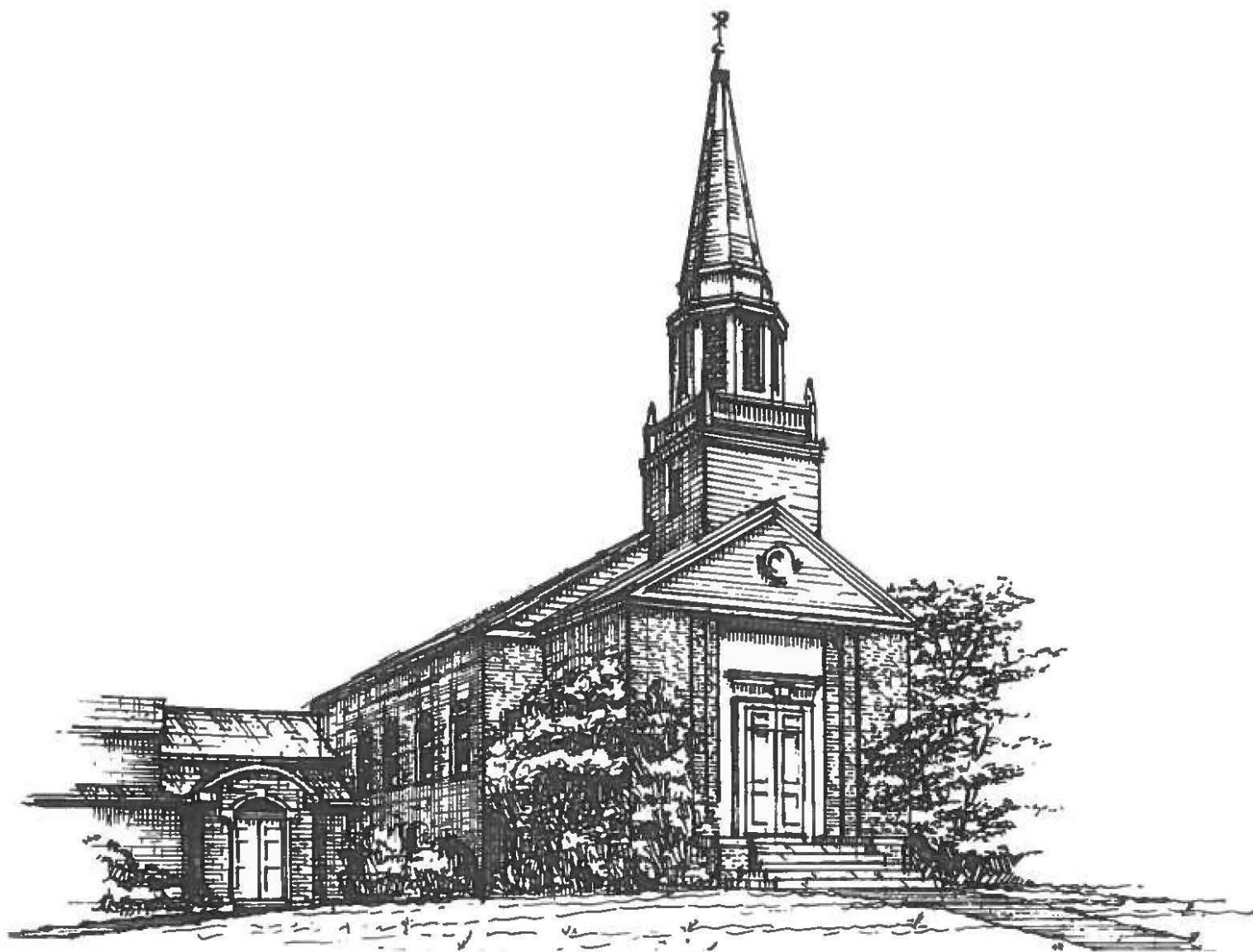


FOUNDED 1716

North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



North Haven Congregational Church

North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, January 28, 2024

9:30 a.m.

