

# 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.”

October 24, 2010 • 9:00 & 11:15AM  
**Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost**

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## A Season of Stewardship at NCC: **Grow! • Teach • Rejoice • Care**

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### **WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH**

PRELUDE

“Vision: Growth in the Word”

*Rheinberger*

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: Behold, God is doing a new thing.

**Many: Here. Now. In the midst of our routines.**

The Holy One who created heaven and earth forms us afresh today.

**Let our spirits open wide to greet our maker. Amen!**

✦ HYMN #454

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

OPEN MY EYES

WELCOME TO STEWARDSHIP SEASON

John Whritner

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: God, we are here to grow in faith.

**Many: Come, Creator God: let us see you!**

God, we are here to grow in wisdom.

**Come, Jesus, companion of the weary and wondering,  
savior of all: let us hear you!**

God, we are here to grow in discipleship.

**Come, Holy Spirit, blow out our dust and cobwebs  
and let us joyfully follow you!**

God, we are here like seeds planted, like bread rising,

**and you give the growth! Send your power into our worship, dear God.  
We ask it in Jesus' name; Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

**WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD**

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

✠ HYMN #583

"You Are the Seed"

ID Y ENSEÑAD

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

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Timothy 4:1-5

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.**

SCRIPTURE READING: John 12:20-26

SERMON

"Who Wants to Meet Jesus?"

Michael S. Penn-Strah

**WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and PASTORAL PRAYER

STEWARDSHIP: HOW WE GROW

Kim Kalajainen

OFFERTORY

Leader: Who wants to meet Jesus? Dare we say that we do? We have said so — we  
have called on that holiest of names — and Jesus is here right now: renewing,  
encouraging, and strengthening us. We are growing Christians and we give our-  
selves to God, in whom we live and breathe and grow. Let the very act of giving our  
tithes and offerings deepen our connection with God's grace, growing in us.

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

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE MUSICAL OFFERING

(9:00AM) "Praise the Lord in a Song" *McDonald*  
(Adult Choir)  
(11:15AM) "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" *arr. Margaret Bonds*  
(Lynne Floyd, soprano)

✠ DOXOLOGY

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**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

**Gracious God, we bless these gifts in your name. With your power of love cause them to grow, so they may bring healing and hope. With your vision of *shalom* cause us to keep growing and giving, so that we bring your wonder and new life to others. Let your church be filled with love and joy and power, with righteousness and peace! In Jesus' name; Amen.**

✠ HYMN #539

"O Spirit of the Living God"

FOREST GREEN

✠ BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN

(Hymnal, 898)

POSTLUDE

"Forward Through the Ages (St. Gertrude)"

*Rawsthorne*

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

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**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**

**9:00AM**

**Ushers:** Doris Beebe, Catherine and John  
Vincent, Germaine Ruderman  
**Worship Leader:** Ned Ruete  
**Acolytes:** Clayton Cushing,  
Jackson Perrelli

**11:15AM**

**Ushers:** Liz Buhler,  
Pam Stevens  
**Worship Leader:** Jane Milardo

TODAY IT IS OUR PLEASURE TO WELCOME THE REV. DR. MICHAEL S. PENN-STRAH to the pulpit at NCC. Dr. Penn-Strah is the South Central Regional Minister of the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ. Prior to moving beginning his Connecticut ministry in 2007, Dr. Penn-Strah served as an Associate Conference Minister to the Massachusetts Conference, caring for the 56 churches of its northeast area. A local pastor for most of his 40 years of ordained ministry, he inspired and developed the Timothy Project in Massachusetts, which works with ten churches a year to help them strengthen their worship, discipleship, faith formation, stewardship, mission, and relationship to the wider church. He is married to the Rev. Dr. Sara Penn-Strah, Pastor of the First Church of Christ, UCC, in Woodbridge. They have four children and three grandchildren.

**Parish Host:** Bob Nielsen

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary to the Glory of God  
and in Loving Memory of Janet Duda,  
by the Keenan, Fountain, and Putnam families.

