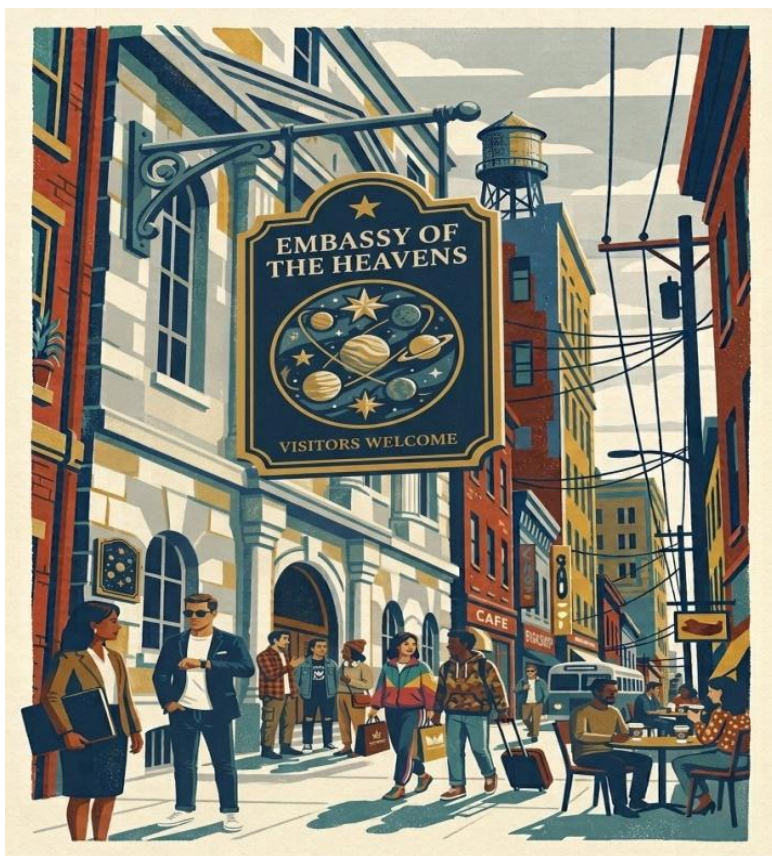


North Haven Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



*Philippians 3:20
(Made with A.I.)*

North Haven, Connecticut

An Open & Affirming Congregation

FOUNDED 1716

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

Sunday, October 11, 2026

9:30 a.m.

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

PRELUDE “Concerto in C Major, II Andantino” Penfield

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** “O Splendour of God’s Glory...” VU413
(with words from about 374 A.D.!)

CALL TO, AND PRAYER OF, RENEWAL

All: Merciful God, our citizenship is in the heavens,
but we confess that we have often not been diligent
representatives of our true home as we live our lives on
earth. Indeed, 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.

***THE EARLY WORD**

(At this time, we invite the children to gather with Rev. Mike at the front.)

THE GIFT OF MUSIC

“Autumn Carol” by Russell Schulz-Widmar

Sung by the Chancel Choir,
with members of the Chime 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

Exodus 32:1-14 Ted Manzo

Philippians 3:20 - 4:9 Mike Solberg

SERMON

“Citizenship in the Heavens,
and Embassy Workers on Earth”

Mike Solberg

Verse 1

What land is this that claims our heart,
Before the nations drifting?
Whose citizens are set apart,
A peaceful banner lifting?
No earthly rule or modern throne
Shall claim our soul’s allegiance,
For Christ has called us as His own
To serve God’s heavenly regions.

Refrain

This, this is our true call,
To love the Lord, right now for all!
Haste, haste to lead with love,
As citizens of heaven.

Verse 2

We dwell as embassy workers here,
In these rough lands residing,
To make the Savior’s mercy clear,
His truthful way pursuing.
We do not look to flags or kings,
Nor trust in earthly power;
We seek the peace the Spirit brings
To heal the present hour.

(Refrain)

Verse 3

We do not long for skies above,
Nor flee this world in sorrow,
But plant the seeds of active love
To build a brighter ‘morrow.
For heaven’s life is lived today,
A hope for every nation,
To walk the Master’s fearless way
And bring God’s restoration.

(Refrain)

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 not so much because you need it, but because we need to share. We offer our presence, our faithfulness, and our abundance, and all of it connects us more deeply to you. It even teaches us to see Jesus at the center of our lives, and lets us be your embassy workers here and now. 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**

Lead with Love

M. DeMore

You gotta put one foot in front of the other,
and lead with love! Put...

One foot in front of the other,
and lead with love!

(repeat all 4 lines)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE “Concerto in C Major, III Allegro con Brio” Penfield

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The deacon/liturgist is Nancy Mahoney.

The scripture reader is Ted Manzo.

The greeter is Beth Anderson and Susan Guckert.

