

WE ARE ALL



WONDERFULLY MADE

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.

We Gather as Church

PRELUDE

Widmung

Schumann

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

ONE: Maker of All. Parent of All. Destiny of All.

ALL: We lift our voice to you in praise and adoration. To give thanks that You are with us in love and care we lift our hands and hearts to you.

ONE: Source of our hope and courage we give thanks for your Spirit and welcome you into this place and into our hearts.

ALL: We lift our voice to you in praise and adoration. To give thanks that You are with us in love and care we lift our hands and hearts to you.

One: Consecrator of us all as your wondrous creations, we open our hearts and our minds to the glorious future into which you call all of your children and all of creation.

ALL: We lift our voice to you in praise and adoration. To give thanks that You are with us in love and care we lift our hands and hearts to you.

ONE: May this people and this place shine with your abundant love.

ALL: Come Blessed One, Come. Amen.

*Please stand as you are able

1. The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, our Lord;
2. E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3. 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,
4. Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three - in - one,

we are his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;
our char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth,
we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.

from heaven he came and sought us, for us was cru - ci - fied;
one ho - ly name pro - fess - ing, we share one ho - ly food,
till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blest,
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

with his own blood he bought us, and for our life he died.
and to one hope still press - ing, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

*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.

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

HYMN 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

Jeremiah 29:4-9

Brodie Lewis-Azevedo

⁴ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷ But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. ⁸ For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to your dreams that you dream, ⁹ for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the LORD.

*Please stand as you are able

***HYMN #500AFAMHH** *Since I Laid My Burden Down* AFROAMERICAN SPIRITUAL

1. Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le -
 2. Friends don't treat me like they
 3. I'm goin' home to live with

lu - jah! Since I laid my bur - dens down.
 used to Since I laid my bur - dens down.
 Je - sus Since I laid my bur - dens down.

Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
 Friends don't treat me like they used to
 I'm goin' home to live with Je - sus

Since I laid my bur - dens down!
 Since I laid my bur - dens down!
 Since I laid my bur - dens down!

*Please stand as you are able

REFLECTION

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

We join our voices to pray and rejoice to celebrate the good things of our life together and those who are celebrating their birthdays this week, including Annie O'Connell, Erwin Steward, Cher Balkcom + Ron Munson

For the innocent who suffer in Gaza and Israel

We pray for our kin suffering under the many systems of oppression including all those whose suffering of the ravages of Climate Change is magnified by these systems

We pray for immigrants and refugees seeking sanctuary and safe harbor and for our nation, that we not lose regard for human dignity and worth

We pray that all of this world's peoples might know peace

We lift up our children that they may know hope and peace

We pray for the teachers, staff and schools who close another year

We pray they might find peace and joy these summer months

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

We pray with the words Jesus 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.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We invite you to greet one another with signs of peace

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Nella Fantasia

E. Morricone

***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.

*Please stand as you are able

We Are Sent Out

*HYMN #256

Kum Ba Yah

DESMOND



1. Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah! Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba
2. Some-one's cry-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some-one's cry-ing, Lord, kum ba
3. Some-one's sing-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some-one's sing-ing, Lord, kum ba
4. Some-one's pray-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some-one's pray-ing, Lord, kum ba



yah! Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!
yah! Some-one's cry-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!
yah! Some-one's sing-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!
yah! Some-one's pray-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!

*Please stand as you are able

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 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

The Lord's Prayer

Improvisation on a Theme
by Nicole Lam

*Please stand as you are able

Our Worship Has Ended. Let Our Service Begin!

Please join us at Coffee Hour after Worship

<https://unitednewhaven.org/this-weeks-worship>

If you are new to United, or feeling new, we'd love to keep in touch with you. If you wish, please share your contact information and prayer requests at

<http://unitednewhaven.org/connect-with-us>.

THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray Jr.
Director of Music	Caesar Storlazzi
Guest Musician	Nicole Lam
Digital Deacons	Worship & Music Ministry Team
Coffee Hour Hosts	June + Dale Richards
	George C. Lindsay
Head Sexton	William Henton
Sexton	Raymond O'Connor

THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH

July 21st: 10:00AM Worship at the Meeting House and Online

July 24th: 1:00PM United Staff Meeting – Online

6:00PM Book Club Meeting - Online

July 26th: 6:00PM YHHAP Soup Kitchen – Take Out Only

July 27th: 6:00PM YHHAP Soup Kitchen – Take Out Only

CHURCH NOTES

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MEETING HOUSE WIFI INFORMATION

WiFi Network: UCG Meetinghouse

WiFi Password: 2037874195

NOTES

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

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