✘ All who are able may stand at these times

**OUR MINISTRY TEAM**

**Ministers:** All Participants in the Life of the Congregation

**Worship & Music**

**Organist and Music Director:** Paul Althouse  
**Director of Handbell Choirs:** Lynne Floyd  
**Directors of Children's and Gospel Choirs:**  
Lee Wilkerson & Nikki Rollins

**Sound Engineers:** Dick Robinson & Ron Deziel

**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.)*

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### **New Concerns:**

For Margaret Gayda's return to good health •  
Peter, back surgery • Edie Watrous, recovering  
from fall • Huey, struck by car • Christine  
Morales, thyroid cancer • Madelyn Wyckoff,  
knee surgery.

### **Continuing concerns:**

Peggy Lippingcott, recovering from knee  
replacement surgery • Edna and Patti, medical  
tests • Tony, in hospice care • Barbara (John  
Mahon's sister), struggling with illness •  
Helen Heaney & family • Jackie Garvey,  
cancer recurrence • Colleen, cancer recurrence  
• Sandy, Ruth, & their families • Co-worker  
and family, in crisis • Meyer & Kate, children  
with serious illnesses • For safe travels • For  
healing from long-ago abuse • Agatha and  
grandson Julien, going through crisis • Jim  
Doran, knee replacement surgery • Grandma  
House • John Allen, in hospice care • Ruth  
Beckwith, pneumonia • Anne Wernau,  
recovering from surgery • Mary Kent,  
Virginia, Mary, Kent, Jim, & Sue • Anne, Aunt  
Lyla, Conner, and Kathy • Alyssa, traveling in  
Prague • Paul Swann • Those suffering from  
depression and anxiety.

*In treatment for cancer:*

Carolyn, cancer surgery • Bret, colon cancer •

Ron, with pancreatic cancer, and wife Sara •  
Brian Lewis, bone cancer • Shannon Duffy, in  
chemotherapy for Ewing's Sarcoma, parents  
Deb & Pete and sister Brianna • Shirley Smith,  
pancreatic cancer • Ken Esposito, pancreatic  
cancer • Sandy Doboe, multiple myeloma •  
Missy Gardner • Nancy Jacobson, brain cancer  
and Lyme Disease • Ray Herzberg • Clara Ball  
– and their families, friends, and caregivers.

*For the Peace Walkers, on a pilgrimage through  
New England to bear witness for non-violence and  
reconciliation.*

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

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 Strauhall; 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:**

Kyle Fedors, Keith Devlin, Walter Dlugozima  
Dana Poole • Kristi • Billy Pasqualini  
Neal Thayer • David, brother of Betty  
The Rev. Robert Huston  
Great-grandmother Nellie  
John Allen McDonald • Russ Han  
Fr. Emmett Jarrett, TSSF  
Jerry and Kitty Greene

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 Cherie's visit • The rescue of Chilean miners • A visit with Barbara & BB Burnham in Maine • The successful capital campaign, the work of Al Larson & the Maintenance Committee, and Laurie Castronova • Marriage of Laura, Keith Neilson's cousin • Marriage of Alex and Rebecca • Marriage of Jeffrey Mayer and Christine Fainer • Successful cancer surgery for Traci Fritz • Marriage of Susan Whritner and Sean Hoskins • Bishop Ben Watts, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Shiloh Baptist Church • Anniversary of Candy & Keith Neilson • Jim Doran's successful knee surgery • Four healthy years for son John • Elizabeth Myers (7 yrs old), now cancer-free: Hallelujah! • Peggy's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, and good news on her biopsy • For time with family traveling to visit.

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**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](mailto: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](mailto:prayers@nianticcommunitychurch.org), or call the church office (860-739-6208).

**IF A SPECIAL FRIEND OR RELATIVE** precedes you in death, consider commemorating this individual through a memorial gift to your Church. This will show your appreciation for this treasured relationship and help the Church. An acknowledgment card will be sent to the surviving family, letting them know of your gift, without disclosing the amount.

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for Saturday, Oct. 30, 12 noon, when the Peace Pilgrims will be at our church for lunch. They began their walk in Durham, NH on October 1st and will end in New London on October 31st. Along the way they are visiting with faith communities to share about their commitment to act for peace, and to hear about our ideas and visions for peace. Please join us for a stimulating, spirit-filled time with some wonderful friends.

**THE NEXT BOOK** for the NCC Women's Book Club is "The Hour I First Believed" by Wally Lamb. Our next meeting will be November 7th at 7 pm at church. This book takes place in Niantic and other places.

