



North Haven Congregational Church, UCC

The Window

December 2024

FROM THE
PASTOR 

Waiting in Hope...

Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. We await the gathering and celebration with eager anticipation. All around us the music plays, the pace of our days steps up, and cheerful greetings ring out in a rising crescendo.

There is, within, a quiet place that calls to seek some peace. Our world is torn by conflict and strife. Refugees and migrants suffer for lack of shelter, food, and healthcare. Economic burdens and divisions weigh upon our neighborhoods and our families. Waiting is hard this year.

A child has been born for us ...

This is the message that renews our hope for the promised peace. We are called to deepen our trust in the prophet's promise. Let us pray and sing and light candles. Let us share our tender hope and trust with candles in our windows and gentle smiles.

Trust and hope will grow, in part, as we brood on Isaiah's words and seek to root them in our hearts:

*For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
.....The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

Peace and healing will come, in great part, through the zeal and boundless love of God; Look gently and persistently for the light, the Light of God, this Advent season.

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

Peace to you, 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.



The MEMBER LEADERSHIP BOARD asks its members to put something in the Church Window. I have two things that interest me and may interest you.

This year's Thanks-Giving will not be celebrated at the Munson household. For the last 40 years we hosted between ten and fifteen family members for Thanks-Giving. As you can imagine the family has changed. Parents and grandparents are no longer with us. We now have a younger family coming with the youngest being 4 years old. Much soul searching went on this summer we thought it was best not to host it here. Countless hours were spent concerning the possibility that we may not see that part of the family again as we only see them once a year. We finally notified all that we will not host Thanks-Giving here. Will we not see them again?

Four weeks after notifying them that we would not be hosting the family Thanks-Giving this year we received a phone call. It was an invitation to Thanks Giving. We naturally said yes and they were delighted we were coming.

We often take things for granted. Going through this makes me realize the importance of the food closet at our Church. There are many in our community that may not be able to celebrate Thanks -Giving with a Turkey etc. because of something beyond their control like losing their job. The food closet enables them to have a Turkey to help them celebrate Thanks-Giving. The church food closet helps us carry out one of god's missions for us "to help one another".

On another note the Endowment team thinks everyone should have a Will. If you don't already have a will and you have any assets the state will have a plan to distribute any assets on your passing. You may not like how your assets would be distributed. With a Will you can designate who gets what.

The Church has an Endowment that helps fund the Church operating budget. The Fund is under stress as this year \$50,000 has been distributed to Church budget. The Endowment grows by investing wisely and from gifts to the Endowment. Some former forward thinking members and friends have included the Church in their Wills. We ask that when you create your Will you name the North Haven Congregational Church in your Will. You might give a fixed amount

like \$10,000 or give 10% of your estate to the North Haven Congregational Church Endowment. If you have a Will that you have not looked at in the last ten years now would be a good time to look at the Will. There are changes you may wish to make.

Bryant Munson



Come and worship for Advent and Christmas!

Advent and Christmas are a wonderful time in our Church life. We move into Advent with a family Sunday at the close of Thanksgiving weekend. We'll celebrate Advent Night on the Second Sunday of December, and 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.

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Christmas Eve falls on Tuesday this year. We will have one service on Christmas Eve at 7pm. The service will be a blended service, beginning with a message to the children and continuing with the traditional Candlelight Lessons & Carols. The service 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.

The Window



ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Let's Celebrate Advent!!

Sunday, Dec. 1	First Sunday of Advent	9:30am
Sunday, Dec. 8	Second Sunday of Advent	9:30am
	Advent Night	5-7 pm
Sunday, Dec. 15	Third Sunday of Advent	9:30am
Sunday, Dec. 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent	9:30am
	Christmas Pageant	
Tuesday, Dec. 24	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 11/25/24:

