

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.”

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

August 1, 2010

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.



WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

“Andante (Symphony 9)”

Schubert

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 second hymn.

INTROIT

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The world calls out: eat, drink and be merry; take your ease; enjoy what you have accumulated.

People: But God calls: seek the things that are above; know the glory of Christ, who is Life.

Anger, wrath, malice, slander and foul talk are of the earth,

But God offers us a new nature in Christ.

The world makes distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, those under the law and those who are not,

But in Christ all are one and all are welcome; there are no distinctions; we come to worship together as one.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, our lives are far from holy.
 The thoughts we have held in secret
 have erupted into hurtful words and deeds.
 We have not avoided lies and slander.
 We have given in to pessimism and suspicion,
 whose lives seem easier than our own.
 We hate the thought of passing on
 to those we deem less worthy,
 the things we have worked so hard to possess.
 O God, we need your wisdom
 in order to live peacefully within ourselves
 and among others.
 Lord God, hear our prayer, in Jesus’ name; Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Hear the good news! God has invited all of us to strip off our old selves to accept renewal in the image of our Creator. Right here, right now, in the warmth of God’s love, our greed is melting away, our anger is finding constructive release, our despair is giving way to hope. God delivers us from the folly of self-preoccupation to joyous life in Christ.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS “The Foolish Farmer”
 (based on Luke 12:13-21)

Rev. Shirley Anderson

✠ HYMN #405

“Seek Ye First”

SEEK YE

Prayer requests will be collected;

Children attending Sunday School may leave for class during the singing of the hymn.

SCRIPTURE READING: Colossians 3:1-11

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

Our hearts and minds are open.

SERMON

“Dressed to Kill”

Rev. Shirley Anderson

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

OFFERTORY

Leader: If our lives were to end tonight, would we be prepared to give good account of our stewardship? Or are we still pulling down our barns to build larger ones, while God says, "Fool!....the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" Let us share our treasures. (Luke 12:13-21)

Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE MUSICAL OFFERING

"Take My Life"
Roe Granger

✠ 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

These gifts represent the work of our hands: the abilities you have given us and our efforts to use them well. We share them here to support one another in our efforts to hear your will and do it. Help us as a church to make a faithful witness out of love and service in Jesus' name, Amen.

WE MEET AT THE LORD'S TABLE

INVITATION

We celebrate an open communion, and welcome every person to the table. We understand the sharing of the bread and the cup in Jesus' name to be a reenactment of an ancient vision of God's feast for all people. We don't require you to be a member of our church, or any church, to participate with us in this feast of grace: all that is needed is that you desire God's nurture. Today we will receive communion by intinction: please come forward to take bread, then dip it into the cup. (We use unfermented grape juice.) If you wish to be served in the pew, please make that wish known to an usher.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: O God, we thank you for the rich blessing of your re-creating kindness, and come to offer ourselves in response to your call.

We thank you for the presence of your Holy Spirit in this place. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of life, to drink the cup of the new covenant.

Jesus said, I am the bread of life. She who comes to me shall never hunger; he who believes in me shall never thirst.

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said, This is my body which is for you; do this remembering me.

After supper Jesus took the cup and said, This is the cup of the new covenant.

Whenever you drink it, do so remembering me.

And so we breathe out hope as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Let us pray: Bless, we pray, this bread and cup that they may be for us both nourishment and encouragement in your service. Bless those who serve and those who are served, that they may feel your presence in these acts of mutual ministry at this moment and as we go forth into our daily lives, living faithfully in your name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

✠ ACT OF PRAISE (*sung*)

GREATOREX

**Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen; Amen.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Remember that we celebrate an open communion and all are welcome. Ministering to you in the name of our Risen Christ, we offer you this bread and cup. Come for all things are ready.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

We thank you, Blessing God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all his gifts of bread and cup; new life and saving grace. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one

another, and let us show forth your presence in our lives. We ask it in Jesus' name; Amen.

✠ HYMN #634 "Now Let Us From This Table Rise" DEUS TUORUM MILITUM

✠ BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN (Hymnal, 898)

POSTLUDE "Come Down O Love Divine" *Rawsthorne*

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



WELCOME TO NIAN TIC COMMUNITY CHURCH!

A Heritage of Faith since 1719, and an Open and Affirming/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 available in the church library or 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 Bulletins, and Hymnals
are available. Please ask an usher for assistance!**

Today's Worship Leaders

Ushers: Nancy Burkhardt, Betty Jones, Alan White

Worship Leader: John Mahon

Parish Host: Bob Nielsen

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary to the Glory of God
and in Loving Memory of Christy Stevens on her birthday, August 2, 1969
by B.B. and Barbara Burnham.

✂ All who are able may stand at these times

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE LED IN WORSHIP TODAY BY THE REV. SHIRLEY ANDERSON also known as *Jammie Grammie*. The Rev. Shirley Anderson is a retired UCC minister who served in Higganum, CT and Millbury, MA. She is a member of the North Stonington Congregational Church where she has initiated an annual ingathering of new pajamas for children and youth. Last year 275 pjs were donated to the Riverfront Child Care Center in Groton and the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. This year's goal: *1000* pjs to be distributed through *three* agencies! She is also part of a pie-baking crew whose fundraising efforts significantly support the ministry and mission of the church.

(Pastor Nelson is on vacation this week returning August 7th. In his absence, the Rev. Eric Swanfeldt is ready to respond to any urgent pastoral needs – please call the church office if you need to contact him.)

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

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

Pastor and Teacher: The Rev. John A. Nelson

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, recovering from surgery • Paula Pawlikowski, breast cancer • Tricia, recovering from surgery • For those in deep need of vacation, and for those in deep need of work.

