

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 30, 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: Good morning, Church! Do you ever find yourself asking,
“What does God want me to do? What’s God’s will for
me, my purpose to fulfill?”

C: **Absolutely! Sometimes I can struggle with what God
wants from me, and the person God wishes me to be
and become. And I’m likely in good company!**

L: Yes, you are! And Scripture gives us good insight on how
we should think, speak, and act. The prophet Micah
shared three key things that God desires, and thousands
of years later, God is still calling us to do these same
three things.

C: **What are they? Can I realistically do them without a
seminary degree or training to be a missionary?**

L: These three things are simple enough for a child to do, but
challenging enough to push an adult to their limits. And no
special degrees or experiences are required to live them
out, just a commitment to love and serve God and God’s
people. Let’s say them together, adapted from the words of
the prophet Michah:

C: “He has shown you, O Members of North Haven
Congregational Church, what is good. And what does the
LORD require of you?

All: **For us to do what is fair, and just, and right; to love
Mercy and kindness; and to walk humbly with our
God and with our sisters and brothers.” Lord, with**

your guidance, help us to become a “Micah Church” by each of us and all of us practicing what you have preached, in our thoughts, words, and deeds! May it be so!

***OPENING HYMN**

“God Is Here”

VU 389

CALL TO, AND PRAYER OF, RENEWAL

All: Holy One, although you call us to be just, kind, and humble, we often fall short, either through our action or inaction, for omitting the good or for committing the not-so-good. Forgive us for our missteps, Dear Lord, and may we strive to walk in right paths by listening for your word, taking it to heart, and then living it out. Empower us to treat ourselves and others with care and compassion. Thank you for hearing our prayer, 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 Luke 6:32-36 p. 1209 John Tibor
Micah 6:1-8 p. 854 Vance Taylor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND PASTORAL PRAYER

SERMON “Ecclesiastical Essentials” The Rev. Vance Taylor

***HYMN** “We Are Pilgrims” VU 595

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: Loving God, thank you for your many gifts. For you fairness and justice, for your mercy and kindness, for your humility in coming to Earth as a baby and dying on a cross for us, we are truly grateful. May we practice what you preach, treating ourselves and others with care and compassion, wisely using and sharing the many and diverse material and spiritual gifts you have generously

given us. Through you and with you, we may together build a Micah church and a loving and just society, where everyone is welcomed and embraced, where each one receives a fair portion, and where all rely more and more on you than on ourselves. We dedicate our offerings and again dedicate our lives to you, and in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN “May the God of Hope God with Us’**

VU 424

***COMMISIONING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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The deacon/liturgist is Sandy Carter

The scripture reader is John Tibor.

The guest organist is Haniel Neves.

The guest minister is Rev. Vance Taylor.

The greeters are Beth Anderson & Doris Ferner.

The flowers are provided by Sandy Carter to give thanks for everyone's prayers to Jesus for my son's recovery.

The camera operator is Damon Quinn.

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.



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

GUEST PREACHER: Today we welcome the Reverend Vance Taylor, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ who has served local churches in Branford and North Branford. He's a licensed commercial real estate agent and is also the economic development consultant to his hometown of Plymouth, Connecticut. One of Vance's social justice passions, and a place where religion and real estate intersect for him, is providing consulting and advisory services to developers of affordable housing, recognizing that safe and affordable shelter is a basic human right for all persons, regardless of their income and their history. Vance is a lifelong member of congregational churches, now residing in Madison with his wife Bethany. He thanks us for inviting him to join in worship today and for the privilege to preach!

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.

FAIR CRAFT WORKSHOP

The next Fair Craft Workshop will be September 1st 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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	8/30	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) Tibetan American (K, CR)
Monday	8/31		
Tuesday	9/1	10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 1:30	Al-Anon (K) PLP (Parking lot or CH) Fair Craft Workshop (K)
Wednesday	9/2	7:00 p.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN Lions Club
Thursday	9/3	6:30 p.m. 7:00	Mothers of Twins (CH) Choir Practice
Friday	9/4	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Saturday	9/5	7:30 a.m.	Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Sunday	9/6	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) Tibetan American (RR,CR)

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.*

