

UNITED CHURCH ON THE GREEN

In the Heart of New Haven, open to all Seekers



An Open and Affirming Congregation of the
United Church of Christ

www.unitednewhaven.org
www.facebook.com/unitednewhaven
[@unitednewhaven](https://www.instagram.com/unitednewhaven)

In a world where Christianity is too often associated with intolerance, exclusion, and hate, the mission of United Church on the Green is to proclaim Christ through faith, hope, and love. We are a community of many races, ethnic backgrounds, religious experiences, ages, sexual orientations, and gender identities. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, you will have a home here at United Church on the Green.

We Gather as Church**PRELUDE**

*The Duke
To Duke Ellington*

Dave Brubeck
(1920-2012)

WORDS OF WELCOME

PASTOR RAY

CALL TO WORSHIP

At God's table of justice, everyone has a place and none are turned away.

Here strangers are welcomed as friends, the poor sit alongside the rich, and the upside-down kin-dom of God is revealed.

At God's table of abundance, a banquet of righteousness and liberation is set for all.

Here the powerless are heard; the outcast are showered with honor, and the inside-out kin-dom of God is revealed.

At God's table of life, all peoples know peace and creation flourishes.

Here the hopeless are nourished with possibility, the complacent are transformed into advocates for change. Here in our very midst the kin-dom of God is revealed.

