

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 13, 2011 • 9:00 & 11:15AM

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
Scouting Sunday



The Scout Sunday tradition was started to make people in houses of worship aware of Scouting. It also supports the Scouts’ weekly pledge of “Duty to God” and Scouting’s commitment to reverence. These values strengthen youth character in their family, community, and faith.

The Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

The Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
Honest and fair,
Friendly and helpful,
Considerate and caring,
Courageous and strong, and
Responsible for what I say and do,
and to respect myself and others,
respect authority, use resources wisely,
make the world a better place,
and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

The Boy Scout Oath

On my honor, I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country;
To obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake and morally straight.

The Boy Scout Law

A Scout is
trustworthy, loyal, helpful,
friendly, courteous, kind,
obedient, cheerful, thrifty,
brave, clean, and reverent.

WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

“Prelude and Fugue in G minor”
“Jesus Loves Me”
Youth Bell Choir

J.S. 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

“My Lord, What a Morning”
Lynne Floyd, *soprano*

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: My Lord, what a morning!

You have raised up a mighty nation and a mighty people.

People: And we are strong, bold, and yours.

Leader: My Lord, what a morning!

You have brought us through the dips and hollows,
up and down the streets,

over the hills and mountains and through the valleys.

People: And we are strong, brave, and yours.

All: My Lord, this morning, we have come to celebrate you,

to affirm ourselves as images of you in all your glory

and to say “Yes, Lord, we are strong, bold, brave, and yours in every way.”

We count it all joy!

✠ HYMN #400

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

NETTLETON

SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Clayton Cushing, Gotham Yenduri

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.

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING FOR SCOUT SUNDAY

Clayton Cushing, Sarah Davey,
Meghan McCauley, Gotham Yenduri

Leader: Gracious God, you are so good to us. Today we offer a prayer of thanksgiving for all the blessings revealed to us through Scouting: Boy Scouts; Girl Scouts; Cub Scouts; and Brownies. For the gifts of your good creation, which we encounter when we spend time in your forests and fields, beaches, streams, lakes, and oceans, sunrises and sunsets, wind, rain, and snow, through all the cycles of nature:

People: We give you thanks, O God.

For the ways that we learn to become responsible to one another, cooperating, collaborating, committed to the success of each member of our pack and den and troop:

We give you thanks, O God.

For the blessings you make known to us through friendships, and fun, and challenges:

We give you thanks, O God.

For the ways that Scouting helps us to grow strong in body and strong in character; for the lessons in honesty, in courtesy, and kindness:

We give you thanks, O God.

For the leaders who give deeply of themselves to guide the Scouts, and for the leadership that Scouts learn for themselves:

We give you thanks, O God.

God, we owe thanks to you for all these gifts. We pray to continue growing into your best vision for who we can be: caring and thoughtful, loyal to our fellow scouts; prepared to take on the promise and the obligations of citizenship.

God, give your blessing to these and to all Scouts.

Grant them strength to live with righteousness, and

to surpass our generation in building justice and compassion

in our nation and in all the world. We ask it in Jesus' name; Amen.

A MUSICAL OFFERING

"Testimony of a Child"
Children's Choir

Karen Washington

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

✘ HYMN #463

"Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"

CANONBURY

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 5:21-37

SERMON

“A Choosing People”

John A. Nelson

ANTHEM (9am)

“Lord, Grant Peace to All Your Servants”
(Adult Choir)

W.A. Mozart

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

PRAYERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

MISSION MOMENT AND OFFERTORY

Luane Lange

Leader: We have choices. In this moment we choose to make offerings – tithes and gifts – to honor our God, and to align ourselves with God’s vision. We remember that all we have comes from the abundant generosity of God. In our giving, we have a precious opportunity to let generosity re-shape and energize our lives.

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

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

In addition to our tithes and offerings to the mission of our church, today the Christian Outreach Committee invites us to make our yearly offering to Bread for the World: a collective Christian voice seeking to end hunger at home and abroad. This morning’s collection also includes an offering from Boy Scout Troop 24, from their highway coffee-stop project.

THE MUSICAL OFFERING

“Bless This House”

Brahe

Zachary Deziel, *flute*

✠ 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, we present our gifts and ourselves and we declare a deep trust in you: the source of all life; the source of all hope; the foundation even firmer than the ground under our feet. Even if we haven't completely trusted in you, we dare to believe that our faith can grow. We dare to trust that your grace is here, and we can rely on it. We dare to believe that your Spirit can heal the world. We declare our wish to be your partners in the work of building harmony and hope for every living thing. To that end we dedicate all that we are and all that we give. In Jesus' name; Amen.

