



North Haven Congregational Church, UCC
The Window

December 2023

FROM THE PASTOR 

Rejoice, Pray, Give Thanks!

The season of Advent is very special. It is a season of beginning, a time of preparation. The Lord, the Promised One, is coming! A special excitement, a wonderful anticipation, begins and grows through these weeks.

How shall we get ready? How shall we prepare the way of the Lord? The apostle Paul urges us to **rejoice** always, **pray** without ceasing, and **give thanks** in all circumstances. That seems like a tall order in the midst of busyness and clamor!

Find some time – set aside some moments – to light candles and breathe a prayer of joy and thanks. Listen to the music, and let it lift your heart. Share a conversation with friends and family, and marvel at the wonder of God’s abiding love for us.

Our holidays are often times of busy plans and great expectations; the cares of the world may weigh more heavily upon us too. And yet the light shines again in the darkness, for God’s love is steadfast. There is joy, and hope, and peace in this beginning – joy and hope and peace that can refresh us, inspire us, and comfort us. Let us take time to remember, to notice, and to celebrate with each other, cherishing the quiet anticipation in the midst of the hussle and bustle. Rejoice, pray, and give thanks!

“For the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in deep darkness—on them light has shined.” Isaiah 9:2

The staff of the North Haven Congregational Church wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

Scott Morrow



“Every time a bell rings, an angel gets its wings.”

This is a famous quote from the 1946 Christmas movie, *It’s a Wonderful Life*.

But did you know that the bell that gave Clarence his wings in the movie was made here in Connecticut by the Bevin Bros. Manufacturing Company in East Hampton, and they are still in business today.

They are known around the world for the distinct tone quality of their bells.

Be sure to come to the Christmas Eve service and get your very own NHCC Bevin bell for your tree.

Supply is limited so bells will only be available at Christmas Eve service.



CHURCH and TAXES

Since I am on the MLB we are urged to write something of interest for the Window. I wish to share with everyone about a couple ways of donating to the Church and have a lower tax or no tax to pay. A win/win situation. One has to do with giving stock to the Church. The other is about giving from your Individual Retirement Account, known as an IRA. Roth accounts can't be treated this way.

If you have a stock which has gone up in value you may wish to donate the stock to the Church. The Church gives you a receipt for the stock and the date it was received. For example you bought 100 shares of XYZ@ \$40. The stock goes up to \$70 you now have a \$3000 gain on XYZ. If you give the stock to the Church you will not have to pay tax on the \$3000 gain. If you are in the 22% federal tax bracket a savings of \$660. There is a smaller tax savings from Ct. The net tax saving should save you at least \$800 in state and federal taxes.

A more interesting and I think a better way to give to the Church if you are 73 or older and have a traditional IRA or 401(k) that has grown over many years. You can contact whoever holds the IRA (usually a bank or broker like fidelity) and ask them to send a check from your IRA made out to the Church (be sure to keep a copy of the check). There is a place to record your gift on your tax return. The beauty of the transaction is you can make a gift from your IRA that doesn't increase your income and no tax is due. For example if you wish to give \$5,000 to the Church you would have to take over \$6,000 from your IRA to give the Church \$5,000. It is best to consult with a tax professional. Keep good records.

I hope some of this helps you in giving now or in the future.

In God we trust, Bryant Munson



Come and worship in-person for Advent and Christmas!

Advent and Christmas are a wonderful time in our Church life. We'll celebrate Advent Night on the first Sunday of December, and we'll enjoy a concert by the Elm City Girls Choir. We'll finish up the Holiday Food Drive for Christmas. I encourage you to come and worship in-person and enjoy the fellowship. The anticipation will build through Advent and soon enough we'll be celebrating the Christmas Pageant and Candlelight Lessons & Carols on Christmas Eve.

We will continue to livestream the worship service through the church website for those who cannot attend in-person by choice or circumstance.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Christmas Eve falls on Sunday this year! The Christmas Pageant will be offered during the morning service. The Candlelight Lessons & Carols service will be at 7pm.. Both services will also be streamed online, and the recording will be available for watching right afterwards. This will allow members and friends to view the service whenever it fits conveniently with Christmas Eve plans.

We will not hold a worship service on Christmas Day.

ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Let's Celebrate Advent!!

