



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.

May 24, 2026

10:00AM

Pentecost Sunday A

We Gather as Church

*Please stand as you are able

PRELUDE *Fantasia on Komm, Heiliger Geist, BWV 651* J. S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Divine Teacher, whirl around us with your wisdom,

Many: Divine Comforter, encircle us with the peace that comes only from you.

One: As the Holy Winds fill our lives with dreams, empower us to live God's hope in this world.

Many: As the Holy Fire fills our hearts with visions, empower us to create a world of justice and peace.

One: May the Divine Gales of this day move us to know the love of God.

All: Amen.

O Christ the Great Foundation



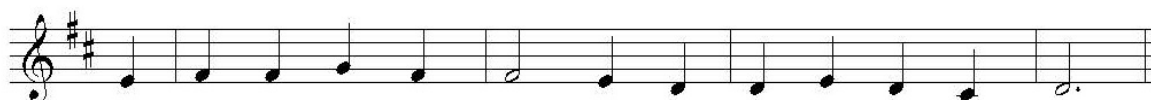
1. O Christ the great foun - da - tion On which your peo - ple stand
2. Bap - tized in one con - fes - sion, One church in all the earth,
3. Where ty - rants' hold is tight - ened, Where strong de - vour the weak,
4. This is the mo - ment glo - rious When he who once was dead



To preach your true sal - va - tion In ev - 'ry age and land:
We bear our Lord's im - pres - sion, The sign of sec - ond birth:
Where in - no - cents are fright - ened The right - eous fear to speak,
Shall lead his church vic - to - rious, Their cham - pion and their head.



Pour out your Ho - ly Spir - it To make us strong and pure,
One ho - ly peo - ple gath - ered In love be - yond our own,
There let your church a - wak - ing At - tack the pow'rs of sin
The Lord of all cre - a - tion His heav'n - ly king - dom brings



To keep the faith un - bro - ken As long as worlds en - dure.
By grace we were in - vit - ed, By grace we make you known.
And, all their ram - parts break - ing, With you the vic - tory win.
The fi - nal con - sum - ma - tion, The glo - ry of all things.

PRAYER (Unison)

Freddie Swindal-Endres

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

Acts 2:1-21

Yingxue Davis-Wang

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. ²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

***HYMN #281**

Spirit of the Living God
(sung twice)

IVERSON

Musical score for the hymn "Spirit of the Living God" by Iverson. The score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me; Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me."

SERMON

Freddie Swindal-Endres
UCG Member/YDS May 2026

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 Judith Carlson, Edmund Bassett, Janyss Vocasek Morse + Jo Buchanan.

God bless all of our Graduates and their families during this Commencement Season.

Our prayers begin with rejoicing that Christ is with Us even as he sits at Your Right hand.

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

Immigrants. Refugees. Our Queer and trans siblings and all of your children who need special care and protection in these times. We pray for the many whose lives have been 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 Change. 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 of the closing of warming centers.

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

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.

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 *Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist* D. Buxtehude
(BuxWV 208)

***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

Ev'ry 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

Everytime I Feel the Spirit Adolphus 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.
Guest Speaker - YDS May 2026	Freddie Swindal-Endres
Director of Music	Caesar Storlazzi
UCG Choir:	Cher Balkcom, Judith Carlson, Delaney Fox, Grecia Hernandez Hontz, Thomas Hernandez Hontz, Tess Klibanoff, Christopher Leimgruber, Julia Blue Raspe, Daniel Rausch, Connor Reese, and Mary Scanlon (on vacation this weekend—Open Choir on 5/31!)
Digital Deacons	Worship & Music Ministry Team
Coffee Hour Coordinator	Dale Richards
Head Sexton	William Henton

THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH

May 24th: 10:00AM Worship Service - Meeting House and Online

May 25th: MEMORIAL DAY

May 28th: 6:00PM Bible Study – Online

May 30th: 9:00AM YardBirds Gardening Ministry - Parish House

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

Join us on Open Choir Sunday - May 31st, 2026

Warm Up at 9AM

On May 31st, we will have an Open Choir Sunday. As you may remember, we started with Open Choir last year, and we plan to have these on the fifth Sunday of the month (when a month has five Sundays, of course!) If you'd like to sing with the choir on May 31st, all you have to do is show up a little early to church for the choir warm-up rehearsal at 9:00AM (no worries if you are a little late). Just come to the front of the church by the piano. No experience is necessary, and we will provide the music, etc. No weeknight rehearsal and no commitment! Just come for the choir camaraderie and the joy of singing. Hope to see you there. Contact Caesar, our choir director, at AveCesare@aol.com if you have any questions.

Pride Prom – June 20th 2026 Sign Up to Help!

Friends! How would you like to plan a prom? Balloons, music, dancing and food, it doesn't happen by itself! If you love to organize, reach out or coordinate you will be a great fit for our PRIDE Prom Organizing Committee!

Service and Justice Task Force will be meeting regularly to prepare for PRIDE Prom 2026 to be held this June in our very own Great Hall. If you would like to participate please reach out to Jeff Hopper, Cher Balkcom or Susan Ray.

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 as well as the various ministries dear to us at United.

As we look ahead to the upcoming fiscal year, we ask you to commit together with the whole UCG family to fund and support the work ahead of us. 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.

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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