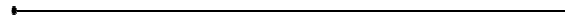


NIANTIC COMMUNITY CHURCH

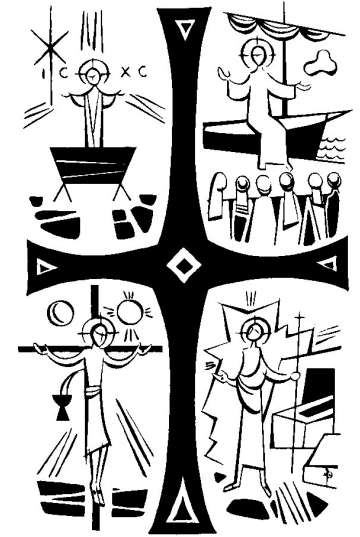
An Open, Affirming, and Reconciling congregation of the
United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church

A Heritage of Faith since 1719 • Each Member a Minister

“Whoever you are;
wherever you are on life’s journey:
you are welcome here.”



July 25, 2010 • 10:00AM
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



Lemmens

PRELUDE

“Prelude in E flat”

SHARING OF PARISH ACTIVITIES & RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

Those in each pew closest to the center aisle will please begin passing the Friendship Pads so that everyone has an opportunity to indicate their presence here today and make a note of any messages. After the sharing of parish concerns, all will be invited to greet one another in Christian fellowship and love. Prayer requests will be collected during the first hymn.

INTROIT

RECEIVING GOD’S WORD AND CHRIST’S LIGHT IN OUR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The world belongs to God,

All: The earth and all its people.

How good it is, how wonderful,

To live together in unity.

Love and faith come together,

Justice and peace join hands.

If Jesus’ disciples keep silent,

The stones themselves would shout aloud.

Open our lips, O God,

And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

✠ HYMN #431

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

WORLD PEACE

Prayer requests will be collected

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Holy God, Maker of all

All: Have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor

Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, Breath of life

Have mercy on us.

Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

(Prayer in silence)

Before God, with the people of God,

I confess to my brokenness:

to the ways I wound my life,

the lives of others,

and the life of the world.

**May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

Amen.

Before God, with the people of God,

we confess to our brokenness:

to the ways we wound our lives,

the lives of others,

and the life of the world.

May God forgive you, Christ renew you,

and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 11:1-13

Reader: Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scripture.

People: Our hearts and minds are open.

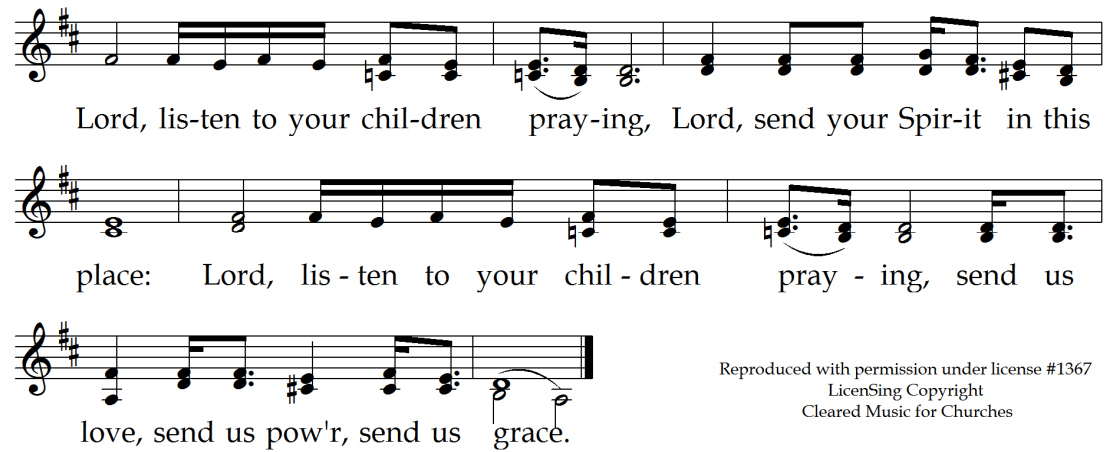
PRAYERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

