

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 10, 2024

9:30 a.m.

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost - Proper 27

The Noisy Offering

Generosity Sunday

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Petite fugue sur le Chromhorne* François Couperin

***OPENING HYMN:** “When Morning Gilds the Skies” V339

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: We come today with questions.

PEOPLE: The presence of God is with us.

Leader: We come today with doubts.

PEOPLE: The strength of Christ is with us.

Leader: We come today hoping for transformation.

PEOPLE: The inspiration of the Spirit is with us.

Leader: Imagine Together:

ALL: Vitality!**

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

Peacemaker Christ
come and live with us.
Walk in our streets,
live in our homes,
so that each face we see
is recognized as your face
and each life we touch
recognized as your body.
By your look and your touch
may we know your peace.## Amen.

Janet Lees, from Word of Mouth

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:~unison

Living God, we know that all good gifts come from you. We believe in the strength of your Spirit to bring healing and renewal. We long for that vitality in our bodies, minds, and communities. Rush into our worship today. Help us to see ourselves through your eyes, through water and Spirit. Encourage us as we *Imagine Together* again.**

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 CONFESSION:~unison

Holy Creator and Source of Life, we find it hard to believe that You have given us all that we need. Fear of scarcity rules our hearts and constricts our imagination. Show us that there really is enough for every table. Help us to trust in the goodness of your creation, so that we may share in stewardship of all You have made. Amen.

~ *silence* ~

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ALL: Thanks be to God

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 NOISY OFFERING

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Karlee Etter

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 55

Page

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For

as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

*** HYMN:** “God of the Sparrow”

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: John - selections Page

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

.....

Then the temple police went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, “Why did you not arrest him?” The police answered, “Never has anyone spoken like this!” Then the Pharisees replied, “Surely you have not been deceived, too, have you? Has any one of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, which does not know the law, they are accursed.” Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before and who was one of them, asked, “Our law

does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?” They replied, “Surely you are not also from Galilee, are you? Search and you will see that no prophet is to arise from Galilee.”

.....

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

GIFT OF MUSIC: *Christ Be Beside Me*

Words attributed to Saint Patrick

Translated by James Quinn

Tune: Bunessan

Sung by the Chancel Choir

1 Christ be beside me; Christ be before me; Christ be behind me, King of my heart. Christ be within me; Christ be below me; Christ be above me, never to part.

2 Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, Light of my life.

SERMON: “Food, Faith, and Peace”

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:** “When Peace Like a River”

Insert

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *Choral Song*

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

*Those who are able, please stand.

** Worship Material by Rev. Amber Neuroth. Reprinted by permission of the authors from *Imagine Together*, Campaign Resources by Bruce Barkhauer (United Church of Christ) and Andrew Warner (Disciples of Christ)

Wild Good Publications, *Thought for Today*, retrieved 11/2/2024
<https://www.ionabooks.com/thought/making-peace/>

Music reprinted and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE
#A-719615. All rights reserved.

Deacon is Sandy Carter. **Scripture Reader** is Sue Cifelli.

Greeters are.

Fellowship Hour is hosted by Season of Generosity Team.

Today's flowers are given by Susan Guckert. These flowers are in celebration of my nephew Matt's marriage to my new niece, Morgan. One heart, where there were two. This is the prayer I lift to you.

In Our Prayers This Week are: Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marlene Bellonio, Shirley Ryan, Joyce Bellonio, Meg Adams, Herb & Ann Schneider, and Sarah.

Quote of the day:

Dear God,

Is there any way to do extra credit to make sure I get into heaven?

Church Chuckles



North Haven Congregational Church
Celebrates
Rev. Scott Morrow and Carol Amico
for their 30 years of service

Please join us:

November 17, 2024

9:30 a.m. Worship Service
(guest preacher: The Rev. Lucia Jackson)

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Reception
Carroll Hall - Light lunch

R.S.V.P. to churchoffice@northhavenucc.org or 203-239-5691.

Scott came to North Haven Congregational Church (NHCC) in November of 1994 from the Orange Congregational Church where he was the Associate Minister for five years. While at NHCC, he has become integral to the community supporting organizations beyond our congregation.

Carol is a physician associate specializing in HIV care who has worked at Hospital of St. Raphael, Yale New Haven Hospital, and now Yale School of Medicine. She is active in the chancel choir and the New Haven Chorale.

Their children, Jesse and Amy, grew up in the church and are now living in Brooklyn, New York and Portland, Maine respectively.