Carol Amico & Scott Morrow
Beth Anderson
Larry Ballantyne
Patience & Martin Benassi
Jim & Joan Bennett
Cheryl Bogert
Priscilla Bradford
Sandy Carter
Sue Cifelli
Ed & Mary Ellen Collett
Susan Compton
Rebecca & Alan Conley
Kim & Tom Coughlin
George & Florence Coulston
Gary & AnnMarie Czajkowski
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
Susan Beth Higgins
Bernie & Elfie Hummel
Barbara Joslyn
Robbie & Bruno Juliano
Linda Lacobelli
Carol Lasse
Nancy & Ken Mahoney
John & Rhonda Masnato
Joyce & Ted Manzo
Barbara & Rick Massey
Carol Mitchell
David Nelson
Lynne & Rob Nielsen
William Olmstead
Timothy Peiffer
Steve & Mabel Peterson
Dot Pierce
Jeanne Reardon
Lynn Reardon
Jane Romans
Robert & Ruth Scelzo
Bob & Barbara Scheidecker
Adam & Julie Schweickert
Tony & Cheryl Solecki
Peter & Vicki Struk
John & Sue Tibor
Audrey Tilley
Catherine Welch

With Thanks from the Generosity Mission Team:
Joan Bennett, Cheryl Bogert, Priscilla Bradford, Mabel Peterson





Ministry Coordinator
for Children

December Church School Calendar

- Dec. 1** - FIRST Sunday of Advent; *FAMILY SUNDAY*, children remain in worship with their parents.
- Dec. 8** - SECOND Sunday of Advent; Regular Church School, children begin is worship; Pageant rehearsal during Church School; Advent Night 5-7 pm
- Dec. 15** - THIRD Sunday of Advent; Regular Church School, children begin in worship; Pageant rehearsal during Church School
- Dec. 21 (Saturday)** - Tentative Pageant rehearsal at 2 pm
- Dec. 22** - FOURTH Sunday of Advent; *FAMILY SUNDAY*, **Christmas Pageant** during morning worship
- Dec. 24th** – 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship
- Dec. 29** - *FAMILY SUNDAY*, children remain in worship

**Advent Candle Lighting Services –
Dec. 1-22, 2024**

- First** Sunday of Advent - The Prophecy Candle reminds us that the Old Testament prophets kept alive a sense of hope for the revelation of God to humanity in the coming Messiah.
- Second** Sunday of Advent - The Bethlehem Candle reminds us that God came to humanity in a stable in a little village called Bethlehem.
- Third** Sunday of Advent - The Shepherd Candle reminds us of how God works, choosing the weakest and the poorest to show his redemptive concern for humanity.
- Fourth** Sunday of Advent - The Angel Candle reminds us that we are called to be messengers of God's good news.



Advent Night

December 8th from 5-7 p.m.

We look forward to one of our favorite annual events; Advent Night. 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-L please bring a **fruit tray** or **veggie tray**
M-Z please bring a **cheese tray** or **dessert**
Members of the Faith Formation Team have planned a variety of crafts, some new and others, old favorites. The members of the Faith Formation team look forward to seeing you all there!



Christmas Pageant

Dec. 22nd during 9:30 a.m. worship

NHCC annual traditional church school pageant will be an integral part of the Family worship at 9:30 a.m.. Our favorite story, THE GREATEST GIFT includes excerpts from the biblical books of Isaiah, Matthew, and Luke, interwoven with narration, prayers, gifts of music, and Christmas hymns.

Many of the Church School children have worked hard since November, preparing to share God's good news of Christmas with their Church family. This year, along with our usual live Angels, Shepherds, and Wise Men (Magi), we will have the added enjoyment of a real Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus (a 7-month-old, who may chatter in baby gibberish through duration of the pageant).

I hope you can join us in the telling of our church's favorite story.

Blessings,
Karlee Etter

Church Family News



Birthdays Doris Ferner 12/01, Gerard Adinolfi 12/05, Robbie Juliano 12/07, Susan Baldino 12/07, James Studley 12/08, Emma

Mickolyzck 12/09, 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, Edward Collett 12/29, Elfie Hummel 12/30, Tanner DiVito 12/30, Alec DiVito 12/30, Bill Rose 12/31.

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

Weddings: Samantha Levine & Michael Filley were married on November 16 in Old Saybrook. Samantha is Ron Jennings's granddaughter and Jackie Jennings's niece. Congratulations!