Sunday, Dec. 3	Worship	9:30am
	Advent Night	5-7 pm
Sunday, Dec. 10	Worship	9:30am
Sunday, Dec. 17	Worship	9:30am
Sunday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	
	Worship : Christmas Pageant	9:30 am
	Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols	7:00 pm



With gratitude, we share the names of those who have pledged to support the annual budget as of 11/21/23:

Margaret Adams
William & Mary Ellen Adams
Beth Anderson
Larry Ballantyne & Lorraine Scarpello
Joyce Bellonio
Jim & Joan Bennett
Cheryl Bogert
Priscilla Bradford
Elaine Burr
Mark & Martha Butterworth
Wendy & Jerod Civitello
Susan Compton
James & Leslie Dockendorff
Ken & Ann Dubar
Doris Ferner
Carl & Lillian Flodquist
Gail Fulop
Jody & Rich Gallagher
Sara and Brian Gannon
Merrilee & George Gladkosky
Susan Guckert
Eleanor Harple
Kathleen Harple
Carla & Michael Hill
Bernie & Elfie Hummel
Barbara Joslyn
Robbie & Bruno Juliano
Linda Lacobelli
Dan Lafleur
Suzanne & Nigel Light
Nancy & Ken Mahoney
John & Rhonda Masnato
Barbara & Rick Massey
Kathleen & Robert Mickolyzck
Carol Mitchell
Lori & Michael Murphy
David Nelson
Lynne & Rob Nielsen

William Olmstead
Timothy Peiffer
Steve & Mabel Peterson
Dot Pierce
Jeanne Reardon
Lynn Reardon
Gloria Santamauro
Tony & Cheryl Solecki
Kerry & Eben Stewart
Peter & Vicki Struk
John & Sue Tibor
Audrey Tilley
Doris Vigliotto
Catherine Welch

The theme for the Season of Generosity this year 'BECAUSE OF YOU OUR CHURCH CHANGES LIVES' invites us to consider how our faith and participation in our church strengthens our financial commitment to our community. As I write this article, members of the community are preparing to distribute food for a Thanksgiving meal to 150 families. We are changing those lives. This is the time for all of us to look forward to the coming year and think seriously about how we will contribute to support the mission of North Haven Congregational Church. How can you share your time and talents? What will you pledge to support the staff, functions, and outreach of our church? We depend on your pledge to financially plan for next year. Make your financial commitment in grateful response to the blessings you have received.

Return the pledge card that has been mailed, fill in the on-line form on the church website or call the church office with your pledge. With everyone's help we will move forward together.

Your Generosity Team

Priscilla Bradford (203-468-9090) Joan Bennett (203 234-8531), Cheryl Bogert (203-208-4732), Mabel Peterson (203-234-9319) and Julie at the church office 203 239-5691.





Ministry Coordinator
for Children

December Church School Calendar

- Dec. 3rd** - Communion Sunday; children begin in Chapel then to church school, then return to worship for Communion.
Advent Night celebration; 5-7 pm in Carroll Hall
- Dec. 10th** - Regular Sunday; children begin in worship then to church school; pageant practice during church school
- Dec. 17th** - Regular Sunday; children begin in worship then to church school; pageant practice during church school
- Dec. 23rd (Saturday)** - 2:30 Pageant Dress rehearsal
- Dec. 24th** -
9:30 a.m. **Pageant**, Family worship;
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship
- Dec. 31st** Family Sunday; children remain in worship with their families

Advent Night, Dec. 3, 5-7 pm

We look forward to one of our favorite annual events; Advent Night. This year it will be Sunday, December 4th from 5-7 pm, just after the tree lighting on the green. Our entire church family is encouraged to join the Faith Formation team for an enjoyable evening of crafting, comradery, and fellowship. Craft activities will be from 5-6:00, then we will enjoy a casual supper of pizza and drinks from 6:00-6:45. We will close with a Vesper Service from 6:45-7:00. During crafts from 5:00-6:00; veggies, fruits and cheese trays will be available as appetizers. Santa will arrive at about 5:30.

We ask members of our church family attending the event to provide a free-will offering, and/or veggie, fruit and/or cheese trays, as well as dessert to share with everyone. If your last name ends with:

- A-F** please bring a **fruit tray**
- G-L** please provide a **veggie tray**
- M-Q** please bring a **dessert**
- R-Z** please bring a **cheese tray**.

Thanks!

Members of the Faith Formation Team have planned a variety of crafts, some old favorites, others new (future favorites?). Some of the crafts include: ornaments in a variety of shapes and designs, as well as a Gingerbread

House and a drip-paint ornament. The members of the Faith Formation team look forward to seeing you all there!

**Church School Pageant,
December 24; 9:30 a.m. worship**

NHCC annual traditional church school pageant will be an integral part of our morning worship on December 24.

This year's pageant is titled, "A Ruler of Peace From Bethlehem", and is based on the first Christmas story found in the SPARK Children's Bible's Books of Matthew and Luke. The language in the SPARK Bible is child-friendly and is the same Bible the children use during church school.

As the narrators tell the Christmas story, each of the traditional characters move toward the front of the sanctuary, concluding with a tableau of the living creche. As the pageant progresses from Gabriel's visit to Mary through the arrival of the Wise Men, the Gospels of Matthew and Luke are interwoven with prayers, gifts of music, and Christmas hymns.