North Haven Congregational Church 28 Church Street North Haven, CT 06473

30 YEARS **ANNIVERSARY**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Urgent Need: Clothing Items for Columbus House

We are asking for donations of new essential clothing items to be given to patrons at Columbus House. We will be collecting new men's and women's crew socks, new women's underwear, sizes 7-12 and new men's boxer shorts sizes medium-Xlarge. During this Season of Generosity we are asking for your help to supply these basic items for our brothers and sisters. We will be collecting these items during the months of November and December on Sunday mornings. A bin will be placed in the Narthex along side the donation basket for the Food Pantry. Please make a difference in someone's life. Jesus taught us to love one another and to share and give to those in need.

Thank you. Ministry Leadership Board

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 March to November) in North Haven Congregational Church's parking lot.

This year, as it has for the past thirty years, the Lions Club has pledged to provide turkeys for the Ecumenical Churches Thanksgiving Food Baskets distribution. The number committed to this year is seventy-five (75). To help accomplish this goal, **the North Haven Lions have expanded their wish list of desired foodstuffs this coming month to include frozen turkeys**, so please consider dropping by the church parking lot on **Saturday, November 9th** to donate a frozen turkey (or two) between the hours of 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. Our club, and our community, will be very thankful you did.

Jim Bennett, President
North Haven Lions Club

Food Drive Volunteer Sign-up Online – Volunteer sign-ups for the Thanksgiving Food Drive are open. Please check the Church website for available dates and times. Join in!

Empowering Shared Leadership – In 2015 our congregation shifted from Committees and a Church Council to Mission Teams and the Ministry Leadership Board. Part of the reason for that change was to be more de-centralized and to expand shared leadership in the church. You are invited to **Forward Together**, a morning discussion on Saturday, December 7, from 8:30am – noon. This program will begin with reflection: Why do we have Mission Teams? How did we get them? We will spend some time together considering the gifts and assets of our church. Most importantly, we will hear from the Rev. Sarah Drummond, UCC pastor and founding Dean of Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School. Rev. Sarah will speak about *shared leadership* as a distinctive characteristic of UCC/Congregational churches and a powerful motivation in faithful discipleship. Put it on your calendar on Saturday, Dec. 7: **Forward Together: Empowering Shared Leadership**. Come have a bagel, sit at the table with friends, and imagine creativity and possibility in our shared ministry. Please contact Scott with your questions.



Leaf Raking for Veterans Nov 16 – The Veterans Day Project 2024 is scheduled for Saturday, November 16 – to do leaf-raking for North Haven veterans. Volunteers meet at North Haven High School at 8:30am. After an address from the First Selectman at 8:45, volunteers will break off into group and head to veterans' homes to begin. You can sign up as a group or an individual. All you need to bring is a rake!

To sign up or get more information, contact Paulette DeMaio at 203-824-6707 or servingveterans112@gmail.com.

Imagine Together: What Might Generosity Look Like for You?

By Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson

When I was a first-year student at Union Theological Seminary in New York, I had world renowned theologian Dr. James Cone as my professor for Systematic Theology. In our first class I remember him saying: "We all do theology. Theology is God-talk." A theology of money is God-talk about money.

Conversations about money are taboo in our society. We reluctantly talk about the cost of items we purchase; we are hushed in our conversations about money; and silent in discussing our investments or what we earn. Money is a topic which creates discomfort for many, with most not knowing how to ask for what is needed or what is owed. If our conversations about money are challenging, then finding our way to God-talk on the subject could be even more challenging.

Such a theology starts with how we understand God present and with us in our lives and in the world around us. The prophet Malachi puts before us a theology of money that says God will bless what is given. The blessing is on the giver and on what is given. The tithe in this case is the expectation of giving. God is present blessing what is given back to God for use in the house of God. Malachi resonates an expectation one will give back to God regularly and in line with the expectations of the religious order of his day. This is one way to think about money and how we give. There are others.

A theology of money continues with a clear-eyed understanding of how much money we have. If I am giving a portion of what I have, then I should be knowledgeable about what my financial obligations are, including my desire to give in supporting the mission and ministries of the church. Whether investing, spending, or giving we should pay attention to what we have, in order to give from what we have whether a tenth, or another fraction, or amount of our choosing. When we give value and meaning to what we have, we give from abundance rather than from scarcity, from knowledge rather than fear.

