

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.

We Gather as Church

PRELUDE

There is a Balm in Gilead (2001)
arr. by Adolphus Hailstork

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


***HYMN #86**

The Lone, Wild Bird

PROSPECT



1. The lone, wild bird in loft - y flight is still with you, nor
2. The ends of earth are in your hand, the sea's dark deep and
3. Each se - cret thought is known to you, the path I walk my
4. In se - cret depths you knit my frame, be - fore my birth you
5. O search me, God, my heart re - veal, re - new my life, my



leaves your sight. And I am yours! I rest in
far - off land. And I am yours! I rest in
whole life through, my days, my deeds, my hopes, my
spoke my name; with - in my soul, as close as
spir - it heal; for I am yours, I rest in



you. Great Spir - it, come, rest in me, too.
you. Great Spir - it, come, rest in me, too.
fears, my deep - est joys, my si - lent tears.
breath, so near to me, in life, in death.
you. Great Spir - it, come, rest in me, too.

*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.

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.

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

Luke 8:26-39

Tom George

²⁶ Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time, he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most-High God? I beg you, do not torment me," ²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him.

³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So, he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So, he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So, he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

*Please stand as you are able

***HYMN #400**

There is a Balm

BALM IN GILEAD



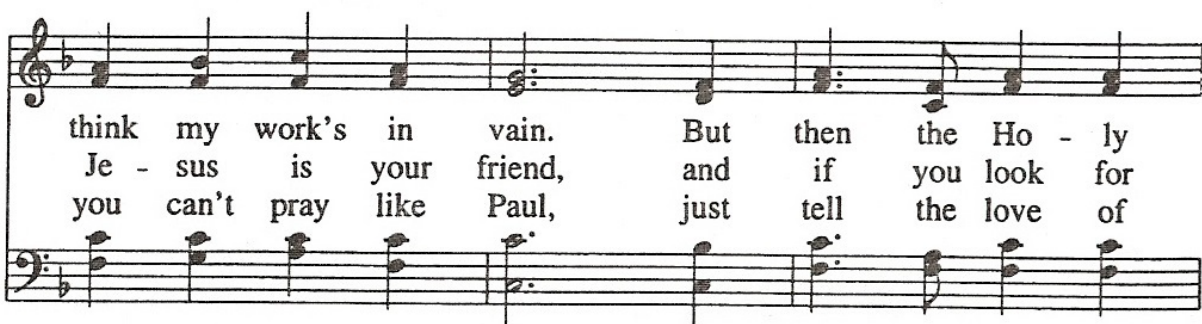
There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;



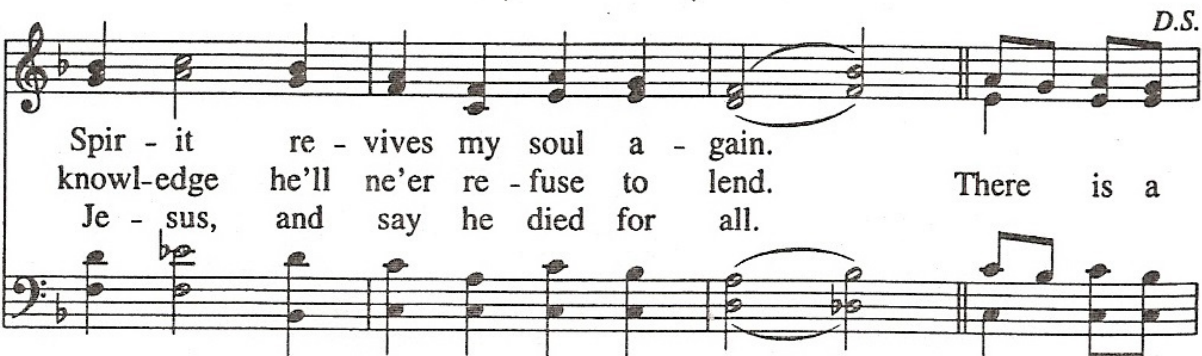
there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul. *Fine*



1. Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged, and
2. Don't ev - er feel dis - cour - aged, for
3. If you can't preach like Pe - ter, if



think my work's in vain. But then the Ho - ly
Je - sus is your friend, and if you look for
you can't pray like Paul, just tell the love of



D.S.
Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
knowl-edge he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend. There is a
Je - sus, and say he died for all.

*Please stand as you are able

SERMON

Moderator Abram Guerra

MEDITATION

Come Down, O Love Divine (2023)

arr. by Elizabeth Krouse

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 Fiki Ramos + Pat Wiener.

