

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

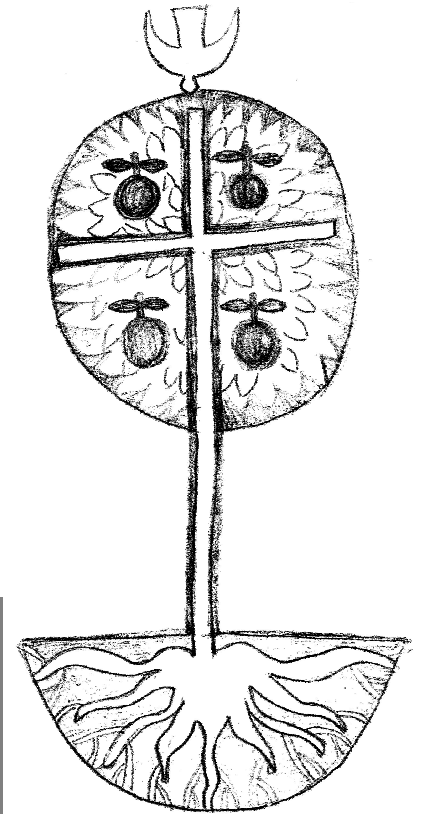
“Whoever you are;
wherever you are on life’s journey:
you are welcome here.”

February 6, 2011 • 9:00 & 11:15AM

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

“If people let the government decide what foods
they eat and what medicines they take, their bodies
will soon be in as sorry a state as are the souls of
those who live under tyranny.”

Thomas Jefferson, 1781



WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

“Toccata”

Muffat

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Agape

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

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

“Bless Thou the Lord O My Soul”
Gospel Choir (9:00AM)

J. McAllister

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus called us the salt of the earth.

Many: God uses us to bring enhancement to others.

Jesus called us the light of the world.

God uses us to shine brightly in the midst of pain or confusion.

Jesus called us a city on a hill.

**Like Jerusalem, God's holy city, let us open our doors, lift our hearts,
and raise our voices in praise of God: the Sovereign of all that is great and
the Savior of the humble.**

✕ HYMN #581 "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" BEACH SPRING

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**You are our light, O God. In your presence our lives are illumined; our way
becomes clearer. Our own light comes from you.**

Yet we confess to you that we often hide our light.

Not trusting our perceptions, we do not share our truth with others.

Not trusting our abilities, we do not risk sharing our gifts.

**Not trusting our strength, we do not raise difficult issues;
we do not break the silence of anger to give or seek forgiveness.**

Help us to trust in you where we cannot trust ourselves.

**Radiate through us with your holy love and wisdom,
with healing for the past and courage for the future.**

Warm our coldness; relax our tightness; give us clarity and peace.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who came to reveal your light to the world.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are those who seek the light and lightness of God.
Everyone who asks, receives, and the one who seeks, finds. Blessed are you who
repent, for you are forgiven and set free to live fully in this very moment.

Many: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

✕ HYMN #436 "The Voice of God Is Calling" MEIRIONYDD
Prayer requests will be collected; Children attending *Divine Activity Time* (for PreK-4th grade)
may leave during the singing of the hymn.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 5:13-20

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 Bright, Flavorful Faith”

John A. Nelson

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

OFFERTORY

Leader: Jesus calls us to be salt: offering to others the goodness that God has put into us. Jesus calls us to be light: the grace of God shining through us. So when we give, let's give boldly and generously, rejoicing in the power of God to work wonders within and around 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)

“From God I Will Not Depart”

Buxtehude

(11:15AM)

“A Winter Carol”

Gramann

(Adult Choir)

✠ 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, you are our Light: the primordial light of the cosmos,
in Jesus Christ the Light of the world,
and through the Spirit the Light within us all.**

**You have told us to live in such a way
that your light glows through all that we do.**

**As we bring our hearts, our gifts, and our lives to you now,
we trust you to transform these offerings**

**into food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless,
and hope and love for all who need you this day.**

**Let your grace shine through us, so that all your creation will see
and give glory to you. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

WE MEET AT THE LORD'S TABLE

INVITATION

Pastor: God in Christ breaks down the walls that make us strangers to ourselves and divide us from one another

**People: We are the body of Christ. Around this table, we enact our faith.
The body broken is restored to wholeness;
lifeblood poured out brings healing to our world.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: God be with you,

People: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts:

We lift them up to God.

Let us thank God:

It is good to thank God.

We dream, O God, of community, but in waking hours we forget such hopes. Our dreams we call "alien"; our sister and brother we call "stranger."

You call us by name.

**With arms outstretched as on a cross,
you call us to yourself,
and you name us as your own people.**

So with arms outstretched, we now embrace new friends and forgotten dreams.

The body broken and lifeblood poured transform our fears, revive our visions.