Imagine Together

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	11/10	9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	WORSHIP: Generosity Sunday Confirmation Class (K)
Monday	11/11	9:30 a.m. 9:30 10:30 1:00 p.m. 4:30	Veterans Day AA (K) Music Together (Db1) Music Together (Db1) Food Pantry Open Music Together (Db1)
Tuesday	11/12	9:30 a.m. 9:30 10:30 12:00 p.m. 12:00 3:30 6:00	AI-Anon (CH) Music Together (Db1) Music Together (Db1) PLP BUILDING & GROUNDS (H) United Girls Choir (CH, K, Sanct) Bible Study (Zoom)
Wednesday	11/13	10:00 a.m. 10:00 7:00 p.m.	FOOD PANTRY Music Together (Db1) MLB (L)
Thursday	11/14	3:30 p.m. 4:30 7:00 7:00	NHE Ch & M (L) Music Together (Db1) Garden Club (CH) CHANCEL CHOIR
Friday	11/15	9:30 a.m. 10:00 10:30	Music Together (Db1) FOOD PANTRY Music Together (Db1)
Saturday	11/16	8:00 a.m. 9:30 10:30	MENS FELLOWSHIP Music Together (Db1) Music Together (Db1)
Sunday	11/17	9:30 a.m. 11:00	WORSHIP: 26th Sunday after Pentecost; 30 year Celebration Reception – Light Lunch

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Annette Grant 11/10, Paul Ford 11/12, Audrey Tilley 11/12, Theodore Manzo 11/13, Hannah Nottingham 11/17.

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

Descant

4 Be this while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di - vine,

1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ening cries:
 2 To God, the Word on high, the hosts of an - gels cry:

1 Quand le so - leil se lè - ve et quand le jour s'a - chève:
 2 Au Cré - a - teur l'ou - vra - ge de ses mains rend hom - ma - ge:

may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this the e - ter - nal song,

may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let mor - tals, too, up - raise

bé - ni soit Jé - sus Christ! Pour dire son al - lé - gres - se
 bé - ni soit Jé - sus Christ! L'É - glise en sa pré - sen - ce

through all the a - ges long: may Je - sus Christ be praised!

this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 their voice in hymns of praise: may Je - sus Christ be praised!

mon coeur à Dieu s'a - dres - se: bé - ni soit Jé - sus Christ!
 chan - te l'a - mour im - men - se: bé - ni soit Jé - sus Christ!

3 Let all of humankind
 in this their concord find:
 may Jesus Christ be praised!
 Let all the earth around
 ring joyous with the sound:
 may Jesus Christ be praised!

3 C'est le chœur de louanges
 qu'entonnent tous les anges:
 béni soit Jésus Christ!
 Et que la terre entière
 répète la prière:
 béni soit Jésus Christ!

4 Be this, while life is mine,
 my canticle divine:
 may Jesus Christ be praised!
 Be this th' eternal song,
 through all the ages long:
 may Jesus Christ be praised!

4 Qu'en joie comme en détresse
 nos chants disent sans cesse:
 béni soit Jésus Christ!
 Que dans tous les langages
 ce soit le chant des âges:
 béni soit Jésus Christ!

* HYMN: "God of the Sparrow"

Unison

G C Em Am Dm

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick
 5 God of the neigh - bour God of the foe
 6 God of the a - ges God near at hand

G C F E7 Am Em

God of the swirl - ing stars How does the crea - ture say
 God of the trum - pet blast How does the crea - ture cry
 God of the emp - ty grave How does the crea - ture say
 God of the prod - i - gal How does the crea - ture say
 God of the prun - ing hook How does the crea - ture say
 God of the lov - ing heart How do your chil - dren say

