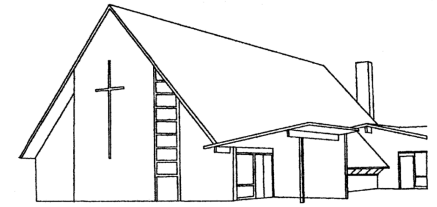


NIANTIC COMMUNITY CHURCH

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 29, 2010 • 10:00AM • *Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

“Theme from Unfinished Symphony”

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

One: When everything began, God was there, filled with joy and creative power.

Many: We remember how you called the whole world into being: marvelous!

The power of God never fades: it lives and throbs and breathes in creatures and all of creation.

**We remember how good everything was, how goodness is with us now,
how good everything can be: wonderful!**

We worship God, who alone creates, the source of life and hope.

Our God is a creative, marvelous, wonder-filled God: Alleluia!

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to our God with cheerful voice.
Delight in God whose praise we tell,
whose presence calls us to rejoice.</p> | <p>3. Enter the sacred gates with praise,
with joy approach the temple walls.
Extol and bless our God always
as people whom the Spirit calls.</p> |
| <p>2. Know that there is one God, indeed,
who fashions us without our aid,
who claims us, gives us all we need,
whose tender care will never fade.</p> | <p>4. Proclaim again that God is good,
whose mercy is forever sure,
whose truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.</p> |

Prayer requests will be collected.

WE PRAY AND REFLECT ON OUR LIVES

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Creator God, you are the depth and height of goodness. In that spirit you made all creation and each of us. But when we are honest with ourselves, we know that we also have turned away from the gifts of your mercy and grace. In prayer we open ourselves to you, acknowledging our shortcomings and remembering your promise of renewal and grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF RENEWAL

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.

PRAYERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

✠ HYMN (*insert*) "God, Creation's Great Designer" NEW REFORMATION
Children attending *Divine Activity Time* (for PreK-4th grade)
may leave during the singing of the hymn.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 14:1, 7-14

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.

WE GIVE OURSELVES TO GOD

OFFERTORY

Leader: As God has welcomed us,
let us extend God's blessings by sharing our tithes and offerings
in support of Christ's ministry today.

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

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE MUSICAL OFFERING

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"
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

**Dear God, you have offered us a place at the table
and you have called us to share without expectation of being repaid.
You have called us to make a place for the poor, the hungry
the outcast, and hurting, hoping people everywhere.
So we ask that you bless these resources
that they may support ministries of compassion and justice
until all of your children have a place at the table. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 1

SERMON "Beginning at the Beginning" John A. Nelson

✠ HYMN #664 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" THE ASH GROVE

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

POSTLUDE "Blessed Assurance" *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, 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: John & Bette Mahon, Bruce & Mary Brailey

Worship Leader: Brooke Stutzman

Preacher: The Rev. John A. Nelson

Parish Host: Peg Herzberg

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary to the Glory of God and ...

✠ All who are able may stand at these times

Prayer of Confession reprinted by permission of the publishers from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book* (Glasgow, Scotland: Wild Goose Publications, copyright © 2001). Call to Offering and Dedication adapted from Christopher Ney, "Look Who's Invited!" © 2010 Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ.

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

Interim Director of Religious Education &

Youth Ministries: Kayla Castronova

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:

For a restful vacation with family • David Worst, paralyzed after stroke.

Continuing concerns:

Bill, recovering at Smilow rehab • family members hospitalized • Safe travel for Michael, driving to Arizona to start a new job • Rich and all in treatment for addictions • a friend's son who was burned • Vera Winters, hospitalized • death of a co-worker's grandmother • Rachel Benin, recovering from a serious car accident • comfort and strength for Freddy • healing for Walter • comfort and strength for Freddy • Paul Swann • Those suffering from depression and anxiety.

In treatment for cancer:

Linda, battling breast cancer • a friend with pancreatic cancer • Deb, Rose, and Sandy, in cancer treatment • Fr. Emmett Jarrett, metastasized cancer • Missy Gardner • Nancy

Jacobson, brain cancer • Ray Herzberg • 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.

For those grieving and struggling in response to wildfires in Russia and California, and to floods in Pakistan.

Prayers for students, teachers, and staff beginning a new season ... especially for those starting at a new college or school, or in a new position. God bless the traveling, preparing, teaching, learning, sharing, and growing!

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:**

Harry White • Michael Green
Barbara Blaine • Darryl Williams

Shirley Cordero • Aunt Sue
Professor Hightower • Rachel Ayer
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 successful cataract surgery • For the visit of a great-grandson • Daughter Trish post-operative recovery is going well • For the love, support, cards, and visits from our faith family to the Cushing family, in the recent passing of Rachel Ayer • Mark, at home and recovering • Jake & Kathryn's wedding.

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).

RETIREMENT FUNDS present new opportunities for giving to the Church- You may want to name the Church as the beneficiary of your individual retirement account or other retirement funds, in the event that you or other family members die before receiving all of the funds.

