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, November 15, 2026 **9:30 a.m.**

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

PRELUDE Deux Pavanes by W. Byrd

WELCOME

Leader: The Lord be with you.
Congregation: And also with you.

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Friends, again, I welcome you – including everything you bring with you today.
C: Everything?
L: Yes, welcome to the baggage we carry, the joys we share, the griefs we bear, and the worries we hold.
C: Well then, we shall worship!
L: The voice of God is calling us to come with all that we are and all that we carry to worship.
C: Then we shall worship!
L: God calls us to gather, to receive grace in our gathering, and to reorient us again to the ways of God.
C: Then we shall worship!
L: So, come, members of the family of God! Bring all that you are to be molded by grace, refocused toward love, and woven together as community in Christ.
C: We shall worship indeed! Thanks be to God!

***HYMN** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" VU220

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]. Following the Early Word, 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

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"
Text: Robert Edwards
Music: Beach Spring, *The Sacred Harp, 1844*
Harmonized by James H. Wood
Sung by the Chancel Choir
See full text at the end of the worship order

PRAYER FOR 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 25:14-30 Mike Solberg

SERMON "Taking Risks" Mike Solberg

***HYMN** "He Who Would Valiant Be" PH371

(note: this is from the Pilgrim Hymnal, not Voices United)

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

***LITANY OF DEDICATION**

All: Gracious and loving God, we take the risk of offering our gifts to you now, trusting that you will be at work through all we offer. We know the "return on

investment" may not look impressive in the eyes of the world, but when lives are touched by your love, peace, and justice, then the risk is surely worth it. 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** "The Church's One Foundation" VU331

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE **Dialogue**

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PLEASE NOW REMAIN IN THE SANCTUARY FOR OUR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING!
AND AFTER THE MEETING JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP TIME IN CARROLL HALL (WITH COFFEE AND DELICIOUS OFFERINGS!)

God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you,
offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the Church made one.

Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through powers your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the Gospel Word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.

The deacon/liturgist is Joan Bennett .
The greeter is Beth Anderson.
Today's flowers are given by Jim and Joan Bennett in celebration of their 34th Wedding Anniversary.
The camera operator is Sue Cifelli.

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, Meg Adams and Charlotte Shea,

BIRTHDAYS: Ann Dubar, 11/18, Michelle McBride, 11/18, Meg Adams, 11/21

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DONATIONS OF NEW MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CLOTHING NEEDED

Last Wednesday nine bags of clothing were donated to Columbus House. The staff person was grateful for all the clothing. In addition to the request for new underwear, socks and sweat pants and shirts, I was informed that gently used men's and women's winter jackets and coats, winter boots or shoes are needed and would be accepted. A box is located in the narthex for donations. Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Columbus House. Your generosity in helping others in need is an expression of our caring for our brothers and sisters. Collection of clothing will continue through December.

SERMONS FOR THE TAKING

There are folders out in the narthex with Mike's written sermons in them. We have just updated through November 1st 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.

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.

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

Thanksgiving Sunday is Nov. 22. Please remember to bring your fresh produce to add to our cornucopia display of fruits and vegetables during the service. (no flowers are needed for this service)
Sue Tibor

ATTENTION PHOTOGRAPHERS

We are seeking a few photographs with good resolution of our church and/or events and/or people for our new website that is under construction. These may also be used for our social media. The recommendation is a minimum of 1350x660 pixels (full resolution phone pictures may qualify, along with camera pics). If you have a good pic that might work, please see or contact Patience B. Thanks!

NORTH HAVEN LIONS' SECOND SATURDAY PROJECT
From April through November, with a couple of possible exceptions, members of the North Haven Lions Club staff a table on church grounds (sometimes under an enclosure) from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on the second Saturday of the month and collect non-perishable foodstuff donations from the public, along with pet supplies and used eyeglasses.

SAVE THE DATES:

November 15	**ALL CONGREGATION MEETING AFTER CHURCH**
November 22	Noisy Offering Sunday
December 5	Christmas Brass Concert at 7:00 p.m.
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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	**11/15**	9:30 a.m. 10:45 1:00 p.m.	WORSHIP (In-Person/Live Stream) Adult Bible Study Tibetan American (K, CR)
Monday	**11/16**	7:00 p.m.	Sons & Daughters of Italy (CH)
Tuesday	**11/17**	9:30 a.m. 10:00 10:30 12:00p.m. 3:00 4:30 6:00	Music Together (DBL) Al-Anon (CH) Music Together (DBL) PLP (Parking lot or CH) United Girls' Choir Music Together (DBL) Bible Study (Zoom)
Wednesday	**11/18**	 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 7:00	**WINDOW DEADLINE** Music Together (DBL) Danish Sisterhood (K and Kitch.) Alanon District Family (K)
Thursday	**11/19**	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Friday	**11/20**	10:00 a.m. 9:30 6:00 p.m.	Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL) Sons & Daughters of Italy (CH)
Saturday	**11/21**	9:00-12 9:30 10:30	Thanksgiving Food Distribution Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL)
Sunday	**11/22**	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)

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOTICE



Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

We will have a special Congregational Meeting today, 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.

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

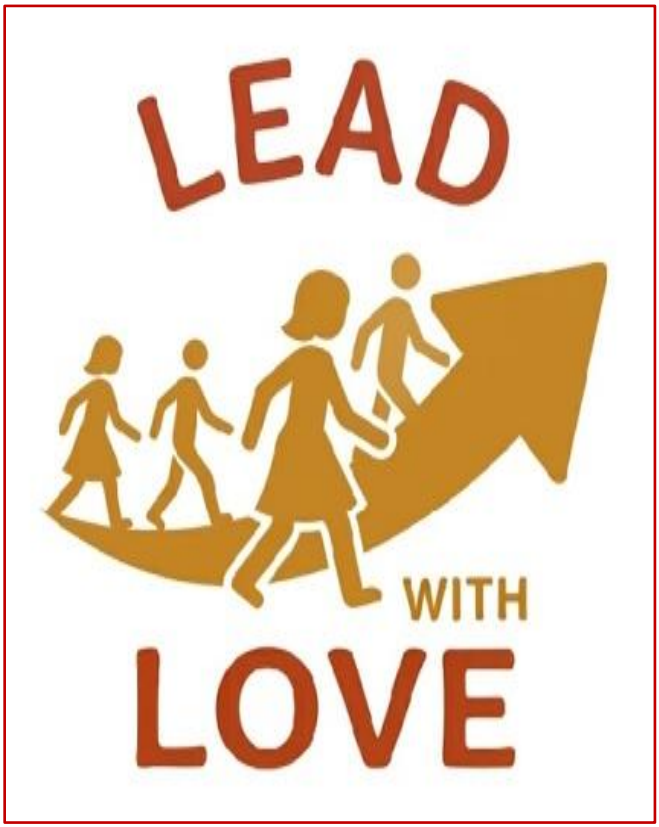
We are a hub for the larger community as a church of action:

- *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.*



We are off to a strong start with our pledging for 2027!
Based on the pledges received so far, we have a good increase in the amount pledged, and we hope there is more of the same yet to come!

If you have not yet returned your pledge card for 2027, please do so soon, so we can plan well for next year (and you can avoid getting a phone call! – lol).