

**HAMDEN PLAINS  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
15 Church Street, Hamden, CT 06514  
203- 248-4654**



I tried to throw in  
the towel. God threw  
it back and said,  
"Wipe your face.  
You're almost there!"

*"The mission of the  
Hamden Plains United Methodist Church is sharing God's love by  
creating a safe and welcoming community, connecting people's  
needs with God's power, and reconciling divisions through*

## **-Mission Statement**

## 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 1, 2026

## ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

+ Those able please stand

## PRELUDE

## +OPENING HYMN

## “Blessed Assurance”

UMH #369

## WELCOME TO THE PARISH

## Bill Welch

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

## Bill Welch

**Leader:** In Judah God is known; his name is great in Israel.

**People:** His abode has been established in Salem, his dwelling place in Zion.

**Leader:** There he broke the flashing arrows, the shield, the sword, and the weapons of war.

**People: Glorious are you, more majestic than the everlasting mountains.**

**OPENING PRAYER****Bill Welch**

Dear God, as we are in this season of life, we celebrate Jesus Christ and the acknowledgement that He is the Son of God as we spread the goodness of Your grace throughout the earth. Mark 16:15 says " And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation." We thank You dear Lord for the privilege to serve You, and to spread Your word throughout the land, Amen.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:****Bill Welch**

We thank You dear God for being the Father that You are. You are a good, great and glorious God, and there is no other like You. You have sent Your Son to earth, so that through confession I can be forgiven of my sins. Through Your death You have allowed me to be free from sin. Romans 6:22 says "But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. For this I will forever praise Your holy name, Amen.

*Offer prayers of silent confession.*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE****Rev. Cleaven Johnson, Jr.****BLACK HISTORY MOMENT****New Praize****JOYS & CONCERNS***After each request***Bill Welch**

Leader: Lord in your mercy    People: ***Hear our prayer***

**PASTORAL PRAYER****Rev. Cleaven Johnson, Jr.****+THE PASSING OF THE PEACE****Bill Welch**

*Song: The Jesus in Me*

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE****Old Testament:***2 Chronicles 20:15-17***Bill Welch**

<sup>15</sup> He said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you: Do not fear or be dismayed at this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's. <sup>16</sup> Tomorrow go down against them; they will come up by the ascent of Ziz; you will find them at the end of the valley, before the wilderness of Jeruel. <sup>17</sup> This battle is not for you to fight; take your position, stand still, and see the victory of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, and the LORD will be with you."

Leader: The Word of the Lord. People: ***Thanks be to God***

**+ New Testament:***Matthew 15:32-39***Bill Welch**

<sup>32</sup> Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for the crowd because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat, and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way." <sup>33</sup> The disciples said to him, "Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus asked them, "How many loaves have you?" They said, "Seven, and a few small fish." <sup>35</sup> Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, <sup>36</sup> he took the seven loaves and the fish, and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>37</sup> And all of them ate and were filled, and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. <sup>38</sup> Those who had eaten were four thousand men, besides women and children. <sup>39</sup> After sending away the crowds, he got into the boat and went to the region of Magadan.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: ***Praise to you, Lord Christ***

**SERMON***"Don't throw in the towel!!!"***Rev. Cleaven Johnson, Jr.****SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER****UMH #15**

## OFFERING

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

**Bill Welch**

*Please mail or drop off your tithes and offerings to:*

*15 Church Street, Hamden, CT 06514.*

*Noisy Offering (coins for missions) may be dropped off at the church.*

**ANTHEM**      "I'm Goin'a Sing When The Spirit Says Sing"      **Adult Choir**

**+RESPONSE**      "The Doxology"      **UMH #95**

**+OFFERTORY PRAYER**      **Rev. Cleaven Johnson, Jr.**

Luke 6:38 says "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. We give this morning with the expectation of knowing that Your word is true. We plant this seed by faith into Your kingdom here on earth, Jesus. We know that You will bless us as we shall be blessed. We thank You for Your many blessings. It is in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## GOING FORTH

**+CLOSING HYMN**      "Glorious Things Of Thee are Spoken"      **UMH #731**

**BENEDICTION**      **Rev. Cleaven Johnson, Jr.**

**RECESSONAL**      "Sanctuary"

**The Postlude**

**The Worship has ended. The Service Begins**

**PASTOR OFFICE HOURS:** Wednesday's 3-7 pm. Please call the office if you need to meet with the Pastor. HE is also available Thursday's & Friday's Appointment only

**MEDITATION TIME:** The Prayer Room will be available prior to service for anyone who would like to pray or have quiet time and prepare for service.

**YOUR CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT MEANS SO MUCH!**

Please mail gifts to HPUMC, 15 Church Street, Hamden, CT 06514 or drop them off during office hours, Tues - Fri., 9:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. For Venmo, scan QR code or go to [www.venmo.com/HamdenPlains-UMC](http://www.venmo.com/HamdenPlains-UMC).