I hope you will all join us to help celebrate ADVENT NIGHT and enjoy the annual CHRISTMAS PAGEANT, to be presented by the children of the Church School and the Faith Formation Team.

May you all have a very merry Advent and Christmas season!

Blessings,
Karlee Etter

Church Family News



- Birthdays** Doris Ferner 12/01, Gerard Adinolfi 12/05, Robbie Juliano 12/07, James Studley 12/08, Merrilee Gladkosky 12/11, Linda Silk 12/14, Carol Mitchell 12/15, Cynthia Boerma Campos 12/18, Carol Amico 12/19, Damon Quinn 12/19, Rich Gallagher 12/22, Saydee Baldino 12/24, Stephen Simonson 12/26, John Tibor 12/27, Heather Tolisano 12/29 Edward Collett 12/29, Sandy Mayhew 12/29, Elfie Hummel 12/30, Tanner DiVito 12/30, Alec DiVito 12/30, Bill Rose 12/31.

Anniversaries: Karen & David Linsky 12/06, Edward & Mary Ellen Collett 12/06, Sally & Anthony Pallatto 12/14, Bill & Robin Rose 12/26.

Deaths: **Marcia Foulds** died on Nov. 7. Marcia served as the Church Secretary 1996-1998. Marcia was mother to Alison Burtraw, Jennifer Aguzzi, David Burtraw. **Raymond Filip** died on November 16. Ray was the father of Jackie Jennings, and grandfather of Thomas and Patricia. We give thanks for the precious lives of Marcia and Raymond, and ask God's comfort for their families and friends.



Meet our New Members

Wendy Civitello (with her sons Joseph and Jameson)
Jen Febboriello (with her daughter Gabriella DeLuca),
Abigail Klutse and Ross Lanius.

We welcomed four new members in our worship service on November 5. Wendy Civitello is the Director at The PlaySchool Pre K Learning Center located at Saint John's Church at the top of the Town Green where she teaches 3, 4 and 5 year olds. Wendy has twin boys, Joseph and Jameson, who are six years old. She brought them to church at the encouragement of her parents, Ed and MaryEllen Collett, who had become members some years ago. Wendy came for the first time with the boys about a year and a half ago, and the family was warmly welcomed from day one. Wendy says that Joseph woke up on Sunday morning about a month ago with an earache. She brought him to the walk-in clinic before church. The doctor checked him out, confirmed he did have an ear infection, said he would be right back with his ear drops. Joseph said to the doctor "Can you make sure it's quick, we are going to be late for Sunday school!" Wendy knew they had found a church home!

Jen Febboriello is business owner as a hairstylist, and also an artist and a book worm. She loves to travel. Jen is also Mom to her beautiful, kind, loving, and very outspoken daughter, Gabriella. They travel from Shelton to come to church. Jen began coming to church with Gabriella over two years ago. Gabriella had been coming to church every other weekend with her dad, Joseph DeLuca. Joe got very sick with cancer, and he passed away almost 2 1/2 year ago. She and Gabriella felt a very warm welcome from the first day they walked in together. There were family members among the congregation – Carmen and Melissa DeLuca and Pat and Laura Alden. Jen is very appreciative to Karlee Etter and Steve Simonson for their welcome of Gabriella in Sunday School. Gabriella loves to come to church - literally runs into church on Sunday mornings!

Abigail Klutse had been looking for a body of Christ in North Haven she could be part of for some time. She had tried a couple different ones, but the vibe didn't feel right. She noticed our Church one day when she was walking around town, and thought she might visit. Her husband suggested she watch online, but she told him she needed to visit in person to feel the vibe. When she walked by the following Sunday, carry her baby daughter, Anna, she decided to come in. The service was almost over so she stayed in the back till the end and as soon as it was over, she tried to hurry out, saying to herself, "I'll have to come back". The ushers were all very friendly, thanked me for coming, and asked her to come again. Scott followed her out and invited her to come again – and to stay for Fellowship Hour that day!. Abigail and Anna have been coming regularly. Abigail likes the vibe of this church and hopes that she can join in making a difference in other people's lives too. To God be the glory!

Ross Lanius grew up and attended school in Delaware. He grew up as a member of the Episcopal Church, and graduated from the University of Delaware with a degree in Civil Engineering. After working in an engineering firm in New Haven, Ross taught in the Civil Engineering Department at the University of New Haven for 34 years. He met his future wife, Polly, at Mount Katahdin in Maine,(the northern end of the Appalachian Trail) where he was to be a hike leader for the Appalachian Mountain Club. Ross has

hiked the entire 2190-mile Appalachian Trail! Ross has been very active with the Boy Scouts for his whole life. He is the Ranger for Wah Wah Taysee, a Scout camp in North Haven. The family enjoyed camping and hiking trips as their children grew. There is also a big garden full of tomatoes, peas, squash rhubarb and beans, to name a few – that needs tending. Now that Ross has slowed down a bit, he is glad to reconnect with the Church!

