

North Haven Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



We highlight this photo of our peace pole and ribbons done in 2016 commemorating 9/11. It is the 25th anniversary of that horrific, sad day in our history.

North Haven, Connecticut

An Open & Affirming Congregation

FOUNDED 1716

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

Sunday, September 6, 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, who provides the bread of life, 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 enlivening and generous Spirit has brought us together,

All: So let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN** "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" VU602

CALL TO, AND PRAYER OF, RENEWAL

All: God of love, in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the Christ, you set us free - free to live as truthful people, most importantly, people who can be truthful about ourselves. Gracious God, we have often put our priorities in the wrong places, putting our wealth and security before the well-being of others, putting "people like us" before those who look, speak, live, or believe differently than we do, putting comfortable versions of our own history before more truthful accounts of the way things are. Forgive us, O God, and help us live in the truth always - the truth that makes real peace possible among us, and between us and you. 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 READING Matthew 18:12-20 p. 1165

Mike Solberg

SERMON “The Hardest Teaching in Scripture?” Mike Solberg

***HYMN** “Make Me A Channel of Your Peace” VU684

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, bless these offerings as we use them in the life of this church, and to share our bread with others. As we gratefully accept the bread of life, may our service to you help distribute that bread in 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.

INVITATION TO THE FEAST

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

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.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: We thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus – for gladness in this bread and cup, for Love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in for joy in creation, and for the mission of reconciliation you have made our own. Give us the gifts of this Holy Communion – oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, truthfulness in all things, the will to serve you every day, and risen life that never ends. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** “For the Fruit of All Creation” VU227

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

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The deacon/liturgist is Jim Bennett.

The greeters are Beth Anderson and Doris Ferner.

The flowers are provided by the flower team.

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, The Rev. Deb Ruotolo, Lee Guckert, Melanie Howlett, Marlene Bellonio, Meg Adams, Charlotte Shea, Paula Diehl, and in celebration of clear tests for a church member.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: John Masnato 09/08, Sally Pallatto 09/09, AnnMarie Czajkowski 9/10, Ryan Petrucci 09/11, Aaron Weiss 09/12.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: David & Joanne Nottingham, Carl & Lillian Flodquist, David & Nancie Estep, Rhonda & John Masnato.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER WORSHIP: Children will remain in worship with their families during the summer months through this Sunday, 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.



North Haven Lions Club's Second Saturday Service Activity:

North Haven Lions will be in the church parking lot collecting non-perishable foodstuffs for the town's two Food Pantries on Saturday, September 12th between the hours of 10:00am-1:00pm. Additionally, they will be collecting items to distribute at the Veterans Stand Down event happening on September 18th at six Connecticut sites. In particular need here are socks (both men's and women's, large and extra-large), personal size first aid kits, lip balm, and small flashlights. Thank you for supporting this Lions service activity! Jim Bennett, Club Secretary/Treasurer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	9/6	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) Tibetan American (K, CR)
Monday	9/7	9:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m.	LABOR DAY, OFFICE CLOSED AA (K) Retired Federal Employees (CH)
Tuesday	9/8	10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 3:30 p.m. 6:00	Al-Anon (K) PLP (PL, CH) Building & Grounds (Heath) United Girls; Choir (CH, K, Sanct.) Bible Study (Zoom)
Wednesday	9/9	10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN MLB (Library)
Thursday	9/10	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Garden Club (CH)
Friday	9/11	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Saturday	9/12		
Sunday	9/13	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) Tibetan American (RR,CR)

OUR SHARED MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

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.*