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

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.

October 25th, 2026	10:00AM	Pentecost 22A

We Gather as Church

*Please stand as you are able

PRELUDE Rodgers and Hammerstein "Carousel" Medley (arr. Nicole Lam)

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 siblings and kin not 'them and us.'

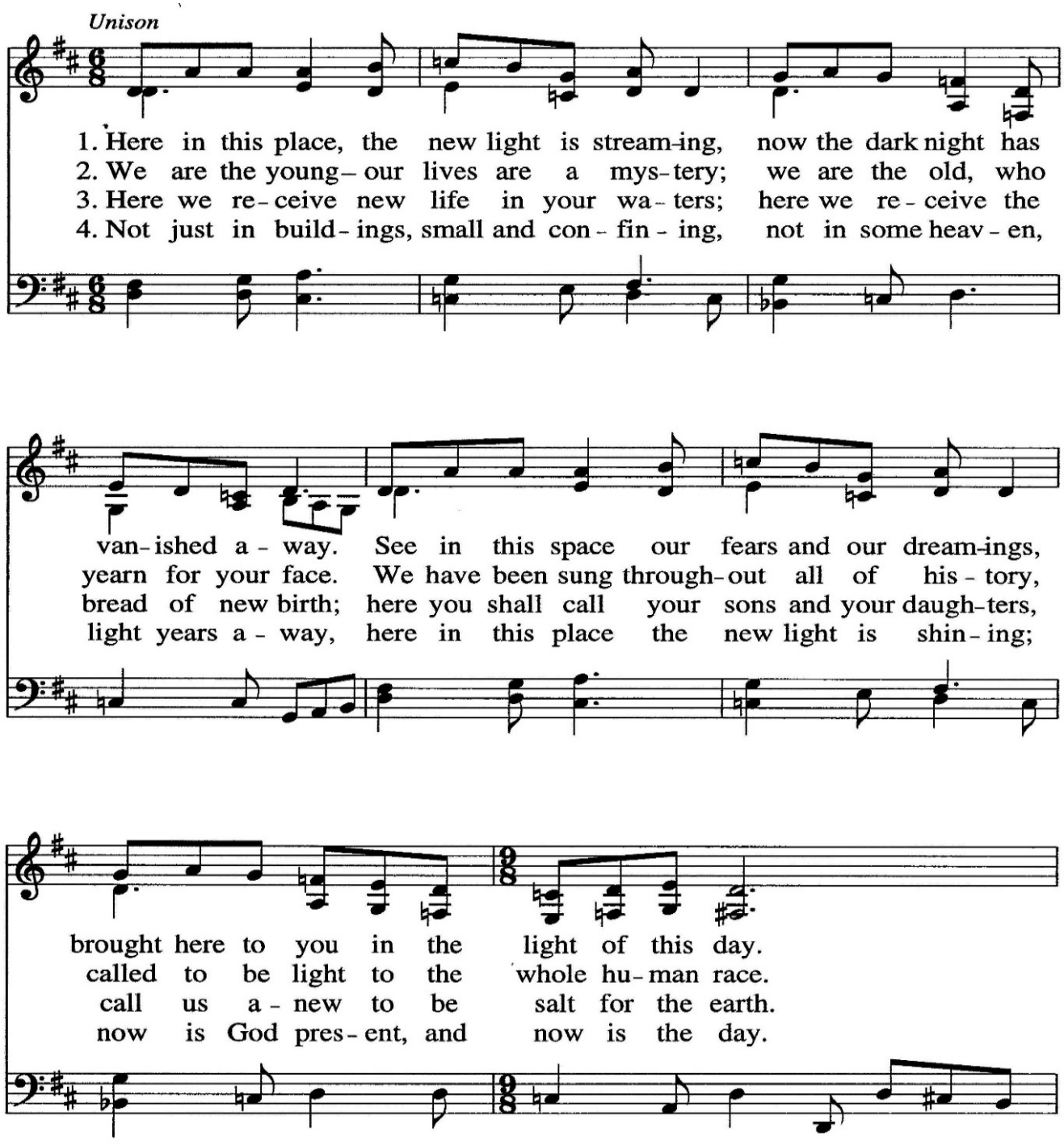
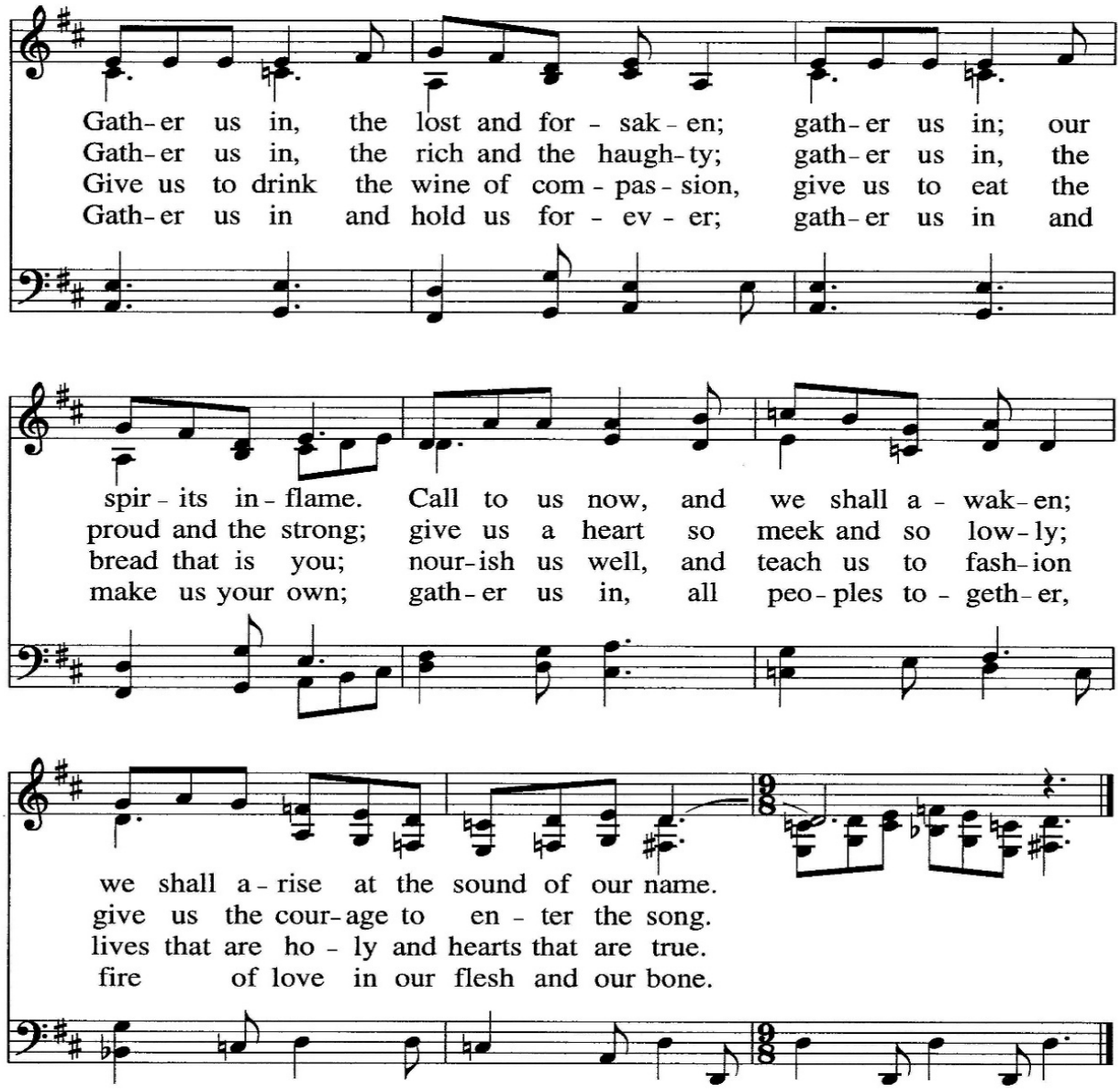
All: We yearn to live fully celebrating both the diversity of our human family, and the unity of our call to love and justice.