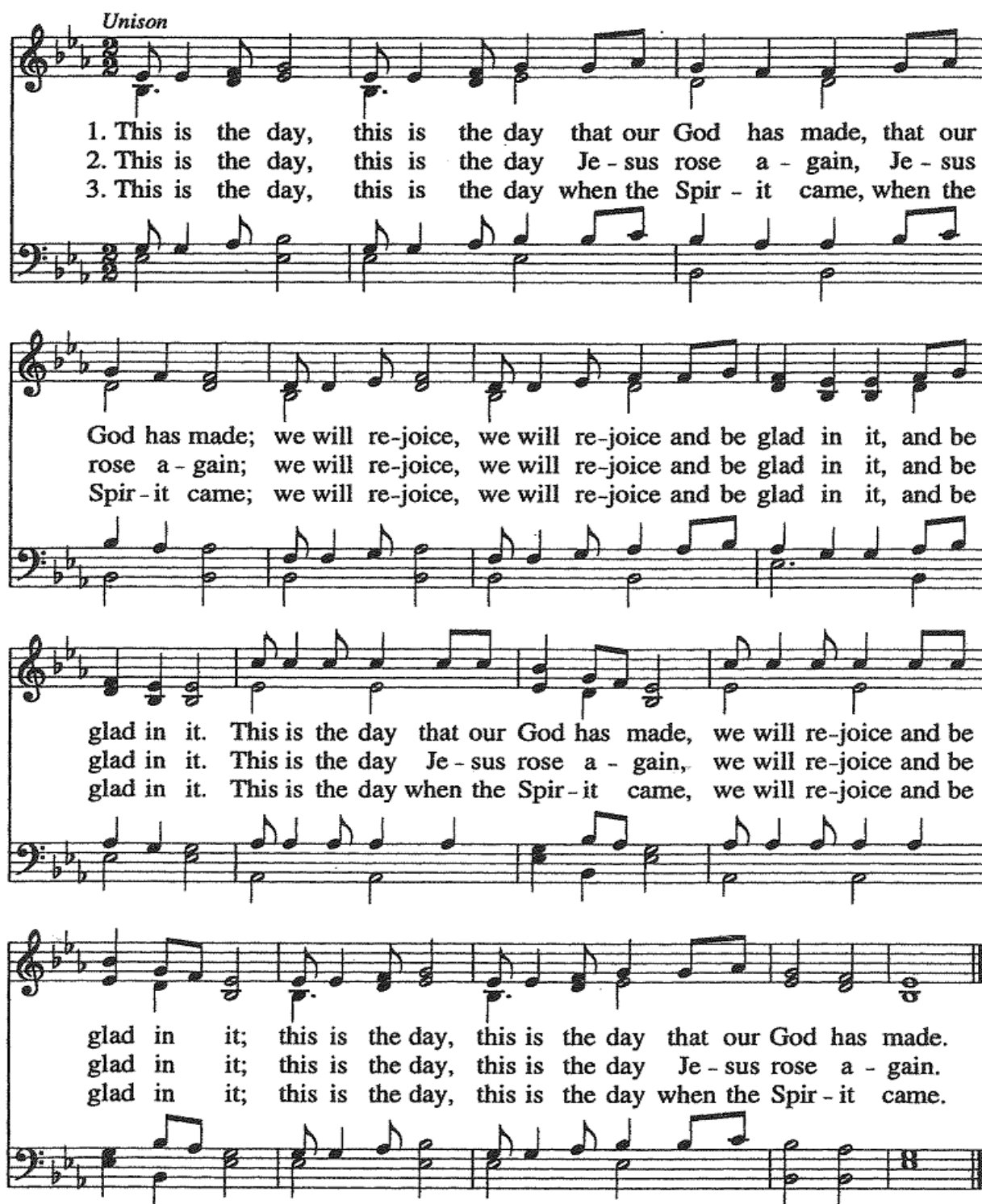
Amen

***HYMN #257**

This Is the Day

THIS IS THE DAY

Unison



1. This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our
 2. This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus
 3. This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the

God has made; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be
 rose a - gain; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be
 Spir - it came; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be

glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joyce and be
 glad in it. This is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, we will re-joyce and be
 glad in it. This is the day when the Spir - it came, we will re-joyce and be

glad in it; this is the day, this is the day that our God has made.
 glad in it; this is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain.
 glad in it; this is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

*Please stand as you are able

GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)

Pastor Ray

We give thanks to you, Oh God, for you are good; for your steadfast love endures forever. You have redeemed us from trouble and gathered us in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. When we cry to you in trouble, you bring us out of our distress.

We thank you God for your steadfast love, for your wonderful works to humankind. We lift up your name here in the congregation of the people and praise you in the assembly of the elders. We worship you here, today, together. Amen.

CHILDREN'S GATHERING

All children are invited to come to the front for a brief time of greeting and prayer. Afterward, children are invited to join teacher Rebecca Baisden in the children's room, or children may stay with their parents.

Children's Sermon and Sing-Along

*if you promise to be welcoming
then you are welcome here!
if you keep an open heart
an open mind and open ears!
if you know that folks are different
and it's nothing to fear
then I promise you will always be
welcome here!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you tell us to love one another—to love others the way we so naturally love ourselves. Yet each of us must admit that we have failed to do so. Jesus taught us to love our neighbors even if they don't look like us, even if they don't think like us, even if they don't

**Please stand as you are able*

love like us, even if they don't pray like us, even if they don't speak like us, even if they don't vote like us. But we have failed to love one another with no exceptions.

Brief period of silence

Forgive us Holy One, and make us again in your image of Love. Blot out our sins, renew our minds, rekindle our hearts, and guide us by Your Holy Spirit into the Love that is your will. Amen.

RESPONSE

There's a Spirit of Love in This Place

MEDEMA



1. There's a spir - it of love in this place, there's a
(2. There's the) pres - ence of peace in this room, there's the



spir - it of love in this place. You can't
pres - ence of peace in this room. In God's



see it, but it's there just as pre-cious as the air. There's a
ten-der-ness is found peace that pass - es hu-man bounds. There's the



spir - it of love in this place. O al - le -
pres - ence of peace in this room.



lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia! We bless your ho - ly



name. O al - le - lu - ia, sing al - le - lu - ia! There's a



spir - it of love in this place. 2. There's the place.

*Please stand as you are able

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Sisters and brothers in Christ, God's Spirit did not leave us after that first Pentecost. The Spirit is still with us, empowering us to know mercy and grace, forgiveness and service. In this Spirit, and through Christ, we proclaim the Good News:

All: We are forgiven Alleluia! Amen.