BOTH OF OUR DENOMINATIONS, the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ, are responding to the catastrophic floods in Pakistan. The United Methodist Committee on Relief is working with Partners CWS, Muslim Aid, and GlobalMedic to provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene aid. The UCC supported Church World Service in distributing food and tents for tens of thousands of families in dire need, and CWS mobile medical teams are providing emergency care. The food packages contain rice, wheat flour, beans, sugar, cooking oil, tea and salt – basics for a family for a month. **PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN** survive the worst disaster in memory in their country. Make out checks to Niantic Community Church, and indicate Pakistan Floods on the memo line; donations will be split between the UCC and

UMC. **PLEASE PRAY** for the injured, people who've lost loved ones, and the homeless. Pray for those engaged in relief and rehabilitation work, particularly CWS Pakistan staff.

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

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING, September 5th. Christian Hour 9:00-9:45am; Worship Service 10:00am; Pastor John A. Nelson, preaching. Scripture readings: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 or Psalm 1; Jeremiah 18:1-11 or Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33.

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.

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 Kayla Castronova 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 kayla@nianticcommunitychurch.org.

IN SUPPORT OF OUR TROOPS...Zachary Peters, a member of our congregation, is serving with the United States Army in Iraq. 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 area also greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for supporting this ministry.

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. Email Jeannette Woodworth (jeannette703@yahoo.com).

IF YOU ARE GOING to the Fox Hopyard luncheon today, please bring with you a photograph of yourself either as a baby or a young child. We're going to have a contest on "name that face" Put your name on the back of the picture and give it to either Cheri or Edna.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for our back to school, cookbook release party and pot luck picnic, Friday September, 17, 5:30-7:30. Bring a dish to share and get your cookbook signed by one of the committee or contributors. See you there!

Our Record Of Faithfulness In Giving And Attending

Received to Date for 2010: \$259,723.23; Needed to be current for 2010: \$268,656.10; Last Sunday's Attendance: – 130

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 August 22nd, **one hundred and one** individuals and families have pledged **\$94,640** to the effort! Thank you to each who has pledged (**names of new pledgers are in bold**):

Ellen & Charlie Ashburn; **Chris Ashburn**; Jane & Wayne Barth; Rich & Sue Basham; Ralph & Jane Bates; Chris & Sarah Bayreuther; **Wilbur Beckwith**; Alina Beebe; Dean Beebe; Doris Beebe; Nina & Tom Beebe Muriel Briggs; Jetske & Wim Budding; Liz Buhler; Jerry & Nancy Burkhardt; Don & Lenore Campbell; Bob & Marge Caste; Laurie & Bob Castronova; **Mark & Mildred Chayer**; **Lynn & Thomas Cherry**; Howard & Janice Christensen; Catherine Daboll; Jen & Mike Datum; Joyce Daubar; Anne Davis; Ray & Debbie DeConto; Chris & Tanya Deveau; Helen Dey; Karen & Ron Deziel; Zachary Deziel; Pat & Jim Doran; Dan & Daun Estey; Jerry & Edna Gilstad; Carole & Dale Glenn; Dick & Ellen Goeben; Roe & Georgie Granger; Angie Hayes; Paul & Linda Helvig; Alice Hendricks; Peg & Ray Herzberg; **Ron & Jan Johnson**; Martin & Carol June; Kim & Jackie Kalajainen; Sy & Jessie Kessler; Bruce & Liz Kuchta; Mike & Sandy Kuchta; Allen & Heather Larson; René & Susan Laurençot; Judy & Justin Layden; Linda Leavens & Maggie Aydelotte; Willard & Kathy Leindecker; Nori & Sandy Lembree; Phil & Carolyn Lombardo; John & Bette Mahon; **Susan Markow**; Dale & Susan Martin; Marion McKenzie & Judy DeVey; Jane McLane; Lew & Cheri Meier; Dorothy Mike; Jay Mirecki; Frank & Mary Mirecki; Joanne Moore; Avery & Bob Morgan; Stan & Ruth Morgan; Rich Morrill; **Judy & Granville Morris**; Jennifer Munzner; David Mut; John Nelson & Angela Lomanto; Keith & Candy Neilson; Bob & Wendy Nielsen; Ed Painter; John Parker; Karen Peacock; Ocean Pellett; **Mary Phillips**; Robert & Marie Pierce; Harold & Anita Potts; Marion Prescott & Dwight MacDonald; Andrew & Louise Proud; Carl & Sue Putnam; Dick & Sue Robinson; Ned Ruete; **Larry & Judy Rutledge**; Richard & Janice Saxton; Doris & William Seelig; Eleanor Shoop; Sandy Spencer; Elaine Steinhilber; Pamela Stollo; Paul & Verna Swann; Elizabeth Taylor; Iva Thomas; Rich & Sue Thomson; **Tony & Denise Walstra**; Bill & Anne Wernau; **Alan & Alice White**; Kay & John Whritner; Fred & Eleanor Winters; Joyce Wood; Jeannette Woodworth.

THANK YOU ... AND 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 29

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 30

7:00PM Christian Ed (Multipurpose Room)

7:00PM Toastmasters (Dining Hall)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31

7:15AM Breakfast Bible Study
(NianticDiner)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

10:00AM Banner Workshop (Fellowship
Room)

7:30PM NA (Dining Hall)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

5:30PM Shoreline Food Pantry (Dining Hall)

8:00PM AA (Dining Hall)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

7:30PM AA (Dining Hall)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

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