



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.

April 5, 2026

10:00AM

Easter Sunday A

We Gather as Church

*Please stand as you are able

PRELUDE *Easter Rejoicing*

arr. Todd Marchand

Saint Anthony Chorale

J. Haydn, arr. Walter H. Barnes

Rhosymedre

R. Vaughan Williams, arr. Lawrence David Eden

The Colonial Brass Quintet

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O give thanks to the Holy One, for God is good; God's love abides, endures, and prevails forever!

Many: **Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us. Christ is risen!**

One: In distress, I call. In grief, I cry. In despair, I come. The Holy One answers. The Holy One comforts. The Holy One comes.

Many: **Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us. Christ is risen!**

One; God, my refuge and confidence, surrounds me with strength and victory! Exalt God's holy name!

Many: **Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us. Christ is risen!**

*HYMN #205

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day,
2. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - - le - lu - ia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led,
5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say:
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - - le - lu - ia!
Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head,
Praise to thee by both be given,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
Dy - ing once, he all doth save,
Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - - le - lu - ia!
Made like him, like him we rise,
Thee we greet tri - umphant now,

Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply:
Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?
Christ has o - pened Par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,
Hail, the Res - ur - rec - tion thou!

PRAYER (Unison)

Pastor Ray

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

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!

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

Holy, Holy, Holy

HTL #287

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dore you! My
San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly, Lord!
co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res Señ - or!

The musical score is written in 4/4 time. The first system consists of a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass clef staff. The lyrics are placed between the two staves. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment, ending with a double bar line and a fermata over the final chord.

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

Luke 24:1-12

Denese G Bellinger

¹But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again." ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

*HYMN #214

Thine Is the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS

1. Thine is the glo - ry ris - en, con-quiring Son; end-less is the
2. Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov-ing - ly he
3. No more we doubt thee, glo-rious Prince of life! Life is nought with -

vic - tory thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet us, scat - ters fear and gloom; let the church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con - querors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
hymns of tri - umph sing, for our Christ now liv - eth;
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain

where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry ris - en, con-quiring
to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr.

ANTHEM

Alleluia!

Robert Leaf

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 Carl K Peterson

Our prayers begin with rejoice that Christ is with Us.

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

Immigrants. Refugees. Our Queer and trans siblings.

We pray to give thanks that those who have lost their lives bearing witness to the humanity, dignity, and value of our siblings and kin abide with you.

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 that they might find welcome and a home.

We lift special prayers for those suffering famine in our land and across 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

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 *Spice She Brought and Sweet Perfume* McNeil Robinson

Mary to her Savior's tomb hastened at the dawn.
Spice she brought and sweet perfume,
but the Lord she loved was gone.
For a while she weeping stood,
struck with sorrow and surprise.
Shedding tears a plenteous flood,
for her heart supplied her eyes.

O my Savior, where has my Savior gone?

O my Savior, here is my Savior,
He is risen from the tomb,
Alleluia!

***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

The Tree of Life

Words by Erik Routley

Music by K. Lee Scott

All: 1. There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom.
Sop/Alto 2. Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
Tenor/Bass 3. Thorns not his own are tan - gled in its fo - liage:
Choir 4. See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come:
All: 5. This is my end - ing, this my res - ur - rec - tion:
All: 6. All heav'n is sing - ing, "Thanks to Christ whose Pas - sion
whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring:
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!
in - to your hands, Lord, I com - mit my spir - it.
of - fers in mer - cy heal - ing, strength and par - don.
Tree of all know - ledge, Tree of all com - pas - sion.
see where the ten - drils of our hu - man self - hood
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de - stroyed it
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your sor - row,
This have I searched for: now I can pos - sess it.
Peo - ples and na - tions, take it, take it free - ly!"
Tree of all beau - ty.
feed on its life blood.
nor fire con - sumed it.
I will give bless - ing."
This ground is ho - ly.
A - men! Re - deem - er!