Julie coordinated the process of updating the job description and posting the opening on Indeed, and made an initial assessment of applications. Steve Simonson and Martin Benassi reviewed the pertinent applications and contacted qualified candidates. They conducted initial interviews and identified a potential candidate, Julie and Scott met in a second interview. Documentation and background check are pending at this time.

OASIS Youth Group December Events!

The OASIS Youth Group brings together youth from three UCC churches: Spring Glen Church, United Church on the Green, and North Haven Congregational Church, as well as First Presbyterian Church. The Group includes youth from 9th to 12th grade, as well as a middle school group 6th-8th grade. The OASIS program includes chill night gatherings at Spring Glen UCC, and outings and adventures on Sunday afternoons 4-6pm. There is a Wednesday Worship 7-7:30pm (totally virtual) twice a month; and there will be occasional overnights. Please watch your email for program announcements! If you would like more information contact Scott Morrow, or OASIS Coordinator Emily McKenna - youth@springglenchurch.org .



Here is the schedule for December:

All December meetings at **Spring Glen United Church of Christ** unless otherwise noted.

Sun. Dec. 3 Bowling at Amity Bowl – 4-6pm

Sun. Dec. 10 Scavenger Hunt – 4-6pm

Wed. Dec. 13 Worship Wednesday ZOOM;
Theme: waiting; 7-7:30pm

Sun. Dec. 17 Christmas Red Carpet – 4-6pm

Wed. Dec. 27 Worship Wednesday ZOOM;
Theme: gifts; 7-7:30pm

Weekly Bible Study ZOOM Tuesday at 6pm. The weekly Bible Study will gather on Tuesday evenings at 6pm for fellowship and study. We meet for an hour for study and prayer through ZOOM! All are welcome! We have been reading our way through the Minor Prophets – in December we'll be reading Haggai and Zechariah. Please come and visit! Tell Scott or Julie you're interested and we'll send you the ZOOM link.



We Celebrated Bible Sunday on October 29

– We celebrated Bible Sunday on Reformation Sunday. We presented Bibles to Thomas Jennings, Colton Donle, Sienna Baldino, and Tyler Gannon. Congratulations!

Resignation of Todd Swarney

Todd Swarney, Church Sexton, has resigned from his position at the Church effective December 21. Todd began working at the Church in 2019. He worked the third shift as a custodian at Southern Connecticut State University, and came to work at the Church on weekday mornings. Todd is a hard worker who pays great attention to detail. He made sure that the Church was clean, and enjoyed welcoming community groups who came to meet in the building. During the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown, Todd consolidated his work schedule to three days per week. His careful and thorough cleaning was very important in enabling safe operation of the church building. We are very grateful for Todd's dedication and we wish him well.

SEXTON SEARCH UPDATE The search for a new Sexton to succeed Todd Swarney began promptly.

WINDOW DEADLINE! The deadline for the January WINDOW will be Wednesday, December 20. The December WINDOW will be printed on Friday, December 22. Christmas makes this a tight schedule: the WINDOW needs to be compiled and printed in only 2 days! thank you for getting your articles and announcements to the office on-time!

Mission Team News



SPECIAL CONCERT: Friday Night, December 8: The United Girls' Choir

Please come support the musical arts here at church!

This concert of beautiful choral music is highly anticipated. The United Choir School is a fabulous organization that has been holding practices and rehearsals at our church this year during the week. It is an auditioned group that supports and fosters young people's natural talent. The quality of their voices and harmonies is unique and astonishing!

This concert will happen on a Friday night during the season of Advent so it is the perfect time to get in the spirit. Tickets are \$15 but kids under 12 years old are free admission! (There are some very talented families at church who should hear this group!) Students over age 12, the ticket cost is \$10 per ticket. We hope to have an abundance of audience at this concert! See you there and invite your friends!

N.B. Donations/Free will offerings toward these concerts are also very much appreciated, as are ticket sponsorships. We received such a donation and a beautiful card from Carla Hill last month (for the Mark Platt concert) and we are so grateful for her thoughtfulness and support of the Pierpont Concerts,

even from afar. These are important fundraisers for the church, especially this year, as our Moderator Nancy Mahoney pointed out in last month's Window. This is a great opportunity for fellowship, music, and goodwill.

Save The Dates for Future Concerts: Saturday February 10, 2024: NHHS Choirs & Jazz Bands. This concert is a huge community event that fills the church with supporters and fabulous music of our talented North Haven youth. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Saturday May 4, 2024: United Girls' Choir. An "encore" springtime performance of members of the United Choir School. A traditional Spring Concert with great music.