Meet our New Members



We welcomed three members in our worship service on November 3. **Sue Cifelli** comes to our church from UCC Longmont in Colorado, where she served on the Cabinet and several boards, completed Disciple Bible Study, and enjoyed a nurturing church family. She and her husband raised their daughter, Dani, during 22 years living in Colorado. Sue grew up in Connecticut and returned in 2016 to be near elderly parents. She transferred with Medtronic in Boulder to their North Haven office as an R&D sourcing specialist, and found a home in North Haven. Both of her parents died in 2023, and in December Sue retired after 32 years with Medtronic. Sue is grateful to her neighbor friend Carol Lasse for being her 'church buddy' and motivating her to attend church on Sundays. How amazing that they both knew they wanted to join the North Haven UCC congregation, especially after that first church service in June where they were welcomed all the way from the door to the pew. After taking their seats, the newcomers Carol and Sue chatted with the two women seated in the pew in front of them who happened to be choir members Carol and Sue!

One of Sue's retirement goals is to contribute to the community, and this small but mighty congregation offers so many ways to contribute. She is glad to find and join her new church family, and thankful for all the new friends she has here. Meanwhile, with Carol

and other Quail Run Village neighbors, Sue enjoys potlucks and coffee circles and book club. Retirement gives her time to take walks along the Long Island Sound and elsewhere, go to the gym and Zumba class, enjoy theater and live music and her new fascination with kdrama (Korean TV dramas), and make plans to travel. Daughter Dani moved back to Colorado this year and probably the next trip will be to visit Dani and old friends there.

Carol Lasse was born in West Newton, MA. She was the oldest child of her father, a baker, and her mother, a homemaker. By 1961 they had moved to Torrington, CT where her baby sister was born. Carol's father had his own bakery and she remembers going to work with her parents from a young age, smelling all the delicious breads, cakes, and cookies. I has always loved dancing and reading and spending time with friends and family. By the time she was 16 the family was living in Ansonia, CT where she joined the First Congregational Church with her mother and sister, where her sister still attends to this day. It was at that same church where she met and married her husband, Alan. During their marriage they worked hard and moved several times, living in Virginia and several parts of Connecticut, and eventually settling in North Haven where they have lived for more than 30 years. They are both retired now. Her youngest daughter graduated from North Haven High School, and has followed in her parents' traveling footsteps, living all over the east coast. She earned her degree from the Savannah College of Art and Design in GA. her eldest daughter graduated from the University of New Haven, where she met and married her husband. Carol has three brilliant, tall, and handsome grandsons! Carol has moved a lot, and has been a member of several churches, but she finds that this Congregational Church, which welcomes all, is her favorite.

Gene Klozewski is reactivating his membership after some time away. He is a retired cabinetmaker and currently teaches blues guitar and bass guitar. Gene's wife passed away some years ago. He has a son, Michael, (goes by Ilya) who lives in Ohio.

Mission Team News

Imagine Together

Generosity

This year we are called to 'Imagine Together' what we as a community of faith can do. During this season many members of the community are sorting and packing food for the 150 families that will be served by the food pantry housed in our church. We can continue to support the needs of the community only if we have the financial support to keep the infrastructure of our building repaired, utilities paid and staff supported. We depend on your pledge to financially plan for next year. As you make your financial commitment, imagine what, your commitment will do toward supporting the needs of the community.

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.

Parking Lot Project Update

Here is the latest update regarding the parking lot project.

Back in May we reported that Building and Grounds (B&G) was working on getting quotes from contractors for installing drywells to provide proper and required drainage for the parking lot and replacing the asphalt. Due to scheduling and cost, the decision was made to break the project into two phases. The first being the site drainage, the second being the paving.

We are pleased to state that the first phase is nearing completion. Arrowdale Enterprise LLC installed three new catch basins, fifteen concrete galleries to disperse the water underground and hundreds of feet of piping over the past two months. Phase two will be the actual paving



of the whole parking lot along with new curbs and painting.

Paul Powers has been spearheading this project and is talking to various contractors regarding phase two of the project. Thank you Paul for your hard work and time. Once we have a definitive dollar amount a decision can be made as to when and how to proceed.

In the meantime, members of the B&G will continue to make repairs and fill the potholes on an on-going basis. Thanks to Ed Collett who has taken on this task.