**Renew us, O God, with your Spirit,
that we may receive this mystery of our body,
embracing its manifold gifts and needs,
shouting an "Amen" that resounds through our world.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

✠ ACT OF PRAISE (*sung*)

**Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen; Amen.**

GREATOREX

REMEMBERING JESUS AT TABLE

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

We celebrate an open communion, and welcome every person to the table. We understand the sharing of the bread and the cup in Jesus' name to be a reenactment of an ancient vision of God's feast for all people. We don't require you to be a member of our church, or any church, to participate with us in this feast of grace: all that is needed is that you desire God's nurture. Today we will take communion by intinction: please come forward to receive bread, then dip it into the cup. (We use unfermented grape juice.) If you wish to be served in the pew, please indicate so to an usher.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Pastor: All praise is yours, O God. You bring us to this table as sisters and brothers. Lead us now, through each of our moments, to that glorious day when all your children will gather as family. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,

People: Who is our peace made flesh. Amen!

✠ HYMN (*insert*) "You Are Salt for the Earth, O People" BRING FORTH

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

POSTLUDE "Grand Jeu" *DuMage*

**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 available in the church library or 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 Bulletins, and Hymnals
are available. Please ask an usher for assistance!**

Today’s Worship Leaders

9:00AM

Ushers: Sue Smith, Edna Gilstad, Pam
Stevens, Karen Peacock
Worship Leader: Margaret Holmberg

11:15AM

Ushers: Nancy Burkhardt, Betty Jones,
Georgie Granger, Terry McNatt
Worship Leader: Nancy Hunt

Preacher: The Rev. John A. Nelson

Parish Host: Annette Silvia

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary to the Glory of God
and in celebration of Cathleen’s 26th birthday,
by Carol Donovan.

✂ All who are able may stand at these times

Cover illustration: “Tree of Life” by Alina Beebe

Call to Worship, Confession, Pardon, and Communion liturgy adapted and reprinted by permission of the publishers from *Touch Holiness*, ed Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. © 1990 The Pilgrim Press.
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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

**Acting Director of Religious Education &
Youth Ministries:** Amy Agles
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: John Whritner, *president*;

Cindy King, *vice-president*; Avery Morgan,

Pastor and Teacher: The Rev. John A. Nelson

clerk; Linda Leavens, *treasurer*, Liz Kuchta,
historian

Financial Secretary: Judy Layden

Bookkeeper: Maureen Godin

Librarian, Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Datum

OCCASIONS FOR SERVICE, WITNESS, AND PRAYER

In Our Prayers (offered by worshipers during previous weeks):

*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:

Congregational Church of Plainville, whose roof collapsed due to snow weight • Fred and Eleanor Winters • Norma Cook, recovering from surgery • Montville High School community, dealing with student's suicide • Christine Herzberg, unemployed • Drew, metastatic colon cancer • Abby, skiing accident with serious injuries • Doreen and Walter • Paul Harper and crew of USS Abe Lincoln • Justine, in difficult times.

People of Egypt, and foreigners traveling in the region.

Continuing concerns:

Dwight McDonald, pelvic fracture • Rita Kenway (mother of Nan Rigdon), in hospice care • Pat MacLary, shoulder surgery • Emily McNatt, on bedrest in last trimester of pregnancy • Rebecca McGlone • Helen Dey, at Bridebrook • John Thew, recovering from surgery • Parents settling into assisted living • Bruce, recovering from stroke • Zak, in a difficult time • For "good Samaritans" in a snowstorm • Mary Ellen, back problems • Laura, passing through a difficult time • Amy,

on bedrest due to pregnancy complications • David Helsel, deteriorating health • Virginia, Mary-Kent, Aunt Lyla, Huey, and Connor • Paul Swann • Those suffering from depression and anxiety.

In treatment for cancer:

Mike and Carrie, cancer treatment • Gail Joslin, liver cancer • Edith, in final stages of lung cancer • Dorothea, breast cancer • Marie, extensive chemotherapy for bilateral breast cancer • Mercedes, struggling with chemotherapy • Ken Esposito, health care organizer with the Christian Activities Council, pancreatic cancer • Missy Gardner • Clara Ball – and their families, friends, and caregivers.

Youth and families affected by the recent violence in New London

The people of Haiti in the cholera epidemic, and the people who seek to aid them; Australians affected by the flooding.

Friends and family now serving our country in the armed forces: Scott Basham; Greg Balsmeier; Alyson Barrett; Josh Earnhart; Matt Fergione; Tony Fergione; Paul Harper; Matt Liebal;

Nathaniel Lowe; J.P. Neilson; Thomas Miller;
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:**

Joseph Mendes • Ron Caron
Virginia Baker

Mary Lee • Joseph Lombardo
Miriam Mundell • Lou Katz
Don Bloom • Butch Laguna
Tom Rogers • Don Harper

Stillborn baby girl of Jenny & Roberto Arango
Ed Brailey • Dolores Dittman

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.*

**Thanksgiving for
Ministers of our Church:**

Christian Education Committee: Liz Buhler;
Rebecca Keenan; Lew Meier; Jennifer
Munzner; Joyce Wood; Linda Helvig; Christy
Pyatt; Sue Smith; Deb DeConto; Robert Rugg

Praise and Celebration:

Nancy Morissette, now in convalescent home
• Heather and Al's 16th anniversary • Nori's
completion of Masters in Education • For a
safe trip to Hong Kong & China and the
celebration of a son's marriage.

