

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 31, 2010 • 9:00 & 11:15AM
Reformation Sunday

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

WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of YAHWEH, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us the holy ways and that we may walk in God’s paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of YAHWEH from Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2:3)

PRELUDE

“Prelude and Fugue in F”

Bach

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 (9:00)

“Fanfare and Variation on A Mighty Fortress”
(Adult Bell Choir)

arr. S. Tucker

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: "The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt - a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord."

Many: Come, Holy Spirit, and teach us.

Teach us to follow in the Way that Christ walked:

The Way of change and testing; the Way of the desert and the wilderness.

"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

Come, Holy Spirit, and make us your own.

Teach us to follow in the Way that Christ walked:

The Way of new learning and questioning; the Way of the River Jordan and the Upper Room.

"No longer shall they say to each other, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Come, Holy Spirit, and shape us anew.

Teach us to follow in the Way that Christ walked:

The Way of joy in life and service; the Way of the Creation and the Cross.

✕ HYMN

"Teach Me, O God"

CANONBURY

Teach me, O God, your way of truth,
And from it I will not depart;
That I may steadfastly obey,
Give me an understanding heart.

God, turn my eyes from vanity,
And teach me in your ways to tread;
O let your servant prove your Word,
And thus to godly awe be led.

In your commands teach me to walk,
For in your lessons joy shall be;
Give me a heart that loves your will,
From discontent and envy free.

Teach me to turn from wrong and fear;
Your righteous judgments I confess;
To know your wisdom I desire;
Revive me in your righteousness.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Patient God, we are people in a hurry. We confess to you that we often value *faster more than deeper, and getting there more than learning.* We miss the tiger lily on our way to the museum, the song of the wren on the way to the concert. God, we miss the child on the way to the adult. We only know how to wait with our fingers tapping. We hurry to do things ourselves, God, because we

find your steady, deliberate slowness frustrating and scary. Teach us to trust you, so we can move at the pace of your spirit. We ask it in Jesus' name, and we pray as he taught us: "Our Father, who art in heaven...."

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

Jesus came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power?"

(Matthew 15:34)

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

✠ HYMN #103

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

ST. DENIO

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

LITANY OF COMMITMENT TO GOD'S WORD

One: Almighty God, by your holy word, all that we know has come into existence: our universe, our world, our lives, our loved ones, and all that we have and hold so dear. By your holy word, you sent your Son to teach us the ways of compassion, and to bring salvation through the victory of life over death. By your holy word, you have called us together to be a Church of love and service in the world. By your holy word, you teach us that we live in grace and hope. Keep us ever close to your word, that it might be written upon our hearts.

Many: We commit our lives to your word, O God.

Help us to grow in faith and love toward you, so that we might always live in trust.

Many: We commit our lives to your word, O God.

Center us in routines that keep us close to you, O Lord. Center us in weekly worship.

Many: We commit our lives to your word, O God.

Center us in daily prayer.

Many: We commit our lives to your word, O God.

Center us in knowledge of holy scripture.

Many: We commit our lives to your word, O God.

Center us in the mission of the church.

Many: We commit our lives to your word, O God.

Center us in lives of thankful giving and loving for all your blessings.

Many: We commit our lives to your word, O God.

By your word, O Lord, guide our lives, forgive our sins, inspire our thoughts, shape our attitudes, lighten our darkness, give us eternal hope, and fill our hearts with joy, assuring us of your constant presence through Jesus Christ, our Master and Teacher.

All: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

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.

SERMON

“God’s Trust”

John A. Nelson

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

... the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what you ought to say. (Luke 12:12)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and PASTORAL PRAYER

STEWARDSHIP: HOW WE TEACH

Bob Castronova

OFFERTORY

Leader: We celebrate the power of God’s Word to create and recreate, to forgive and renew, to lift up and hold back, to challenge and comfort, and in every way to teach us what is good. God has called us together, to learn the ways of compassion and share all that God has entrusted us. We give praise, we give our resources, and we give ourselves so that God may continue to teach us and through us teach others.

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

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE MUSICAL OFFERING

(9:00AM)

“Teach Me, O Lord”
(Adult Choir)

Atwood

(11:15AM)

“Litany for the Feast of All Saints”

Schubert

✠ 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

God of wisdom and truth, we are humbled by your trust in us: that in us and through us, your promises may come to be. Keep guiding us toward the vision of your realm, where there is peace and justice for all eternity, and bless our gifts so they may help you establish that heavenly realm, right now! We ask it in Jesus' name; Amen.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. (Colossians 3:16)

✠ HYMN #110 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" EIN' FESTE BURG

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

POSTLUDE "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee (MARYTON)" *Rawsthorne*

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



REFORMATION SUNDAY

On this date in 1517, Martin Luther posted 95 Theses (propositions) on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church as an invitation to debate the sale of indulgences for forgiveness. That event sparked a reform movement that eventually led to a Lutheran church and many separate denominations. While there is much sorrow in the disunity which the Reformation caused, Luther established the idea that the Church is always in need of reform in the light of the gospel. Luther's primary principal – that Christians are justified by God's grace through faith in Christ – has also taken hold among most of the Christian world. Today we pray for church unity, for the ministry of teaching God's word, and for a church that is always open to reform and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

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: Jan Johnson, Dan Scace,
Chris & Sara Bayreuther
Worship Leader: Bob Caste
Acolytes: Jay Mirecki, Quin Selmeski

11:15AM

Ushers: Anne Davis, Anita Potts
Worship Leader: Terri McTigue

Preacher: The Rev. John A. Nelson

Parish Host: Carl Putnam

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

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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.)*

New Concerns:

Megan Shafer, recovering from injuries in car
accident • Cathy Burdeshaw, surgery •
Nancy, with undiagnosed illness.

