

# North Haven Congregational Church, UCC

# The Window

November 2025



"Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." Genesis 1:26

#### Dear Gentle People,

I hope you have been able to enjoy the blessings of Fall! John and I took a very quick trip up to Vermont recently for a brief adventure. We enjoyed seeing the foliage, there were some spectacular reds this year! We attended a workshop hosted by an art gallery we visit every year. One of their new artists, Rolinda Stott, led a two-hour program on creativity. Watercolor paper, felt markers, paint and paint brushes were some of the tools that aided the exploration of our personal creativity.

The program began with a question, "Are you creative?" followed by a ranking from 1-10. Many in our group struggled to see themselves as creative. I celebrated the way their confidence grew over the course of the program. Rolinda, who leads these workshops all over the country, is committed to helping people reconnect with their creativity. She insists that the world needs everyone's creativity!

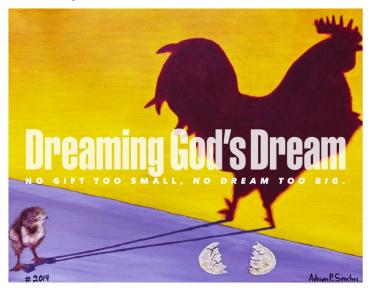
In the first chapter of the first book of the Bible, we first come to know God as a creator. After five days of bringing order out of chaos and creating, God makes human beings in their image. It seems to me that creativity should be our superpower!

I often say that Jesus wants so much more for us than we can even begin to imagine, that his expectations for us surpass our own abilities to envision the fullness of life that God desires for world. Even though Jesus told his followers that he would die and rise, they could not comprehend it until they met him in his resurrected

form. It is hard for us humans to imagine newness. Fear keeps us clinging to old ways that no longer work and change can be scary. Jesus promises fullness of life and like the first disciples, we doubt.

As NHCC's Season of Generosity comes to a close and the season of Advent begins, it is a wonderful opportunity to get closer to God and remember the many ways your church is abundantly blessed! Imagine how all of your blessings could help remake the world as God would have it, healed and whole and at peace. Abundance can be experienced in so many ways. Church folk like to see it in numbers of people or the size of an endowment. I have seen it in your church as love expressed to neighbors and friends, in seeing how the community supported the Parking Lot project, how you all pitch in whenever there is a need, in seeing children consistently in worship every Sunday, in an extremely talented and dedicated staff, in a beautiful and well cared for campus. Let us continue to be seekers and sharers of God's hope, peace, joy and love as we commit ourselves to God's dreams.

Joyfully, Rev. Cindy





# Generosity

We are asked to dream as we consider our financial commitment to the mission of our church this year. During this time of transition, we will be asked to develop goals for our community.

When you receive the letter from the Generosity Team, it will contain information about the financial challenges we face. Read the letter and look at the charts as you consider your pledge. How can you help your church continue to serve our community?

Pledging makes it possible for the Ministry Leadership Board to develop a balanced budget for 2026. Ways to make a commitment are:

- Returning the commitment card
- Pledging on the website (northhavenucc.org)
- Enrolling in automatic deductions (call church office 203 239-5691)
- Designation of Required Minimum Distribution as a Qualified Charitable Deduction (tax advantage) (contact financial advisor)

Members of the Generosity Team will be glad to help you: Joan Bennett, Cheryl Bogert, Priscilla Bradford, Sue Cifelli, Mabel Peterson

Return your puzzle piece as you make a commitment and be part of the dream.



**Dreaming God's Dream** 

# Ministry Coordinator for Children

#### **Church School Calendar**

Nov. 2 Communion Sunday; Chapel Sunday. Children begin in Chapel, then to classrooms.

Nov. 9 Regular Sunday; Noisy Offering. Children begin in worship, then to classrooms

**Nov. 16 Regular Sunday;** children begin in worship, then to classrooms.

Nov. 23 Regular Sunday; children begin in worship and will be singing with the adult choir. Then they will go to their classrooms.

**Nov. 30 FAMILY SUNDAY;** children remain in worship with their families.



Noisy Offering 2025-2026: On the second and fourth Sundays of each month during the school year, the children collect a special "Noisy" Offering during worship. Each year, this special offering provides funds for the Church School's mission project. Last year, thanks to the support and generosity of the congregation and children, the children collected more than \$500 for Heifer Project International. This year as in past years, the Noisy Offering will also support Heifer Project International. On October 5th, during Chapel, the children selected three different Heifer projects for the 2025-2026 school year: Water Buffalo, Fish, and Chickens.