F Em Am Dm 1-5 Gsus4 G 6 C

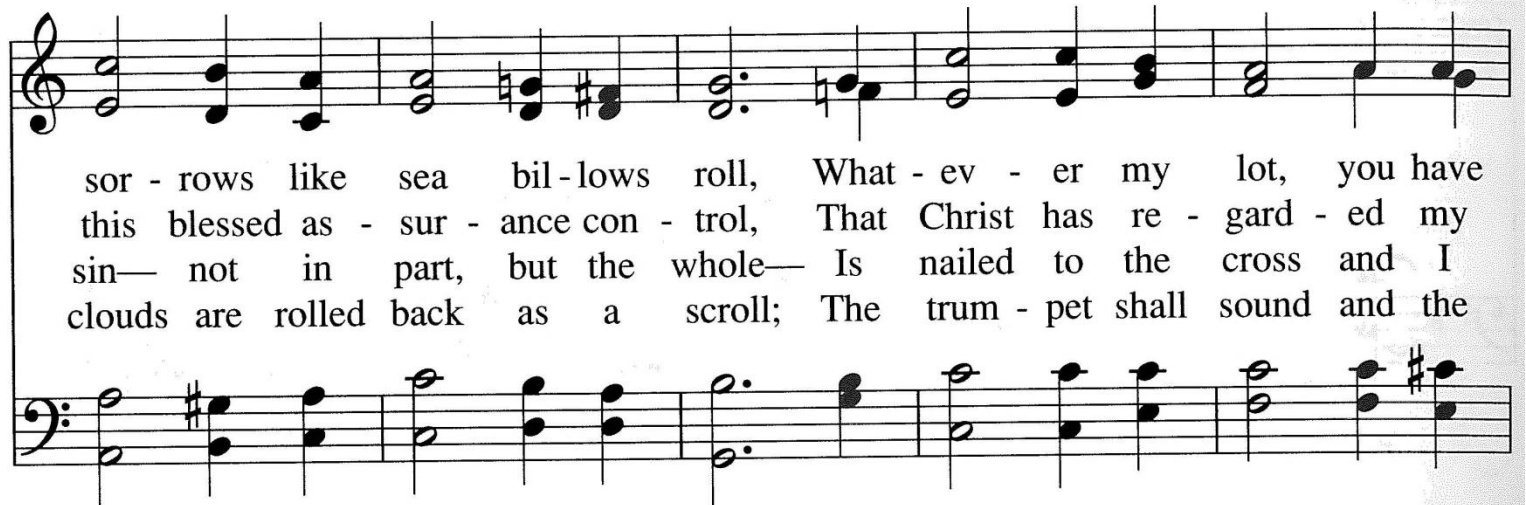
Awe How does the crea - ture say Praise
 Woe How does the crea - ture cry Save
 Grace How does the crea - ture say Thanks
 Care How does the crea - ture say Life
 Love How does the crea - ture say Peace
 Joy How do your chil - dren say Home

*CLOSING HYMN: "When Peace Like a River"

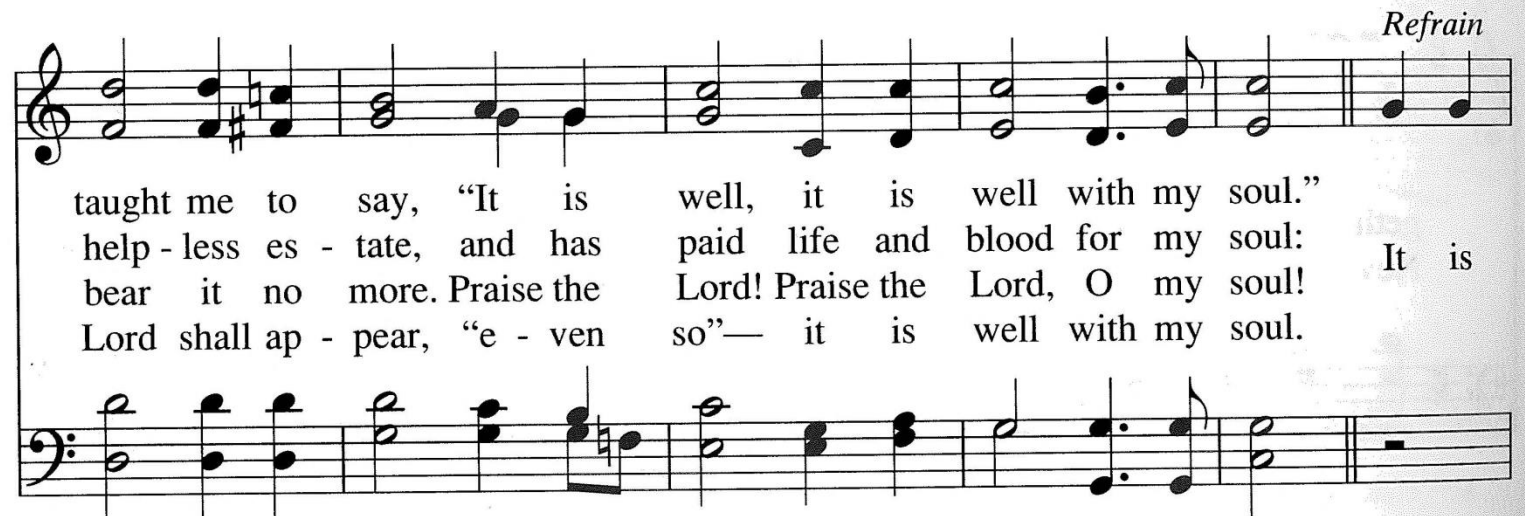
Insert




1 When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each day, when
2 Though e - vil should tempt me, though tri - als should come, let
3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought— my
4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, What - ev - er my lot, you have
this blessed as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my
sin— not in part, but the whole— Is nailed to the cross and I
clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trum - pet shall sound and the



Refrain
taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."
help - less es - tate, and has paid life and blood for my soul: It is
bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall ap - pear, "e - ven so"— it is well with my soul.



well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul.

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.

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, Sexton



CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

Imagine
Together

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.