RESPONSE IN SONG "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this
place: Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, send us
love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

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A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

✘ HYMN #111

"How Can We Name a Love"

TERRA BEATA

Children attending *Divine Activity Time* (for PreK-4th grade)
may leave during the singing of the hymn.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR JASON SHERIDAN

Elizabeth and Steven Sheridan, *parents*
Katie Bristol and Greg Cikatz, *godparents*

LITANY OF BAPTISM

Pastor: We are gathered to present this child to the church and to dedicate him to God. What can we affirm about him?

People: That he is a child of God and made in the image of God.

As he grows in our congregation, how will he know that he is a child of God, made in God's image?

We will give him our love and include him in the life and ministries of this church.

How will he learn of the Christian faith?

People: Through our teaching and the example of our lives. We will tell him about Abraham, the father of our faith; about Sarah, the mother of Isaac; about Moses and Miriam who led our ancestors out of bondage; about Ruth's faithfulness; about the Jewish hope for a messiah; about Mary and Joseph's

openness to mystery; about our Savior, Jesus; and about the history of the Church as the people of God.

And what, in turn, will we expect of him?

We look forward to sitting with him at the Lord's Table, sharing with him the costs and joys of discipleship, learning and growing with him in the Christian pilgrimage, and declaring with one voice our faith in God and God's son, Jesus.

QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

QUESTIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

Deacon: And do you, the congregation of Niantic Community Church, pledge to work toward creating and maintaining a nurturing and challenging Christian environment for this child?

People: We do, for he belongs to us as well.

Then, may God be with us.

God help us. Amen.

POURING OF WATER

BAPTISMAL PRAYER

THE ACT OF BAPTISM

RENEWAL OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Pastor: May the Eternal God, who in Christ has given us new birth by water and the Spirit, now give us the grace we need to fulfill what we have promised

People: Let us be faithful to our Savior Christ, for ever and ever.

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

Deacon: Now, with joyful hearts let us welcome the newest member of the body of Christ:

People: We rejoice in God's empowering love, freely given to each and all. We welcome you, Jason, newly baptized, into the loving embrace of our church, which is called the Body of Christ. We promise to pray for you, to seek the depths of faith with you, to support you, and to love you. We covenant with you to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. In this way we shall learn from one another, grow stronger, and more often be faithful to God as servants to all people. So be it!

OFFERTORY

Leader: In each baptism we remember our own baptism, and our promises: to love God above all; to walk in the way of Jesus; to be remade for life in God's kingdom. We are on God's ground, now: as often as we renew our vows the world has no claim on us! Blessing is ours, abundance is ours, grace is ours, all given by our God whose love knows no end. Receive God's embrace, and give thanks.

Let us gather our gifts with grateful praise, and offer them to God's purposes.

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE MUSICAL OFFERING

Ned Ruete

✠ DOXOLOGY

OLD 100TH

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, comforter:
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

✠ UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Accept the offering we bring, O God, in response to the grace that you have poured into our hearts. May our lives bear witness to your covenant of grace, in all we say and do. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Hosea 1:2-10

SERMON

"Not What We Expected"

John A. Nelson

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

✠ HYMN #428

"For the Healing of the Nations"

CWM RHONDDA

✠ BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN

(Hymnal, 898)

POSTLUDE

"Amazing Grace"

**Please remain seated in silence during the Postlude
before going out to serve as Christ's representatives in the world.**

✠ ✠ ✠

WELCOME TO NIANTIC COMMUNITY CHURCH!

A Heritage of Faith since 1719, and an Open, Affirming, and Reconciling congregation, Niantic Community Church is a federated congregation of the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ. It is also a welcoming home to people from a great variety of church backgrounds and life experiences. Your presence here today is a gift to us! We hope you will feel God's Spirit here today through our worship and fellowship.

