

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.

May 31, 2026

10:00AM

Trinity Sunday A

We Gather as Church

*Please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in F-Sharp Major
From "The Well-Tempered Klavier"

J. S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Lord spoke and the world was created.

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

One: The Lord breathed into us the breath of the Holy Spirit, giving life.

Prophecy to these bones and say to them, "Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!"

One: He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

He comes to baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire!

One: And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them.

The glory of the Lord fills the room bringing unity in the Holy Spirit.

One: And so it came to pass, the Lord poured out the Spirit on all flesh.

A people filled with prophecies, dreams, visions, signs, and wonders.

One: Pour out your Spirit and we shall be your people!


Our God is an all-consuming fire!

***HYMN #33**



When in Our Music God Is Glorified

ENGELBERG


Unison



1. When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, and ad - o - ra - tion
2. How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found a new di - men - sion
3. So has the church, in wor - ship and in song, in faith and love, through
4. And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night when ut - most e - vil
5. Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise! Let all re - joice who



leaves no room for pride, it is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried,
in the world of sound, as wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found
cen - tu - ries of wrong, borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - ery tongue:
strove a - gainst the Light? Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:
have a voice to raise! And may God give us faith to sing al - ways:



"Al - le - lu - ia!" "Al - le - lu - ia!"
"Al - le - lu - ia!"
"Al - le - lu - ia!"
"Al - le - lu - ia!"



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

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

Romans 12:9-16b

Sue Hartt

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

***HYMN #471**

I Want Jesus To Walk with Me

SOJOURNER

1. I want Je - sus to walk with me; (walk with me)
2. In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3. When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me;
4. When I'm dy - ing, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me; (walk with me)
In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me;
When I'm dy - ing, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in an - guish,
when I'm on my bed of sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. (with me)

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Intermezzo

Johannes Brahms

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.

Our prayers begin with rejoicing that the Holy Spirit 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 because too many believe that warm weather erases their need.

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

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 sing together with the words you taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Mark Miller

mp

Our God, in hea-ven, ho-ly is your name, your

reign come, your will done, on earth as in hea-ven.

slower

Give us to-day our dai-ly bread, and help us for-give, as we have been for-giv-en.

mf

In the time of tri-al lead us in-to light, for yours is the kin-dom, and the

f *mp*

po-wer, and the glo-ry, for-e-ver. Our God, in

hea-ven, ho-ly is your name, ho-ly is your name.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We invite you to greet one another with signs of peace

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this,
And let it be heard, Alleluia!
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.
The Lord hath delivered all people, Alleluia!
O be joyful in God, all ye lands,
O sing praises to the honor of God's name,
Make all praise to be glorious.

***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 #28

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH

1. Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Sov - ereign God, we
2. Hark, the glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
3. All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred
4. Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,

bow be - fore you; all on earth your scep - ter claim,
round are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
name they hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
Three we name you, while in es - sence tru - ly one,

all the heaven - ly hosts a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heavens with
and the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn to
un - di - vid - ed God we claim you; so we gath - er

vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
joys a - flame: ho - ly, ho - ly is your name.
set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
rev - erent - ly to a - dore the mys - ter - y.

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

Allegro Giocoso

Leo Kraft

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 together with all the Open Choir Participants
Digital Deacons	Worship & Music Ministry Team
Coffee Hour Coordinator	Dale Richards
Head Sexton	William Henton

THIS WEEK AT UNITED CHURCH

May 31st: 10:00AM Worship Service - Meeting House and Online
11:15AM New Member Exploration Talk - Meeting House

June 2nd: 12Noon Staff Meeting – Online

June 4th: 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

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.

Annual Congregational Meeting - June 28, 2026

Notice is given that the 283rd Annual Congregational Meeting of United Church on the Green will be held following the Worship Service on Sunday June 28, 2026 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.

ANNUAL REPORT

If you are in Leadership, please send a brief synopsis of your Committee/ Task Force Work and Accomplishments for the past year to the front office:

office@unitednewhaven.org Please send all reports in Word Format by Friday June 19th, so that we have ample time to send it out to the copiers for publishing.

RECENT NEW MEMBERS

If you joined United Church in 2026, please send your name and the date you joined to the front office: office@unitednewhaven.org, so that we can acknowledge you in this year's Annual Report.

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.

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*

pastor@unitednewhaven.org

music@unitednewhaven.org

media@unitednewhaven.org

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*

323 Temple Street, New Haven, CT 06511

203-787-4195

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