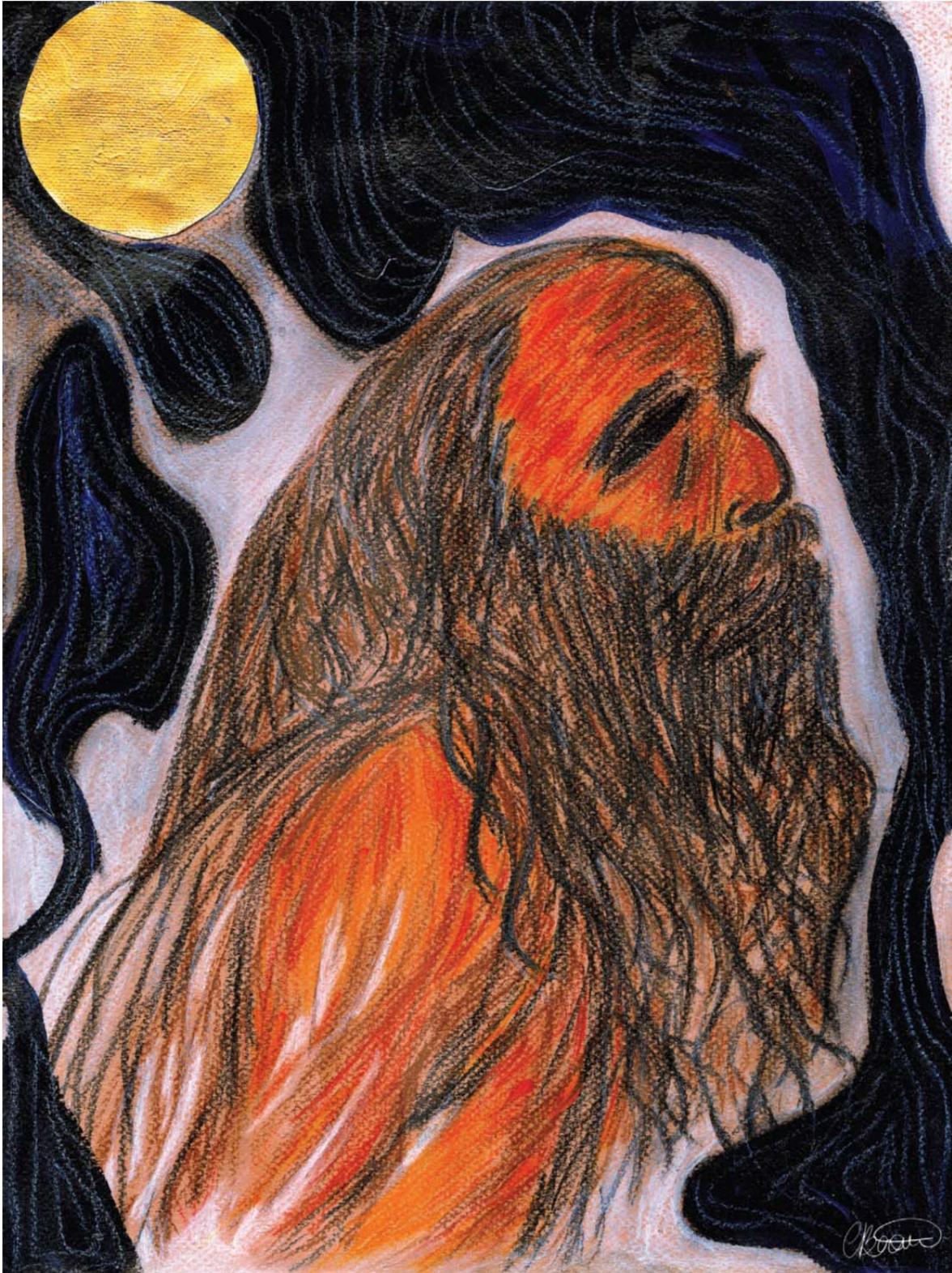


FOUNDED 1716  
*North Haven*  
*Congregational Church*  
United Church of Christ



Renacimiento, Carmelle Beaugelin

North Haven, Connecticut  
*An Open & Affirming Congregation*

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

**Sunday, March 1, 2026**

**9:30 a.m.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please extend a warm welcome to our guest organist, Haley Bracken.