If you are a visitor, we invite you to sign our guest register by the rear entrance to the sanctuary. "Welcome" information packets, children's bulletins, and toys are also available. Our services are recorded each week. You may listen to sermons online: from the home page of our website, click on the "Sermon Archive" link. Audio tapes are also available by calling the church office (739-6208).

**Please set cell phones and pagers to silent mode
(unless you're expecting a call from Jesus)**

**Assistive Listening Devices, Large Print Bibles, Bulletins, and
Hymnals are available. Please ask an usher for assistance!**

Today's Worship Leaders

Ushers: Pam Stevens, Terry & Laureen McCarthy, Bob Mikkelson

Worship Leader: Joyce Wood

Preacher: The Rev. John A. Nelson

Parish Host: Pam McCauley

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary to the Glory of God
by the Diaconate Board.

✂ All who are able may stand at these times

Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession reprinted by permission of the publisher from *Iona Abbey Worship Book* (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications © 2001)

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Ministers: All Participants in the Life of the Congregation

Worship & Music

Organist and Music Director: Paul Althouse

Director of Handbell Choirs: Judy Barnard

Directors of Children's and Gospel Choirs:

Lee Wilkerson & Nikki Rollins

Sound Engineers: Dick Robinson, Ron Deziel

Seashore Praise Team: Ellen Ashburn; Diane Blair; John Parker; Ocean Pellett; Ned Ruete

Education & Youth

Director of Religious Education & Youth

Ministries: Jessica Bunger

Children's Center Director: Kathy Tiller

Caring & Community

Community Minister: Patty Chaffee

Parish Nurse: Marie LaTourette

Pastor and Teacher: The Rev. John A. Nelson

Holding the Parts Together!

Church Secretary: Judy Snitkin

Church Officers: Kim Kalajainen, *president*;

John Whritner, *vice-president*; Avery

Morgan, *clerk*; Linda Leavens, *treasurer*, Liz

Kuchta, *historian*

Financial Secretary: Judy Layden

Bookkeeper: Maureen Godin

Librarian, Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Datum

OCCASIONS FOR SERVICE, WITNESS, AND PRAYER

In Our Prayers:

We gladly list joys and concerns, and typically print them for four weeks after they are offered in worship. (Prayer requests may be renewed at any time.)

New Concerns:

Denise Walstra, recovering from surgery • Cathie and Warren • Bob Wassung, recovering from surgery • Doris Curtis

Continuing concerns:

Dianne and her pregnancy • Great-grandmother Nellie, recovering from stroke • Christine, looking for work • Mark Hansen, recovering from brain surgeries • Grandchildren Katrina and Tiffany, surgery • Martha Clark, surgery • Jacky and Paul, separated during Paul's 8-month deployment • For family healing • Comfort and strength for Aunt Helen • Mary Kay, recovering from surgery • Billy, recovering from surgery • New relationships in blended families • Diane, healing from surgery • Nancy Morissette • Natalia and Joe Devivo • Alyssa, traveling in California • Billy Pasqualini • Ginger • Alan • Anne, recovering from knee surgery • Conner • Nancy Gwin, sentenced to 6-months in prison for protesting against violence and

human rights abuses • Rachel Ayer, in hospice care • Paul Swann • Those suffering from depression and anxiety.

In treatment for cancer:

Nancy, chemotherapy for brain tumor • Fr. Emmett Jarrett, metastasized cancer • Missy Gardner • Nancy Jacobson, brain cancer • Ray Herzberg • Davida Crabtree and David Hindinger • Clara Ball — and their families, friends, and caregivers.

A lamentation for the ongoing devastation of the Gulf Coast, and for the human failings that have brought catastrophe on God's creatures and creation.

The peoples of Haiti, Chile, and Turkey amidst the devastation of the earthquakes, those who seek to aid them, and the families and friends anxiously awaiting news or grieving for their losses • People of Honduras, especially our mission partners in Omoa and Chachaguala Those suffering due to the ongoing financial woes of the nation, whether struggling to meet

an unaffordable mortgage, confronting the loss of a job, or working to find just resolutions to the crisis.

