

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.

June 8, 2025	10:00AM	Pentecost C
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We Gather as Church

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

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come today, representing all the majesty of creation

Diverse and beautiful, blessed and beloved, all made in the image of the Creator of all things

We come today, called to this time and this place by an infinite God.

Who hears our cries and responds with love and mercy.

We come today: Transgender, Nonbinary, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Intersex, Gay, Queer, Ally

We come today, knowing you will listen and answer our needs.

We come today, knowing you care for us

We come today, knowing that even when others reject us, your arms are open to offer comfort. We come. Declaring the Dignity and Value of all of your children.

Amen

*Please stand as you are able

O Christ the Great Foundation



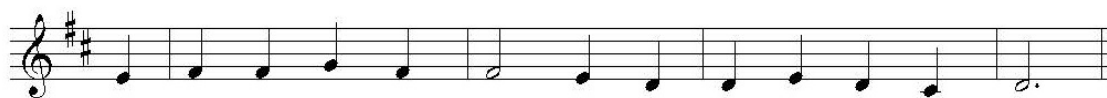
1. O Christ the great foun - da - tion On which your peo - ple stand
2. Bap - tized in one con - fes - sion, One church in all the earth,
3. Where ty-rants' hold is tight-ened, Where strong de - vour the weak,
4. This is the mo-ment glo - rious When he who once was dead



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.

Text: Timothy T'ingfang Lew, 1891-1947, alt., © Christian Conference of Asia
Tune: AURELIA, 7 6 7 6 D; Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1810-1876

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

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me!

For the Bible tells me so.

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.

*Please stand as you are able

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

Dick Hutchinson

*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.

*Please stand as you are able

SERMON

Guest Preacher

MUSICAL MEDITATION

on Veni Creator Spiritus

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 Don Bertrand, JoJo Saunders + Jane Jervis.

We pray for Rev Stephen Ray's speedy and full recovery after his recent surgery

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 the teachers, parents, and school staffs that this year learning and joy will reign, free from the threat of violence

We pray for those suffering the plague of gun violence with special prayers for the children killed and wounded here in New Haven these past weeks

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

*Please stand as you are able

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	<i>Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist</i>	D. Buxtehude
	<i>(BuxWV 208)</i>	

***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 #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,

to Refrain
 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.

*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

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.
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

June 8th: 10:00AM Sunday Worship- Meeting House and Online
11:15AM Annual Meeting
June 10th: 12Noon Staff Meeting - Online
June 11th: 12Noon Wednesday Prayer and Reflection - Meeting House
June 12th: 6:00PM Bible Study – Online

CHURCH NOTES

**This Morning's Flowers were donated by
Jean Blue, John Sawyer and
Susan Holahan in Memory of her sister, Lucy B Natrass
Paul Henjes in Memory of his mother, Betsy Blake Henjes**

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MEETING HOUSE WIFI INFORMATION

WiFi Network: UCG Meetinghouse
WiFi Password: 2037874195

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – JUNE 8, 2025 (TODAY)

Notice is given that the 282nd Annual Congregational Meeting of United Church on the Green will be held following the Worship Service on **Sunday June 8, 2025 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.

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>

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE 2025

Whether you are member or friend, long-time or short, as we look ahead to the upcoming fiscal year, we ask you to commit together with the whole UCG family to fund our work for another year. No pledge is too great or too small. What's most important is your participation.

Make your pledge today at: <https://unitednewhaven.org/donate> which will bring you to a secure site where you can fill out a pledge form.

Pledges are not considered a binding contract, and can be changed or cancelled at any time. It is a statement of your intentions to support United Church on the Green, and an important part of how we plan and budget resources for ministry activities.

Please take the time to consider and pray over the matter, and submit your pledge before Monday, June 30, 2025.

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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