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
BIBLE SUNDAY

Sunday, October 25, 2026 **9:30 a.m.**

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

PRELUDE Kyrie from "Messe pour les Covents"
by Francois Couperin

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** **"**Come In, Come In, and Sit Down"
VU395

CALL TO, AND PRAYER OF, RENEWAL

All: Merciful God, we confess that 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 for the Early Word [a.k.a. Children's Message] - including the presentation of Bibles to our 4th graders. Following the Early Word, please join in the mutual blessing before the children depart for their Christian formation time.)

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Leaders: Dear young disciples, receive these holy scriptures. Learn their stories and study their words. These stories belong to us all, and these words speak to us all. They teach us who we are, and whose we are. They tell us we belong to each other, and we all belong to God.

Young Disciples: We receive these Bibles with our hands, our hearts, and our minds. Thank you. We will read and study the Bible together.

Congregation: We rejoice in this step in your journey of faith. We pray God will guide you, your family, and us, as you use these Scriptures in your home, in your faith formation classes, and in our worship. We will learn together with you, and grow in our love for the good news of God.

Young Disciples: The word of God is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path. Thanks be to God.

***MUTUAL BLESSING WITH CHILDREN**

Congregation: God be with you there.
Children: And God be with you here.

THE GIFT OF MUSIC

"Lead with Love"
M. Demore
Sung by the All Church Choir

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)

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 Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 Jim Bennett
Matthew 22:34-40 Mike Solberg

SERMON "A New Kind of People" Mike Solberg

***HYMN** "For the Healing of the Nations" VU678

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 Steve Peterson

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 how beautiful are the two sides of the greatest commandment. 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** "May the God of Hope Go with Us" VU424

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Voluntary in D minor" William Herschel

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The deacon/liturgist is Joan Bennett.
The scripture reader is Jim Bennett.
The greeter is Beth Anderson.

The flowers are provided by Wendy Civitello and the Colletts in memory of Charlie and Barbara Collett.
The camera operator is Damon Quinn.

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

BIRTHDAYS: Kevin Studley, 10/21 and Betsey Reid, 10/25

ANNIVERSARY: Robert and Lynne Nielsen, 10/22

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.

DONATIONS OF NEW 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 18th 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	**10/25**	9:30 a.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream)
		10:45	Adult Bible Study
		1:00 p.m.	Tibetan American (K, CR)
Monday	**10/26**	1:00 p.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
		7:00 p.m.	Sons & Daughters of Italy (CH)
Tuesday	**10/27**	9:30 a.m.	Music Together (DBL)
		10:00	Al-Anon (K)
		10:30	Music Together (DBL)
		12:00p.m.	PLP (Parking lot or CH)
		3:00	United Girls' Choir
		4:30	Music Together (DBL)
		6:00	Bible Study (Zoom)
Wednesday	**10/28**	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
		1:00 p.m.	Music Together (DBL)
		7:00	Al-Anon District Family (K)
Thursday	**10/29**	6:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Friday	**10/30**	10:00 a.m.	FOOD PANTRY OPEN
		9:30	Music Together (DBL)
		10:30	Music Together (DBL)
Saturday	**10/31**	9:30 a.m.	Music Together (DBL)
		10:30	Music Together (DBL)
		11:00	Sons & Daughters of Italy Murder Mystery
		6:00 p.m.	Dinner (Kitch., CH)
Sunday	**11/1**	9:30 a.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream)
		10:45 a.m.	Adult Bible Study (K)
		1:00 p.m.	Tibetan American (RR,CR)

SAVE THE DATE - The Women's Fellowship Harvest Fair! Join us on **Saturday November 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00**. You will find a wide variety of items available including hand crafted items, baked delicacies, the Cookie Walk, treasures in Grandma's Attic, a Christmas Room, Books, CDs, RADA Knives, and bargains in the Nearly New Room. For the children, Face Painting, games and activities. Coffee & in the morning and lunch at the Café in Carroll Hall. A variety of Raffle Baskets add to the fun. Come and do some early Christmas shopping. You may find just

what you've been looking for! The Women's Fellowship supports our church and many organizations in the Greater New Haven area. The Harvest Fair is our primary fund raiser. We hope to see you at the Fair.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOTICE:

MINISTER SEARCH
PROCESS
NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UCC

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

We will have a special Congregational Meeting on November 15, 2026, immediately after the worship service. This meeting concerns our pastoral transition process. We are entering a new phase of the process and this will be an important meeting to learn about the next steps of, and the timeline for, selecting our next settled pastor – and to learn about your important involvement in this process!

This is an exciting time in our church and your input is essential. We will have a brief presentation and a question and answer period.

Immediately following the meeting, coffee and dessert will be served in Carroll Hall.

Please mark your calendar for this exciting event.

Sandy Carter, Moderator

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:

November 1	All Saints Sunday
November 7	Craft Fair 9:00a.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 **ALL CONGREGATION MEETING AFTER CHURCH (see announcement above)**
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

FAQ - Generosity 2026: How much should I give to NHCC?



Well, most importantly, regardless of how much you give financially, North Haven Congregational Church welcomes and values you! We have no obligatory giving "requirements," and only you can decide how much to give. As you decide, here is some information you may find useful:

• At NHCC we are talking anew about creating a congregational culture where everyone is encouraged to give 5% of their income. This is called "proportional giving" and it is grounded in Scripture. Proportional giving enables everyone to take on their fair share of responsibility no matter their income. If we feel like "everyone is doing their share" we can be more joyful in our giving!

• Average annual church giving by Christians in the U.S. is about 2.5% of income. About 5% of churchgoers in the U.S. give 10% or more of their income to their church (this is called "tithing").

• For NHCC specifically, here is some key information about pledging in 2026:
— Average household pledge: $2,600
— Highest 5% of pledges: over $9,000 each
— Median pledge (the middle of the giving range): $1,300

• Although making firm recommendations is difficult because of very different economic and political systems between then and now, the Bible's most common guidance is that people give a "tithe," 10% of their income, to honor God and share with others. Today, many think of that 10% as including their combined giving to the church and to other organizations/movements/people making the world a better place. Our suggested 5% figure comes from this "½ tithe." We encourage everyone to give 5% to the church, and 5% to other good causes you are passionate about, for a total of a "tithe."

• It takes a village! We emphasize a giving percentage, because that's how we fairly share the load among those of varying capacities. As people of faith, we value the generosity and commitment of each person, not simply the amount of their giving. Every gift is important as an expression of faith, and as a resource for ministry and mission.

We can get to our annual giving/pledge goal of $220,000 (about a 7% increase after inflation) for 2027 if our current pledgers and givers prayerfully consider the 5%-of-income goal, perhaps moving in that direction with partial increases year by year. Also, if you don't currently pledge or give, it would be wonderful to have you "come on board" and share the joy of supporting the ministry and mission of North Haven Congregational Church. God be with us all!