Friends and family now serving our country in the armed forces: Scott Basham; Greg Balsmeier; Alyson Barrett; Brian Donovan; Josh Earnhart; Matt Fergione; Tony Fergione; Matt Liebal; Nathaniel Lowe; Brian Perchal; Zachary Peters; Peter Rondeau; Caitlin Strauhal; Stephen Weiss.

All those serving or living in war or conflict zones around the world, particularly in Iraq, Afghanistan, Colombia, Gaza, Georgia, India, Pakistan, and the Sudan.

**Family & Friends
who have passed away:**

Jim Burkhardt
Terry Desmond • Deborah Painter

Olga Starsewa • Crystal Molina
Judith Latourette • Stanley Bohara
Servicemen and service women who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan

We thank God for their lives, and offer prayers of comfort and support for family and friends who mourn their passing.

Praise and Thanksgiving:

For Annice Proud's recovery from ear surgery
• For Nancy's progress with brain cancer • For successful surgery • Birthdays of Brian Donovan, Clara Ball, and Ruth Beckwith (104 years!) • Wedding of Josh Cushing and Emily Marquet • For earthly life and for eternal life in God • For vacations and retirement!.

IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST OR WOULD LIKE A PASTORAL VISIT, be sure to let us know by calling the church office (860-739-6208) or emailing Pastor John at jnelson@nianticcommunitychurch.org. Sometimes we don't find out about an injury or illness or other need until long after — so please call!

WE ALSO HAVE AN ON-GOING PRAYER CHAIN. To add a prayer request to the Prayer Chain please send an email to prayers@nianticcommunitychurch.org, or call the church office (860-739-6208).

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP, Thursdays at 7pm by the pond, weather permitting. Come for casual worship, uplifting music. All ages welcome, refreshments served.

THE CHURCH WILL CONSIDER gifts of jewelry, art, coin collections, antiques, mineral rights and related items. These gifts can be made during your lifetime or at your death. Contact your tax advisor for more information about how to calculate your tax deduction.

COOKBOOKS ARE IN!!! And did you know that they cost only two cents per recipe? What can you buy for 2 cents? One Table, Many Meals is a great resource for any kitchen and a beautiful gift. Chock full of scripture, prayers, and delicious recipes, people are buying

them by the handful. Get yours today in the Parish Life or church offices. We will also ship them or hand delivered them locally. \$15

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING, August 1st. Christian Hour 9:00-9:45am; Worship Service 10:00am; Guest Preacher, Shirley Anderson. Scripture readings: Psalm 107:1-9, 43 or Psalm 49:1-12; Hosea 11:1-11 or Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE TREASURER: If you plan to donate stock to the church, please contact Judy Layden or Linda Leavens for the current account numbers as our accounts and numbers have changed.

KUNDALINI YOGA FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: Thursdays, 5:30- 6:30pm, in the multi-purpose room. Ongoing. Register by contacting Sukh Aman 860-287-1824 or emailing sukhamankaur@aol.com

COME JOIN THE FUN at On the Rocks Restaurant at Fox Hopyard Golf Club for lunch on August 29th. This is the year-end activity for the dinner groups and everyone is invited whether you were in a group or not. Fox Hollow is located in East Haddam (One Hopyard Road, East Haddam for your GPS) and the cost per person is \$20, including gratuity. The menu is a classic backyard BBQ with marinated chicken, hamburgers/cheese burgers and all the trimmings plus coffee and dessert. Lunch begins at 3:00pm. Deadline for signing up is August 10th. Make checks payable to Niantic Community Church, (memo: Fox Hopyard dinner). Questions?? Email Cheri Meier: cherimeier@hotmail.com or Edna Gilstad: egilstad@aol.com.

COOKBOOK MINISTRY - If you feel called to help sell cookbooks during coffee hour, at Summer Suppers or other events in the coming months please let us know. It is an easy, single commitment ministry that will help make our cookbook fundraiser a huge success. Contact Carole Glenn csg1@ct.metrocast.net or Patty Chaffee at 860-739-6208.