As stated in a previous article, the total cost of this project (both phase one and two) will be more than we have in our budget so a formal capital campaign will be needed to raise the necessary funds. The Ministry Leadership Board (MLB) has formed a committee and will be reaching out to parishioners starting early in 2025. Several large donations have already been received.

Again, everyone uses the church owned parking lot - town employees, the Masons next door, people attending events on the green, people using the athletic field, people coming to the Saturday evening Pierpont concerts, and of course, all of us on Sunday morning worship. We need to present our church in a positive and safe manner and a well maintained parking lot makes a good first impression.

The Masons have already contributed funds for phase one and we anticipate they will do so for phase two. We hope for donations from members of the community as well.

Consider contributing generously to this project.
Martin Benassi, MLB Member

Urgent Need: Clothing Items for Columbus House

We are collecting new essential clothing items to be given to patrons at Columbus House. Please bring new men's and women's crew socks, new women's underwear, sizes 7-12 and new men's boxer shorts sizes medium-Xlarge. We will continue collecting these items thru 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



THANK YOU for our 30th Anniversary Celebration!

Scott Morrow and Carol Amico offer their abundant and heartfelt thanks to all of you for the wonderful 30th Anniversary celebration on Sunday, November 17th. The joyful worship service was filled with inspiring words, treasured memories, and glorious music. We were very glad that Amy and Jesse, our 'kids', were invited to attend. Carol and Amy enjoyed singing together in the Choir! It was particularly special to have Rev. Lucia Jackson preaching. The reception afterward was marvelous, and we were very grateful for the opportunity to greet those who attended. It was quite moving to celebrate Scott's pastoral ministry and Carol's service to the church over these years through the kind words spoke, the pictures and the thoughtful personal messages. We recognize that this was a celebration of shared ministry in which we have all engaged together, and we are grateful. We offer a special thanks for the generosity of your gifts of a collection of pictures, the beautiful clock, and your monetary gift. We are deeply and particularly grateful for all of those who worked on this celebration. Thank you all for your kindness and your faith.

Scott and Carol



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. 22nd, and at the services on Christmas Eve.** Please give prayerfully and generously!

Save these dates for music!

As part of our concert series here at North Haven Congregational Church, we are delighted to host two very special upcoming concerts featuring young people with an abundance of talent!

On February 22, 2025, 7:00PM: An always exciting concert featuring the North Haven High School Jazz & Vocal ensembles! This has become an annual tradition and special fundraiser for both church and school music program. We love to see the talent blossoming in our town and this concert features it with music of many genres, from big band to modern pop.

**PIERPONT CONCERT PERFORMANCE
PRESENTED BY THE NHHS MUSIC
DEPARTMENT**



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2025
7:00 PM**
NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
28 CHURCH ST. NORTH HAVEN, CT
203-239-5691
SARAH IADAROLA, CHOIR DIRECTOR
SUSAN OAKLEY, INSTRUMENTAL
DIRECTOR

North Haven is blessed to have Music teachers Sarah Iadarola (Choir Director) and Susan Oakley (Band Director) guiding the youth in this special musical program. In addition to tickets, donations are welcome, the proceeds of which are split 50/50 with the church and the music department at the school. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students - but students under age 12 are free admission.

You can make a donation or buy your tickets through the church’s special website:

<https://giving.servantkeeper.com/nhu-3>

under “Benefit Concert” or by calling the church office.

And then, on Saturday May 3, 2025, 7:00PM, we are delighted to welcome back the United Girls ’Choir. The UGC uses our building on Tuesday afternoons, and in return we are treated to a fabulous concert every year. Last year’s concert was thrilling, with numerous complex arrangements of beautiful choral music. Their young voices sing together as one with perfect intonation and musical phrasing. Ask anyone who was there last year how beautiful the sounds are!



Please save those upcoming dates and tell your friends!

These two upcoming concerts are a great opportunity for us to encourage community, fellowship, and great music in our church and in our town.

Church Clean-up! THANK-YOU!!