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
The Sacrament of Baptism
Noisy Offering**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: G Major Mosso by L. Pearsall, arr. Carlo Rossini

***OPENING HYMN:** “Rejoice, the Lord Is King” V213

CHORAL INTROIT: *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

Jacques Berthier

Sung by the Chancel Choir

Taize chant

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, In the Lord I will rejoice! Look to God, do not be afraid. Lift up your voices, the Lord is near, Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Come, all who are poor in spirit;
Come, all who mourn;
Come, all who are meek;
Come, all who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

**PEOPLE: Come, all who would be merciful;
Come, all who would be pure in heart;
Come all who would be peacemakers.**

Leader: Let us come together – the weak and the simple, the powerless and the foolish.

**ALL: Let us confess that the source of our life is Christ Jesus.
Let us worship the God of every blessing.****

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

God of compassion and love, show us how to care for each other and live in the world.

Beyond all limits, difficulties or failings, give us a passion to hold all people in respect and dignity.

Together, O God, may we create a world of freedom, justice and peace.## Amen.

***THE GLORIA PATRI**

P513

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 INVOCATION:~unison

We have come before you, O God, like those who gathered around Jesus on a faraway hill, long ago, to find new meaning for our lives. We want our lives to sound in harmony with your song of love. We want to live with integrity and wisdom, with a spirit of truth. Do not disappoint us, God, but allow us to know your presence and hear your voice. Come among us. holy God, for we pray in the name of Jesus.** Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

Choral Amen

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 BAPTISM OF ANNA AKAKPO

insert

***HYMN:** *May God Who Creates You*

V 454

NOISY OFFERING

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Mark 1:21-28

Page 1180

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

* **HYMN:** "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"

V344

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge, but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge the weak brother or sister for whom Christ died is destroyed. But when you thus sin against brothers and sisters and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never again eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

GIFT OF MUSIC: *Lead Me, Lord*

Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

Sung by the Chancel Choir

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness; make thy way plain before my face. For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

SERMON: “Your Discipleship Speaks”

Scott Morrow

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Choral Response

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. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

GREETING OF PEACE ~unison

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

***CLOSING HYMN:** “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” V326

*THE BENEDICTION

*Those who are able, please stand.

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Deacon and Scripture Reader is Tim Peiffer.

Poinsettias have been donated to decorate the Sanctuary.

In Our Prayers This Week are: Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marlene Bellonio, Shirley Ryan, Joyce Bellonio, Meg Adams, David Gould, and Sarah.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Alan Conley 01/31, Sophie Grant 02/04.

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

Dave Nelson, Interim Sexton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held today directly following the worship service. The business of the Meeting will include receiving reports regarding program and mission activities and finances, and election of Officers and Ministry Leadership Board members. Copies of the Annual Report are available in the Narthex. Please plan to stay for the Meeting and participate in the discussion and decisions.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	1/28	9:30 a.m. 10:45 4:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) ANNUAL MEETING (Sanctuary) OASIS Virtual Reality at Xperiment NoH
Monday	1/29	9:30 a.m.	Music Together (DBL)
Tuesday	1/30	9:30 a.m. 9:30 12:00 p.m. 3:30 6:00	Al-Anon (K) Music Together (DBL) PLP (L) United Girls Choir (CH, Sanct.) Bible Study (Zoom)
Wednesday	1/31	9:30 a.m. 9:30 10:30 5:15 p.m.	WINDOW MAILING Music Together (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL) PASTORAL RELATIONS (Zoom)
Thursday	2/1	6:00 p.m. 6:30 7:00	Girl Scout Troop 60151 (K) Mothers of Twins (CH) CHANCEL CHOIR
Friday	2/2	9:30 a.m. 9:30 10:30	Music Together (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL)
Saturday	2/3	7:30 a.m. 9:30 10:30	MEN'S FELLOWSHIP Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL)
Sunday	2/4	9:30 a.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream)

*Small print indicates non-Church function
Bold print starts new day.