Upcoming Noisy Offering Sundays: Nov. 9 & 23; Jan. 11 & 25, 2026



# Advent Night: December 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

The Faith Formation Team asks 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!

Karlee Etter, Ministry Coordinator for Children

# **Celebrating Bible Sunday!** – We celebrated



BIBLE SUNDAY on October 26, 2025. Congratulations to this year's fourth graders. Three children were awarded gift Bibles during worship on October 26th; recipients were Brianna Gannon, Patricia Jennings, and Liam Maldonado. By fourth

grade, children recognize the Bible as a central book for all people of faith; as a building block of faith and thereby recognize its relevance for daily life. The Bible helps children come to know God through stories about people of faith, the teachings of Jesus, and the history of the Bible. The Bible also provides, for all God's people, passages for help, comfort, and guidance in times of sorrow.

#### **Save the Dates:**

December 7<sup>th</sup> Advent Night celebration 5-7 p.m.
 December 21<sup>st</sup> Christmas Pageant during Sunday worship



Pierpont Concert: Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

# • BRASS • CONCERT







# Church Family

## <u>News</u>

Birthdays Dan Lafleur 11/01, Laura Alden 11/02, Cheryl Bogert 11/02, Onna

Gott 11/04, Samuel Gott 11/04, Eliza Stewart 11/05, Jason Petrucci 11/05, Gary Snowbeck 11/07, Bette DeMayo 11/08, Cheryl Solecki 11/08, Peter Hall 11/08, Harper Mickolyzck 11/08, Max Scoppetto 11/09, Annette Grant 11/10, Paul Ford 11/12, Theodore Manzo 11/13, Hannah Nottingham 11/17, Ann Dubar 11/18, Michelle McBride 11/18, Nancy Gutowski 11/19, Bruno Juliano 11/21, Peter Struk 11/21, Meg Adams 11/21, Scott Morrow 11/26, Joan Bennett 11/26, Rob Natoli, Cheryl Hall 11/27.

**Anniversaries**: Daniel & Paige Mickolyzck 11/01, Carmen & Melissa DeLuca 11/09, William & Mary Ellen Adams 11/10, George & Flo Coulston 11/14, Jim & Joan Bennett 11/14.

Baptism: Aubree Lynn Nelson, born March 11, 2025, daughter of Ryan and Lauren Nelson and grandson of Dave and Barbara Nelson, was baptized on September 28. Joy!

#### **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: The Rev. Deb Ruotolo, Lee Guckert and her Family, Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marlene Bellonio, Meg Adams, Herb & Ann Schneider, and Charlotte Shea.

# Mission Team News

## **Turkeys Needed**

The hunger needs in our community have never been greater. In response, the North Haven Lions Club established a Second Saturday Service Project two years ago at which club members collect nonperishable 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 eighty (80). 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 8th 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. Other non-perishable food donations would also be greatly appreciated, particularly canned meals.

Jim Bennett, President North Haven Lions Club

#### **Music Mission Team**

We Have This (Music) Ministry! Singing During Advent, Preparing For Christmas From Jeff Hutchins, Music Director

> "We have this ministry and we are not discouraged; it is by God's own power that we may live and serve. Openly we share God's word, speaking truth as we believe, praying that the shadowed world

may healing light receive. We have this ministry, O God, receive our living." Hymn 510, Voices United Hymnal



As the days grow shorter and the nights start to reveal that tell-tale familiar autumnal chill, the season of Advent will soon be here! This year, Advent starts on Sunday, November 30th and goes through Christmas Eve. Each year it seems that we move through the season of generosity, when we pray we can "Dream God's Dream" for our community and for the world. We then transition into a time of Thanksgiving, which feels like a natural progression.

It then seems we rather quickly start into the Season of Advent - the season of preparation.

I write about Advent today because it's also a great time to join choir! The more the merrier as we prepare for Christmas.

One interesting thing about music during Advent is that there are Christmas carols which make more sense if we've had our season of preparation. "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" is one that comes to mind, but Advent itself has some fun carols! "People, Look East!" and "Prepare The Way, O Zion" are two such tunes, and sometimes the modern gospel classic "Soon and Very Soon" is sung during Advent.