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

My Spirit Be Joyful
The Colonial Brass Quintet

Johann Sebastian Bach

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 |
| 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 |
| Colonial Brass Quintet | Frank Covey, Jon-Michael Taylor, Kathy Morse, George Sanders, and David Raposo |
| Timpani | Ethan Hall |
| Digital Deacons | Worship & Music Ministry Team |
| Coffee Hour Coordinator | Dale Richards |
| Head Sexton | William Henton |

THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH

- Apr 5th: EASTER SUNDAY**
10:00AM Easter Sunday - Meeting House and Online
- Apr 7th:** 12Noon Staff Meeting - Online
- Apr 9th:** 6:00PM Bible Study – Online
- 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

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), Easter Sunday

OGHS is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ

that supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education, and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response. We will be collecting for this in the envelopes in the Bulletin on Easter Sunday. If you do not have an envelope, you can write a check and in the note section designate OGHS. Or donate on-line and designate OGHS. Many thanks for your generosity to this important cause.

Pride in April! UCG Special Offering

In April, the United Church on the Green will be having a special collection in support of the re-opening of the New Haven Pride Center and the Pride Prom 2026, hosted by United Church.

The New Haven Pride Center closed its doors earlier this month after nearly 30 years of service to the New Haven LGBTQ+ community. The Pride Center provided services like a youth after-school safe space, a clothing closet, a food pantry and educational programming. The New Haven Pride Center was the organizer and engine behind the New Haven Pride Celebrations and partnered with UCG for Pride Proms. (pictured: Pride Prom 2014)

Throughout the month of April, UCG will be collecting donations to be split between the New Haven Pride Center and for our Community Pride Prom, to be held in our Great Hall!

Simply donate a check in the offering plate and write "PRIDE" in the subject line. Or donate using the "PRIDE" Button on the Donate page of our website:

<https://unitednewhaven.org/donate>

The Service and Justice Task Force will be matching congregational donations!

That's right! Double your money! Hang your rainbow flags, show your support and donate what you can!

Thank You,

Service and Justice Task Force

United Church on the Green 2026 Easter Flowers

The flowers in our Sanctuary today were sponsored by Members and Friends of United Church. We thank them for sharing their experiences and memories.



In Memory of Enta + Rose

Tom George

In Memory of Barbara, Hutch and Lucy Hutchinson

Dick Hutchinson

In Memory of Harry & Mabel French, and Victoria & Joseph Mosgrove

Leslie + David French

In Memory of Mary & Anthony Calarco

Angelyn Singer

In Loving Memory of Curt Law

In Loving Memory of Paul & Beatrice Mayer

In Loving Memory of Thomas & Janet Cook

Candy Mayer

In Loving Memory of Noonie, Poppie and Greg

CoCo lePere

In Memory of In Memory of Paul L Raspe

Julia Blue Raspe

In Memory of the many family members and friends who have passed.
You are always in our hearts.

Ruth Anne + Verne Olson



United Church on the Green 2026 Easter Flowers (cont.)

The flowers in our Sanctuary today were sponsored by Members and Friends of United Church. We thank them for sharing their experiences and memories.

In Memory of Jim Cole

Jean Welty

In Loving Memory of the Flowers in our lives:

Melissa, Gracie & Rachel, Julia, Ruth & Edith and Claudine
Mary, Georgia, Hilda & Irene, Louise, Bertha & Marion

Jacqui + Erskine McIntosh

In Loving Memory of Kathy and Max Rausch

Dan Rausch

In Honor of our daughters, Hanna and Jessica.

In Memory of our fathers, George Peterman and Michael Sinko.

Julie + George Peterman

In Memory of Neva & Julian Hartt, and Beverly Hartt Gouax

Sue Hartt

In Memory of my mother, Christiana Alkire. I love my mother.

Josiah Alkire

In Memory of Anne Bellinger

Denese G Bellinger

In Memory of George Buchanan

Jo Buchanan

United Church on the Green 2026 Easter Flowers (cont.)

The flowers in our Sanctuary today were sponsored by Members and Friends of United Church. We thank them for sharing their experiences and memories.



In Memory of my husband, Tom, and my sisters, Molly and Lucy.
Susan Holahan

In Memory of Mrs and Mr Weedon G Parris, Sr.
Susan Ray

In Honor of Allie Bassett. In Memory of Steven Warner.
Kyle Borbas

In Honor of my “Baby Niece,” Azariah Kai Atchison. Welcome to the Family! God Bless You.
Auntie Niki

Additional Sponsors:
Mary Scanlon
Barbara and Roger Adams
Jean and Jon Blue

flowers provided by flowersfromthefarm.org



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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