AUGUST 3RD is just around the corner for the second of NCC's traditional summer suppers and we need your help. Sign up sheets for the Monday night setup crew, the wait staff, the kitchen team, and the scullery are in the narthex. No experience necessary,

come enjoy the fellowship. The remaining suppers are scheduled for Aug. 3, and Aug. 17.

THANK YOU for your prayers as 16 of our youth and 4 adults spent the week in Boston on the Annual Summer Service Trip. They are eager to share their stories and adventures!

ALTAR FLOWERS: August 8, 15; Sept 5; October 10, 31 are available if you would like to have flowers placed on the altar in memory or celebration of loved ones. The approximate cost is \$35. The flower chart is located on the bulletin board outside of the church office. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the church office (739-6208). Thank you.

CONFIRMATION COMING SOON! Parents of children entering the 9th grade in the fall should contact Jess Bunger at 739-6208 or jessbunger@nianticcommunitychurch.org if they are interested in participating in the confirmation ministry starting in September.

WE ARE PAVING THE WAY ... TO A MORE WELCOMING CHURCH!

On July 11th we voted to take care of our bumpy, crumbling parking lot by raising the funds necessary to make it safe and inviting for all who come to Niantic Community Church. The goal for our capital campaign is \$100,000. As of July 18th, forty-two individuals and families have pledged \$52,290 to the effort. We give a hearty thank-you to those who have pledged

(names of pledgers since last Sunday are in bold):

Ellen & Charlie Ashburn; Jane & Wayne Barth; Rich & Sue Basham; Ralph & Jane Bates; Chris & Sarah Bayreuther; Jetske & Wim Budding; Don & Lenore Campbell; Laurie & Bob Castronova; Catherine Daboll; **Joyce Daubar**; Chris & Tanya Deveau; Daun & Estey; Jerry & Edna Gilstad; **Dick & Ellen Goeben**; Roe & Georgie Granger; Peg & Ray Herzberg; Kim & Jackie Kalajainen; Bruce & Liz Kuchta; **René & Susan Laurençot**; Judy & Justin Layden; Linda Leavens & Maggie Aydelotte; Phil & Carolyn Lombardo; John & Bette Mahon; Marion McKenzie & Judy Devey; Lew & Cheri Meier; Jay Mirecki; Joanne Moore; Avery & Bob Morgan; Rich Morrill; John Nelson & Angela Lomanto; John Parker; Ocean Pellett; **Harold & Anita Potts**; **Andrew & Louise Proud**; Carl & Sue Putnam; Ned Ruete; Sandy Spencer; Elaine Steinhilber; **Rich & Sue Thomson**; Kay & John Whritner; Joyce Wood; Jeannette Woodworth.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PAVING THE WAY!

THIS WEEK AT NIANTIC COMMUNITY CHURCH

We are a community of Christians:
learning God's ways;
sharing God's love;
extending God's peace and healing grace to all.

SUNDAY, JULY 25

9:00-9:45AM "Christian Education Hour"

Children (Multipurpose Room)

Adults: Seasons of the Spirit Bible Study
(Fellowship Room)

10AM Worship Service

MONDAY, JULY 26

No Meetings Scheduled

TUESDAY, JULY 27

7:15AM Breakfast Bible Study (Niantic
Diner)

7:00PM Boy Scouts (Dining Hall)

7:00PM Men's Group (Multipurpose Room)

7:00PM Parish Life Ministry (Parish Life
Office)

7:00PM Prayer Shawl Knitting Group
(Fellowship Room)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

7:30PM NA (Dining Hall)

THURSDAY, JULY 29

5:15PM Yoga (Multipurpose Room)

6:00PM Shoreline Food Pantry (Dining Hall)

7:00PM Contemporary Worship (outside
altar, weather permitting)

8:00PM AA (Dining Hall)

FRIDAY, JULY 30

8:00PM AA (Dining Hall)

SATURDAY, JULY 31

8:00PM AA (Dining Hall)