

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.”

August 8, 2010 • 10:00AM

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



PRELUDE

“Largo”
(New World Symphony)

Dvorak

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

One: Let us rejoice, for morning has dawned. A new day has been born, and we are newly alive to enjoy it.

All: We know the beauty of God’s creation and the wonder of the human family. We remember those whose love has shaped our lives and those whose struggle for justice has been unsleeping even in nighttimes of loneliness.

We gather in our church to worship God, to share prayers and gifts, to pledge ourselves to God’s work in the world.

May God bless us, so that what we do in this time together may be honest, sacred, and filled with hope.

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 33:12-22

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we open our hearts and confess our sins – against you, against our neighbor, against even ourselves. For the wrongs of our minds, our hearts, our hands, our spirits – forgive us. For our silence and lack of compassion – forgive us. For our self-love and our self-hatred – forgive us. For our anger and our fear – forgive us. For the waste of your gifts – forgive us. For our part, known and unknown, in the suffering of your children – forgive us. For our failures to strive for justice and peace – forgive us. For all the times we do not walk the way of love – forgive us in the name of Jesus Christ, who goes before us so that we can know love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: There is no greater joy in the heart of God than the moment when a son or daughter opens to the gift of forgiveness. God’s Spirit reaches out to assure you and me of welcome in Christ.

In the name of Jesus Christ we are God’s, by grace. God makes us alive: thanks be to God! Amen.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

✠ HYMN #395

“Take Time to Be Holy”

HOLINESS

Prayer requests will be collected; Children attending *Divine Activity Time* (for PreK–4th grade) may leave during the singing of the hymn.

PRAYERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

OFFERTORY

Leader: We come from many different places; we have different needs, passions, fears, and joys – yet we share the call of Jesus, to be companions and partners in ministry. Together we discover ways to serve and love both God and neighbor. Together, we remember the gift of grace that God has given so abundantly, and we commit ourselves and our own gifts to God’s vision of wholeness, harmony, and joy.

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

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE MUSICAL OFFERING

“Rejoice, the Lord is King”
(Adult Choir)

Courtney

✠ 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

Living God, with ‘good pleasure’ you give us gifts beyond our imagining. We offer these gifts and our lives in response and pray that they may be pleasing to you. May our hearts be shaped by the concerns of your heart, and our lives be ever ready to respond to your call to faithful discipleship. This we pray in Jesus’ name: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 12:32-40

SERMON

“Readiness Is All”

John A. Nelson

✠ HYMN #722

“I Want to Be Ready”

I WANT TO BE READY

✠ BENEDECTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN

(Hymnal, 898)

POSTLUDE

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”
(Melita)

Rawsthorne

**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: Marion Prescott, Chris and Sara Bayreuther, Rich Morrill

Worship Leader: Margaret Holmberg

Preacher: The Rev. John A. Nelson

Parish Host: Annette Silvia

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

A rose has been placed on the altar today in celebration of the adoption of
Joshua Daniel McNatt, (born in Alaska, July 26, 2010) by Kelly McNatt,
daughter of Terry and Marilyn McNatt.

✠ All who are able may stand at these times

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OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Ministers: All Participants in the Life of the Congregation

Worship & Music

Organist and Music Director: Paul Althouse

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:

Vera Winters, hospitalized • Shirley Cordero under Hospice care • death of a co-worker's grandmother • comfort and strength for Freddy • healing for Walter.

Continuing 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 • 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:

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.

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:**

•Profession Hightower • Aunt Sue • Rachel Ayer • Jim Burkhardt •Linda Brown.
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:

Jane Milardo and Michael Guarini were married by Pastor Nelson on July 20, 2010, at McCook's Point. "It was a lovely ceremony, and we are very blessed;"

•Tami Scace's job promotion; • Jake & Kathryn's wedding; •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.

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.

CONSIDER GIVING PROPERTY TO THE CHURCH NOW, but keeping the annual income until your death. You may even give your home and keep the use of the Property until your death. A current Federal income tax deduction is available for the value of such gifts to the Church.

THREE DOWN AND ONE TO GO. The first three Summer Suppers have been very successful. The third supper served 242 guests. We also had a good 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 17 meal. Sign up sheets are in the foyer and outside the Church office. Come and enjoy.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING, August 15th. Christian Hour 9:00-9:45am; Worship Service 10:00am; Pastor John A. Nelson, preaching. Scripture readings: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalms 80:1-2, 8-19; Hebrews 11:29, 12:2; Luke 12:49-56.