✠ HYMN #519

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

LIFT EVERY VOICE

✠ BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN

(Hymnal, 898)

POSTLUDE

"Coe Fen"

Naylor

**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 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: Carl Putnam, Sonya Hoisington,
Judy DeVey, Marion McKenzie
Worship Leader: Brooke Stutzman

11:15AM

Ushers: Pam Stevens,
Carol Donovan
Worship Leader: Terri McTigue

Preacher: The Rev. John A. Nelson

Parish Host: Kay Whritner

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary to the Glory of God
and In Celebration of our 23rd Anniversary
by Verna & Paul Swann.

⌘ 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:** 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,
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 everyone seeking work in hard times •
Pfizer employees facing the uncertainty of
layoffs • Sandy, suffering through
chemotherapy for stage 4 colon cancer • Gail
(Kay Whritner's sister) • Ron Hathaway, knee
replacement • Parents who are divorcing •
Beth, ovarian cancer • Kate, Rett Syndrome •
Christine Morales, thyroid cancer • Ron
Johnson, rotator cuff surgery • John Mahon,
shoulder replacement • Chris, bilateral
mastectomy, and George • Debbie Krasner,
cancer diagnosis • Alan Mitchell, traveling to
Seattle for medical consultation • Amy, on bed
rest for pregnancy complications • Bret, cancer
• Judy, broken wrist.

Continuing 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 • Dwight McDonald, pelvic fracture •
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 • Virginia, Mary-Kent, Aunt Lyla, Huey, and Connor • Paul Swann • Those suffering from depression and anxiety.

People of Egypt, and foreigners traveling in the region.

For the search committee that has taken on the ministry of finding a settled Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministries (Joyce Wood, chair, Dan Estey, Barbara Heaney, Ron Johnson, Rebecca Keenan, Kathy Leindecker), the candidates, and Amy Agles who serves as our Acting DREYM.

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In treatment for cancer:

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

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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:

Hart Perry • Gary Saunders
Mark Whitney • Steve Fowles
Nancy Morissette • Rita Kenway •
Joseph Mendes • Ron Caron • Virginia Baker
Mary Lee • Joseph Lombardo
Miriam Mundell • Lou Katz
Don Bloom

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 Outreach Committee: Amy Agles;
Anne Davis; Luane Lange; Carolyn Lombardo;
Jean Spranklin; Lisa Aschenbrenner;
Kathy Liebal; Bette Mahon; Sandy Spencer;
Laurie Castronova.

Praise and Celebration:

Cathleen’s birthday • Bob and Laurie Castronova’s 33rd anniversary • Mark Hanson’s successful surgery • Deb’s recovery from breast cancer • 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).

DID YOU KNOW that the state has made a Will for you if you have no Will yourself? These laws might not leave your property to the people you wish. These laws definitely don't leave any property to the Church or any other charity. Shouldn't you prepare a Will or Living Trust?

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING, February 20th. 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: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23; Matthew 5:38-48.

SWEETS FOR THE SWEET. Wondering what is the perfect gift for your Valentine? Think no more. Today, between services,, 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".

THE PRUDENTIAL BOARD MEETING has been changed from February 21st to February 28th at 7pm in the Fellowship Room.

PLEASE NOTE that there is no adult choir rehearsal on Thursday, February 17th.

WCSA - FEB 15, FELLOWSHIP ROOM, 1:00PM - Doris Beebe will give a slide show and talk about her recent trip to Hong Kong and mainland China. All are welcome. For questions, call Karen Peacock 739-9996 or Carol June 739-8851.

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.

HOWARD CHRISTENSEN THANKS our Pastor John and the congregation for the cards, phone calls, flowers, and visits that he received during his recent hospitalization and recuperation. Your prayers and thoughtful acts of kindness are appreciated.

REMINDER: Tidings articles deadline is February 15th for the March Tidings. Please submit articles as soon as possible. Thank you. Tidings@TheDatums.com

THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY has been designated as "Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month". A national study ranked CT as having the 4th highest incidence of teen dating violence in the country (8%). That number is alarming. The Women's Center of S.E.CT conducted a similar survey among local H.S. students and found an even higher reported incidence (12%). Should you have any concerns or questions feel free to contact Anne Wernau, or The Women's Center directly.