Special Music Collection For Musicians At Christmas

We are very grateful to those church folks who have given to our holiday special music collections in the past. This money goes directly toward funding guest musicians on Christmas and Easter. We are hoping to hire a flutist and a cellist to augment the beauty of this year's 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service. If you can donate regularly to this ministry, we are most grateful. The pink music envelopes will be in the pews during Advent. It is important that we compensate our guest musicians fairly and at current professional rates. Thanks again to all who have made this possible over the years.





A BIG Church Clean-up! AND A BIG THANK-YOU!!

On the brisk morning of November 11, people gathered to clean up the grounds. We thank, Don Clark, who has an office on St. John Street, along with his son and some friends made short work of the leaf-clearing. They had the leaves on the church grounds blown and piled in 18 minutes! The group then went on to help with the Leaf Raking for Veterans project in North Haven. Sue Compton, Mary Ellen and Ed Collett, Martin Benassi, David Nelson, Scott Morrow and Bernie Hummel with his wonderful tool made quick work of cutting down the lilies. Peter Struck and Bernie will finish the leaves when they fall. Thank you for your time and energy.
Priscilla Bradford

Covenant to Care Mission Team Christmas Angels – Deadline 12-17!

We will once again be providing Christmas gifts for area children through our Covenant to Care program. The Angel Tree will be set up in Carroll Hall for coffee hour on December 3, 2023. Please select a child's name from the tree. Each name will have the age of the child and a three item "wish list". Your gifts should be brought to the church by December 17, 2023. Won't you please consider giving a child some joy during this blessed holiday?

Kathy Harple

Hospitality Makes a Difference

Several of the new members who joined the Church in November mentioned the warm welcome and feeling of hospitality when they came to worship as a visitor. Let's keep that warm welcome going for all who come to worship Advent and Christmas season. Greeters, Deacons, Scripture Readers, and Hosts/Hostesses for coffee are the beacons for Sunday morning welcome and worship,

and the rest of the congregation follows along. Please consider helping to offer hospitality and fellowship on Sunday morning. Sign up through the Church website or talk with Scott or Nancy Mahoney.

Christmas Season

Greeters, Deacons, Scripture Readers, and Hosts/Hostesses for coffee are the beacons for Sunday morning welcome and worship, and the rest of the congregation follows along. Please consider helping to offer hospitality and fellowship on Sunday morning. Sign up through the Church website or talk with Scott or Nancy Mahoney.

We Are Collecting Food Items On Sunday With The Offering

Please bring canned soup or vegetables, juice or shelf-stable milk, tuna fish or canned chicken, tea, coffee, peanut butter or jelly and place them in the basket in the Narthex. We will bring your contributions forward as a generous part of our offering on Sunday morning. Thank you!

The Holiday Food Drive 2023 Is Underway!

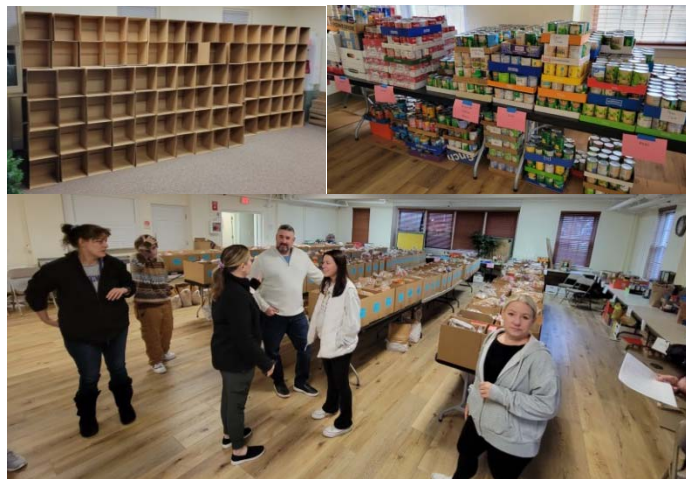
Contributions of non-perishable food items arrive daily, and collection boxes are in place in shops and businesses throughout North Haven. The North Haven Rotary Club, in partnership with Liberty Bank, has provided a generous 25% match for all money donations received from mid October through mid November. We collected \$7,311 from the community, The North Haven Rotary Club and Liberty Bank turned it into \$9,138.75. The Rotary then added an additional \$1,345 for a total of \$10,483.75 donated to the Food Pantry. These financial contributions go toward the purchase of items where food donations don't fill the amount needed.

The food is sorted and today (Nov 16) will be the first day of packing the boxes for Thanksgiving. We will serve more than 160 households on Saturday, Nov. 18. We expected an increased need for the Holiday Food Drive as well, and we are ready!

