

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.”

November 14, 2010 • 9:00 & 11:15AM
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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

WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is (Psalm 23)”
“O How He Loves You and Me”
Combined Adult & Children’s Handbell Choir

Wood
arr. Kinyon

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

“Praise and Worship Medley”
Children’s Choir (9am)

K.D. Washington

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

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Before we remember You

Many: You are thinking of us.

Before we talk to You

You are listening.

Before we know we're in trouble

You are saving us.

Before we try to please You

You are loving us.

Before we recognize our sin

You are forgiving us.

Before we see each other

You are gathering us together.

Before we invoke your presence

You are here.

We worship You, who holds us in Your care.

Amen; Amen.

PRESENTING A GIFT OF CARE AND VISION

✦ HYMN #384

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

BEECHER

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**God of care that knows no ending, remind us
that our best and true beginning is in you. We come to you
to see who we are and to remember your promises
of wholeness and of healing. We make ourselves busy;
with you we remember the quiet of a peaceful soul.
We slip into thinking that we know what we need;
with you we remember the unimaginable mysteries of love.
Our troubles grow frightening; with you we remember
forgiveness and renewal. Enter our lives, gracious God!
Enter our community, and fill us with the spirit of service and joy. Amen.**

STEWARDSHIP: HOW WE CARE

Carl Putnam

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

✦ HYMN #111

"How Can We Name a Love"

TERRA BEATA

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

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-20

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

“A Christian Birthright”

John A. Nelson

ANTHEM

“The Lord’s My Shepherd (Psalm 23)”
(Adult Choir)

Mueller

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

STEWARDSHIP: HOW WE CARE

Stephanie Chan

OFFERTORY

Leader: God made us for compassion: for a deep sharing of the gifts of life that God has entrusted to us. Here we remember the amazing blessings of God that move through our lives. Here we remember the vision God has for us: providing more than we could ask or imagine. Let’s spread the blessings to others!

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

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE MUSICAL OFFERING

Lynne Floyd, *soprano*; David Nelson, *piano*

“Bridge Over Troubled Water”

✦ 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

Compassionate God, we bless these offerings in your name. By your spirit, use them to deliver care wherever you lead us, near and far. By your grace, lead us to lives filled with care for others and joy in you, as Jesus taught. Amen.

✠ HYMN #584 “Lord, You Give the Great Commission” ABBOT’S LEIGH
✠ BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN (Hymnal, 898)
POSTLUDE “The Lord’s My Shepherd (CRIMOND)” *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

9:00AM

Ushers: Peg Herzberg, Carl Putnam,
Sara & Chris Bayreuther

Worship Leader: John Mahon

Acolytes: Jackson Perrelli and
Meghan McCauley

11:15AM

Ushers: Alan White,
Bob Mikkelson

Worship Leader: Jeannette Woodworth

Preacher: The Rev. John A. Nelson

Parish Host: Kay Whritner

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary to the Glory of God
and In Loving Memory of Christy Spencer Stevens

by her family,

and

In Loving Memory of Francis "Pete" Hunt,
by Nancy and Peter Hunt.

✧ All who are able may stand at these times

A great big **Thank You** to the following persons who helped in many ways to
produce the banners that we dedicate in today's worship:

Elaine Steinhilber – designer

Diaconate Board/Worship Team members: Sue Basham, Susan Brown,
Nancy Burkhardt, Joyce Daubar, John Parker, and Germaine Ruderman.

Ellen Ashburn; Fay Carraher (Elaine's daughter); Judy DeVey; Carol June;
Marion MacKenzie; Debbie Painter (of blessed memory); Sue Putnam; Tami Scace.

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:

Nancy Morissette, in convalescent care for terminal brain tumor • Healing & strength for Walter, Doreen, Freddy, and Kathryn • Agatha, recovering from throat surgery • Bruce, recovering from cancer surgery • Helen, 92-year old who fell & broke her hip • Sean (brother of Kirsten Davey), upcoming surgery • Grandmother, recovering from a fall • Students in need of extra help.

Continuing concerns:

Mercedes, cancer diagnosis • Paul Harper, deployed to Dubai • Sandra Harrington, terminal illness • Bernie, stroke and heart attack • Children transitioning between schools • Megan Shafer, recovering from injuries in car accident • Cathy Burdeshaw, surgery • Nancy, with undiagnosed illness • 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 • 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:

Bret, colon cancer • Ron, with pancreatic cancer, and wife Sara • Carolyn, cancer surgery • Shannon Duffy, in chemotherapy for Ewing's Sarcoma, parents Deb & Pete and sister Brianna • 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:

Bernie Perkins • Terry Desmond
Donzo Wilkinson • Brian Lewis
Tony Falls • Dick Lovett
Maria Amendt Aschenbrenner
Traci Lynn Whelden • Arthur Corbeil
Kyle Fedors, Keith Devlin, Walter Dlugozima
Dana Poole • Kristi
Billy Pasqualini • Neal Thayer.