The flowers are provided by Kathy Harple ‘in memory of my brother David whose birthday was October 9th. He loved his family, the outdoors, and a good laugh. Many of his stupid jokes still make me smile. Love you!’

The camera operator is Joan Bennett.

**Join us for a special coffee hour
with “pink desserts” in Carroll Hall.**

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 and Charlotte Shea.

BIRTHDAYS Jeff Whipple, 10/11, Gary Czajkowski, 10/16 and Kerry Stewart, 10/17.

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION WITH REV. MIKE

Rev. Mike is leading a class following worship, starting with a six-week series on the Lord's Prayer - but you've likely never heard it like this before! We often say Lord's Prayer without really considering what we are praying, and what it meant when Jesus first taught it to his disciples.

The class will be each Sunday from 10:45 - 11:45, and each week will "stand alone," so come when you can. See, or email, Rev. Mike with questions.

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. All are welcome, helping hands needed. 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.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP HARVEST FAIR

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. November 7, 2026

It's almost that time again! We need lots of helping hands to make the Fair a success. There are lots of things to do to get ready. Cookies for the Cookie Walk and pies, breads, soup (frozen), and other items for Grandma's Kitchen & Bakery are needed. Helpers are needed for each area in Carroll Hall and for Coffee & and Lunch at the Café. Look for sign-up sheets at Coffee Hour or call the Church Office (203-239-5691) to let Donna know what area you are interested in. Thank you! Please save the grandma's Attic donations until the week of the fair.

DONATIONS OF MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CLOTHING

NEEDED for residents of Columbus House. Our Church is partnering again with the North Haven Rotary Club collecting men's and women's underwear, sweat pants and sweat shirts and socks. Boxer shorts are needed for the men. The sizes needed for the men's items are mostly large and extra large. The sizes needed for

women are medium, large and extra large. We will begin collecting in October through December. The Columbus House Shelter accommodates 100 individuals and it is already full. Please be as generous as possible. Thank you

STOP & SHOP FUNDRAISERS TO BENEFIT THE NHCC FOOD PANTRY REALLY WORK!

In the spring, \$36.00 was donated to the Food Pantry from sales of Reusable Bags at the North Haven Stop & Shop. The summer “Bloomin’4 Good” program at the Hamden S&S, raised \$146.00 for our Food Pantry. For the month of October 2026, The North Haven Food Pantry has been chosen to benefit from “Bloomin’4 Good” at the North Haven Stop & Shop. For every \$11.99 specially marked Bloomin’4 Good bouquet purchased, \$1.00 will be donated to the Food Pantry. If you need flowers for a special occasion, or “just because”, consider “Bloomin’4 Good”.

SERMONS FOR THE TAKING

There are folders out in the narthex with Mike’s written sermons in them. We have just updated through October 4th and will add sermons each week.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Through the efforts of the North Haven Rotary Club and a program of Liberty Bank we have an opportunity to greatly enhance our financial support of the Food Pantry. Any cash donations made to the Food Pantry and deposited to Liberty Bank between now and November 15th will be given a 25% additional donation from Liberty Bank. That means every \$1 grows to \$1.25; \$100 grows to \$125! This has been a very successful program in past years and we appreciate the work of the Rotary Club to make it happen. So, if you are considering a monetary gift to the Food Pantry, this is an ideal time to really make a difference. Contributions by check should be made to payable to NHCC, noting Food Pantry in the memo line. The accumulated funds will then be deposited at Liberty Bank in the designated account. Many thanks from the Food Pantry Council.

IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY (non-church events):

"Honor Them with a Flag" is a fundraiser to benefit the American Legion Post 76. It is a way to salute to our country's military personnel, veterans and first responders, among others. All are invited to participate by purchasing a U.S. flag dedicated to a member of the military, first responder, or anyone else close to your heart. A ceremony honoring veterans and first responders has been scheduled for Sunday, November 8, at 12:00 p.m. on the North Haven Town Green. All are welcome to participate in this ceremony. The flags are \$10 each and 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	10/11	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) Re-Gathering Day Tibetan American (K, CR)
Monday	10/12	1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN Sons & Daughters of Italy
Tuesday	10/13	9:30 a.m. 10:00 10:30 12:00p.m. 1:30 3:00 4:30 6:00	Music Together (DBL) Al-Anon (K) Music Together (DBL) PLP (Parking lot or CH) Building & Grounds (Heath) Fair Workshop United Girls' Choir Music Together (DBL) Bible Study (Zoom)
Wednesday	10/14	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00	FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL) MLB (Library)
Thursday	10/15	6:00 p.m. 7:00	Sons & Daughters of Italy (CH) Chancel Choir
Friday	10/16	10:00 a.m. 9:30 10:30 7:00 p.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL) Al-Ateen (K, CH)
Saturday	10/17	7:30 a.m. 9:30 10:30	Men's Fellowship Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL)
Sunday	10/18	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) Adult Bible Study (K) Tibetan American (RR,CR)

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.*