What I am saying is that if you would like to join the choir for CHRISTMAS this year, you are most welcome! And, if during the course of preparing for Christmas you get to sing along on some very special Advent carols, then everyone wins! So, if you have ever had an inkling or an interest to join in this music ministry, you would be most welcome for the weeks leading up to Christmas! If Thursday nights at 7:00PM are not workable in your schedule, please consider reaching out anyway to see if we can work out a few alternate practice times to help introduce you to the music. We have this precious ministry!

"Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
Oh blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name."
Hymn 882 (Isaiah 40), Voices United Hymnal



## The Churches of North Haven



Please help a North Haven family celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas

# Holiday Food Drive 2025 is Underway!

The Food Pantry Council met recently to begin the planning for the 2025 Holiday Food Drive. The Council consists of members of churches and civic groups in North Haven which support the Food Pantry and the Holiday Food Drive. We expect an increased need for the Holiday Food Drive and we are planning for the maximum capacity of assistance once again. Volunteers shop regularly for items that have run out. We work in partnership with Connecticut Food Share, through the leadership of John Tibor, which allows us to shop for the Food Pantry at greatly reduced prices. This is a very important resource since we shop so frequently. There is great support from the churches of North Haven. We will also resume the collection of non-perishable food on Communion Sundays beginning this month. Here are the dates for this year's Holiday Food Drive:

THANKSGIVING - Pack boxes: Nov. 20 & 21

Pick-up & Deliver: Nov. 22

CHRISTMAS - Pack boxes: Dec. 18 & 19

Pick-up & Deliver: Dec. 20



#### **All Saints Observance**

We will observe All Saints Sunday during our worship service on **November 2<sup>nd</sup>**, when we will read the names of church members, and church members' family, who have died in the past year. If you would like someone's name included on All Saints Sunday, please call the church office.

## **Change Your Clocks!!**

Daylight Savings Time ends Saturday night, November 2. Remember to turn your clocks back, and enjoy an extra hour of sleep! The worship service on Sunday, Nov. 3 will be at 9:30 a.m., Eastern **Standard** Time!

Military Whist Game Night to be held Friday, November 7 The Lion's Club and our Women's Fellowship will work together to sponsor a Military Whist. This is a fun evening for anyone who has played the game before or would like to learn. It is a good way to meet new people while supporting both the Lion's Club and the Women's Fellowship. The game is fun and easy to play. The winning and losing tables win prizes. There will be light refreshments beginning at 5:45 when the doors open. Raffle Prizes and a 50/50 Raffle add to the excitement of the evening. Singles as well as couples and groups are welcome to fill the tables in teams of four. The games begin at 6:30. Tickets cost \$12 and payment in advance is appreciated. Text or call Carol Mitchell at 203-668-0608 to reserve your seat.



Fall Cleanup November 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Come join us on Saturday morning, November 8<sup>th</sup> to help with our Annual Fall Cleanup. Bring whatever tools you may have around the house - leaf blowers, trimmers and rakes.



## **Scouting for Food**

The Boy Scouts of Connecticut Yankee Council will conduct a food drive throughout our area Nov. 1-8. Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will distribute plastic bags on Saturday, Nov 1. The bags should be filled with non-perishable food items (a list is printed on the bag). Scouts will return to pick up the bags on Saturday, Nov. 8. Please hang your bagged donation on your mailbox, front door, or leave on the front porch on by **9am Saturday, Nov. 8.** 

The Scouting for Food drive provides one of the largest donations to our food pantry each year. Please fill your bag and leave it for the Scouts to pick up! You can help to sort all of this donated food on **Sunday**, **Nov. 9**, **after worship.** 

# Community Suppers at St. John's Episcopal Church in November

The North Haven Rotary Club sponsors monthly community suppers at St. John's Episcopal Church on the last Friday of the month. The next Community Supper will be Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 5pm. Donations are accepted gratefully but not required. Fellowship is the goal of these suppers, as well as providing an affordable meal. Please consider attending this supper for good food and good conversation!

# Weekly Bible Study ZOOM Tuesday Evenings at 6pm.

The weekly Bible Study offers a wonderful opportunity for fellowship prayer, and study on Tuesday evenings at 6pm. We meet for an hour +through Zoom! All are welcome! We are happy to send you a Zoom link so you can visit! Just ask John Tibor or Julie.