**THE SACRAMENT
OF
CHRISTIAN BAPTISM**

January 28, 2024

Anna Selinam Akakpo



**THE NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
28 Church Street
North Haven, Connecticut 06473**

+

The Reverend Scott G. Morrow, Senior Minister

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism is a moment in the Christian community when we recognize the grace of God living in each newborn creation.

INTRODUCTION

Minister: People were bringing little children to Jesus that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them:

PEOPLE: “LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME, DO NOT STOP THEM; FOR IT IS TO SUCH AS THESE THAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD BELONGS. TRULY, I TELL YOU, WHOEVER DOES NOT RECEIVE THE KINGDOM OF GOD LIKE A LITTLE CHILD WILL NEVER ENTER IT.”

Minister: And Jesus took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

PEOPLE: JESUS SAID; “UNLESS WE ARE BORN ANEW, WE CANNOT SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD; UNLESS WE ARE BORN OF WATER AND THE SPIRIT, WE CANNOT ENTER GOD'S NEW ORDER.”

PRAYER AND BLESSING

QUESTIONS TO THE PARENTS AND SPONSORS

***QUESTION TO THE CONGREGATION**

(The Congregation will please stand)

Deacon: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Anna Selinam Akakpo, about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

PEOPLE: WE PROMISE OUR LOVE, SUPPORT, AND CARE TO ANNA SELINAM AKAKPO AND TO DANIEL AKAKPO AND ABIGAIL KLUTSE AS THEY RAISE THEIR CHILD IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE CHURCH.

+

BAPTISM

NAMING OF THE CHILD AND THE BAPTISM

PRAYER OF PRAISE FOR THE BAPTIZED

BENEDICTION: (Unison) ... ANNA SELINAM AKAKPO, MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU. MAY THE LORD'S FACE SHINE UPON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS UNTO YOU. MAY THE LORD'S COUNTENANCE BE LIFTED UP UPON YOU AND GIVE YOU PEACE.

+

We celebrate the baptism of:

Anna Selinam Akakpo

Born: February 3, 2023

Parents:

Daniel Akakpo and Abigail Klutse

***OPENING HYMN: "Rejoice, the Lord Is King"**

Descant

4 Re - joice in glo - rious hope, for Christ, the judge, shall come
 C G C Am Em F C (G7 C) G

1 Re - joice the Lord is King! Your ris - en Lord a - dore!
 2 Je - sus the Sav - iour reigns, the God of truth and love;
 3 God's king - dom can - not fail; Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;
 4 Re - joice in glo - rious hope, for Christ, the judge, shall come

to glo - ri - fy the saints for their e - ter - nal home.
 C Am G D G C G D G

Re - joice, give thanks and sing and tri - umph ev - er - more.
 when he had purged our sins, he took his seat a - bove.
 the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus given.
 to glo - ri - fy the saints for their e - ter - nal home.

We soon shall hear the arch - an - gel's voice;
 C F Dm6 Am C G C F

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
 Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
 Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
 We soon shall hear the arch - an - gel's voice;

the trump of God shall sound, re - joice!

C F Dm6 (C F) C G G7 C

re - joice; a - gain I say, re - joice!
 re - joice; a - gain I say, re - joice!
 re - joice; a - gain I say, re - joice!
 the trump of God shall sound, re - joice!

***HYMN:** *May God Who Creates You*

V 454

May God who cre - ates you give you light;

may God who sus - tains you make you wise;

may God who pro - tects you give you joy,

may God who sur - rounds you give you peace.

*CLOSING HYMN: "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

V326

G D G Em D

1 O for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
 2 Je - sus! the name that charms our fears, that
 ♦ 3 He speaks, and lis - tening to his voice, new
 4 Hear him, you deaf; you voice - less ones, your
 5 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -

G D7 G D G

great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
 bids our sor - rows cease; 'tis mu - sic in the
 ♦ life the dead re - ceive, the mourn - ful bro - ken
 tongues a - gain em - ploy; you blind, be - hold your
 sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the

C G D7 G

God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace.
 sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
 ♦ hearts re - jice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
 Sav - iour comes, and leap, you lame, for joy!
 earth a - broad the hon - ours of your name.

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.