



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

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.

June 28, 2026

10:00AM

Pentecost 5A

We Gather as Church

*Please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

Sonata in G Marianne von Martinez
Allegro brillante (1744-1812)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come, God of the Journey, a people from different places, different histories, different lifestyles.

All: We come hoping to find companionship for the journey, solidarity for the struggle.

One: We gather, God of Hospitality, around your “welcome table, a table not yet round, but rounding.

All: We gather seeking to become a “round-table people, welcoming of all, with no preferred seating, no firsts and no lasts and no corners for ‘the least of these.’

One: We yearn, God of the Rainbow, for a new way of living and relating as neighbors not strangers, as brothers and sisters not ‘them and us.’

All: We yearn to live fully celebrating both the diversity of our human family, and the unity of our call to love and justice.

One: We hunger, God of Abundant Life, for lives that have meaning and integrity, and for relationships grounded in mutuality and respect.

All: We thirst for places to bring our doubts, our fears; places to express honestly who we are. We thirst for hope and encouragement as we struggle to follow Jesus in the way of life-risking love.

One: With the gift of your grace we are nourished.

**All: With the promise of your presence may we be strengthened to be faithful.
Amen.**

*HYMN #96

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

CORNISH CAROL

1. Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace
2. Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold
3. Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace
4. In - dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims

the bold de - signs of far - thest space;
earth's mys - teries known or yet un - told;
all now de - spised for creed or race;
one fam - ily with a bil - lion names;

let sun and moon and stars and light
let wa - ter's fra - gile blend with air,
let peace, de - scend - ing like a dove,
let ev - ery life be touched by grace

and what lies hid - den praise your might.
en - a - bling life, pro - claim your care.
make known on earth your heal - ing love.
un - til we praise you face to face.

PRAYER (Unison)

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr.

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

All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all

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.

HYMN RESPONSE

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

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Dan Rausch

⁵Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord, ⁶and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord and all the exiles. ⁷But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet."

***HYMN #235**

Let It Breathe on Me

BREATHE ON ME

1. Let it breathe on me, let it breathe on me, let the breath of the
2. While I'm work - ing, God, in your vine - yard here, I can - not
3. When the path - way, God, I can - not see, when the way is

Spir - it breathe on me. Let it breathe on me, let it
serve with - out you near; O come, blessed Spir - it, so
hard, O breathe on me; give me grace to know when

breathe on me, let the breath of God now breathe on me.
close to me that I may feel you breathe on me.
you are near, then, I pray, O Spir - it, breathe on me.

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 this week.

Our prayers begin with rejoicing that in Your love and creativity you have made us a rainbow. Made us in Your image that is multi-splendored and too rich for simple definitions.

We give thanks for the Holy Spirit that is with Us, filling our hearts with hope and power.

With Us your children. Of every hue. Of every race. Of every culture and tongue.

Immigrants. Refugees. Queer. Trans. All of your children; especially those who need special care and protection in these times.

We pray for the many whose lives are being lost in senseless wars. For everyone but especially for the children. May their light not be extinguished because of cruelty and malice but continue to shine in our hearts.

We pray for our world, suffering the ravages of Climate Catastrophe. Standing expectantly before an uncertain future, we pray for our children, their teachers, school staffs and administrators that they may together teach us to dream of a different world.

We pray for the unhoused in our own city who now face uncertainty because too many believe that warm weather erases their need.

We lift special prayers for those suffering hunger anywhere in the world.

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

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

We pray that as Your Church we will be a place of refuge that ever lives 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

Suite for Piano

Norman Dello Joio

Movement III: Calm

(1913-2008)

***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 #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,

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. *to Refrain*

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

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

Fugue in G
Well-Tempered Klavier, Book II

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Our Worship Has Ended. Let Our Service Begin!

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

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr.

Director of Music

Caesar Storlazzi

Digital Deacons

Worship & Music Ministry Team

Coffee Hour Coordinator

Dale Richards

Head Sexton

William Henton

THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH

June 28th: 10:00AM Worship Service – Online + Meeting House

11:15AM Annual Meeting – Online + Meeting House

July 2nd: 6:00PM Bible Study – Online

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

CHURCH NOTES

Musical Permissions

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CCS WorshipCast: 22251728 All rights reserved.

MEETING HOUSE WIFI INFORMATION

WiFi Network: UCG Meetinghouse

WiFi Password: 2037874195

Annual Congregational Meeting - TODAY

Notice is given that the 283rd Annual Congregational Meeting of United Church on the Green will be held following the Worship Service on Sunday June 28, 2026 in the Bradley Room at United Church on the Green, New Haven. The purpose of the Meeting is to adopt an annual budget; to vote on nominees for the Leadership Board positions now or soon to be vacant; and for such other conversation for the good of the congregation.

Stewardship Campaign

You may be already aware that this fiscal year's stewardship campaign has begun and we want to encourage you to be generous with your pledging so that together, as one United family, we could support our Church.

No pledge is too great or too small. What is most important is your participation.

The easiest, secure, and most reliable way to pledge is online at: <https://unitednewhaven.org/donate> This will bring you to a secure site, where you can fill out a pledge form.

Please take the time to consider and pray over your decision, and submit your pledge before Tuesday, June 30, 2026.

Thank you so much for your willingness to be part of this year's campaign. Together with you, we shall be the Church we are called to be.

Year-Round Narthex Floral Display

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. 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>

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*

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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