We Listen for God's Word

SCRIPTURE

Luke 12:13-21

Nicole René Atchison

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."

¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly.

¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'

²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

***HYMN #426**

I've Got Peace Like a River

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

1. I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a
2. I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a
3. I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an
4. I've got faith like an an - chor, I've got faith like an

1.
riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er, in - a my
foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain, in - a my
o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean, in - a my
an - chor, I've got faith like an an - chor, in - a my

2.
soul. I've got riv - er in - a my soul.
soul. I've got foun-tain in - a my soul.
soul. I've got o - cean in - a my soul.
soul. I've got an - chor in - a my soul.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr.

INTERLUDE

Bifocal Blues

Dave Brubeck

*Please stand as you are able

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Carolyn Streets

The Lord be with you... **And also with you...** Let us pray...

We join our voices to pray, rejoice and celebrate the good things of our life together and those who are celebrating their birthdays, including Dan Rausch

We pray for ourselves and our kin that the light of God's love will shine on us all, particularly our trans siblings, our kin of color and women in these times of persecution.

We pray for the innocent who suffer the world over because of war.

We pray for migrants, refugees, and the disappeared in these days of wickedness.

We pray for our world suffering the ravages of Climate Change.

We pray for nations across the globe that justice and peace might rule.

We pray for the wisdom and courage of those with plenty, that they might help make a better world for all.

We pray for children, teachers, parents, and school staffs that this summer joy will reign, free from the threat of violence.

We pray for those suffering the plague of gun violence with special prayers for the children killed and wounded.

We pray for those challenged by physical and mental illness and for us who love them.

We pray for those suffering grief and loss in the passing of loved ones. For ourselves, that we may ever live in the power of Hope.

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Ray

*Please stand as you are able

COMMUNION

At United Church on the Green, we believe the communion table is truly open. This means that we invite people of all ages and denominations to partake of the sacrament. This is Christ's table, not ours. And so, we invite you to join us in this meal. But it is up to you to decide whether or not you wish to receive the bread and the cup. God loves you regardless.

INVITATION

Beloved children of God, as we gather here this morning, we are the church! In this moment, we respond to the words of Jesus, who tells us: "...where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

And it is with the power of Christ that we proclaim that this table is open to all people — no matter who you are or what you believe or what you've been told.

Here at the Lord's table we remember the simple gathering of a chosen family that came together for a meal that proclaimed a new way of being in this world.

We remember God's radically inclusive love made real in the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

We remember the One who befriended the forgotten, embraced the outcast, and saw the Image of God in all people.

We remember the One who confronted every power that disconnected, marginalized, oppressed, and "other-ed."

It is here at this table that we find hope and imagination to see God's dream and promise of a world of wholeness, and it is here that we receive the nourishment and strength to continue on the paths of justice.

*Please stand as you are able

We recall that on the night he was betrayed, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood, my very life, poured out for you. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

God, we thank you for breathing this world into existence and proclaiming from its birth: "It is good."

We come to you with gratitude for the endless blessings that we see, feel, and know on our journeys of life.

We celebrate the rich diversity of your creation — every beautiful body, every shade of skin, every expression of love.

Through your Spirit, open our hearts to the joy we can find in the midst of life's challenges.

Remind us that we are loved — fiercely and forever.

And however the world may try to hold us down or tell us who to be, remind us that nothing can separate us from your presence.

And so, as we stand before this feast, we pray with the words you taught us to pray:

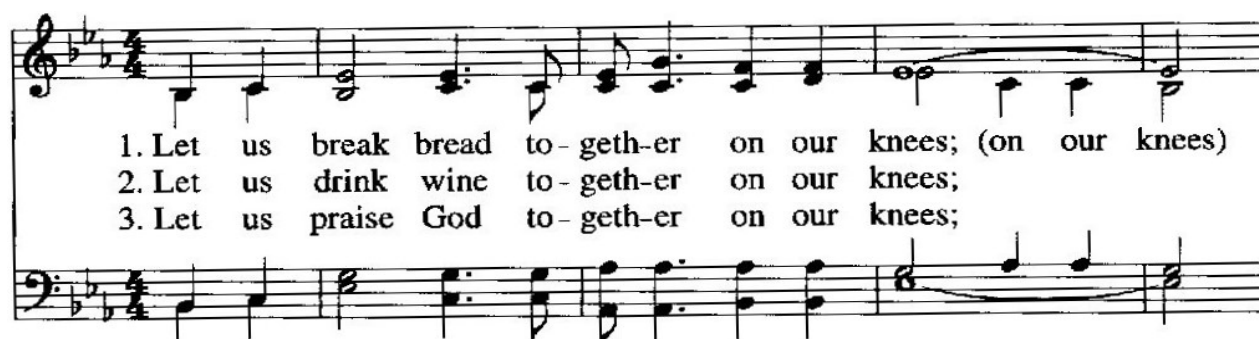
Our Father/Mother/God/Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Please stand as you are able


HYMN #311

Let Us Break Bread Together

LET US BREAK BREAD

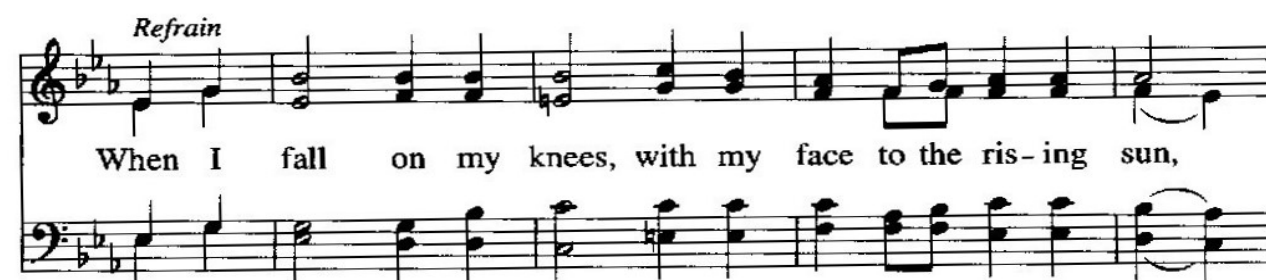


1. Let us break bread to- geth- er on our knees; (on our knees)
 2. Let us drink wine to- geth- er on our knees;
 3. Let us praise God to- geth- er on our knees;



Let us break bread to- geth- er on our knees; (on our knees)
 Let us drink wine to- geth- er on our knees;
 Let us praise God to- geth- er on our knees;

Refrain



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris- ing sun,



O Lord, have mer- cy on me. (on me)

*Please stand as you are able

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE MEAL

Today we will share the meal together by individually taking the bread and cup and returning to our seat. We will then eat and drink communion as one community. During Communion, we serve grape juice. Gluten free bread is available.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

From these simple gifts of grape and grain, you have consecrated us as your children, called and sent to share your extravagant love with others. Open our eyes that we might see you near us. Open our lives that we might be agents of hope and love for our world. When we forget our holy calling, speak anew to our hearts, and draw us back. This is our prayer in the name of all that is holy. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Moderator:

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22: 37–40, NRSVUE)

Dearly beloved, called of God to be God’s children through Jesus Christ our Lord, you are here so that, in the presence of God and God’s people, you may enter into the fellowship and communion of Christ’s Church.

Do you attest that you do truly repent of your sins; you heartily receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Master; you consecrate yourself unto God and your life to God’s service; you accept God’s Word as your law, and The Holy Spirit as your Comforter and Guide; and trusting in God’s grace

*Please stand as you are able

to confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, you promise to do God's holy will and to walk with this Church in the truth and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ?

New members:

We do.

Congregation:

"In the name of the Lord Jesus, we the members of this Church bid you welcome to its fellowship. We pledge to you our sympathy and our help that you may ever more increase your knowledge and love of God. And we pray God that all of us, being united in the faith, may come to that fullness of life which God has prepared for those who love God."