We celebrate with Yingxue + Harrison Davis-Wang on the birth of their son.

Prayers of thanks for the health and wellness of John Sawyer and Rev Stephen Ray.

Prayers for Hayhill, Son in Law of George Lindsay, as he begins his cancer treatments next month.

We pray for the healing, strength and resilience of all who are suffering from cancer.

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

*Please stand as you are able

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

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

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
arr. by Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748)

*Please stand as you are able

***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**

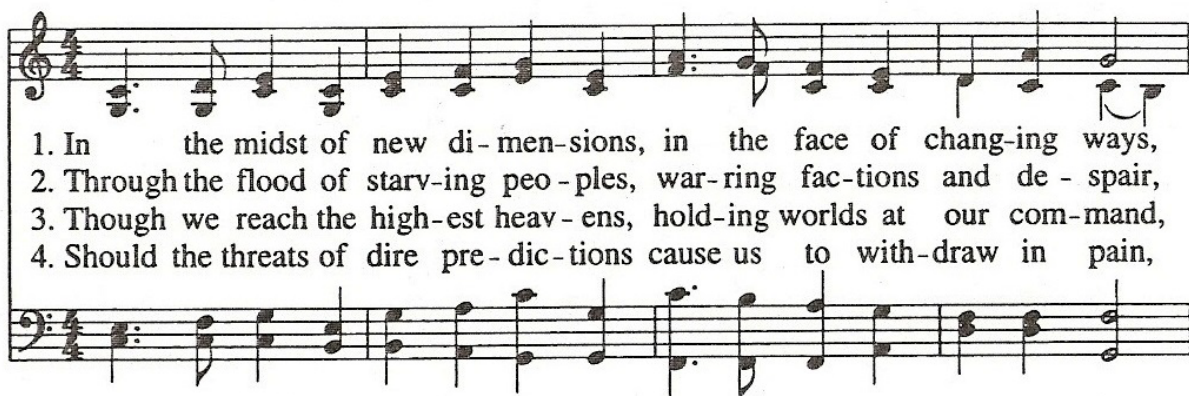
God, thank you, thank you, thank you – for your grace, for this community of faith, for the gifts of our lives. Bless these offerings today that they might be used to further your reign of righteousness here and now. Work through each of us and through the ministries of this congregation that we might glorify you in all we do. Amen.

