

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, September 13, 2026

9:30 a.m.

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

PRELUDE

“Thou Who Art Three in One”

by Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

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 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” VU220**

CALL TO, AND PRAYER OF, RENEWAL

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have resisted your
way 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

(During the Greeting of Peace and the Gloria Patri, we invite the children to gather with Karlee at the front left - by the piano - and then pause for a moment as we give each other a mutual blessing before they depart for their Christian formation time.)

***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.

***MUTUAL BLESSING WITH CHILDREN**

Congregation: God be with you there.

Children: And God be with you here.

THE GIFT OF MUSIC "A Place At The Table"

Text: Shirley Erena Murray

Music: Brian Mann

Sung by the Chancel Choir

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

Deuteronomy 8:6-18
Luke 13:29

Priscilla Maldonado
Mike Solberg

SERMON

“Preparing for THE Feast”

Mike Solberg

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND PASTORAL PRAYER

***HYMN**

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

VU606

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** “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness” VU375

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE “Sonata L. 388” by Domenico Scarlatti

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The deacon/liturgist is Sandy Carter

The scripture reader is Priscilla Maldonado.

The greeter is Beth Anderson.

The flowers are provided by Dorothy Pierce. “When we lose someone we love, we must learn NOT to live without them, but to live with the love they left behind.” In loving memory of Greg Pierce who went home to be with the Lord 7 years ago. Missed and loved by many!

The camera operator is Sue Cifelli.

Join us for a pancake breakfast 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 (in hospital), Meg Adams, Charlotte Shea, Paula Diehl and for Lori Perillo (Heather Tolisano’s mother).

BIRTHDAYS John Masnato 9/8, Sally Pallatto 9/9, AnnMarie Czajkowski 9/10, Flo Coulston 9/15, Kim Coughlin 9/16, Denise Adinolfi 9/17.

IT'S REGATHERING SUNDAY, SO...regular Christian Formation for children resumes today, 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 15th at 1:30 p.m. in the Koinonia room. Helpers needed to work on simple assembly of crafts for the November 7th Harvest Fair. A simple painting project is planned for this week. All are welcome, helping hands needed. Carol Mitchell and Cathy Welch

HONOR THEM WITH A FLAG

The North Haven Republican Town Committee is again sponsoring "Honor Them with a Flag", a fundraiser to benefit the **American Legion Post 76**. It is a salute to our country's military personnel, veterans and first responders. The public is invited to participate by purchasing a U.S. flag dedicated to a member of our military, first responder or anyone else close to your heart. A ceremony honoring our veterans and first responders has been scheduled for Sunday, November 8th at 12:00 p.m. on the North Haven Town Green. Please come and join us for this moving ceremony. The deadline for purchases is Wednesday, October 21,

2026. Please email snm1986@yahoo.com or call 203-430-0411 for more information.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Cans of Beans (Baked, Kidney, Black), Cans of Broth, Cans of Fruit, Jars or Peanut Butter and Jelly, Jars of Gravy, Mayonnaise, Boxes of Rice, Boxes of Cake Mix/Brownie Mix, boxes of Cereal, Boxes of Pasta, Coffee, Tea, Pamalat Milk, and Juice.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	9/13	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 2:30	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) Re-Gathering Day Tibetan American (K, CR) Al-Anon Leader Mtg.
Monday	9/14	1:00 p.m. 7:00	FOOD PANTRY OPEN Retired Federal Employees (CH) Sons & Daughters of Italy (CH)
Tuesday	9/15	10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 1:30 6:00	Al-Anon (K) PLP (Parking lot or CH) Fair Craft Workshop (K) Sons & Daughters of Italy (K) Bible Study (Zoom)
Wednesday	9/16	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00	FOOD PANTRY OPEN Danish Sisterhood (K & Kitch.) Al-Anon District Family (K)
Thursday	9/17	5:00 p.m. 7:00	REI Management Corp. Mtg. (CH) Chancel Choir
Friday	9/18	10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN Al-Anon (K, CH)
Saturday	9/19	8:00 a.m.	Son's & Daughters of Italy (CH)
Sunday	9/20	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.

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION WITH REV. MIKE

Starting on Sunday, September 27 (not the 20th as previously announced), Rev. Mike will be leading a class following worship. He'll start with a six-week series on the Lord's Prayer - but take note that you've never heard the Lord's Prayer like this before! We so often take the Lord's Prayer for granted, saying it by rote, but never really considering what we are actually praying for, and what it all meant when Jesus first taught this to his followers as an example of how to pray. The class will be each Sunday from 10:45 - 11:45, and each week will somewhat "stand alone," so don't worry if you can't make every week. See Rev. Mike with any questions (IRL, or mike@northhavenucc.org).

For Regathering Sunday...

the Pancake Breakfast

is today after worship!

(Offered by the Women's Assoc., & CF Ministry Team)

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.*