REAFFIRMATION OF THE COVENANT

Moderator:

Dearly beloved, called of God to be God's children through Jesus Christ our Lord, you are here so that, in the presence of God and God's people, you may reaffirm your membership in the fellowship and communion of Christ's Church.

Do you attest that you do truly repent of your sins; you heartily receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Master; you consecrate yourself unto God and your life to God's service; you accept God's Word as your law, and The Holy Spirit as your Comforter and Guide; and trusting in God's grace to confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, you promise to do God's holy will and to walk with this Church in the truth and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Congregation:

We do.

*Please stand as you are able

Congregation:

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we the members of this Church embrace one another in fellowship. We pledge to one another our sympathy and our help so that we all may ever more increase our knowledge and love of God. And we pray God that all of us, being united in the faith, may come to that fullness of life which God has prepared for those who love God.

BLESSING**Representative of the Congregation:**

May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord be gracious to you; and may the Lord look with favor on you and give you peace.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We invite you to greet one another with signs of peace

ANNOUNCEMENTS**CALL TO OFFERING****OFFERTORY**

Piano Blues, No. 3

Aaron Copland
(1900-90)

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God, thank you, thank you, thank you – for your grace, for this community of faith, for the gifts of our lives. Bless these offerings today that they might be used to further your reign of righteousness here and now. Work through each of us and through the ministries of this congregation that we might glorify you in all we do. Amen.

***Please stand as you are able**

We Are Sent Out

***HYMN #439**

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

PENTECOST

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my

heart I will pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the

Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will pray. *Fine*

1. Up - on the moun - tain, when my Lord spoke, Out of God's
2. O Jor - dan riv - er is chil - ly and cold, it chills the
3. O I have heart - ache and I have woe, and I have

mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a - round me,
bod - y, not the soul. There's on - ly one train
trou - ble here be - low. But while God leads me,

to Refrain

it looked so fine, I asked my Lord if all were mine.
up - on this track; it runs to heav - en, then right back. O ev - ery
I'll nev - er fear, for I am shel - tered by God's care.

*Please stand as you are able

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Carolyn Streets

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,
so that we may seek truth boldly and love deep within our hearts.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,
so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, starvation, and war,
so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world,
so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

Amen, Ameen, and Ashe!

POSTLUDE

Dr. Joe's Fun Mood Blues

Joe Utterback
(b. 1944)

Our Worship Has Ended. Let Our Service Begin!

Please join us at Coffee Hour after Worship
<https://unitednewhaven.org/this-weeks-worship>

Scan the QR Code to Sign Up for our Weekly Newsletter



Today's Musical Spotlight



Joe Utterback (b. 1944) - free-lance jazz pianist, recitalist, composer, recording artist, conductor, university professor, church musician - has received ASCAP awards annually since 1991 for his jazz-influenced compositions for piano, organ, chorus, voice, and instrumental ensembles. Joe has toured in Europe and throughout the United States both as a solo artist and with his trio. His first professional gig at the age of

seventeen in Wichita's Golden Chance Saloon started him on a path which has led to eight solo jazz piano improv recordings released by Connoisseur Society and Jazzmuze, Inc. since 1995, and high visibility gigs, including the holiday season in The Empire State Building lobby and the Tony Awards Gala.

Joe's more than 250 compositions published by Jazzmuze, Inc. are performed internationally and extensively in the United States. His music has been frequently recorded and aired on NPR. His workshops are often filled and closed well before the scheduled event, including his university lectures with performances for the students, often requiring a lottery for entrance. Joe's compositions are largely based on his improvisations, taking root in lead sheet format. They reflect the color and energy of his highly sophisticated treatments of blues, ballads, Broadway songs, and traditional jazz.

Premieres of his compositions include venues such as London's Wigmore Hall, Harvard and Princeton Universities, California's Crocker Museum, Dayton Museum of Art in Ohio, St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, Organization of American States in Washington, D.C., and Teatro Principal, Mallorca, Spain. Recordings of his works have been released by Connoisseur Society, Jazzmuze, Arktos, AFKA, Pro Organo, Ethereal, Raven, and the Organ Historical Society, among others. Joe is Adjunct Associate Professor of Music at Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT and Director of Music/Organist for the First Congregational Church of Stratford, CT. He conducts the Stratford Sister Cities Chorus and performs regularly in NYC, after long-term gigs in the jazz centers of San Francisco, St. Louis, and Kansas City.