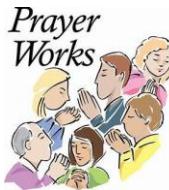
**CONNECTIONAL BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP:** Tuesday's at 6:30 pm on Zoom. Micah6:1-8; Psalms 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

**CHOIR REHEARSAL:** WEDNESDAYS 7:00 p.m. If you would like more information about joining the choir, please contact Dunn Pearson ([dunnpearson@gmail.com](mailto:dunnpearson@gmail.com)) for more information. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.



All are invited to *Dinner for a Dollar* each Saturday, 6 – 7 p.m. take-out only through the Church Street doors.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2026** are on the table in the Narthex. If you do not see one for you please see Nancy or call the office.



**SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS** should be called or e-mailed to Nancy Estes at 203.248.4654 or [secretary.hpumc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.hpumc@gmail.com)

**THIS WEEKS PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Pray without ceasing; give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

1 Thessalonians 5:17-19

Muriel Collins, Healing  
Mike, pneumonia  
Neema, pneumonia & anemia  
Lainey, Finances  
Lorraine Welch, cancer  
Lois Hartsoe, heart issues  
Lois Fucci  
Harold Estes, cancer  
Willie & Delores Freeman  
Pam Gripper  
Ed & Brenda Pineau, resting at home  
Barbara, request from Louise Pruchnicki  
Holly Wesman, partner of Karen Sroka, cancer

**Home Bound/ Rehab**

Pam Gripper, 91 East Gate Lane, Hamden, 06514  
Lois Hartsoe, 7310 Ashlar Village, Wallingford, 06492  
Pat Leno, 850 Mix Avenue, Hamden, 06514  
Jimmy Morrison, 112 East Gate Lane, Hamden, 06514  
Carmine Raccio, 15 Sunrise Cove Road, Branford, 06405  
Marianne Reynolds, 520 Pool Rd. Apt. 424, North Haven, 06473  
Rosemary Shaw, 345 Fountain Street, Apt. 202, New Haven, 06515



**WAYS TO BE IN MINISTRY AND MISSION:**

- Host Fellowship Hour
- Bring your "Cans for the Congo" during office hours or on Sundays.
- Drop off food for the Hamden Food Bank.
- Cook and/or serve for "Dinner for a Dollar" (take-out only). To sign up, contact Elias Joseph at 203.464.4988 or [eliasvjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:eliasvjoseph@gmail.com)
- Check in by phone or send a note to someone home-bound or elderly.
- Continue to mail in your tithes and offerings.
- Donate used books to our Little Free Library
- Donate used printer ink cartridges
- Stay abreast of developments by reading your e-mail or checking the website.
- Read the upcoming Sunday scriptures as an act of spiritual formation
- Become a reporter for *The Messenger*

For information about these ministries, contact Nancy Estes at 203.248.4654/  
[secretary.hpumc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.hpumc@gmail.com)

**Worship Assistants**

	<b>TODAY February 1</b>	<b>Next Week, February 8</b>
<b>Liturgist</b>	Bill Welch	Kersten Moore
<b>Ushers</b>	Randi Harrell	Ed Zorian
<b>Fellowship Time</b>	Lynn Brantley	
<b>Counters</b>	John Brantley Kersten Moore	Shelly Jones Kirby Stafford

**January 25: ATTENDANCE: 7  
OFFERING:**

**CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF February 1, 2026**

Sunday	February 1	Worship	10:15 am
		Fellowship	Following worship
Tuesday	February 3	Bible Study	6:30 pm
Wednesday	February 4	Prayer Group	11:00 am
Thursday	February 5	Worship	6:30 pm
		SPRC	7:30 pm
Saturday	February 7	Dinner for a Dollar	6:00 pm
Sunday	February 8	Worship	10:15 am
		Fellowship	Following worship

[www.hamdenplainsumc.com](http://www.hamdenplainsumc.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/HamdenPlainsUMC/>

The YouTube channel address:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxwHc1E3\\_YK4W1nHICt5iAA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxwHc1E3_YK4W1nHICt5iAA)

or <https://tinyurl.com/t9q8gw6>

**Worship at 10:15 a.m. Sundays**

**Minister: All Congregation Members**

Rev. Cleaven Johnson, Jr., Pastor, [rareblm1@gmail.com](mailto:rareblm1@gmail.com)

Dunn Pearson, Musician Ministry, [dunnperson@gmail.com](mailto:dunnperson@gmail.com)

Nancy Estes, Parish Secretary, [secretary.hpumc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.hpumc@gmail.com)

Derrick Pommills, Property Manager, [pommillsfacilitieservices@gmail.com](mailto:pommillsfacilitieservices@gmail.com)