On Saturday, November 9, Priscilla Bradford, Bernie Hummel, Sue Compton, Martin Benassi, Dave Nelson, and Ed and Mary Ellen Collett trimmed the flower beds and pruned shrubs, raked and blew and piled leaves, and cleaned out stairwells and cleaned up the parking lot. Thank you very, very much!



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 such as trumpeters, flutists, and string players 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, as it is a year round collection. The pink music collection 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.



Trinity Solar

North Haven Congregational Church is working with Trinity Solar, Connecticut's largest residential solar installer, to help support our church, our members, and the environment.

This partnership program is simple:

- Call or text Chris Corcoran at (203) 623-1372 to set up a meeting. Chris will visit your home for an evaluation. He'll answer your questions, show you how much you can save on electricity costs, and describe the \$0 down, \$0 upfront program.
- Trinity will contribute \$100 to the church for each homeowner that meets with Chris for a no-cost home evaluation.
- For each person that moves forward with a solar solution for their home, Trinity will contribute \$1,000 to the church, when the installation is completed.

You can also call Trinity at 800-655-2500. Mention North Haven Congregational Church and they'll help you set up a meeting with Chris.

Call or text Chris anytime to learn more. Scan the QR Code above for more information.

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 during the 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 Sandy Carter.

YOU can run the Livestream CAMERA!

The livestream service is recorded through a camera in the back of the sanctuary, which is operated from a desktop computer in the church office. The process of setting up the livestream and shifting the camera angle during the service is pretty simple, and kind of FUN! Our newest camera operator is getting his community service credits for school by running the camera. We need volunteers! Please speak with Scott or Jeff Hutchins.



We Are Collecting Food Items On Sunday With The Offering

Please bring canned soup; canned mixed vegetables, carrots or beets; baked beans, cereal, and canned fruit. Place them in the basket in the Narthex and we will bring your contributions forward as a generous part of our offering on Sunday morning. Thank you!

Empowering Shared Leadership

Once our Church was guided by committees and a Church Council. Now we have Mission Teams and a Ministry Leadership Board. What's the difference? Part of the reason for that change was to be more decentralized and to expand shared leadership in the church. Please come 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.

Trees of Hope: Tuesday, December 10



Join us to visit the 35th Annual Trees of Hope, located at the Maritime Center in New Haven, to support the Ronald McDonald House of CT. This event features

over 150 beautiful holiday displays donated and sponsored by individuals, local businesses, and community organizations.

We will be departing the senior center at 10:00am. **Those who do not drive get first priority for taking the senior center bus.** We will meet at Trees of Hope at the Maritime Center, 555 Long Wharf Dr., at 10:30am and depart at 12:00pm.

On the way home, we will stop at Olive Garden at 12:30pm for lunch. **Please call and let us know if you plan on going to Olive Garden so we can give the restaurant a headcount.**

Call 203-239-5432 or stop by the office by Friday, December 6 to register



**Senior to Senior Breakfast
Wednesday, December 11 from 8:15-9:30am**

All North Haven Seniors are invited to the FREE Annual Senior to Senior Breakfast held at the North Haven High School.

Enjoy delicious Homemade Breakfast Treats baked by the Culinary Department. Best of all, you get to meet and greet the seniors of the North Haven High School. The annual event is very popular in Town so sign up

today. Bus pick up will begin at 7:00 am. Members may drive to the Center at 7:30 am to travel by bus. Members can also drive on their own!

Call 203-239-5432 or stop by the Senior Center office to RSVP by December 4

**Saturday,
December 14, 2024
at 2:00 p.m.**

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



**R.S.V.P. Appreciated by December 7th
(203) 288-0800**

Anyone who has lost a loved one is welcome

**Holiday Remembrance Service on
Saturday, Dec. 14 at 2pm**

We will hold a Holiday Remembrance Service, in collaboration with the Beecher & Bennett Funeral Home, on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 2pm. The experience of loss and bereavement can be complicated in the Christmas season. Grief may feel out of step with the holiday mood, and yet the feeling of loss and the process of grief are real and important. This Holiday Remembrance Service is an opportunity to acknowledge the feelings surrounding the death of a loved one in the context of Advent and Christmas with their promise of peace and their possibility of hope and joy. The service will be held in the sanctuary with scripture readings, prayers, and hymns. Jeffrey Hutchins, Director of Music, and Heather Meachen, Organist, will join Scott and staff from Beecher & Bennett in leading the service. The Chancel Choir will sing! The service will last an hour, and there will be reception in Carroll Hall with coffee and cookies afterward. This service is open to the public; Beecher & Bennett will invite families they have served this year and we will offer a special invitation to those church members who have experienced a loss.

