North Haven Congregational Church

United Church of Christ



Matthew 22:15-22 - A denarius
TI. CAESAR DIVI AVG. F. AVGVSTVS ("Tiberius Caesar, son of the divine Augustus")
PONTIF MAXIM ("Chief Priest").

North Haven, Connecticut

An Open & Affirming Congregation

FOUNDED 1716

NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, October 18, 2026 **9:30 a.m.**

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

PRELUDE **"**Ayre of Four Parts" by John Dowland

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, in a few minutes we are going to hear about a time when Jesus again proved to be more than a bit mischievous, even audacious, as he battled those in power. In resisting people who claimed God's power for themselves, he showed us that resistance can be creative. Oh God, we have often failed to show this kind of creative resistance. Indeed, we have failed to hold fast to your way in this world, thinking that what is common and accepted and impressive to the world is what must be right. Give us a spirit of creative resistance, Lord, so that we can give

the world a truly beautiful alternative to the same old way things are. 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 Ms. Karlee and Rev. Mike at the front, where we will start the Noisy Offering. Following the Early Word, we'll learn a song, and then, please join in the mutual blessing before the children depart for their Christian formation time.)

***MUTUAL BLESSING WITH CHILDREN**

Congregation: God be with you there.

Children: And God be with you here.

THE GIFT OF MUSIC

"Lead Me, Lord"
Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)
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 Exodus 33:12-23 Sue Compton
Matthew 22:15-22 Mike Solberg

SERMON "'More' and 'Better' No Longer Go Together"
Mike Solberg

***HYMN** "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" VU262

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.

GENEROSITY SPEAKER Damon Quinn

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING & THE OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Gracious and loving God, we make our offering to you now, not so much because you need it, but because we need to share - and we want to show the world there is an alternative to "more" necessarily being "better." We offer our presence, our faithfulness, and our abundance, and all of it connects us more deeply to you.

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** "O for a World" VU697

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE **"**Musette" by Jean-Francois Dandrieu

Music reprinted and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-719615. All rights reserved

The deacon/liturgist is Sandy Carter.
The scripture reader is Sue Compton.
The greeter is Beth Anderson..
The flowers are provided by the Flower Team.
The camera operator is Sue Cifelli.

JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR IN CARROLL HALL AFTER THE SERVICE.

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: Sue Tibor, Lee Guckert, Melanie Howlett, Marlene Bellonio (for 5 years since the death of her husband, David), Meg Adams and Charlotte Shea.

BIRTHDAYS Gary Czajkowski, 10/16, Kerry Stewart, 10/17, Isabelle Meachen, 10/18, Nancy Mahoney, 10/19, Elizabeth Anderson, 10/20.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - All Saints Sunday is a day we remember and honors all saints who have gone home to the presence of God. Please let Donna / the church office know (ASAP) if you have a name for the list of all who will be remembered in the service. We can include any names we receive by the end of the day on October 28.

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION WITH REV. MIKE
Rev. Mike is leading a class following worship, 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.

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.

DONATIONS OF <u>NEW</u> 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 (please donate new clothes only).

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

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 11th 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! 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.

FALL CLEAN UP

Fall clean-up will be Saturday, November 14th, from 8:00 am to whenever all is finished. Many hands make light work.



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.

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	**10/18**	9:30 a.m. 10:45 1:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) Adult Bible Study Tibetan American (K, CR)
Monday	**10/19**	1:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN Sons & Daughters of Italy (CH)
Tuesday	**10/20**	9:30 a.m. 10:00 10:30 12:00p.m. 3:00 4:30 6:00	Music Together (DBL) Al-Anon (K) Music Together (DBL) PLP (Parking lot or CH) United Girls' Choir Music Together (DBL) Bible Study (Zoom)
Wednesday	**10/21**	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00	FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL) Al-Anon District Family (K)
Thursday	**10/22**	6:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Friday	**10/23**	10:00 a.m. 9:30 10:30	FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL)
Saturday	**10/24**	9:30 a.m. 10:30 11:00 6:00 p.m.	Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL) Sons & Daughters of Italy Murder Mystery Dinner (Kitch., CH)
Sunday	**10/25**	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)