COOKBOOKS WILL BE SOLD during coffee hour. If you haven't bought yours yet, here is another opportunity. They are \$15.

DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER TIDINGS IS AUGUST 15TH. Please email Jennifer Datum with committee news and other information you would like to appear in Tidings. Tidings@TheDatums.com

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE AUGUST 29TH luncheon at Fox Hopyard. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a pleasant afternoon beginning at 3:00pm--\$20 per person covers everything except your beverage. Make checks payable to NCC with a memo of Fox Hopyard Luncheon. We still need another 25 people to make this happen. Deadline is August 15th. Contact either Cheri Meier: cherimeier@hotmail.com or Edna Gilstad: egilstad@aol.com for any questions.

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 15; 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.

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.

PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS of Sunday school age children are encouraged to download Christian Education Registration forms from the NCC Youth Ministry website: <http://nccyouth.shutterfly.com/>. A link to this site is also available from the NCC main page. Registrations are also available in the church office as well as in the Christian Education office. Please email or turn in these forms to Jess Bunger as soon as possible, thank you!

MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED in order to sustain the growing Christian Education and Youth Ministry at NCC. There are opportunities to serve that include assisting and leading as well as a simple adult presence. It is my prayer that we would each look inside ourselves to find ways to prayerfully support this ministry. By providing rotating teams of volunteers everyone will be able to worship, learn, and serve as well as nurture the faith of the children and young adults in our congregation. If you have questions or think that this opportunity is for you, contact me at 860-739-6208 or jessbunger@nianticcommunitychurch.org.

LOCAL CHILDREN'S author, Kiki Latimer, will be presenting a Book Reading and Signing on Friday, August 20th at 7:00 PM. at Niantic Community Church Children's Center. Children's authors Christina Cody and Susan Epstein will also be joining this event. Refreshments will be served. This event will be held in conjunction with a Used Book and Toy Sale. The proceeds will benefit the Niantic Community Church Children's Center.

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: \$241,774.65; Needed to be current for 2010: \$244,712.76

Last Sunday's Attendance: – 131

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; **Doris Beebe;** **Muriel Briggs;** Jetske & Wim Budding; **Liz Buhler;** Jerry & Nancy Burkhardt; Don & Lenore Campbell; Laurie & Bob Castronova; **Howard & Janice Christensen;** Catherine Daboll; Jen & Mike Datum; Joyce Daubar; Chris & Tanya Deveau; **Helen Dey;** 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; **Willard & Kathy Leindecker;** 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; **Jennifer Munzner;** David Mut; John Nelson & Angela Lomanto; Keith & Candy Neilson; Bob & Wendy Nielsen; Ed Painter; John Parker; Karen Peacock; Ocean Pellett; **Robert & Marie Pierce;** Harold & Anita Potts; Andrew & Louise Proud; Carl & Sue Putnam; Dick & Sue Robinson; Ned Ruete; **Richard & Janice Saxton;** Eleanor Shoop; Sandy Spencer; Elaine Steinhilber; Paul & Verna Swann; **Elizabeth Taylor;** Rich & Sue Thomson; Bill & Anne Wernau; Kay & John Whritner; **Fred & Eleanor Winters;** 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, AUGUST 8

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

Children (Multipurpose Room)

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

10:00AM Worship Service

MONDAY, AUGUST 9

5:45PM NCC Children's Center Board
(Parish Life Office)

7:00PM Finance Committee (Fellowship
Room)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10

7:15AM Breakfast Bible Study (Niantic
Diner)

10:30AM Banner Workshop (Fellowship
Room)

7:00PM Chili Cook-off Subcommittee
Meeting (Parish Life Office)

7:00PM Worship Team (Fellowship Room)

7:00PM Boy Scouts (Dining Hall)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11

7:30PM NA (Dining Hall)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12

5:15PM Special Needs Yoga Class
(Multipurpose Room)

6:00PM Shoreline Food Pantry (Dining Hall)

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

8:00PM AA (Dining Hall)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13

9:30AM Painting from the Source
(Multipurpose Room)

7:30PM AA (Dining Hall)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14

7:30PM AA (Dining Hall)

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN

Niantic Community Church

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www.NianticCommunityChurch.org

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