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 #150** Here in this place GATHER US IN;

Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak-en; gath-er us in; our
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath-er us in and
spir - its in - flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak-en;
proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low-ly;
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to - geth-er,
we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

GATHERING 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

Order of Baptism For Elias Q Davis – Wang

Pastor: Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism. A sacrament which is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united to Jesus Christ and given part in Christ's ministry of reconciliation. Baptism shows the death of self and the rising to a life of obedience and praise. It shows also the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on those whom God has called in the voice of Jesus Christ. In baptism, God works in us the power of forgiveness, the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be God's people always.

People: **There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.**

Pastor: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

People: **For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body and all were made to share one Spirit.**

Pastor: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

Elias, his parents are invited to come forward

Pastor: Do you desire to have your son, Elias, baptized into this Christian community and to the family of God?

Parents: ***We* do.**

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Parents: **We will, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with Elias in the Christian faith, to help him to be *a* faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian Church so that he may affirm his baptism?

Parents: ***We* do, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Will you teach your child to honor the faith questions that belong to him throughout his life? Will you journey with your child to discover the wonder of God's love made manifest here this day?

Parents: ***We* do, with the help of God.**

Congregational Assent

Pastor: Jesus calls us to welcome children into the full life of our community, opening our table and hearts to those most vulnerable, offering the wisdom of the ages to all who hunger for truth.
Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to this child being baptized as he lives and grows in this Christian community?
Congregation**: We promise our love support and care.**

Baptismal Prayer

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation made known to us in water and word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life. In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land.
You have come to us through water in the stories of Jesus who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb, baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, and became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well. Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and sent them forth to baptize with water and spirit. Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. Bless all who touch and taste this water that may be ever reminded of your abiding presence and claim on their lives.
Amen.

Act of Baptism

Pastor: Elias Q Davis-Wang, I baptize you in the name the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. May the Spirit be upon you, child of God, disciple of Christ,
and member of the Christian church.

Prayer of Dedication

All: God of wonder and grace, we thank you for your love revealed here this day as this community, these parents, and this child come together making covenant promises. We pray that this community will have the grace to uphold the promises made here this day , providing a safe shelter of your love in which this child may grow and play. We pray that these parents may continue to feel the sweet wonder of your presence so transparent here today. We pray that Elias will bask in your love as he makes his own journey through this life.