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).

A GIFT TO THE CHURCH is a testimony to your faith and the confidence you have in the ministry of the Church.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING, February 13th. 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: Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (or Sirach 15:15-20); Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37.

HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP 6:00-8:00 PM- Shelter Meal at St. James, New London. Please remember to bring chips and dips or bread (cornbread would be good, too!) to be served with the Super Bowl Sunday Chili and Grinder Meal. I need another parent to drive this Sunday. Can you please let me know by email if you can help? Thanks! amy.agles@nianticcommunitychurch.org

FEELING GUILTY? Mark your calendars for the 4th Friday of each month when The Guilty Mother's Club meets, 10:00-11:30 a.m. to discuss "forgiving others, forgiving ourselves." Refreshments will be served and child care will be provided upon ADVANCE request. Join us in the Fellowship room. Call Patty if you have questions. 860-739-6208. See you there.

GLAD NO MATTER WHAT - TRANSFORMING LOSS AND CHANGE INTO GIFT & OPPORTUNITY is SARK's latest book. Please join us for this sacred circle beginning Tuesday, February 8th for four weeks, meeting 1:00-2:30 p.m.. Books can be purchased at Amazon.com or most local bookstores. If you need help, just ask. Scholarships available. Call the church office to register.

2010 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS are available in the narthex. In an effort to save postage please remember to take yours with you when you leave worship. If you have any questions, please call Judy Layden (739-6741)

CALLING ALL SCOUTERS, CALLING ALL SCOUTERS !!! We at Niantic Community Church are recognizing all Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Eagle Scouts, Sea Scouts, Venturers, and leaders (past and present) on Sunday the 13th of February. We would like all, if possible, to be in uniform. We are looking for a couple of boys to help with service. Please contact Ron Deziel 860-7398063, if interested. Thanks, yours in scouting Ron, church representative of Troop 24.

2ND ANNUAL "SOUP"er bowl canned food drive will be taking place on Sunday, February 6th from 11-2pm. Please bring canned food and non-perishables to the church. Wear warm clothes (hats and mittens or gloves, too!); it is going to be cold on Sunday and we will be collecting the food donations outside. You are welcome to bring a friend to help with this ministry.

TRUE COLORS CONFERENCE is coming up! March 11-12, 2011 at UConn, Storrs Campus. True Colors is a non-profit organization that works within communities to ensure that the needs of sexual and gender minority youth are both recognized and competently met. Their conference is the largest LGBT youth conference in the country and is appropriate for middle and high school LGBT youth and their allies. Once again, the Open, Affirming and Reconciling Committee will sponsor youth to attend this wonderful event. Those interested please speak with Jackie Kalajainen by Feb 12th.

THANK YOU from the Senior High Youth for your donations to our "Packages to College Freshmen Project". We mailed 8 packages and your donations paid for the food treats, school supplies, toiletries, personal notes, and the postage costs! Thanks! Also thank you to Susan Brown who has organized and supported this ministry for the past few years and those who paved the way in the past.

SWEETS FOR THE SWEET. Wondering what is the perfect gift for your Valentine? Think no more. On Sunday, February 13, all of our high schoolers who are going on the July mission trip to Philadelphia, will be hosting a Valentine Cake Silent Auction. Whole cakes, cupcakes, and slices will be available and all proceeds will help offset the trip expenses to the "City of Brotherly Love".

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee is looking to recruit some creative and tech-savvy person to help with our church website update and revitalization. The importance of this form of communication cannot be overstated since the website is often an introduction to who we are as a church. Our website needs to be user friendly, attractive and inviting in order to help people realize how important it is for them to be members at NCC. Creatively, we would like to see a uniformity of messages that would tie the website in with the colors and design theme of our newly approved church signs and other appropriate images of life in our church. We have ideas but we need your help with implementation. Maybe this is work you can apply toward a college credit or internship. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please call Judy in the church office (860-739-6208).

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, FEBRUARY 6

9:00AM Worship Service

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

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

11:15AM Worship Service

11:00-2:00 PM "Soup"er Bowl canned food
drive

6:00PM CLAY (Shelter)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

4:30PM Intro to Kundalini Yoga (Fellowship
Room)

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

7:00PM Men's Choir (Sanctuary)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

7:15AM Breakfast Bible Study (Niantic Diner)

1:00PM "Glad No Matter What" sacred circle
(Fellowship Room)

5:30PM Children's Choir (Sanctuary)

6:00PM Youth Bell Rehearsal (Multipurpose
Room)

6:15PM Gospel Choir (Sanctuary)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 CONTINUED

7:00PM Adult Bell Rehearsal (Multipurpose
Room)

7:00PM Maintenance Committee (Office)

7:00PM Boy Scouts (Dining Hall)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

9:00AM DISCIPLE (Fellowship Room)

7:30PM NA (Dining Hall)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

6:00PM Shoreline Food Pantry (Dining Hall)

7:00PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

8:00PM AA (Dining Hall)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

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

7:30PM AA (Multipurpose Room)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

10:00-11:00AM AA (Multipurpose
Room/Fellowship Room)

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