This year we believe we have commitments for all the turkeys we will need for Thanksgiving and Christmas! Sorting the food donations and packing boxes will continue for the Christmas boxes.

Procedures for food collection and sorting, packing and pick-up/delivery of food boxes will allow for safe

distancing. Volunteers will work in small groups, and the hours for sorting, packing, and pick-up/delivery will be extended. Please watch the church website to sign up to volunteer. You can help with packing the boxes on Thursday, Dec. 14, between 2 and 4pm, and on Friday, Dec. 15 between 3 and 7pm. You can also help with deliveries on Saturday morning, December 16, between 9am and 1pm.



You may want to put these dates on your calendar:

Christmas Boxes –

pack on **Thu., Dec. 14**, 2-4pm, & 4-6pm **and**
Fri., Dec. 15, , 2-4pm, & 4-6pm ;

deliver on **Sat., Dec. 16**, 9a.m. – 1pm.

Please sign up to volunteer for Christmas on the Church website!

Scouting for Food

The Boy Scouts of Connecticut Yankee Council conducted a food drive throughout our area Nov. 4-11. Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts distributed plastic bags on Saturday, Nov 4, and returned to pick them up (filled with non-perishable food) on Saturday, Nov. 11. They weighed the food as it arrived on Nov 11, and the collection totaled 6, 166 pounds. That’s 900 pounds more than 2022!

The Scouting for Food drive provides one of the largest donations to our food pantry each year. Thank you very, very much!



Special Offering for the Christmas Fund The Christmas Fund is a special offering of the United Church of Christ which has provided assistance to UCC clergy and lay employees for more than 100 years. The Christmas Fund provides

pension supplementation of pension and health insurance to lower-income retired clergy and lay employees, as well as a modest Christmas “thank-you” gift check and emergency assistance grants to a small number of active clergy and lay employees. This offering will be received on Sunday, Dec. 17, and at the services on Christmas Eve. Please give prayerfully and generously!

Notice of Endowment Team Meeting

The meeting will be held in the Heath room Wed Dec 13 @11 am. Members and friends with an interest in the Endowment are welcome to attend.

If you would like more information please contact Rev Morrow or Bryant Munson

Abraham’s Tent Returns in a New Format

For more than 10 years Abraham’s Tent provided overnight hospitality, dinner and breakfast for 10-12 guests from Columbus House. The group of guests rotated among different houses of worship from mid-December through March, which freed up space in the Columbus House Shelter and the Overflow Shelter. Our congregation hosted Abraham’s Tent in the lower level of the church with the assistance of Church volunteers and volunteers from other churches and community groups.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, congregations were not able to host Abraham’s Tent guests. We are excited to report that planning is underway for a resumption of Abraham’s Tent! There are significant changes to the format. Abraham’s Tent will be hosted for 10 weeks

– January 8 - March 17, 2024. The program will be centered at the Wallingford Emergency Shelter for the entire period. Columbus House staff will provide transportation and overnight coverage. Volunteers are needed to provide dinner and a snack, along with companionship in the evening. John Tibor, Steve

Peterson, and Scott Morrow attended an initial planning meeting on Nov. 15th. North Haven Congregational Church will provide meals and companionship for the final week of Abraham's Tent – March 11-17. We will partner with volunteers from St. Elizabeth of the Trinity parish in North Haven for this project.

We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate this effort!! Please speak to John Tibor or Priscilla Bradford.

We expect to reach out to additional congregations and groups to help with this project. There are a lot of adjustments to be made and details to be worked out in the new location. We know that many church members and friends have donated money and time to support the men of Abraham's Tent in past years. We will reach out to you in the coming weeks with suggestions about how we might work together this year to offer hospitality, support and encouragement through Abraham's Tent.

Annual Meeting and Annual Reports – The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, January 28. Annual Reports from Mission Teams and staff are due in the church office on Tuesday, January 2.



Women's Fellowship

Harvest Fair: Big Success

Another great Fair is over, and we have so much to be thankful for! Thank you to everyone who helped make the Fair so successful! The weeks leading up to this year's Fair were busy. After months of planning, workshops, sorting, last-minute baking, and creativity, the church basement was transformed. Carroll Hall was set up as an indoor market with Cookie Walk, Grandma's Attic, RADA knives, Jewelry Store, Bakery, Kitchen with takeout food, and many handmade items in other areas. The Koinonia Room was our Nearly New Room, and the classroom at the end of the hall was filled with Christmas items. This year we also had a Face Painting Table thanks to Heather Meachen, our multitalented organist. From the minute the doors opened on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. until the Fair was over at 2:00 p.m., there was a steady stream of shoppers. The income from the Fair was about

\$3360 after expenses. These funds will be used to donate to our list of organizations, contribute to the annual budget of the church, and help with church projects as needed. It takes many helping hands and lots of time and energy to have a successful Fair. We are grateful to all of you for your support, donations, and help in whatever form it came. Thank You!