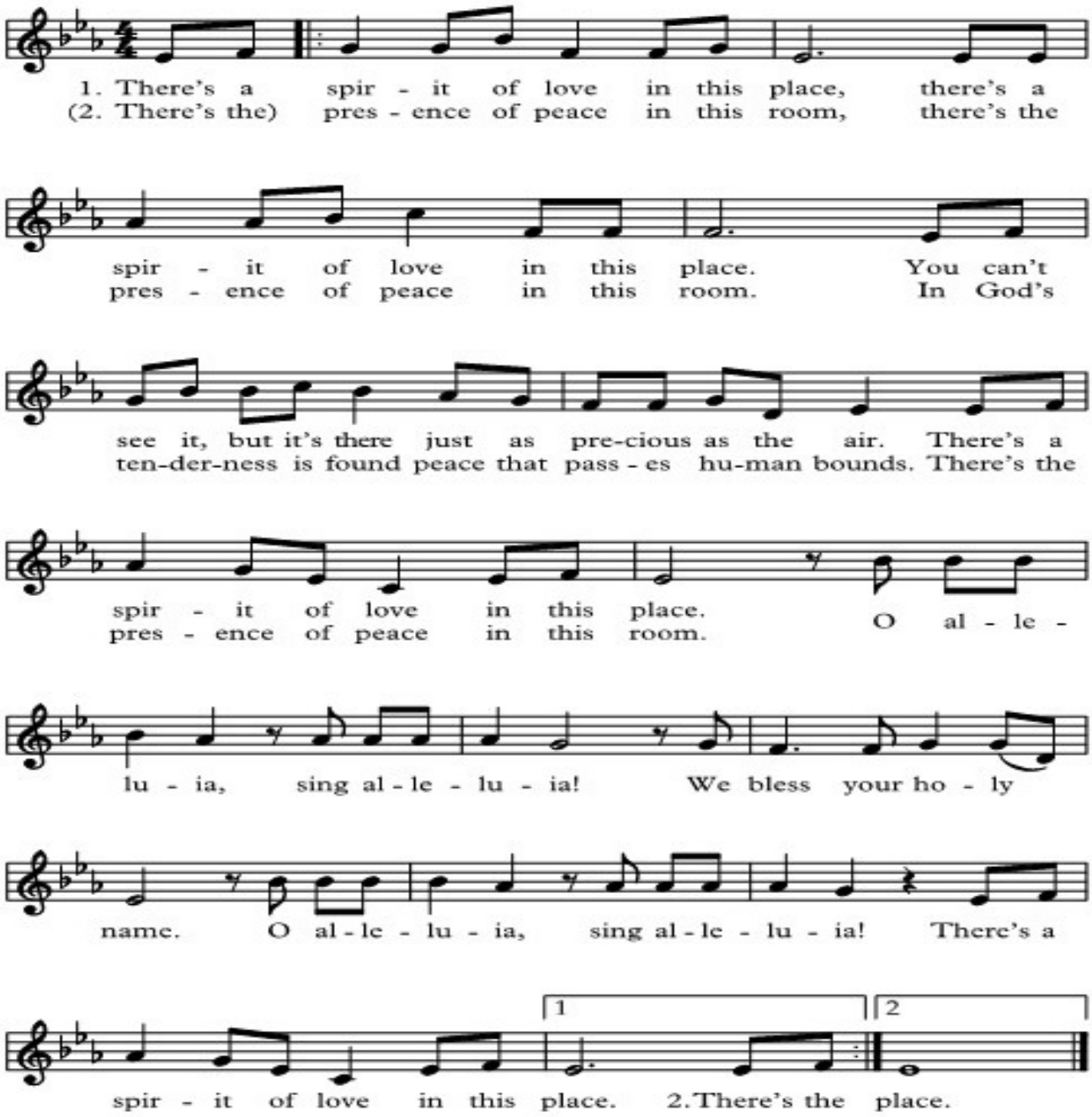
Amen.

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.

