

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.

October 12, 2025	10:00AM	Pentecost 18C
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We Gather as Church

*Please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Adolphus Hailstork

WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Ray

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Creator, we acknowledge you as the Maker, Saviour and Sustainer of all.
You have formed us in Your image, drawing us unto Yourself in kinship
and beloved belonging.

Creator, gather us into Your love again.

The earth is Yours and all of creation declares your splendour, all of
humankind is wonderfully made. Today we honour the Indigenous
People of Turtle Island whose footsteps have marked these lands for
centuries. With joy, hope, and celebration.

All creation resounds with Your glory.

With sorrow, grief, and longing,
All creation cries out for peace.

Creator joins hands with Mother Earth
And shows us the way

For Love to nourish us
For Hope to sustain us

And for Peace to guide our feet
So all may be free Amen

*Written by Esther Doerksen, Erika Kobewka, & Terry Lauzo

HYMN #372Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race* TALLIS' CANON

1. Di - verse in cul - ture, na - tion, race, we
2. God, let us be a bridge of care con -
3. When cha - sms wid - en, storms a - rise, O
4. God, let us be a ta - ble spread with

come to - geth - er by your grace. God, let us be a
nect - ing peo - ple ev - 'ry - where. Help us con - front all
Ho - ly Spir - it, make us wise. Let our re - solve, like
gifts of love and bro - ken bread, where all find wel - come,

meet - ing ground where hope and heal - ing love are found.
fear and hate and lust for pow'r that sep - a - rate.
steel, be strong to stand with those who suf - fer wrong.
grace at - tends, and en - e - mies a - rise as friends.

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 go to 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

Abram Guerra

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 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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Siblings 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

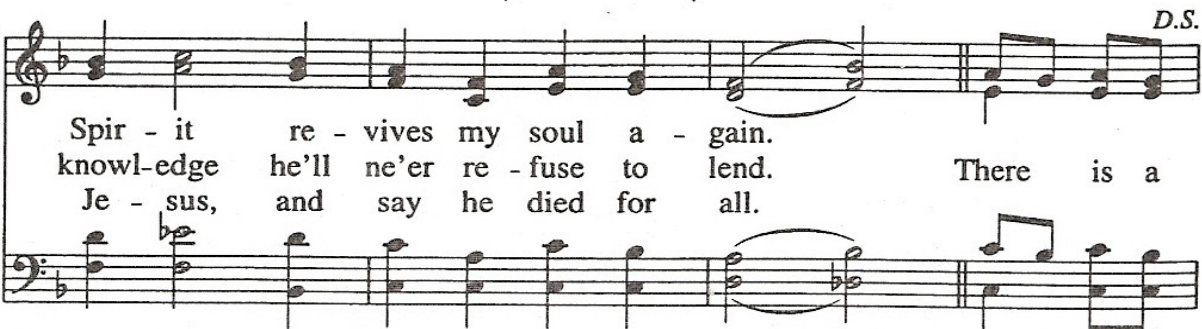
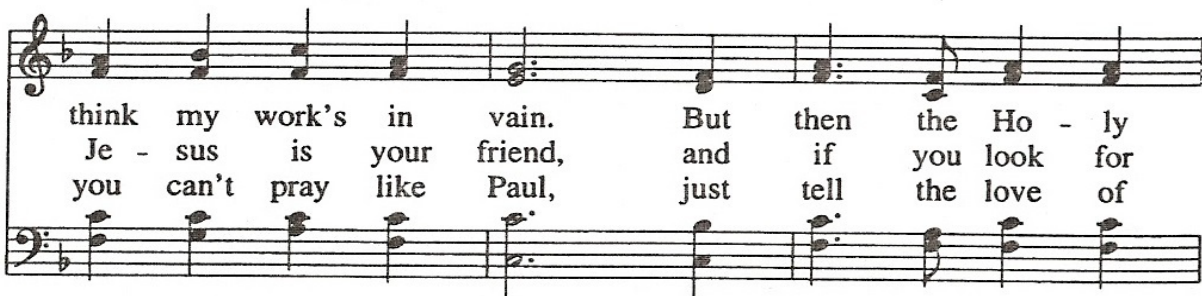
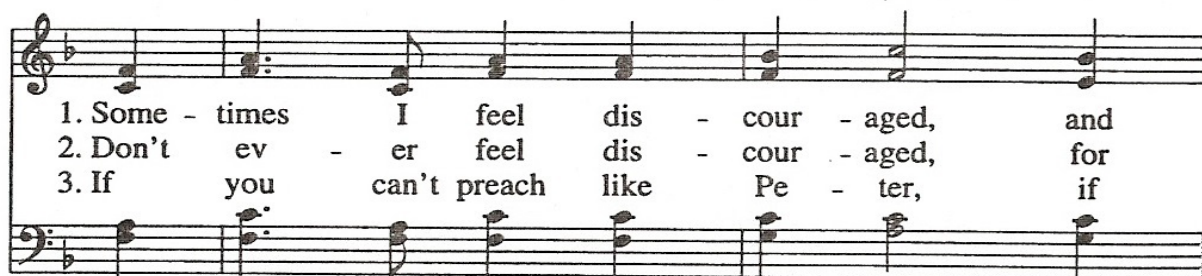
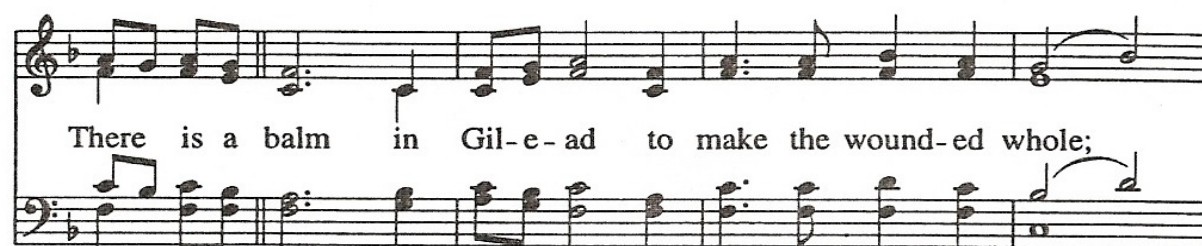
SCRIPTURE

