

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**

Prelude in F Major
The Well-Tempered Klavier, Book II

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

WORDS OF WELCOME**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 #318Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

UNION SEMINARY

1. Draw us in the Spir-it's te - ther, for when hum - bly
2. As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
3. All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -

in your name, two or three are met to - geth - er, you are
Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er break the
ments of you, that by car - ing, help-ing, giv - ing, we may

in the midst of them; Al - le - lu - ya! Al - le -
bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ya, Al - le -
be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ya, Al - le -

lu - ya! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
lu - ya, so now bind our friend - ship up.
lu - ya, we will serve with faith a - new.

*Please stand as you are able

GATHERING PRAYER (Unison)

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!*

*Please stand as you are able

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 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.

***Please stand as you are able**

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

Psalms 30

Susan Parris Ray

¹ I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up and did not let my foes rejoice over me. ² O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. ³ O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit. ⁴ Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. ⁵ For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. ⁶ As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved." ⁷ By your favor, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed. ⁸ To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication: ⁹ "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?" ¹⁰ Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!" ¹¹ You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, ¹² so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

*Please stand as you are able

***HYMN #348** *Lord, Make Me More Holy* AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL



1. Lord, make me more ho - ly, Lord, make me more ho - ly,
2. Lord, make me more lov - ing, Lord, make me more lov - ing,
3. Lord, make me more hum - ble, Lord, make me more hum - ble,
4. Lord, make me more faith - ful, Lord, make me more faith - ful,



Lord, make me more ho - ly, un - til we meet a - gain.
Lord, make me more lov - ing, un - til we meet a - gain.
Lord, make me more hum - ble, un - til we meet a - gain.
Lord, make me more faith - ful, un - til we meet a - gain.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, un - til we meet a - gain.
Lov - ing, lov - ing, lov - ing, un - til we meet a - gain.
Hum - ble, hum - ble, hum - ble, un - til we meet a - gain.
Faith - ful, faith - ful, faith - ful, un - til we meet a - gain.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

*Please stand as you are able

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 Candy Meyer, Abram Guerra + Georgia Morgan

We pray for the healing, strength and resilience of all who are suffering from cancer.

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 teachers, students, and school staffs that all have a safe summer

We pray for those suffering the plague of gun violence

We pray for those challenged by physical and mental illness and we 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

*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)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*Please stand as you are able

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.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We invite you to greet one another with signs of peace

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Prelude in C Major
From The Well-Tempered Klavier, Book II

J. S. Bach

***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

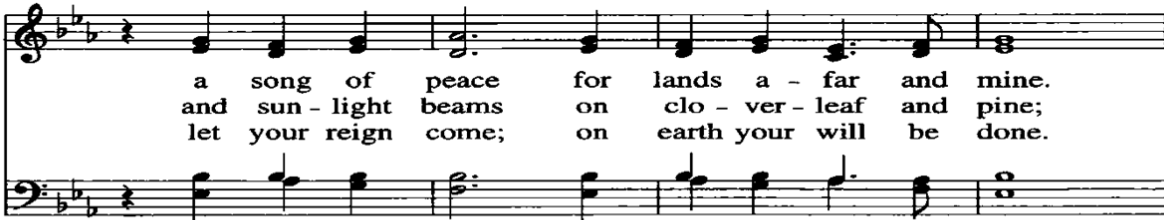
*HYMN #515

This Is My Song

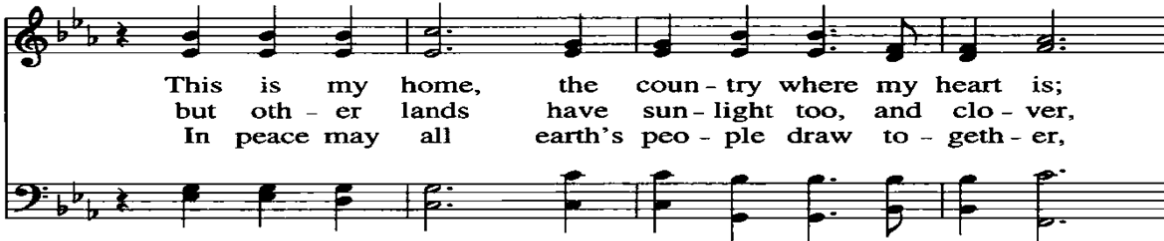
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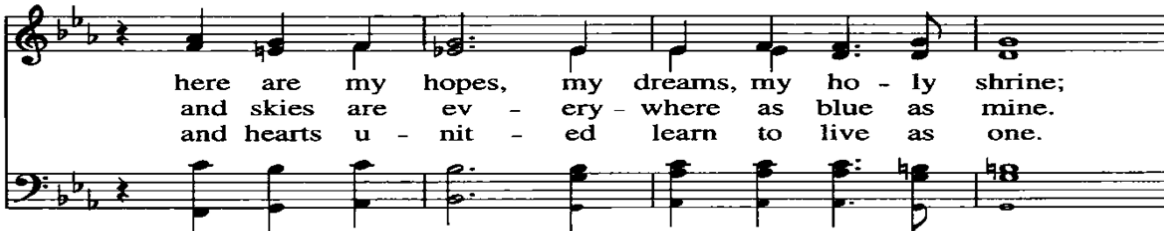
1. This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
2. My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
3. This is my prayer, O Rul - er of all na - tions:



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine;
let your reign come; on earth your will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
but oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
In peace may all earth's peo - ple draw to - geth - er,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine.
and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
O hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
O hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give you; let your will be done.

*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 your heart.

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 you may reach out your hand 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

Fugue in C Major

J. S. Bach

From The Well-Tempered Klavier, Book II

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.
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

- July 6th:** 10:00AM Sunday Worship- Meeting House and Online
11:15AM New Members Interest Meeting
- July 8th:** 12Noon Staff Meeting - Online
- July 9th:** 12Noon Wednesday Prayer and Reflection - Meeting House
- July 10th:** 6:00PM Bible Study – Online

CHURCH NOTES

Musical Permissions

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MEETING HOUSE WIFI INFORMATION

WiFi Network: UCG Meetinghouse

WiFi Password: 2037874195

SUMMER SERVICES AT UNITED

During the Summer, we will have Sunday Worship downstairs in our Air Conditioned Bradley Room. We will continue in the Bradley Room until the Fall.

NEW MEMBERS INTEREST MEETING

If you are considering joining United Church, or perhaps are just curious, we have a meeting for you. **On July 6th after worship**, Rev. Ray will meet in the downstairs classroom with people who are interested in learning more about United Church and what membership would mean. Attending does not commit you to joining, but for those who do want to take that step, new members will be welcomed into the church during worship the next week (or on another Sunday, depending on people's availability). If you would like more information, please contact Rev Ray at pastor@unitednewhaven.org.

FLORAL DEDICATIONS AT UNITED CHURCH

Would you like to remember or honor a friend or family member with Flowers? The Sacred Spaces Committee would like you to know that you don't have to wait until Easter or Christmas - Any Sunday is available!

The Committee has been placing fresh floral arrangement in the Narthex every Sunday. We 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 ALL-CHURCH CALENDAR

We are in the process of creating an All Church Calendar for parishioners, visitors and renters. We want everyone to be kept abreast of the schedule and location of our church events. Ideally, this calendar will be available via a link on our website and in our eBlast. Please submit your meeting calendar for the second half of 2025 to office@unitednewhaven.org

To that end, two dates you should save now are:

Saturday, September 13th – Church Picnic at Hammonasset in Madison

Saturday, October 18th – Congregational Retreat at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Hamden. More information to follow.

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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