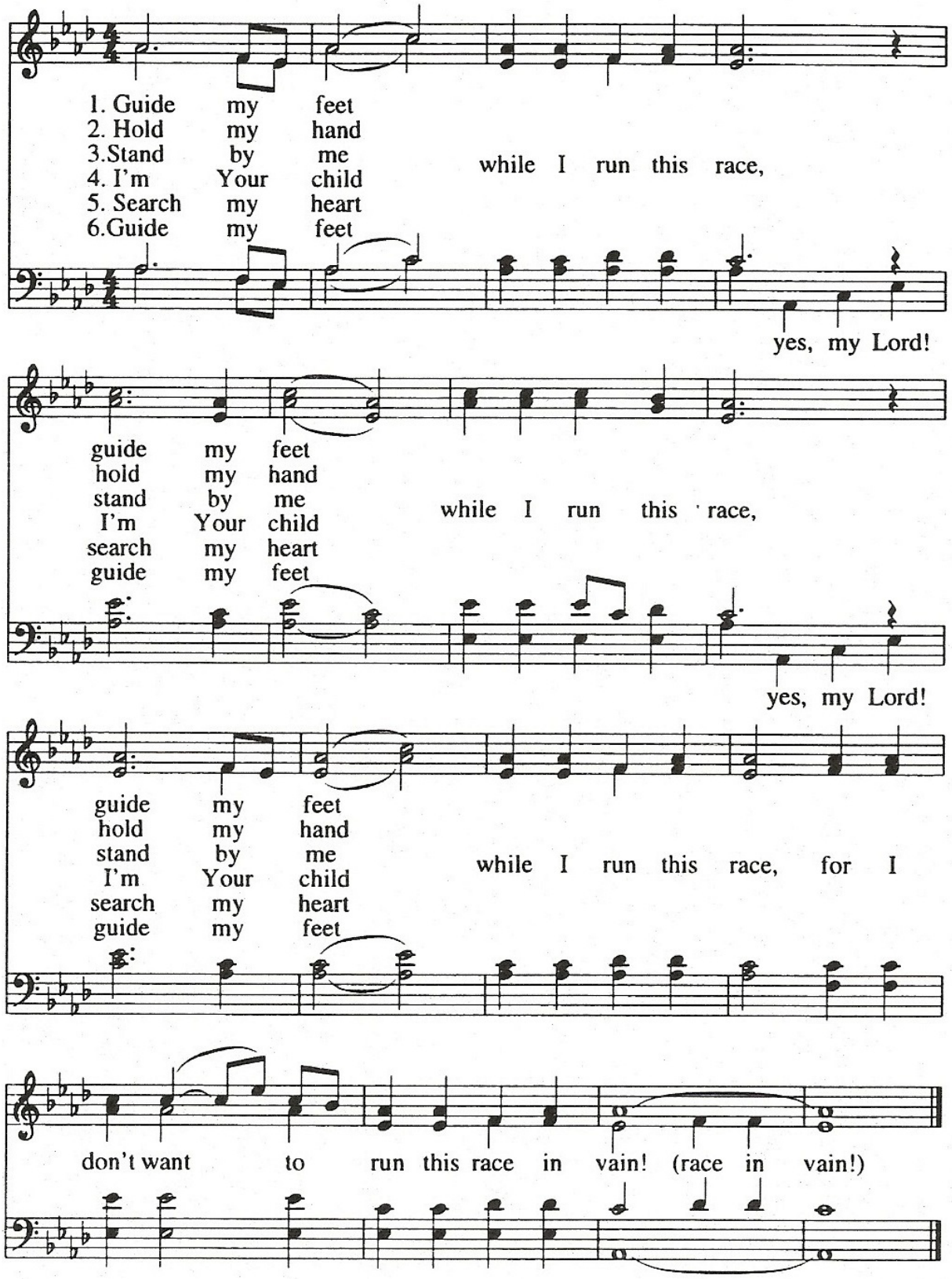
HYMN RESPONSE *Spirit of Love in This Place* MEDEMA

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 *Deuteronomy 34:1-5* Kate Bauer

34 Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the
top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the
whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, 2 all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and
Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, 3 the Negeb,
and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as
far as Zoar. 4 The Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to
Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your
descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not
cross over there." 5 Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in
the land of Moab, at the Lord's command.

***HYMN #609** Guide My Feet AfAmSpiritual;

SERMON Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr.

MUSICAL REFLECTION How Can I Keep from Singing? By Gwyneth Walker

My life flows on in endless song
above earth's lamentation.

I hear the real though distant
song that hails a new creation.

Through all the tumult and the
strife I hear the music ringing.

It sounds an echo in my soul,
how can I keep from singing?

What though the tempest loudly
roars, I hear the truth, it's living!

What though the darkness round
me close, songs in the night it's
giving!

No storm can shake my inmost
calm while to that rock I'm
clinging.

Since I believe that love abides,
how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble when they
hear the bells of freedom
ringing.

When friends rejoice both far
and near, how can I keep from
singing?

In prison cell, in dungeon dark,
our thoughts to them are
winging.

When friends hold courage in
their heart, how can I keep from
singing?

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 Elias Hopper, Jenni Hopper, James Morgan, Julia Sharma, Kristina Zallinger and Ruth Anne Olson.

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 with weather changes and their numbers growing.