Have you signed up for the UCC Daily Devotionals? Here's an example, from last Thursday. You can receive them every day in your email inbox. Sign up here: https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/

Lost in Translation
by **Kenneth L. Samuel** | published on Oct 15, 2026

I have much more to say to you, but I don't want to do it with paper and ink. – 2 John 1:12 (NLT)

The era of silent movies provided a popular form of cheap entertainment that overcame language barriers for millions of immigrants coming to America in the early 20th century. Besides subtitles and captions, audiences of diverse languages could follow a film narrative through the physical presence and emotive expressions of the actors, sometimes with musical accompaniment.

The advent of "talkies" posed problems for many silent movie stars, because their natural speaking voices didn't match their silent film personas. When talkies came, many silent actors—unable to speak flawless, unaccented English—were either cast in small supporting roles or not cast at all. Other such actors had their voices dubbed, to the extent that audiences only knew and loved them through voices that were not their own.

Today when watching a movie, I often find myself paying close attention to actors who effectively convey thoughts and sentiments without words. I've noticed in fact that the more profound the thought or sentiment needing expression, the less verbiage is required.
Small wonder then that the writer of Second John determined that everything needing to be said to the Church could not be written. Deeper meanings often escape the limitations of dialogue. Presence is not totally captured by even the very best verbal articulation.
Saint Francis of Assisi is often credited with saying: "Preach the gospel at all times. Use words if necessary."

When our words are made flesh in the love we share and in the service we render, the world will know everything we have to tell them about Christ.

Prayer: Lord, we may not pass the screen test or make the voice cut, but speak through us. Amen

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.*

SAVE THE DATES:

October 18	Noisy Offering
October 25	Bible Sunday
November 1	All Saints Sunday
November 7	Craft Fair 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
November 8	Generosity Sunday (bring Pledge Cards!)
November 14	Fall Clean Up 8:00 a.m. until finished
November 15	Noisy Offering Sunday
November 15	(to be finalized) Following worship - Congregational Informational Meeting about our transition process – all come!
December 13	Advent Celebration: 11:00 -1:00 (Please note time change). More information coming in November.
December 20	Annual Christmas Pageant during worship. More information in November.
December 24	Christmas Eve service at 7:00 p.m.

FOOD DRIVE

THANKSGIVING --	Pack boxes: Nov. 19 & 20 Pick-up & Deliver: Nov. 21
CHRISTMAS --	Pack boxes: Dec. 17 & 18 Pick-up & Deliver: Dec. 1

Generosity 2026:

What is church giving all about, and why should I give to North Haven Congregational Church?



Giving to North Haven Congregational Church is a unique and special use of your resources. It is at once a spiritual act that shapes and enhances your connection to God, and a very practical way to support the community of faith that is so important to you – especially in these days. Giving is a way for us to keep God's love at the center of our lives, for as Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

North Haven Congregational church is our church home, helping ground us in what really matters. It is the space where we live into our calling of warm welcome, abundant grace, and striving for justice and the needs of our neighbor. It is where we celebrate life's biggest moments like births, baptisms, and weddings while offering caring community and pastoral support during life's most difficult times. It is the inspiring sanctuary (sometimes an on-line sanctuary!) where we develop our Christian faith each week through worship, reflection on scripture, and music. It is the educational space that encourages young minds in Faith Formation Church School. It is the home base from which we develop meaningful small group experiences like Women's Bible Study, Weekly Bible Study, Women's Fellowship and Men's Fellowship. All of this is possible because members share their financial resources and time!

Generosity is a core Christian value. It is part of Christ's commandments to love God with all our hearts and love our neighbors as ourselves. Our involvement in the church is one of the most important ways we worship God and reach out to help others.

Here's another reason to give: helping others feels great! Joy and happinessfollow when we use financial resources for experiences helping others and transforming lives instead of accumulating more stuff.

Keep watching and reading our Generosity messages in the next few weeks, and be ready for offering your "pledge" on Sunday, November 8! Thanks!