

North Haven Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

FOUNDED 1716

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

Sunday, July 26, 2026

9:30 a.m.

*** = Please stand in body or in spirit.**

PRELUDE

“Daydreams” by Eugenie Rocherolle

WELCOME

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: May the Living God, the source of life and love, be with you!

C: And also with you.

L: Friends, this is Christian worship!

C: Which means it is a celebration of God’s love for all, and a training center for living as disciples of Jesus Christ today.

L: The indwelling and enlivening Spirit has brought us together,

All: So let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN “God, Whose Love Is Reigning o’er Us”
VU 399**

CALL TO, AND PRAYER OF, RENEWAL

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and guide what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS & THE CANDLE OF PEACE

*GREETING OF PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you!

C: And also with you!

L: Please share the peace of the Living Christ with others, with one saying, “The peace of Christ be with you,” and the other responding, “And also with you.”

*THE GLORIA PATRI

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 FOR OPENNESS AND UNDERSTANDING

All: God of truth and light, fill our hearts and guide our steps by the ancient and holy words we are about to hear. May we all, preacher and congregation, be open to your Word, with all its challenge and comfort, its call upon us, and its enlivening Spirit in us. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Kings 3:5-14

pg. 302

1 Kings 10:14-11:13

pg. 311

SERMON

“Solomon”

Mike Solberg

*HYMN

“The Lord Bestowed on Solomon”

(to the tune Ein Feste Burg / “A Mighty Fortress”)

Verse 1

The Lord bestowed on Solomon
A mind of glorious wisdom;
From every land the people came
To see his well led kingdom.
He judged with righteous grace,
And brought the truth to light,
Yet silver, gold, and pride
Turned holy sight aside
A heart that strayed from duty.

Verse 2

The king who built the house of God,
With cedar, gold, and sacred stone,
Imposed a heavy, crushing load
To build a kingdom of his own.
He sought for power and wealth,
Oppressed the poor and weak;
Though gifted from above,
He lost the path of love,
And let his greed rule over him.

Verse 3

And we too like this noble king
Are wise and foolish, strong and frail.
Within each soul our goals compete,
Where faith and short-lived doubts prevail.
We build, then tumble down;
We seek, then leave the path.
Yet through our broken lives,
God's steadfast love survives,
Unshaken by our weakness.

Verse 4

O God of mercy, guide our hearts,
Forgive our greed, forgive our pride;
When we love power, fix our hope,
And walk forever by our side.
No heading of our own
Can lead us to real joy;
Your way alone restores,
And opens wisdom's doors,
To guide our wandering spirits home.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Gracious and loving God, we make our offering to you now, not because we need to earn your approval, but because we know that such sharing connects us more deeply to you. As Jesus taught us, where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also. May we, like all the faithful, be known for loosely holding what we have, ready to let it go for the work of repair, and for the spreading of your love and good news to all. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** “God, as We Rise to Leave”

VU 417

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Spinning”

by Albert Elmenreich

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The Deacon/Liturgist is Sandy Carter.

The scripture reader is Victor Maldonado.

The greeters are Beth Anderson & Doris Ferner.

The flowers are provided by the flower team.

The camera operator is Joan Bennett.

Join us for Fellowship Hour in Carroll Hall following worship!

Church Staff: All the Members, Ministers for the World

Donna Carpenter, Office Administrator

Karlee Etter, Ministry Coordinator for Children

Brianne Goldfuss, Nursery Attendant

Jeffrey Hutchins, Director of Music

Heather Meachen, Organist

Dave Nelson, Sexton

The Reverend Mike Solberg, Interim Minister

In Our Prayers This Week are: Merrilee Gladkosky, The Rev. Deb Ruotolo, Lee Guckert, Melanie Howlett, Marlene Bellonio, Meg Adams, Charlotte Shea, and the family and friends of Linda Rankin, who died on July 13th.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: James Shea 07/27, Kristin Lynch 07/29, Peter Fomet 07/31.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Jim & Leslie Dockendorff 08/01.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER WORSHIP: Children will remain in worship with their families during the summer months through September 6th. Regular Church School resumes September 13th.

FAIR PLANNING – HELP NEEDED

There will be a short meeting **today** after worship in the Koinonia Room to begin planning for this year's Harvest Fair. We would like to share with you our ideas and would like to hear your ideas. Workshops will be held in August and September. We hope you will attend one or some of them and can help us create items for the fair. November 4th may seem a long way off but now is the time to start getting ready for a successful fair. We hope to see you Sunday July 26th at 10:45. This will allow time to go to fellowship hour and get your refreshments and join us in the Koinonia room.
Carol Mitchell and Cathy Welch

RUN THE LIVESTREAM CAMERA ON SUNDAY MORNING!