# Women's Fellowship

# November is here, the season of giving to others and the season of giving thanks to God for all He has given us!

October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and once again Pink Sunday was a success! Women's Fellowship hosted a Pink Sunday bake sale, and thanks to all of you, we raised \$300 which will be donated to After the Storm. It is a nonprofit organization that raises funds to assist breast cancer patients heal physically, emotionally, and spiritually from the aftermath of their diagnosis, to help restore balance to their lives.

Looking ahead to December, Women's Fellowship will be holding our annual Christmas potluck dinner with our "tacky grab bag." Date and time to be determined; information will appear in the bulletin. All women of the church are invited to attend. It's a time to relax and have some great food, fellowship, and lots of laughs! We look forward to seeing some new faces there this year. Happy Thanksgiving!

Dot Pierce, President And all of Women's Fellowship

# Men's Fellowship

The men will be meeting for breakfast on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am. All men are welcome, be they members of the church or not.

#### 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.

#### 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, Nov 1 – Harvest Fair 9:00am-2:00pm

Sunday, Nov 2 – All Saints Sunday

Friday, Nov 7 – Military Whist 5:45pm

Saturday, Nov 8 – Fall Clean-up 8:00am – 12:00pm

Sunday, Nov 9 – Generosity Sunday

Thursday, Nov. 20– Packing Thanksgiving Food boxes 2pm-6pm

Friday, Nov. 21 – Count & pack produce 12pm – 2pm Packing Thanksgiving Food boxes 2pm-4pm

Saturday, Nov, 22 – Thanksgiving boxes Pick-up & Delivery -9am - 12:30pm

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm – Advent Night

Thursday, Dec. 20- Packing Christmas Food boxes 2pm- 6pm

Friday, Dec. 21 – Count & pack produce 12pm – 2pm Packing Christmas Food boxes 2pm-4pm

Saturday, Dec. 22 – Christmas boxes Pick-up & Delivery -9am - 12:30pm

Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> 9:30am – Christmas Pageant

#### 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



Marlene Bellonio 310 Terrace Ave, W146D West Haven CT 06516





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



Ellie Harple 1350 Whitney Ave., Apt.247 Hamden, CT 06517

Walter Kaercher 5 Tennyson Ave. North Haven, CT 06473



**Betty Martin** 4200 Lakota Road, B404 Indian Hills CO 80454



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

**Betsey Reid** 79 Washington Ave P.O. Box 2040 North Haven, CT 06473



**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





**Jeff Whipple** 5114 Avalone Haven Drive North Haven, CT 0647

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#### 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)

Church Office@NorthHavenUCC.org www.NorthHavenUCC.org

# OFFICE HOURS

8:00 am to 2:30 pm

#### **BRIDGE PASTOR**

Rev. Cindy Stasko

# MINISTRY COORDINATOR

FOR CHILDREN
Karlee Etter

# MUSIC DIRECTOR

Jeffrey Hutchins

#### **ORGANIST**

Heather Meachen

#### OFFICE MANAGER

Julie Schweickert

#### **SEXTON**

Dave Nelson

## **WINDOW DEADLINE**

November 19, 2025

#### **LECTIONARY READINGS**

November 1<sup>st</sup> (All Saints Day)

Daniel 7:1-3 Psalm 149
Ephesians 1:11-23 ...... Luke 6:20-31

November 2<sup>nd</sup> (21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 and Psalm 119:137-144 or

 Isaiah 1:10-18 and
 Psalm 32:1-7

 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
 Psalm 119:1-8

 Hebrews 9:11-14
 Luke 19:1-10

November 9th (22nd Sunday after Pentecost)

Haggai 1:15b-2:9 and Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or

Psalm 98 or Job 19:23-27a and Psalm 17:1-9

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38

November 16<sup>th</sup> (23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

Isaiah 65:17-25 and Isaiah 12 or Malachi 4:1-2a and Psalm 98 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19

November 23<sup>rd</sup> (Reign of Christ)

Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Luke 1:68-79 or

Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Psalm 46 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43

November 27<sup>th</sup> (Thanksgiving Day)

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 100
Philemon 4:4-9 John 6:25-35

November 30<sup>th</sup> (First Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14

Psalm 122

Matthew 3:1-12

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