This service is an annual tradition for Beecher & Bennett which rotates among churches in the

community. Part of their tradition is to offer the opportunity to celebrate a loved one who has died. Beecher & Bennett staff will read a list of names of those being remembered, and provide an ornament personalized with the name of the person which can be hung on a Christmas tree in the sanctuary as part of the service. There will also be a video tribute to those being remembered. **If you wish to remember someone during the service, please call the Beecher & Bennett Funeral Home at 203-288-0800 to RSVP by Dec. 7.** They will ask for the name of your loved one, their dates, and a photo. They will help you to find a photo from a published obituary if you wish. They will provide an ornament at the service which you may keep afterward.

Please contact Scott or call the Church Office with any questions.

Confirmation 2024-25 meets on December 15th and 22nd! The Confirmation Program will meet twice in December – on the 3rd and 4th Sundays, December 15th and 22nd. We will gather in the Koinonia Room at 6pm and finish up by 7:30pm. There will be opportunities to get confirmation service hours (you need 10) in December by helping with Advent Night on Sunday, Dec. 8, or helping with sorting, packing, or pick-up of Holiday Food for Christmas on December 19-21. Please contact Scott Morrow with questions.



Covenant to Care

Now that Thanksgiving is in the rear view mirror, it's time to look ahead to Advent and Christmas. Our church will again this year supply gifts for children less fortunate than ourselves. The Angel Tree will be in Carroll Hall at fellowship hour on Sunday December 8, 2024. Children's names and ages and a "wish list" will be on ornaments on the tree. If you would like to participate, please select a child and write your name and the child's name on the provided sign up sheet. Please have your wrapped gifts to the church by **Tuesday December 17, 2024.**

If you would like to give a monetary gift, please submit a check to the church office with "Angel Tree" written in the memo line. The money will be used to supply other gifts for children.

This has been a beloved project in our church for many years. Let's provide a little joy in a child's heart at this beautiful time of year.

Christmas peace be with you,
Kathy Harple

WINDOW DEADLINE! ATTENTION!! The deadline for the January WINDOW will be **Monday, December 16.** The December WINDOW will be mailed on Monday, December 23. Christmas makes this a tight schedule: the whole WINDOW process is moved **2 days earlier!** Thank you for getting your articles and announcements to Julie early!

Parking Lot Campaign Committee To Meet

The parking lot drainage project is mostly complete. Catch basins and galleries will receive all the runoff piped from downspouts on the south and west sides of the Church and the north and west sides of the Masons Lodge, as well as the runoff from the parking lot. Some final touch-up and a walk-through are all that remain.

The next step is paving the parking lot! The Parking Lot Campaign Committee met on Wednesday, Nov. 20 and begin planning the work of the Campaign which is expected to begin in January. Another meeting will be scheduled for December 18th.

The Holiday Food Drive 2024 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, is providing a generous 25% match for all money donations received through November 13. Financial contributions go toward the purchase of items where food donations don't fill the amount needed.

The food is sorted and today (Nov 22) will be the final day of packing the boxes for Thanksgiving. We will serve more than **184 households** tomorrow, Nov. 23. 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.

Volunteers for food collection and sorting, packing and pick-up/delivery of food boxes are needed. Please watch the church website to sign up to volunteer. You can help with packing the boxes on Thursday, Dec. 19, between 2 and 4pm, and on Friday, Dec. 20 between 3 and 7pm. You can also help with distribution on Saturday morning, Dec. 21, between 9am and 1pm.