The Fair Committee

P.S. Planning for the 2024 Fair will begin after the holidays!

Our next gathering will be our "Annual Pot Luck, Tacky Grab Bag" Christmas Party on Monday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m. Please let Cheryl Bogert (cherylbogert30@comcast.net) know what main dish, side dish, salad, or dessert you will be bringing. Beverages are also needed. All ladies of the church are invited, even if you haven't joined us before. Please come for great food, lots of laughs, and a fun-filled evening! Take a break from the holiday hustle and bustle. We'd love to have you join us!

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas season!
Remember—"Jesus is the reason for the season!"

Dot Pierce
President, Women's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship

Two men's breakfast were held since the last Window deadline, with eight men attending each fellowship gathering. In attendance on October 21st were Jim Bennett, Peter Hall, Bernie Hummel, Rev. Scott Morrow, Bryant Munson, Stephen Simonson, Peter Struk, and John Tibor; while Martin Benassi and Paul Powers replaced Bernie and Peter on November 4th, with the other six men remaining the same.

As is the usual case, conversations varied all over the lot, from sports, to family, to work, to health. Hardly anything gets resolved at these get-togethers, but the fun is in the discourse, plus there is always good food to be enjoyed, thanks to John T. and Tim Peiffer.

I would be remiss if I did not thank everyone who supported our October 21st Comedy Night Fundraiser in some fashion. To those who purchased tickets; to Women's Fellowship, who supported the event with their presences and their two raffle basket donations; to Sexton Todd, who did a great job setting up the room; to Pastor Scott, Bryant, Stephen, Peter S., and John T., who picked up, paid for, and delivered two pizzas each; to Tim P., who arranged for a 3' sub from Tastebuds; another kudo to John T., who kept a steady flow of warm pizzas flowing out of the kitchen throughout the evening; and to my dear wife, Joan, who supplied the snacks, soft drinks, six raffle baskets, all the paper goods, and the table coverings; thank you, one and all so very, very much!

Nearly sixty tickets were purchased, and I am pleased to report that our Comedy Night netted a little over \$1,500, so we men voted at our November 4th Breakfast to gift the church \$1,500 from our account to be applied toward the 2023 church budget.

The men will next meet for breakfast on Saturday, December 2nd at 7:30 am. As always, all men are welcome, be they members of the church or not.

Jim Bennett



PASTORAL VISITS IN HOSPITAL

Please contact Julie or Scott if you anticipate a trip to the hospital or unexpectedly find yourself hospitalized, so that Scott can visit if you wish. Hospitals and nursing facilities may be limiting the number of daily visits and visitors with individual patients.

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: Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marlene Bellonio, Shirley Ryan, Joyce Bellonio, Ellen Robert, Meg Adams, David Gould, and Sarah.

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

We are livestreaming our worship services on Sunday mornings. We continue to celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of the month, encouraging those at home to participate with their own bread and juice.

If you are unable watch the Church service online, we will be happy to celebrate this Sacrament with you either in person or over the telephone. Please call the church office at 203-239-5691 to make an appointment that would be convenient for you.

Save These Dates

Sunday, December 3rd – 5:00pm

Advent Night 5pm Carroll Hall

Friday, December 8th – 7:00pm

Elm City Girls' Choir Concert, 7pm

Friday, December 15th –

12:00pm – 2:00pm Count & pack produce 2:00pm
– 4:00pm Pack Food Drive Boxes

Saturday, December 16th – 9:00am-12:30pm

Deliver Food Drive Boxes

CARDS & LETTERS

Below are some of our church members who are not always able to be present for worship on Sunday mornings. We invite you to send them a card and include them in your prayers.

Meg Adams
67 Sackett Point Rd., Apt. 408
North Haven, CT 06473



Joyce Bellonio
1103 Ashlar Village
Wallingford, CT 06492



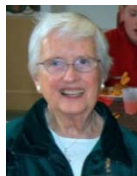
Marlene Bellonio
West Haven Center For Nursing & Rehab
310 Terrace Ave, W146D
West Haven CT 06516



Merrilee & George Gladkosky
145 N. Ridgeland Road
Wallingford CT 06492



Betsy Gumbart
150 Cook Hill Rd. Unit 7311
Cheshire, CT 06410



Ellie Harple
176 Pool Road
North Haven, CT 06473



Phyliss & Walter Kaercher
5 Tennyson Ave.
North Haven, CT 06473

Betty Martin
22 Canterbury Rd.
Hamden CT 06514



Lorraine Morehouse
65 Masonic Ave. Apt. 206
Wallingford, CT 06492



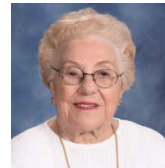
Linda Rankin
22 Masonic Ave, Room R504B
Wallingford, CT 06492