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr.
Summer Intern	Carolyn Streets
Director of Music	Caesar Storlazzi
Digital Deacons	Worship & Music Ministry Team
Coffee Hour Hosts	June + Dale Richards
	George C. Lindsay
Head Sexton	William Henton

THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH

Aug 3rd: 10:00AM Sunday Worship- Meeting House and Online
Aug 5th: 12Noon Staff Meeting – Online
Aug 6th: 6:00PM Summer Reading Group - Online
Aug 7th: 6:00PM Bible Study – Online

CHURCH NOTES

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MEETING HOUSE WIFI INFORMATION

WiFi Network: UCG Meetinghouse
WiFi Password: 2037874195

SOCIAL JUSTICE CONVERSATION with SUMMER INTERN CAROLYN STREETS

Our summer intern, Carolyn Streets will be hosting a table conversation each Sunday after service. Members are invited to come and share their perspective of the church and social justice issues.

UPCOMING CHURCH-WIDE EVENTS

This Fall, United Church will be gathering at two important and fun events:

Our Church Picnic at

Hammonasset State Park in Madison CT on

Saturday September 13th, and

Our Congregational Retreat at

the Unitarian Society in Hamden CT on

Saturday October 18th

The Congregational Care and Connection Team will be organizing both of these events. If you have event planning experience, or if you just want to help organize either or both of these events, please see Dale Richards.

FLORAL DEDICATIONS AT UNITED CHURCH

The Sacred Spaces Committee would like you to know that you don't have to wait until Easter or Christmas to remember or honor someone with Narthex Flowers.

The Committee would like to open this opportunity to our church members and friends. You can bring the floral arrangements yourself, or provide a monetary donation. Suggested donation is \$40. Use a Flower Dedication Form, a Flower Offering Envelope or pay online <https://unitednewhaven.org/donate>

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE 2025 - UPDATE

As of July 28th, we have collected 38 pledges for a total of \$148,000 towards our goal of \$165,000. We are nearing our goal and can get there with your help. Many thanks to those of you who have already pledged. For those that have not yet pledged please do so today using the on-line link:

<https://unitednewhaven.org/donate>

This is for the 2025-26 fiscal year which began on July 1st. Your support is needed now more than ever. No amount is too small. This is a non-binding agreement but is extremely helpful for planning and budgeting purposes.

Thanks again, Tim Bertaccini, Treasurer

At United Church on the Green, we seek to Do Justice, Love Mercy and Walk Humbly with God, following the footsteps of Jesus. We are also a Progressive Protestant Christian Church, a member of the Nationwide United Church of Christ (UCC).

We have a long history.

- Established 1742. Meetinghouse was built in 1815.
- The Amistad Incident? Abolition of slavery? The 1970 Black Panther trials? Divestment in South Africa? United was there.

We believe God is still speaking to the world today... and we're trying to listen.

- Not a "The Bible says it. I believe it. That settles it." kind of church. Questions encouraged. (Actually, they're necessary.)
- "Open and Affirming" of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people since 1989.

We are working with God to build a better future.

- Not interested in "saving souls" or "converting the heathen." God's love is for all.
- Trying to "connect the dots" to grow peace, justice, and compassion in the world.

Staff Contacts

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr., *senior pastor*

Caesar Storlazzi, *director of music*

Maxim Schmidt, *digital media administrator*

Nicole René Atchison, *church administrator*

Nancy Lupi, *financial secretary*

Jack Russell, *director of operations*

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Rev. Louise B. Higginbotham, *minister emerita*

Rev. Dr. Bonnie Scott, *minister emerita*

United Church on the Green, UCC

Meeting House, *corner of Temple & Elm*

Parish House office, *corner of Temple & Wall*

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