**PRELUDE**

**\*OPENING HYMN: "Begin Again"**

Insert

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: What is it like to begin again?

**People: It is like flowers in the spring that push through frozen ground.**

Leader: It is like babies learning to walk, one clumsy step at a time.

**People: It is like Nicodemus in the night, asking Jesus for guidance.**

Leader: It is like a Sunday morning, starting our week anew.

**People: May we find God in our seeking.**

Leader: May we learn as we go.

**People: May we be brave enough to begin again.**

Leader: Let us worship the God of new beginnings.\*\*

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

Come...God of wisdom and grace; Fill our hearts with Your peace, open our eyes that we may see the wonders of Your loving presence all around us- and deep within us. May we be dazzled and drenched by Your loving compassion and reflect this radiant peace to the world. 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.

**Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon:~unison**

**God of new life, you call us into unknown places, and we bury our heads in the sand. You promise all the stars in the sky, and we doubt it can be true. You speak of new life in the Spirit, and we tell ourselves we've missed our chance. Over and over and over again, you invite us closer to you. Show us the way. Forgive our mistakes. Give us the courage to begin again with you. Amen.**

*Silence is kept*

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news: There is a grace to God's love that is bigger than we can imagine. No matter what we did or didn't do yesterday, we have been forgiven. Today, the slate is wiped clean. Today, we are made new. Join me in saying:

**We belong to God. We are held in God's love. We are made new. Amen.**

**\*GREETING OF PEACE**

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

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us share with each other signs of Christ's peace.

**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 FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Psalm 121**

V 844 Psalter

Refrain

Michel Guimont 1990

Unison

Our help is in the name of our God who made heav - en and earth.

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where will I look for help?

My help comes from God, who has made heaven and earth.

God will not let your foot stumble;

the One who protects Israel will not slumber.

The One who protects you will neither slumber nor sleep. R

It is God who protects you,

your defence at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day,

nor the moon by night.

God will protect you from all evil,

God will protect your life.

God will protect your going and coming,

now and forever. R

**Nicodemus Visits Jesus**

**3** Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> 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." <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup> 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?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.'

**HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.**

**THE GIFT OF MUSIC: "Taste and See"** James E. Moore Jr.

Sung by the Chancel Choir

**SERMON: "To Begin Again"**

Rev. Cindy

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:**

Begin Again v3

"Every moment, every hour  
Spirit gifts us with the power  
To begin our life anew  
What then will we choose to do?  
Close a chapter, lift the pen  
To once more begin again."

**PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

Choral Response

**THE OFFERTORY**

\*Doxology

Old 100th

"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One." (United Church of Christ version).

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Bless these gifts, even as you bless our lives, O God. Through our offerings of time, talent, and wealth, may your name be made great in the world. May your blessing be shared with all in need, and may Christ's saving love be revealed to all the ends of the earth.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Invitation

**The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Leader: the God of faith journeys be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

Leader: People of God, offer your hearts to the One who keeps them.

**People: We open ourselves to the Watcher of our nights and days.**

Leader: Sing praises to the One who transforms despair into hope.

