

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, August 23, 2026

9:30 a.m.

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

PRELUDE

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**

"You Servants of God"

VU342

CALL TO, AND PRAYER OF, RENEWAL

All: Merciful God, we confess that, like Peter, we often acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah with our words, yet deny that very affirmation with our actions. We profess that he is the Christ, the Son of the living God, but we live as though we are in control of our own lives. Forgive us for the times we have sought the approval of the crowd rather than standing firmly in the way of Jesus. Forgive us for standing firmly in what we think is the way of Jesus, when clearly there is something of your love and grace found in the crowd. Keep us from ever using the church as a way to keep things the way they are, for we

know you call us to the extravagant love that transforms the world. Again, like Peter, we are ordinary and imperfect people, but help us more fully discern your will, and delight in walking 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

Romans 12:1-8, pg. 1304

Jim Bennett

Matthew 16:13-20, p. 1166

Mike Solberg

SERMON “Seriously, You’re Building on THAT Rock?”

Mike Solberg

***HYMN** “Filled with the Spirit’s Power”

VU 194

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, the source of life and birth,
Praise God, the Word who came to earth,
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame,
All glory, honor to God's name! 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. It even teaches us to see Jesus at the center of our lives, and the center of the world. 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**

"Live into Hope"

VU 699

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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The Deacon/liturgist is Jim Bennett.

The scripture reader is Jim Bennett.

The guest organist is Haley Bracken.

The greeters are Beth Anderson & Doris Ferner.

The flowers are provided by Barbara Massey. As the summer season begins to dwindle, my thoughts turn to the dedicated teachers preparing lessons, classrooms and themselves for the challenges of a new school year. These flowers are dedicated to all readying for new students and adventures bringing creativity and joy to the children in our community. May God bless each one.

The camera operator is Sue Cifelli.

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, Sue Tibor, Lee Guckert, Melanie Howlett, Marlene Bellonio (for 5 years since the death of her husband, David), Meg Adams, Charlotte Shea, Paula Diehl, and in celebration of clear tests for a church member,

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Adam Schweickert, 8/21, Catherine Welch 08/28, Barbara Massey 08/29



Thursday, September 3rd, the Chancel Choir will resume practice at 7:00PM.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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.

WINDOW MAILING

The Window for September will be mailed this coming Wednesday, August 26th.

FAIR CRAFT WORKSHOP

The next Fair Craft Workshop will be August 25th at 1:30 p.m. in the Koinonia room. Helpers needed to work on simple assembly of crafts for the November 7th Harvest Fair. All are welcome, helping hands needed. Carol Mitchell and Cathy Welch

THANK YOU

Merrilee Gladkosky would like to thank all for the prayers, cards, loving thoughts and support.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	8/23	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) Tibetan American (K, CR)
Monday	8/24		
Tuesday	8/25	10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 1:30	Al-Anon (K) PLP (Parking lot or CH) Fair Craft Workshop (K)
Wednesday	8/26	10:00 1:00 p.m.	WINDOW MAILING FOOD PANTRY OPEN Danish Sisterhood (K & Kitch)
Thursday	8/27		
Friday	8/28	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Saturday	8/29		
Sunday	8/30	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) Tibetan American (RR,CR)

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Office Hours are now from 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. M-F.

HEY EVERYONE...

Please make a special effort to be in worship
on September 13 for our

Regathering Sunday!

(fka “Rally Day”)

After the different pace, and increased time away, in the summer, we encourage everyone to be present on Sunday, September 13, for the joy of seeing each other and for building the energy of the church – along with the beginning of faith formation for kids.

We’ll also have a great time together at our Pancake Breakfast after worship, provided by the Women’s Fellowship and the Faith Formation Team. Ya all come!

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.*