You may want to put these dates on your calendar:

Christmas Boxes –

Thurs., Dec. 19, 2-4pm Pack Food Boxes

Fri., Dec. 20, 3-7pm Pack Food Boxes

Sat., Dec. 21, 9am – 1pm Distribute Food Boxes

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. 2-9. Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts distributed plastic bags on Saturday, Nov 2, and returned to pick them up (filled with non-perishable food) on Saturday, Nov. 9. They weighed the food as it arrived on Nov 9, and the collection totaled 5100+ pounds with one fewer Troops participating. Troop 811 broke their own record with 395 pounds more than last year. The Scouting for Food drive provides one of the largest donations to our food pantry each year. Thank you very, very much!

Annual Meeting and Annual Reports

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is tentatively scheduled for **Sunday, January 26**. **Annual Reports** from Mission Teams and staff are due in the church office on **Thursday, January 2**.

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 the book of Acts – learning about Jesus’ disciples at Pentecost and the beginnings of the Christian church. We are happy to send you a Zoom link so you can visit! Just ask Scott or Julie.

Women’s Fellowship

The holiday season is here, and Women’s Fellowship is planning our annual Christmas Party Pot Luck Dinner!

***Date: December 17 at 6:00 p.m. in Carroll Hall
Pot Luck Dinner: bring your favorite dish to share
Don’t forget your “tacky” (funny) grab bag gift
All the women of the church are invited!***

Please RSVP by **December 15** to Cheryl Bogert (ca.bogert48@gmail.com) with your choice of dish you’re bringing.

Please come join the fun, laughs, and good food!

Wishing everyone a very Merry, Blessed, Christmas!



Men's Fellowship

Two Men's Breakfasts were held since the last Window, on November 2nd and November 16th. Attending one or both were Martin Benassi, Jim Bennett, Vern Carlson, Peter Hall, Bernie Hummel, Rev. Scott Morrow, Bryant Munson, Stephen Simonson, Peter Struk, and John Tibor.

Much of our conversations revolved around the parking lot. We learned that Phase #1, addressing drainage issues, has been completed except for a couple of surprises that popped up during installation of the new catch basins and galleries. An old drywell was discovered and removed, and a previously unknown underground tank was discovered, which may or may not be left as is. It was also discovered that our shed sits on top of one of our sewer lines, which has caused our recent downstairs bathroom problems. Once we find the source of the line blockage, a bypass pipe will need to be installed to permanently resolve this issue.

Stephen also put in a plug for bottles and cans recycling. \$750 was raised last year by this project with very little participation, and he hopes to double that amount this year. If just a few more congregants would either bring their recyclables to the church or take them to Maruti Bottle & Can Redemption Center (27 Dodge Avenue) and send the proceeds therefrom to the church, what a nice contribution to the church's operating fund that would make!

And Jim thanked everyone for supporting the Turkeys Project he announced in church on two Sundays, as the Lions collected more than twenty (20) frozen birds on November 9th, all of which will be distributed to needy families for Thanksgiving!

Lastly, MEN of the church: please note that both the December 7th and December 21st Saturday Fellowship gatherings will begin at 7:00 am!

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 respond.

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, Meg Adams, Herb & Ann Schneider, 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

Saturday, December 7th – 9:00am-12:00pm
Forward Together – Sharing Leadership to Build Mission

Sunday, December 8th – 5:00pm
Advent Night 5pm Carroll Hall

Thursday, December 19th – 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Pack Holiday Food Drive Boxes

Friday, December 20th –
12:00pm – 2:00pm Count & pack produce
2:00pm – 4:00pm Pack Food Drive Boxes

Saturday, December 21st – 9:00am-12:30pm
Distribute Holiday 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



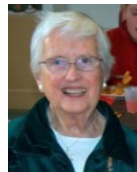
Marlene Bellonio
310 Terrace Ave, W146D
West Haven CT 06516



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



Walter Kaercher
5 Tennyson Ave.
North Haven, CT 06473



Betty Martin
22 Canterbury Rd.
Hamden CT 06514



Linda Rankin
22 Masonic Ave, Room R504b
Wallingford, CT 06492

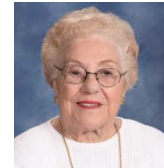
Betsey Reid
74 Washington Ave.
P.O. Box 2040
North Haven, CT 06473



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
150 Cook Hill Road, Apt. 6106
Cheshire, CT 06410