Luke 17:11-19

Josiah Alkire

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³ they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine?" ¹⁸ Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

***HYMN #400** *There Is a Balm in Gilead* AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL



SERMON

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 Lisa Guerra + Hanna Peterman

We pray for indigenous peoples the world over who suffer still because of legacies of colonialism and exploitation.

We pray for the innocent who suffer the world over because of war and that justice and peace might rule with special prayers for those suffering and perishing in the conflict and famine in Gaza.

We pray for ourselves and our kin that the light of God's love will shine on us all, particularly our queer and trans siblings.

We pray that all will see the full humanity of Your beloved children.

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

We pray that in these times of persecution Your church will be place of refuge and hope.

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

We pray for children, teachers, parents, and school staffs that this school year they may together learn to dream of a different world.

We pray for those suffering the plague of gun violence.

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

We pray that wisdom and courage might lead those with plenty, to help make a better world for all.

For ourselves, that we may ever live in the power of Hope.

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

And so, 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.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We invite you to greet one another with signs of peace

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Open My Eyes

K. Lee Scott

Open my eyes and I shall see;
Incline my heart and I shall desire;
Order my steps and I shall walk
In the ways of your commandments.

O God, be my only Lord,
And beside you let there be none else,
No other, none else with you.

Teach me to worship you
And serve you in all my undertakings
With truth of spirit,
With honor of body,
With blessing of mouth,
Both in public and private.

Open my eyes...
Amen.

***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.**

***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.

We Are Sent Out

*HYMN #356

Lord, Speak to Me

CANONBURY

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each corresponding to a line of the hymn. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, the second system contains the next four lines, and the third system contains the final four lines. The score includes a variety of musical notations, including eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, as well as rests and accidentals. The lyrics are printed below the corresponding musical staves.

1. Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in
2. O strength - en me, that while I stand firm
3. O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the
4. O fill me with thy full - ness, Lord, un -

liv - ing ech - oes of thy tone; as thou hast sought, so
on the rock, and strong in thee, I may stretch out a
pre - cious things thou dost im - part; and wing my words, that
til my ver - y heart o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and

let me seek thy err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
lov - ing hand to wres - tlers with the trou - bled sea!
they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart!
glow - ing word, thy love to tell, thy praise to show!

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor Ray

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

Amazing Grace Recessional

A. Hailstork

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



THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr.

Director of Music

Caesar Storlazzi

UCG Choir: Cher Balkcom, Judith Carlson, Grecia Hernandez Perez, Thomas Hontz, Tess Klibanoff, Christopher Leimgruber, Julia Blue Raspe, Daniel Rausch, Connor Reese, and Jean Welty

Digital Deacons

Worship & Music Ministry Team

Coffee Hour Coordinator

Dale Richards

Head Sexton

William Henton

THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH

Oct 12th: 10:00AM Sunday Service - Meeting House and Online

Oct 14th: 12Noon Staff Meeting – Online

Oct 16th: 6:00PM Bible Study – Online

Oct 18th: 10:00AM Church Retreat - The Unitarian Society, Hamden

For Our Full Calendar, go to: www.calendarwiz.com/unitednewhaven

CHURCH NOTES

Musical Permissions

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MEETING HOUSE WIFI INFORMATION

WiFi Network: UCG Meetinghouse

WiFi Password: 2037874195

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENT

United Church Congregational Retreat

The Unitarian Society - The Library

700 Hartford Tpke

Hamden CT 06517

Saturday October 18th, 10:00AM – 3:00PM

See Moderator Abram Guerra for more information.

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>

NEW CHURCH MINISTRY TEAMS

United Church invites you to join two of our Ministry Teams:

The Benevolence Ministry Team, and **The Media Team**.

The Benevolence Team will craft a plan to help and support our neighbors in Downtown New Haven. The Media Team is currently run by staff members, but we are inviting parishioners with media experience to join. Please see Pastor Ray and/or John Sawyer for more information.

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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office@unitednewhaven.org

nancyalupi@gmail.com

operations@unitednewhaven.org

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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