Ellen Robert
The Golden Hill Rehab Pavilion
2028 Bridgeport Ave., Room 202
Milford, CT 06460



Shirley Ryan
5 Shepard Hill Road
Hamden CT 06514

Gloria Santamauro
67 Sackett Point Rd, #401
North Haven, CT 06473



Bob & Barbara Scheidecker
59 Grove Road
North Haven, CT 06473



Herb & Ann Schneider
56 Country Way
North Haven CT 06473



Linda Shannon
165 Clintonville Rd, #122,
North Haven, CT 06473



Audrey Tilley
1211 Ashlar Village
Wallingford, CT 06492



Jeff Whipple
5124 Avalone Haven Drive
North Haven, CT 0647



December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					9:30am Music Together (DBL) 10:00 Food Pantry Open 10:30 Music Together (DBL) 6:30 CT Area Al-Anon (CH)	7:30am Mens Fellowship (CH) 9:30am Music Together (DBL) 10:30 Music Together (DBL)
	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30am Worship (In-Person & On-line)	9:30 am Cleaning - Sang	9:30am Al-Anon (K) 12:00pm PLP (Library) 2:30 Food Council (L)	10:00 Food Pantry Open	10:00 Food Pantry Open	10:00 Food Pantry Open	11:00am Funeral: Marcia Foulds 12:00pm Reception (CH)
4:00pm OASIS - Bowling (Amity Bowl)	6:30pm New Haven Camera Club (CH)	3:30 United Girls Choir (CH, DBL, S) 5:00 Condo Association (CH, K) 6:00 BIBLE STUDY	7:00 Al-Anon Dist Family (CH)	6:30 Mothers of Twins (CH) 7:00pm CHANCEL CHOIR	7:00pm ECGC/UGC Concert 7:00 Danish Brotherhood (K)	
5:00pm Advent Night (CH)	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:30am Worship (In-Person & On-line)	9:30 am Cleaning - Sang	9:30am Al-Anon (K) 12:00pm Building & Grounds (Heath)	11:00am Endowment (H)			
3:00pm Jingle Jam Holiday Concert (DBL)		12:00 PLP (Library)	6:00 Girl Scout 60071(K)	6:00 Girl Scout 60151(K)		
4:00pm OASIS - Scavenger Hunt (SGC)	6:00 WF Christmas Pot Luck (CH)	3:30 United Girls Choir (CH, DBL, S) 6:00 Bible Study (Zoom) 7:30 Nutmeg Treasure Hunters (CH)	7:00 OASIS: Worship Wednesday: Theme Waiting (Zoom) 7:00 MLB (Library)	7:00 CHANCEL CHOIR 7:00 Garden Club (CH)		
	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30am Worship (In-Person & On-line)	Toy Drop off (The Landing) 9:30 am Cleaning - Sang	9:30am Al-Anon (K) 12:00pm PLP (Library)	WINDOW DEADLINE			
4:00PM OASIS - Christmas Red Carpet (SGC)	6:00pm CT Record Club (K)	6:00 Bible Study (Zoom)	7:00pm MLB Dudget Meeting (L)	5:15 Girl Scout 60151(K) 7:00pm CHANCEL CHOIR		12:00pm Wedding
	24	25	26	27	28	29
CHRISTMAS EVE DAY 9:30am Worship (In-Person & On-line)	CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 AA (K)	OFFICE CLOSED 9:30am Al-Anon (K) 1:00 Danish Sisterhood (K) 6:00 Bible Study (Zoom)	OFFICE CLOSED	WINDOW MAILING		
	31					
New Year's Eve 9:30am Worship (In-Person & On-line)	New Years Day OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 AA (K) 9:30 am Cleaning - Sang		7:00 OASIS: Worship Wednesday: Theme Gifts (Zoom)	7:00 CHANCEL CHOIR		

The Window

**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)

ChurchOffice@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
Heather Meachen

OFFICE MANAGER
Julie Schweickert

SEXTON
Todd Swarney

WINDOW DEADLINE
December 20, 2023

LECTIONARY READINGS

December 3rd (First Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 64:1-9
1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Mark 13:24-37

December 10th (Second Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 40:1-11
2 Peter 3:8-15a

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Mark 1:1-8

December 17th (Third Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24th (Christmas Eve, Fourth Sunday of Advent)

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Luke 1:26-38

December 25th (Christmas)

Isaiah 62:6-12
Titus 3:4-7

Psalm 97
Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

December 31st (New Year's Eve)

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Galatians 4:4-7

Psalm 148
Luke 2:22-40

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

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