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

We pray for a time when food and housing will no longer be deemed as luxuries by those in power.

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY God Has Work for Us To Do by Mark A. Miller

'Til all the jails are empty
and all the bellies filled;
'til no one hurts or steals or lies,
and no more blood is spilled:

Chorus:
God has work for us to do,
'til God's will is done,
and all things are made new,
God has work for us to do!

'Til age and race and gender
no longer separate;
'til pulpit, press, and politics
are free of greed and hate:
Chorus

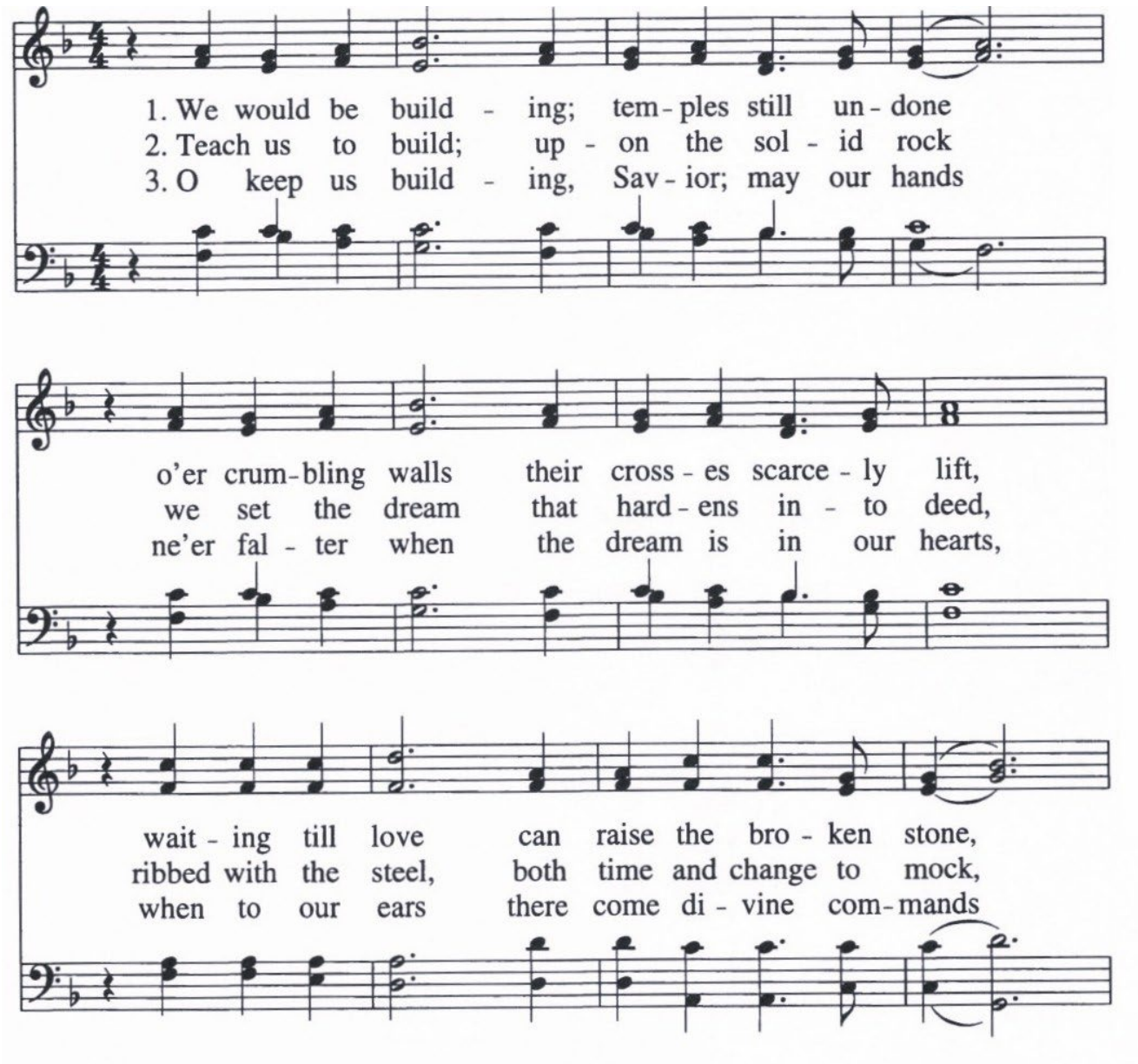
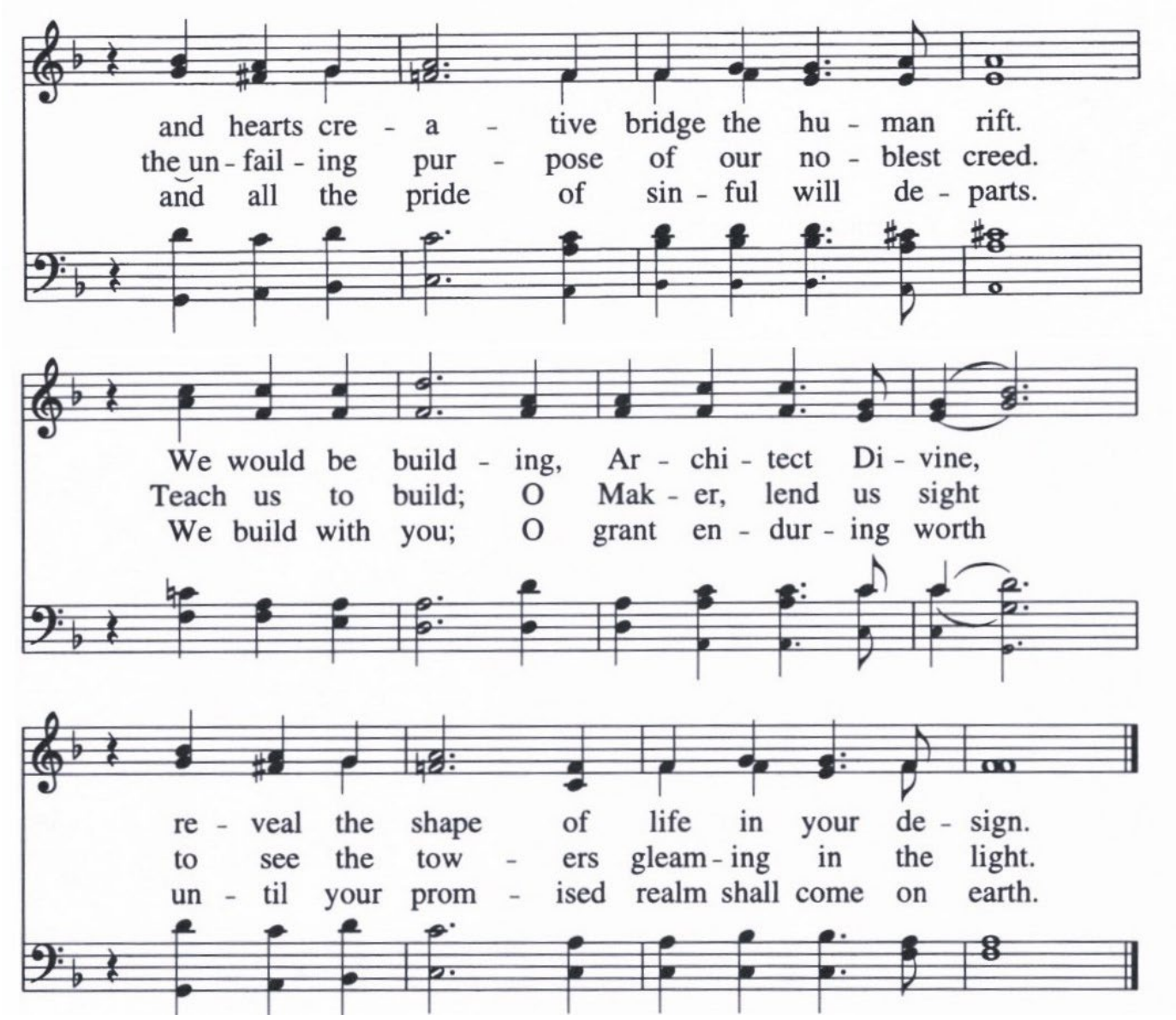
In tenement and mansion,
in fact'ry, farm, and mill,
in board room and in billiard hall,
in wards where time stands still,
in classroom, church, and office,
in shops, or on the street,
in ev'ry place where people thrive,
or starve, or hide, or meet.