***Please stand as you are able**

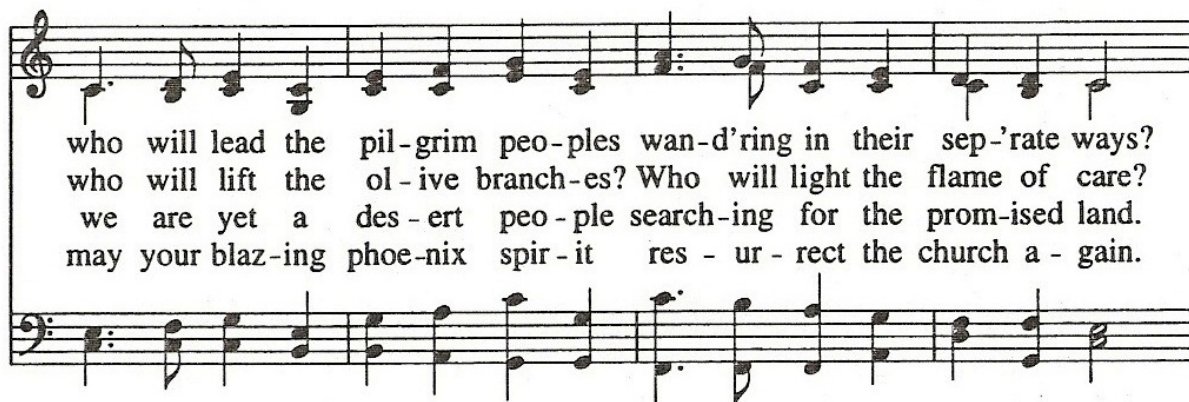
We Are Sent Out

***HYMN #363**

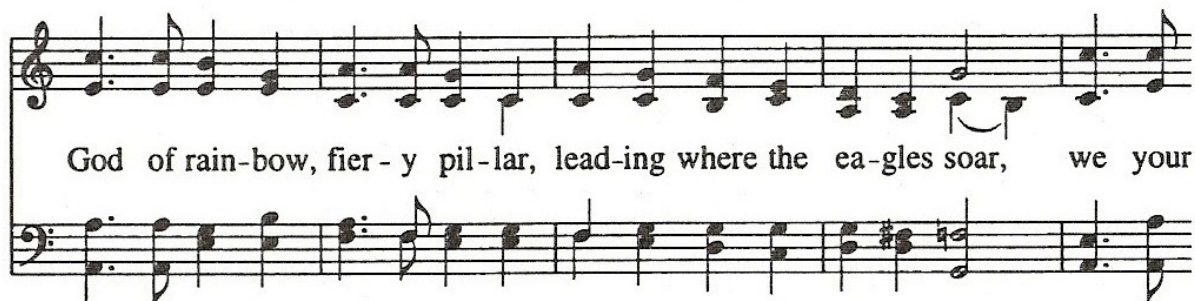
In the Midst of New Dimensions NEW DIMENSIONS



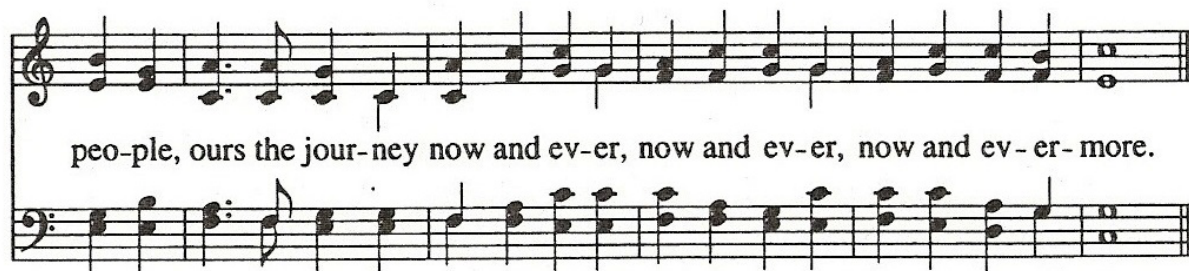
1. In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
2. Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ples, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
3. Though we reach the high-est heav-ens, hold-ing worlds at our com-mand,
4. Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,



who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-d'ring in their sep'-rate ways?
who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
we are yet a des-ert peo-ple search-ing for the prom-ised land.
may your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.



God of rain-bow, fier - y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, we your



peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev - er - more.

*Please stand as you are able

COMMISSION AND BLESSING.

Carolyn Streets

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

Toccata in E Minor

Johann Pachelbel (1653 – 1706)

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.
Summer Intern	Carolyn Streets
Director of Music	Caesar Storlazzi
Guest Organist	Karen Clute
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 22nd: 10:00AM Sunday Worship- Meeting House and Online

June 24th: 12Noon Staff Meeting - Online

June 25th: 12Noon Wednesday Prayer and Reflection - Meeting House

June 26th: 6:00PM Bible Study – Online

CHURCH NOTES

Musical Permissions

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MEETING HOUSE WIFI INFORMATION

WiFi Network: UCG Meetinghouse

WiFi Password: 2037874195

ORDINATION OF NATHAN PATTI

Join us as we celebrate the Ordination of Nathan Patti today at 3PM at First Church Amherst UCC located at 165 Main Street, Amherst in Massachusetts. Rev Stephen Ray will be speaking at the ceremony. Congratulations to Nathan Patti!

PLEASE WELCOME OUR PASTORAL INTERN, CAROLYN STREETS

The recent new face you've see at the Pulpit is Yale MDiv Candidate Carolyn L. Streets.

Ms Streets has over 26 years of experience as a public-school teacher. She is an expert on curriculum design and models of instruction that effectively and successfully assist students from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds to enhance their skills and levels of academic achievements. Ms. Streets is the recipient of numerous national awards and holds the distinction of being a double Fulbright Scholar.

A graduate of Ottawa (Kansas) University, Quinnipiac University and as a candidate for the Master of Divinity degree from Yale University Divinity School, Ms. Streets brings critical ethical insights regarding public education, teaching and policy.

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE 2025

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 to use this link:

<https://unitednewhaven.org/donate>. This will bring you to a secure site where you can fill out a pledge form.

If you are uncomfortable using the link above, you may also pledge

- By completing a pledge slip you can find on the table in the narthex
- By simply writing the amount of your pledge with your name and dropping it in the collection plate
- By informing any member of the leadership team of your pledge

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

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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office@unitednewhaven.org

nancyalupi@gmail.com

operations@unitednewhaven.org

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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