HUGE THANK YOU'S TO EVERYONE who helped make our 3rd annual "SOUP"er bowl canned food drive such a wonderful success. Our Middle School Youth collected over 700 pounds of food for the Gemma Moran Food Bank.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP- Sunday February 13- 1:30-3:30 Roller Skating at Galaxy Roller Rink in Groton. The cost is \$6 and bring your own skates or roller blades. Skate rental is \$2 and roller blade rental is \$4. Bring a friend and we will see you there! Snacks provided.

MSF WANAKEE QUARTER CONTEST CHALLENGES are underway. Cast your quarters, change, and dollars for your favorite!

DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING? Perhaps you are being called to teach a Sunday School class or lead Divine Activity Time. No previous experience required. Please call Amy Agles, Interim DREYM.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR- Youth Worship Sunday, March 13. All kids in Middle School and High School are encouraged to participate. We need ushers, lay readers, actors, artists, musicians, photographers and any who are great at PowerPoint presentations. Planning for the Service is on Sunday, February 27 and Sunday, March 6 from 12:30-2:30. We invite you all to share your gifts!

IT'S OFFICIAL! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is set for July 11-15. Thank you to Barbara Heaney and Dana Carr who will be leading the kids this summer. Information to follow on ways that you can help.

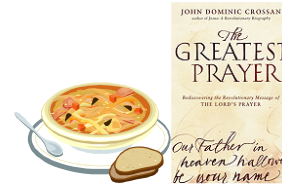
Our Record of Faithfulness In Giving And Attending

Received to Date for 2011: \$48,238.66; Needed to be current for 2011: \$49,324.56

Last Sunday's Attendance: 9:00 a.m. – 120; 11:15 a.m. – 74; Church School – 27;

Total: 221

**LENTEN SERIES
SOUP & SOUL**



**WEDNESDAYS 5:30-6:45 P.M.
MARCH 9 THROUGH APRIL 20, 2011**

IN *THE GREATEST PRAYER*, DOMINIC CROSSAN, A JESUS SCHOLAR, EXPLORES THE LORD'S PRAYER LINE-BY-LINE FOR THE RICHEST AND FULLEST UNDERSTANDING YET OF A PRAYER EVERY CHRISTIAN KNOWS BY HEART.

“THIS IS QUINTESSENTIAL CROSSAN FOR THE GENERAL MARKET, PROVIDING JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF HISTORY, SCHOLARSHIP, AND DETAIL TO FACILITATE THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTIANITY'S GREATEST PRAYER. CROSSAN REVEALS THE ENDURING MEANING AND UNIVERSAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ONLY PRAYER JESUS EVER TAUGHT.”

- DELICIOUS HOMEMADE SOUPS AND BREAD
- ALL ARE WELCOME * BRING A FRIEND
- COME FOR ONE WEEK OR ALL SEVEN
- SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
- LET US KNOW IN ADVANCE IF YOU REQUIRE CHILD CARE

**BOOKS (\$22) ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE
OR CALL (860)739-6208.**

NIANTIC COMMUNITY CHURCH
170 PENNSYLVANIA AVE., NIANTIC, CT 06357
(860)739-6208

WWW.NIANTICCOMMUNITYCHURCH.ORG

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 13

9:00AM Worship Service

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

Between Services Valentine Cake Silent
Auction (Dining Hall)

10:15AM Sunday School for All Ages

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

11:15AM Worship Service

1:30 -3:30PM Middle School Fellowship (Meet
at Galaxy Roller Skating Rink,
Groton)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14

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

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

NO Men's Choir

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

7:15AM Breakfast Bible Study (Niantic Diner)

1:00PM "Glad No Matter What" sacred circle
(Parish Life Office)

1:00PM WCSA (Fellowship Room)
NO Youth Bell Rehearsal

5:30PM Children's Choir (Sanctuary)

6:15PM Gospel Choir (Sanctuary)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15 CONTINUED

NO Adult Bell Rehearsal

7:00PM Communications Committee (Parish
Life Office)

7:00PM Boy Scouts (Dining Hall)

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 16

9:00AM DISCIPLE (Fellowship Room)

7:30PM NA (Dining Hall)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

11:30AM Spirited Pens (Parish Life Office)

6:00PM Shoreline Food Pantry (Dining Hall)

6:30PM Confirmation Class (Fellowship
Room)

NO Adult Choir Rehearsal

8:00PM AA (Dining Hall)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

7:30PM AA (Dining Hall)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

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

7:30PM AA (Dining Hall)

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