By sitting at a bedside,
to hold pale, trembling hands,
by speaking for the powerless
against unjust demands.
By praying through our doing,
and singing though we fear,
by trusting that the seed we sow
will bring God's harvest near:
Chorus

***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 #411** We Would Be Building FINLANDIA

and hearts cre - a - tive bridge the hu - man rift.
the un - fail - ing pur - pose of our no - blest creed.
and all the pride of sin - ful will de - parts.
We would be build - ing, Ar - chi - tect Di - vine,
Teach us to build; O Mak - er, lend us sight
We build with you; O grant en - dur - ing worth
re - veal the shape of life in your de - sign.
to see the tow - ers gleam - ing in the light.
un - til your prom - ised realm shall come on earth.

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 "Someday We'll All Be Free" (arr. Nicole Lam)

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
Interim Choir Director	Grace Currie
Guest Musicians	Nicole Lam on piano, Marta Boratgis and Olav van Hezewijk, on oboes
UCG Choir	Cher Balkcom, Judith Carlson, Tess Klibanoff, Chris Leimgruber, Ava Paul, Julia Blue Raspe, Daniel Rausch, Connor Reese, Mary Scanlon
Digital Deacons	Worship & Music Ministry Team
Coffee Hour Coordinator	Dale Richards
Head Sexton	William Henton

THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH

October 25th: 10:00AM Worship Service – Online + Meeting House
October 29th: 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

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

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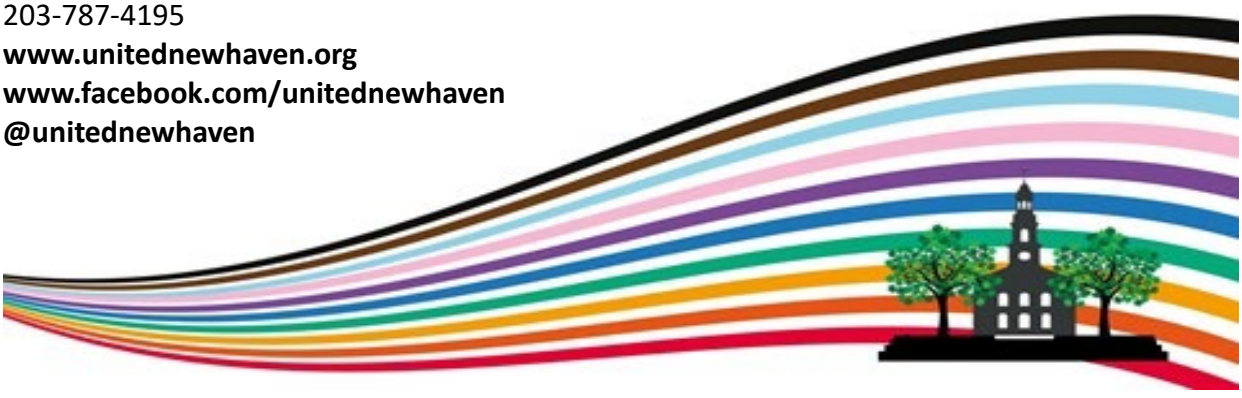
Bailey Murphy, *church secretary*	office@unitednewhaven.org

Rev. Louise B. Higginbotham, *minister emerita*
Rev. Dr. Bonnie Scott, *minister emerita*

United Church on the Green, UCC
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Parish House office, *corner of Temple & Wall*
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