**65<sup>TH</sup> JACK FROST BAZAAR.** Saturday, November 13, 2010 from 9 am - 2 pm. **PLEASE NOTE: NEW START TIME OF 9:00 A.M.!** At this time, we are in need of the following: Silent Auction Items & Donations - please call Susan Brown for more details. Any jewelry items (or empty boxes) - please bring to church. Kids Toys and Sporting Goods for our outdoor tent - please contact Susan Brown. We are also in need of folks to help clean up on Nov. 13th beginning at 2 p.m. Thanks so much.

**PRAYER SHAW KNITTING GROUP** this Tuesday at 7pm in the Fellowship Room. Please join us for uplifting conversation and knitting/crocheting. Lessons and patterns available. Call Jane Barth (860-739-6002) with questions.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF OLD Lyme** invites you to their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree of Life Conference on Israel and Palestine November 6-7. Opening Concert Saturday, Nov. 6, 5:30pm featuring British singer, songwriter and peace campaigner Martin John Nicholls; Sunday, Nov. 7, 1:30-6:30pm, speakers from Israel and U.S. will talk about human rights abuses, their non-violent efforts to bring about positive change. Special emphasis will be on a new generation of peacemakers, ardent young champions committed to human rights and peaceful coexistence. Admission \$20 per event or \$35 for both Saturday and Sunday programs. For more information and reservations call 860-434-8686, [www.tolef.org](http://www.tolef.org), [www.fccol.org](http://www.fccol.org).

**THE NIAN TIC TOASTMASTERS CLUB** is having an open house on Monday, November 1st at 7:00 pm in the church dining hall. Toastmasters is an international club that is dedicated to improving communication and leadership skills in a positive environment . This is a great opportunity to visit and to learn how Toastmasters can help you achieve your personal and professional goals through improving public speaking. Whether you love public speaking or hate public speaking, Toastmasters is right for you! For more information, call Joanne Moore, 860/739-2573.

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA:** The Adult Choir will begin rehearsing our cantata on Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in joining choir for the Christmas season should talk to Paul Althouse (or a choir member) after the service. The work this year is Saint-Saens "Christmas Oratorio."

**NEXT SUNDAY MORNING,** October 31st. Worship Services at 9 & 11:15am; 10:00-11:00am "Between Hour Café;" 10:15am Adult Sunday School. Pastor John A. Nelson, preaching. Scripture readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36.

## 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.

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### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

9:00AM Worship Service  
10:00-11:00AM "Between Hour Café"  
(Dining Hall)  
10:15AM Sunday School for All Ages  
10:15AM High School Fellowship (Youth  
Room)  
**Adult Offerings:** 1. Uppity Women of the  
Bible (Fellowship Room)  
2. Bible Study (Christian Edu. Office)  
11:15AM Worship Service  
12:30PM Luncheon with The Rev. Dr.  
Michael Penn-Strah (Fellowship  
Room)  
12:30PM Middle School Fellowship  
(Dining Hall)

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### MONDAY, OCTOBER 25

4:00PM Nominating Committee (Parish  
Life Office)  
7:00PM Personnel (Parish Life Office)  
7:00PM PPRC (Fellowship Room)  
7:00PM Men's Choir (Sanctuary)  
7:00PM Toastmasters (Dining Hall)

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### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26

7:15AM Breakfast Bible Study (Niantic  
Diner)

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### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26 CONTINUED

1:00PM "A Course in Life" (Fellowship  
Room)  
5:30PM Children's Choir (Sanctuary)  
6:00PM Youth Bell Rehearsal  
(Multipurpose Room)  
6:15PM Gospel Choir (Sanctuary)  
7:00PM Adult Bell Rehearsal  
(Multipurpose Room)  
7:00PM Prayer Shawl Knitting Group  
(Fellowship Room)  
7:00PM Men's Group (Parish Life Office)  
7:00PM Boy Scouts (Dining Hall)

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### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

9:30AM DISCIPLE (Fellowship Room)  
7:30PM NA (Dining Hall)

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### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

6:00PM Shoreline Food Pantry (Dining  
Hall)  
7:00PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
8:00PM AA (Dining Hall)

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### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

7:30PM AA (Dining Hall)

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### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

7:30PM AA (Dining Hall)

### Niantic Community Church

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[www.NianticCommunityChurch.org](http://www.NianticCommunityChurch.org)

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