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 • Nancy Gwin, sentenced to 6-months in prison for protesting against violence and human rights abuses • 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:

Rachel Ayer • Jim Burkhardt
Terry Desmond • Deborah Painter
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:

Fabulous mission trip of senior high youth to "Lynn, Lynn, the City of Him!"; thanksgiving for the people we served and for new friends made • For a stupendous Vacation Bible School

– “Yea, God!” • For Kelly McNatt’s adoption of Joshua Daniel • For quick recovery for Billy and Mark • Time spent with family and

friends • Annice Proud’s recovery from ear surgery • For Nancy’s progress with brain cancer • For successful surgery.

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.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING, August 8th. Christian Hour 9:00-9:45am; Worship Service 10:00am; Pastor John A. Nelson, preaching. Scripture readings: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40.

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.

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.

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.

TWO DOWN AND TWO TO GO. The first two Summer Suppers have been very successful. The second supper served 242 guests. We also had a large turn out of helpers to prepare and serve the meals. Many hands made for lighter work. Please sign up to help with the Tuesday, August 3 meal. Sign up sheets are in the foyer and outside the Church office. Come and enjoy.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORMS are available in the CE office, the main office or you may download them from the youth ministry website. Please register early to help with planning.

THE 3RD ANNUAL NCC CHILI COOK-OFF will soon be upon us and a subcommittee is forming to take on the spicy task. A planning meeting will take place in the Parish Life Ministry office on Tuesday, August 10th at 7:00 p.m. Please consider helping out on this short term ministry project of the Parish Life Committee. The Cook-off is scheduled for October 16th. If you can't attend the first planning session but would like to be involved anyway, there's room for you. Call Jeannette Woodworth at 860-739-2945.

Our Record Of Faithfulness In Giving And Attending

Received to Date for 2010: \$231,443.15; Needed to be current for 2010: \$236,817.90

Last Sunday's Attendance: – 153

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 25th, sixty individuals and families have pledged \$62,290 to the effort. We give a hearty thank-you to those who have pledged (**names of new pledgers are in bold**):

Ellen & Charlie Ashburn; Jane & Wayne Barth; Rich & Sue Basham; Ralph & Jane Bates; Chris & Sarah Bayreuther; Jetske & Wim Budding; **Jerry & Nancy Burkhardt**; Don & Lenore Campbell; Laurie & Bob Castronova; Catherine Daboll; **Jen & Mike Datum**; Joyce Daubar; Chris & Tanya Deveau; **Zachary Deziel**; **Pat & Jim Doran**; Dan & Daun Estey; Jerry & Edna Gilstad; Dick & Ellen Goeben; Roe & Georgie Granger; **Angie Hayes**; Peg & Ray Herzberg; Kim & Jackie Kalajainen; Bruce & Liz Kuchta; **Mike & Sandy Kuchta**; **Allen & Heather Larson**; **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; **Frank & Mary Mirecki**; Joanne Moore; Avery & Bob Morgan; **Stan & Ruth Morgan**; Rich Morrill; **David Mut**; John Nelson & Angela Lomanto; **Keith & Candy Neilson**; **Bob & Wendy Nielsen**; **Ed Painter**; John Parker; **Karen Peacock**; Ocean Pellett; Harold & Anita Potts; Andrew & Louise Proud; Carl & Sue Putnam; **Dick & Sue Robinson**; Ned Ruete; **Eleanor Shoop**; Sandy Spencer; Elaine Steinhilber; **Paul & Verna Swann**; Rich & Sue Thomson; **Bill & Anne Wernau**; Kay & John Whritner; Joyce Wood; Jeannette Woodworth.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PAVING THE WAY!

In Support of our troops....Zachary Peters, a member of our congregation, is serving with the United States Marines in Afghanistan. The Parish Life Committee is coordinating a collection of items that will be shared with Zachary and his fellow soldiers. Suggested donations include Sunflower Seeds, Tuna/Chicken Packs, Beef Jerky, Fruit Snacks, Chewing Gum, Granola/Protein Bars, Cookies/Brownies, Books/Magazines/Articles from home Newspapers, Batteries (AA or AAA depending), playing cards, nail clippers, baby wipes, love and prayers. A complete list is available outside the church office near the donation box. Drop off items by September 30. If you have immediate family serving in the military overseas and would like them to receive a package please let us know. Please avoid candies that will melt in the heat. Monetary donations are welcome to cover the cost of mailing expenses. Please note "Afghanistan packages" on your check. Letters and cards are also greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for supporting this ministry.

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, AUGUST 1

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

Children (Multipurpose Room)

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

10:00AM Worship Service

6:00PM High School Fellowship (Shelter)

MONDAY, AUGUST 2

5:00PM Set-up dining hall for Summer
Supper

7:00PM Toastmasters (Multipurpose Room)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3

7:15AM Breakfast Bible Study (Niantic
Diner)

5:00PM Summer Suppers (Dining Hall)

8:00PM Communications Committee
(Parish Life Office)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4

7:30PM NA (Dining Hall)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5

5:15PM Yoga Class (Multipurpose Room)

5:30PM Shoreline Food Pantry (Dining Hall)

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

8:00PM AA (Dining Hall)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6

7:30PM AA (Dining Hall)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

7:30PM AA (Dining Hall)

Please recycle this bulletin

Niantic Community Church

170 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, CT 06357 • Phone: 860-739-6208

Fax: 860-739-8308 • E-mail: NianticCommChurch@sbcglobal.net

www.NianticCommunityChurch.org

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30-5:00 p.m.; Friday 8:30-Noon