and accepting each person as a beloved child of God and valued member of God's family. This hospitality, grounded in the experience of God's love through Christ, was far more than friendliness - it was intentional about affirming each person as one with needed gifts to bring as well as needs to be met, so that the life of the church became one of mutuality that extended far beyond into effective mission. I heard many stories about how the church leaders, especially the pastors, saw potential in each person that they themselves had not realized they had, and invited them to bring it to share with others: the very kind of stewardship we have seen in the Genesis accounts.

This way of inviting people in and grounding them has proven to be transformative and frees up potential that exists in every person and every community in remarkable ways.

Questions to Consider:

Because of

- How does your spiritual practice of generosity connect you to other people?
- 2. When has someone deeply "seen" you?
- 3. How does generosity reflect what you "see" in our community and beyond?

our church changes lives.

Church 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 Heather Meachen, Organist Julie Schweickert, Office Manager Todd Swarney, Sexton

#### 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.

**\*OPENING HYMN:** "All Creatures of Our God and King" vs 1-2, 4-5 V 217





- And everyone of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part: sing praises, hallelujah! All who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and yield up all your care: sing praises, hallelujah!
- 5 Let all things their Creator bless, and worship God in humbleness: sing praises, hallelujah! Praise God eternal, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in one: sing praises, hallelujah!

\* HYMN: "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"



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\*CLOSING HYMN: "For All the Saints"