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



Audrey Tilley
22 Masonic Ave.
Ramage 227 B
Wallingford, CT 06492



Jeff Whipple
5114 Avalone Haven Drive
North Haven, CT 0647



December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:30am Worship: First Sunday of Advent	1:00pm Food Pantry Open	9:30am AL-Anon (K) 12:00pm PLP (Library) 3:30 United Girls Choir (CH, DBL, S) 5:30 Girl Scout Troop 60071 (RR) 6:00 BIBLE STUDY	10:00 Food Pantry Open 6:00pm Leos Club (CH) 7:00 Lions Club (CH)	2:30pm Food Council (CH) 4:30 Music Together (CH) 5:30 Girl Scout 60151(K) 6:30 Mothers of Twins (CH) 7:00 CHANCEL CHOIR	10:00 Food Pantry Open 6:30 CT Area AL-Anon (CH)	7:00am Mens Fellowship (CH) 8:30 Forward Together (CH) 3:00pm Tibetan American (K, CR)
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:30am Worship: Second Sunday of Advent	1:00pm Food Pantry Open	9:30am AL-Anon (K) 12:00pm Building & Grounds (Heath) 12:00 PLP (Library) 3:30 United Girls Choir (DBL, S) 4:30 Pierpont Hill (CH) 6:00 Bible Study (Zoom)	10:00 Food Pantry Open 1:00pm Danish Sisterhood (CH) 5:15 Communications (Zoom) 7:00 AL-Anon District Family (CH) 7:00 MLB (Library)		10:00 Food Pantry Open	
5:00pm Advent Night (CH)	5:00 New Haven Camera Club (CH)			3:30pm NHE Ch&M (L) 7:00 CHANCEL CHOIR 7:00 Garden Club (CH)	7:00pm AL-Atean (CH) 7:00 Danish Brotherhood (K)	2:00pm Holiday Remembrance Service (Sanctuary) 3:00 Tibetan American (K, CR)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:30am Worship: Third Sunday of Advent	WINDOW DEADLINE	9:30am AL-Anon (K) 11:00 Foley-Baker Organ Tuning 12:00pm PLP (Library) 5:30 Girl Scout Troop 60071 (RR) 6:00 WF Christmas Pot Luck (CH) 6:00 Bible Study (Zoom)				Christmas Food Distribution
3:00pm Jingle Jam Holiday Concert (Sanctuary)						7:00am Mens Fellowship (CH) 3:00pm Tibetan American (K, CR)
6:00 Confirmation (K)	6:00pm CT Record Club (K)			7:00pm CHANCEL CHOIR		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:30am Worship: Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas Pageant	WINDOW MAILING	CHRISTMAS EVE DAY	CHRISTMAS DAY			
6:00 Confirmation (K)		9:30am AL-Anon (K) 12:00pm PLP (Library) 7:00 Lessons & Carols (Sanctuary)	OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED		3:00pm Tibetan American (K, CR)
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
9:30am Worship: First Sunday After Christmas	1:00pm Food Pantry Open	9:30am AL-Anon (K) 12:00pm PLP (Library) 5:30 Girl Scout Troop 60071 (RR) 6:00 BIBLE STUDY	New Years Day OFFICE CLOSED 6:00pm Leos Club (CH) 7:00 Lions Club (CH)			

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

Dave Nelson

WINDOW DEADLINE

December 16, 2024

LECTIONARY READINGS

December 1st (First Sunday of Advent)

Jer 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36

December 8th (Second Sunday of Advent)

Bar 5:1-9 or Mal 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79
Phil 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

December 15th (Third Sunday of Advent)

Zeph 3:14-20 Isa 12:2-6
Phil 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18

December 22nd (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Mic 5:2-5a Psalm 80:1-7 or Luke 1:46b-55
Heb 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

December 24th (Christmas Eve)

Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

December 25th (Christmas)

Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

December 29th (First Sunday After Christmas)

1 Sam 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148
Col 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52

December 31st (New Year's Eve)

Ecccl 3:1-13 Psalm 8
Rev 21:1-6a Matt 25:31-46

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage

PAID

North Haven, CT
Permit #10