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 the completion of adoption papers for Kelly McNatt's son, Joshua Daniel • For a special anniversary • For the courage and strength of cousin Luke as he comes out to family and friends • For the miracle of successful cataract surgery • Birth of Noel

William, son of Janet & Larry Leiber; grandson of Pat & Jim Doran • For Brianne's good race •

For the Peace Walkers and the continuous conversation about peace • 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.

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).

WHO NEEDS ESTATE PLANNING? Every adult who is legally competent, that owns anything and cares about who receives it at the time of their disability or death. In addition, estate planning is necessary for anyone who wants to leave a bequest for the Church.

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.

1 OUT OF 4 WOMEN IS A SURVIVOR OF SEXUAL ABUSE. Survivors don't have to be silent anymore. Inner Voice is a support group for women who are sexual abuse survivors. The groups are run by survivors for survivors. If you are interested in attending, please call 860-886-7511 x204. If you are interested in having a group start at NCC, call Marie LaTourette 860-739-0733.

WCSA MEETING, Nov 16, Fellowship Room, 1:00 PM. Jean Stamm will entertain us with her storytelling. All are welcome.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB has chosen "The Art of Racing in the Rain" by Garth Stein as its next reading selection. We will meet January 16th at 7 pm at the church. Hope to see you there.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN, our annual December meal together to kick off the Dinner groups. This year we will eat at Otter Cove in Old Saybrook (the former Vin Baker's restaurant). I've eaten dinner there and the food is excellent. Sunday, December 5, from 1-3 in the afternoon. A luncheon will be served with four different entrees, chicken piccata, sole florentine and two pasta dishes for a comprehensive price of \$23 (I PROMISE). Please make checks out to Niantic Community Church with the memo "Otter Cove". Deadline is November 28. We need at least 25 people to make this happen. Cherimeier@hotmail.com for questions to your answers.

OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS Ocean Pellet and Ellen Ashburn will be inviting church members to have "faith conversations," with the goal of strengthening our congregation and deepening our own journey with God. It's all about relationship building - our relationship with God and our community. Conversations are voluntary (but with Ocean and Ellen, they're also a lot of fun). You may get a phone call asking you to participate. Call the church office if you would like to have this conversation but haven't received a phone call.

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.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING, November 21st. 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 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79 or Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43.

Our Record of Faithfulness In Giving And Attending

Received to Date for 2010: \$355,415.19; Needed to be current for 2010: \$356,164.20

Last Sunday's Attendance: 9:00 a.m. – 155; 11:15 a.m. – 68; Church School – 53;

Total: 276

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, NOVEMBER 14

9:00AM Worship Service

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

10:15AM Sunday School for All Ages

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

10:15AM High School Fellowship (Youth
Room)

11:15AM Worship Service

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15

6:00PM Outreach Committee (Multipurpose
Room)

7:00PM Prudential Board (Fellowship Room)

7:00PM Men's Choir (Sanctuary)

7:00PM Toastmasters (Dining Hall)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

7:15AM Breakfast Bible Study (Niantic Diner)

1:00PM WCSA (Fellowship Room)

1:00PM "A Course in Life" (Parish Life
Office)

5:30PM Children's Choir (Sanctuary)

6:00PM Youth Bell Rehearsal (Multipurpose
Room)

6:15PM Gospel Choir (Sanctuary)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 CONTINUED

7:00PM Adult Bell Rehearsal (Multipurpose
Room)

7:00PM Communications (Parish Life Office)

7:00PM Boy Scouts (Dining Hall)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

9:30AM DISCIPLE I (Fellowship Room)

7:00PM Considering Membership Session
(Fellowship Room)

7:30PM NA (Dining Hall)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

11:30AM Spirited Pens (Fellowship Room)

6:00PM Shoreline Food Pantry (Dining Hall)

6:30PM Confirmation Class (Fellowship
Room)

7:00PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

8:00PM AA (Dining Hall)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19

7:30PM AA (Fellowship Room)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20

9:00PM Considering Membership Session
(Fellowship Room)

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