**People: We join in the glad chorus of joy to the One who keeps our lives in every moment.**

*The pastor will continue with prayers of praise...*

Therefore, we would lift up our voices with Abraham and Sarah, with Paul and Phoebe, and with all the saints of every time and place, forever singing to the One who watches over us:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God who calls into existence the things that do not exist.**

**All creation lifts its eyes to you.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes to redeem all the families of the earth.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

*The pastor will remember the story of this sacred meal...*

As we sing of your help which comes in every moment, as we remember that life which graces us forever, we would testify about that mystery we call faith:

**Christ died, in order that we might be saved;**

**Christ rose, to keep our live;**

**Christ will come to keep our going out and coming in forever.**

*The Pastor continues with the blessing...*

## **Prayer after Communion:**

**You have met us at the table, Lord Jesus, to unite us with you and with sisters and brothers around the world. Go with us now into that world, that we might be a living sign of welcome among refugees, of freedom among the oppressed, of hope amid persecution, of peace amid violence, of living faith amid a culture of skepticism, and of loving kindness toward the earth and all her inhabitants. This we pray in your strong and holy name. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN “In the Bulb there Is a Flower ”**

**V 703**

## **\*THE BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

\*Those who are able, please stand.

\*\* Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC |  
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**Deacon** is Nancy Mahoney. **Greeter** is Beth Anderson. **Please join us for Fellowship in Carroll Hall immediately following the service.**

## **In Our Prayers This Week are:**

The Rev. Deb Ruotolo, Lee Guckert, Melanie Howlett, Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marlene Bellonio, Meg Adams, Ann Schneider, and Charlotte Shea.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**One Great Hour of Sharing collection is scheduled for March 15**

**SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 15th!!!! 2:00 p.m.**

**ANNUAL ST. PATRICK’S DAY DINNER!!!!**

Tickets on sale after church in Carroll Hall, through March 8th!!

\$18.00 per person, Children 12 and under FREE!!

Take Out Dinners available, payable in advance!!

## **Covenant To Care**

Our church be providing Easter baskets again this year as part of our Covenant to Care commitment. The Easter Tree will be in Carrol Hall on March 8th. If you wish to participate, select a child's name and fill a basket. The baskets will need to be brought back to the church by March 29th. If you wish to give money send a check to the church with Covenant to Care on the memo line.

## **Safety Mission Team**

In order to make our church safer for members and visitors, beginning on April 12, we will be locking all doors on Sunday morning 15 minutes after the service has started. There will be a sign on the main front door instructing anyone who arrives after 9:45 to ring the doorbell at the elevator entrance to be let in. Thanks for your cooperation. We all want our church to be a safe place.

Cheryl Bogert, for the Safety Mission Team

## **Fundraising for our Church**

Since the church budget that was passed two Sundays ago at our annual meeting included a considerable fundraising budget, the on-line auction fundraising team is exploring if we can hold another on-line auction this year. If so, it would be our 7th annual on-line fundraising auction for the church. Advance planning and donation commitments are needed.

To have another fundraising auction, we would need to have some "anchor" items, that is, items with an expected high value for the auction. The previous anchor items for our first six auctions included donations of gold jewelry, sterling silver items, canoe, kayak, paddle boards, Thule rack, silver fox coat, fly rods, electric lift chair, racoon coat, Karastan rugs, antique wagon, special Beatles albums. We would be interested in finding out if you or someone you know might be downsizing and interested in donating these types of items for our on-line fundraising auction. Other types of items that would be desirable are just about any teak items or small teak furniture (side table), anything unusual, for example an antique license plate or a vintage peewee drawstring talking doll. Mid-century modern items do well in this type of auction. If you have items to donate, please contact a member of the On-Line Auction Fundraising B Team: Martha B., Martin B, Patience B and Priscilla B.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS\*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3/1</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 2:00 p.m.	<b>WORSHIP:</b> Second Sunday in Lent Tibetan American (K,CR, RR)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>3/2</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 1:00 p.m. 1:00 4:00	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> FOOD PANTRY OPEN Retired Federal Employees (CH) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>3/3</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 10:00 10:30 12:00 p.m. 3:30 4:30 6:00	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> Al-Anon (K) Music Together (DBL) PLP (Library) United Girls' Choir (CH, K, Sanct) Music Together (DBL) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>3/4</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>WINDOW MAILING</b> <b>FOOD PANTRY OPEN</b> Lions Club (CH)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>3/5</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b> 7:00	<b>Mothers of Twins (CH)</b> CHANCEL CHOIR
<b>Friday</b>	<b>3/6</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 10:00 10:30	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL)
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>3/7</b>	<b>7:30 a.m.</b> 9:30 11:00 11:30	<b>MENS FELLOWSHIP</b> Music Together (DBL) Birthday Party (CH) Music Together (DBL)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3/8</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 2:00 p.m.	<b>WORSHIP:</b> Third Sunday in Lent Tibetan American (K,CR, RR)