The livestream of our worship service is very important to church members who live far away or cannot attend in-person. The camera operator controls the camera in the church office, shifting the camera angle to provide close-ups at various points in the service. It's a pretty simple process to set up the camera and the livestream, and it's lots of FUN!. This is a good way to get high school community service credits! Just ask Sue Cifelli, or Kaitlyn or Damon Quinn, or Joan Bennett! We're looking for volunteers! Please speak with Jeff Hutchins.

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for a great job in helping with the Town's celebration for our Bicentennial on the Green.

Our Church was beautifully decorated (thank you John and Sue) as well as the peace pole and Benjamin Trumbull's grave. We had a beautiful display of Church history on our table as well as two easels.

Barbara, your triangular display was beautiful! As always, the bells were a big hit (thank you Martin) and many people received them and a brochure about the church. All who wore costumes added a special touch including our two little girls who gave out Karlee's homemade flowers. Peter did a great job of ringing the bell which was loud and clear. Thank you to all who stayed and greeted visitors for the tour including Cathy Welch and Carol Mitchell.

We managed to get our table, chairs, ice chests with water and displays safely across the street and back. Thank you Joan and Jim for the ice chests and ice and the aprons shawls and bonnets, Thank you John for doing a history of the Church, for Sue as standing sentry in the narthex, for Priscilla who weeded the Church yard and helped me with displays. Thank you Beth and Carol for helping with displays, copying and locating articles and books. Patience, thank you for the publicity. Last, but not least, Mike, thank you for attending our celebration and listening to ideas. Thank you for the reading about Benjamin Trumbull. A thank you to Ed Collett who helped us transport table, chairs and displays and thank you to Cheryl Bogert and Dot Pierce who helped set up chairs and welcomed visitors into the sanctuary. We worked hard to celebrate our past. Now we have to give our thoughts, ideas and energy to the future of our Church. When we all work together as a team so much can be accomplished! **Sandy**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	7/26	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:30	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) Tibetan American (K, CR) AA (CH)
Monday	7/27	1:00 p.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Tuesday	7/28	9:30 a.m. 10:00 10:30 12:00 p.m. 4:30	Music Together (DBL) AI-Anon (K) Music Together (DBL) PLP (Parking lot or CH) Music Together (DBL)
Wednesday	7/29	9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30	Music Together (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL)
Thursday	7/30		
Friday	7/31	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Saturday	8/1	8:30 a.m. 9:30	Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL)
Sunday	8/2	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:30	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) Tibetan American (RR,CR) AA (CH)

*Small print indicates non-Church function

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.*

(continued from back page)

We still resist the detours, don't we? Empire demands that we heal instantly, produce constantly, and rush past our pain. So when a transition drags on or a season of loss takes years to navigate, it is easy to resent the delay. But our gentle God values our wholeness far more than our speed.

If you are on the slow road today, you aren't failing. God uses these wilderness miles to do the careful, caring work that cannot be hurried, shielding you until you are strong enough for what lies ahead.

Prayer

God of the protective detour, deliver me from the empire's rush. Walk with me through these quiet miles, and remind me that the long way is an act of love. Amen.

For daily growth in faith and just some good stuff to think about, sign up for the UCC Daily Devotionals. They arrive every morning in your inbox, and short, creative, and meaningful. Below is an example.

Go to www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/ to sign up.

The Mercy of the Long Way

by Hannah Sachs | published on Jul 23, 2026

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer. – Exodus 13:17a (NRSV)

I am a passionate devotee of the shortcut. If Google Maps promises to save me four minutes by weaving through three alleyways and a sketchy supermarket parking lot, I will take it!

We live in a culture that worships efficiency, and I confess I sometimes bring that same frantic energy to my spiritual life. I want the direct route to healing, the express lane to maturity, and the immediate answer to my prayers.

But God, it seems, is a fan of the scenic route.

When the Israelites walked away from the backbreaking quotas of Egypt, the shortest path to freedom was a straight shot up the coast. It was direct. Efficient. Instead, God rerouted them toward the wilderness. On a map, it looks foolish.

But that nearer route was a heavily fortified imperial highway, lined with watchtowers and military outposts. God knew that if this newly freed population immediately faced violence on the open road, they would panic, lose heart, and run straight back to their captors.

The long way around wasn't a punishment or a test. It was an act of fierce, protective tenderness—a beautiful refusal to force a weary, aching people to keep marching at the relentless pace of their past.

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