Continuing 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 • 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 • Anne Wernau, recovering from
surgery • Mary Kent, Virginia, Mary, Kent,
Jim, & Sue • Huey, Aunt Lyla • 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 Doboie, 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 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:**

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 all hearts open to forgiveness and
acceptance • For Chara achieving a place on
the swim team, and for wonderful coaches •
For Cherie's visit • For the rescue of Chilean
miners • A visit with Barbara & BB Burnham
in Maine • For 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 • Anniversary of Candy & Keith
Neilson • Jim Doran's successful knee 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).

CONSIDER NAMING THE CHURCH as a beneficiary in your Will or Living Trust. The gift
could be a set dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, the remainder after other gifts
are made, or a gift of part of the estate left if designated heirs are deceased.

SUNDAY MORNING, November 7th. 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: Ephesians 1:11-23; Psalm 149; Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Luke 6:20-31.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP-Sunday, Oct. 31 – 12:30-2. Movie Day, bring your favorite movie to share and we will vote on the one we want to watch.

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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - Anyone available to sell cookbooks at the voting sites in Niantic or East Lyme, please call Patty Chaffee at 860-739-6208.

A COURSE IN LIFE has been postponed....begins this Tuesday afternoon 11/2 at 1:00pm for six weeks. Facilitated by Parish Nurse Marie LaTourette and Patty Chaffee. Register in advance at church office. Used books available \$7 or order at Amazon.com. Meets in the Fellowship Room 1:00-2:30 Tuesdays through Nov. 30. Based on book by Joan Gattuso.

A QUIET DAY AND LABYRINTH WALK with Wendy Lyons takes place Saturday, 11/6, 9:00am-1:00 pm. "A Quiet Day is a time to discover what God has to offer us in times of silence," says Lyons. In the silence we listen, our only expectation being a gracious welcome, knowing that the Holy Spirit awaits us. Between brief reflections guided by Lyons, will be silence. Throughout the church, small altar areas will be set up along with spiritual reading material, mandalas for meditation and a labyrinth for walking. Light refreshments available throughout the day, and at 1:00 everyone is invited to stay for a non-silent 'brown-bag' lunch (brought from home). It is recommended that participants stay for the entire program in order to get the most out of the experience. The program is free and all are welcome.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - If you would like to donate and/or coordinate a few healthy refreshments for our Quiet Day and Labyrinth Walk, call the Parish Life Office. (860)739-6208. Thank you.

65TH 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.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF OLD Lyme invites you to their 5th 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, 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 has begun rehearsing Saint-Saens Christmas Oratorio. Anyone interested in joining choir for the Christmas season should talk to Paul Althouse or come Thursday at 7pm.

ALL YOUTH WHO ARE INTERESTED in going on the YouthWorks trip take note that the spots are filling up so please turn in your deposit of \$65 as soon as possible.

WE ARE GOING TO NEED HELP from all the youth for the 65th Annual Jack Frost Bazaar. Please see Kayla for the many different volunteer opportunities. Thank you.

CONSIDERING MEMBERSHIP??? Considering Membership Sessions are being held on Wed. 11/10 & 11/17 from 7:00-8:30 pm and on Saturday, 11/20 from 9:00am -12:00 pm. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member, call the church office. (860)739-6208.

Our Record of Faithfulness In Giving And Attending

Received to Date for 2010: \$339,495.19; Needed to be current for 2010: \$340,334.68

Last Sunday's Attendance: 9:00 a.m. – 120; 11:15 a.m. – 50; Church School – 27;

Total: 197

THIS WEEK AT NIAN TIC 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, OCTOBER 31

9:00AM Worship Service

10:00-11:00AM "Between Hour Café"
(Dining Hall)

10:15AM Sunday School for All Ages

Adult Offerings: 1. Uppity Women of the
Bible (Fellowship Room)

2. Bible Study (Christian Edu. Office)

11:15AM Worship Service

12:30PM Middle Sch. Fellowship (Youth Rm)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1

4:00PM Nominating Committee (Parish Life
Office)

7:00PM Christian Ed (Multipurpose Room)

7:00PM Music & Worship Arts (Fellowship
Room)

7:00PM Men's Choir

7:00PM Toastmasters (Dining Hall)

7:30PM Stewardship (Pastor's Study)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

7:15AM Breakfast Bible Study (Niantic
Diner)

1:00PM "A Course in Life" (Fellowship Rm)

5:30PM Children's Choir (Sanctuary)

6:00PM Youth Bell Rehearsal (Multipurpose
Room)

6:15PM Gospel Choir (Sanctuary)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2 CONTINUED

7:00PM Adult Bell Rehearsal (Multipurpose
Room)

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

7:00PM Open, Affirming, & Reconciling
Committee (Fellowship Room)

7:00PM Worship Team (Church Office)

7:00PM Boy Scouts (Dining Hall)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

9:30AM DISCIPLE (Fellowship Room)

7:30PM NA (Dining Hall)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

5:30PM Shoreline Food Pantry (Dining Hall)

6:30PM Confirmation Class (Fellowship
Room)

7:00PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

8:00PM AA (Dining Hall)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

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

7:00PM Taizé Prayer Service (Sanctuary)

7:30PM AA (Multipurpose Room)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

9:00AM A Quiet Day (upper level of church)

7:30PM AA (Dining Hall)

Niantic Community Church

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