\*Small print indicates non-Church function

**Bold print starts new day.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Julie Schweickert 03/02, Stephen Baraquin 03/03, Aaron Baraquin 03/03, Amelia Murphy 03/05, Jaclyn Murphy 03/05, Curtis Andrews 03/06, Francis Dutko 03/06, Cheryl Dutko 03/06.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** Fran & Cheryl Dutko 3/3, Kerry & Eben Stewart 03/08, Peter & Cheryl Hall 3/28, Bernie & Elfie Hummel 03/28.

# \*OPENING HYMN: "Begin Again"

Insert

Text: Anna Strickland (2022)

Music: Conrad Kocher (1838)



In the deep night of the soul  
In the sun - set of our life  
Ev - ery mo - ment, ev - ery hour



Rich in ques - tions, yearn - ing for  
Af - ter years of joy and strife  
Spir - it gifts us with the power



Life that mat - ters far be - yond Pick - et fen - ces  
As we pon - der le - ga - cy Won - der - ing what  
To be - gin our life a - new What then will we



and front lawns When we tire of  
we will leave When the lights are  
choose to do? Close a chap - ter,



life mun - dane We can still be - gin a - gain  
grow - ing dim We can still be - gin a - gain  
lift the pen To once more be - gin a - gain

# Hymn: "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

V 371

Ab Eb Eb7

1 O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps - es of truth thou  
 2 O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou  
 3 O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth

Ab C7 Fm C7 Fm

hast for me; place in my hands the won - der - ful key  
 send - est clear; and while the wave - notes fall on my ear,  
 ev - ery - where; o - pen my heart and let me pre - pare

Bb7 Bb Eb7 *Refrain* Ab

that shall un - clasp and set me free.  
 ev - ery - thing false will dis - ap - pear. Si - lent - ly now I  
 love with thy chil - dren thus to share.

Eb Eb7 Ab

wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy will to see.

Ab7 Db Eb7 Ab

O - pen my eyes,  
 O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
 O - pen my heart,

\*CLOSING HYMN "In the Bulb there Is a Flower"

V 703

Unison



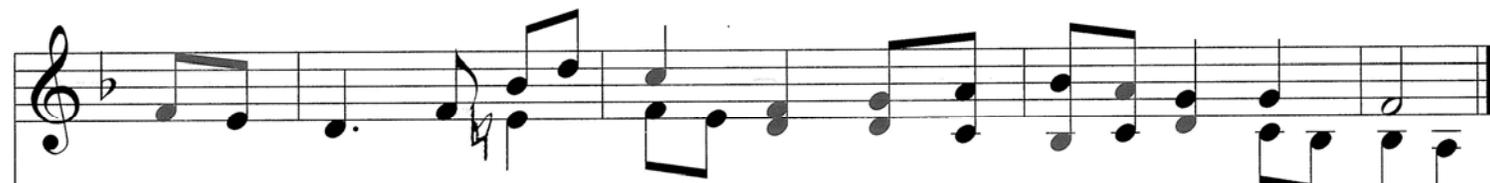
1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.



## **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 Cindy Stasko, Bridge Pastor

Karlee Etter, Ministry Coordinator for Children

Jeffrey Hutchins, Director of Music

Heather Meachen, Organist

Julie Schweickert, Office Manager

Dave Nelson, Sexton