

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 27, 2011 • 9:00 & 11:15AM

The Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany

Worry is interest paid on trouble before it comes due.

W.R. Inge, 20th century

WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

“Canzona”

Gabrieli

SHARING OF PARISH ACTIVITIES & RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

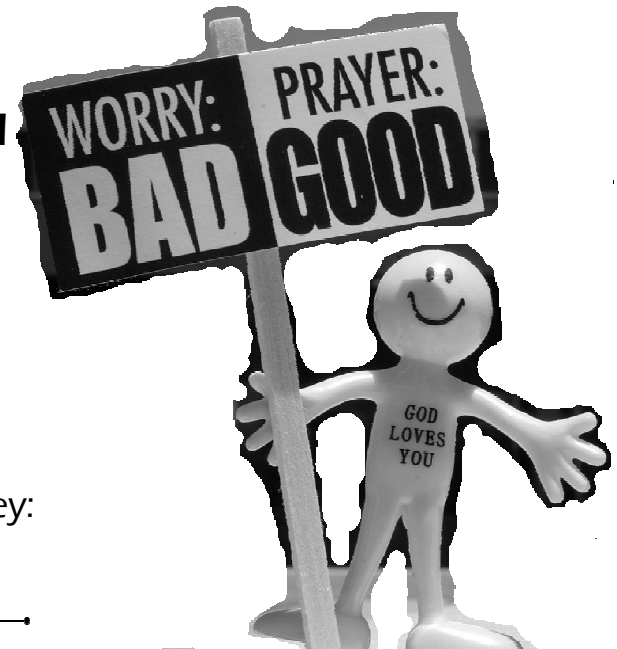
Those in each pew closest to the center aisle will please begin passing the Friendship Pads so that everyone has an opportunity to indicate their presence here today and make a note of any messages. After the sharing of parish concerns, all will be invited to greet one another in Christian fellowship and love. Prayer requests will be collected during the second hymn.

INTROIT

“Be Thou My Vision”
Bell Choir

arr. Wagner

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



CALL TO WORSHIP (*adapted from Isaiah 49:13-16a*)

One: Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!
For God has comfort for all the people;
God has compassion on everyone who suffers.

All: But the people said,

“No, God has left me behind. I worry; I hurt: my God has forgotten me.”

God says to us: “Can a woman forget her nursing child?
Or show no compassion for the child of her womb?
Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.”

**Though we carry our worries with us,
still we will worship the God who never forgets,
who always fills us with grace and power.**

✧ HYMN #133

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

SHOWALTER

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: You tell us not to worry, Mothering God, but we cannot seem to help ourselves.

**Many: With refrigerators full of food, we still make grocery lists;
with closets so full we cannot shut the doors, we run out and buy new outfits;
with a simple invitation to “follow me,”
we form committees to help us decide.**

We lift our hearts to you, Tender God, so you would fill them with your mercy and hope. May we continue to seek your kingdom in every moment to come, hoping and trusting in the peace and love of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

**Quietly now, we consider the stresses and burdens on our lives, daring to trust
in your power to lift them from us.**

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Like a nursing child fed by its mother, God’s mercy calms and quiets us, so we can receive all that God wants to give us. Know that even as we turn our hearts to God, God forgives us.

**All: We welcome the new lightness of being that God gives to us, and will
share these gifts with everyone we meet. Thanks be to God! Alleluia; Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

- ✦ HYMN #142 “If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee” WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT
Prayer requests will be collected; Children attending *Divine Activity Time* (for PreK–4th grade)
may leave during the singing of the hymn.

SCRIPTURE READING

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

“Can I Get an Amen?”

John A. Nelson

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Leader: The gospel of Jesus Christ tells us:
you have relied on money; try relying on God.

Amen!

That kind of trust doesn't come easily, so we get to practice every week.

Amen!

With every bit of ourselves that we give, every tithe and offering, we are putting our trust into God's grace. Time now to open our hearts, and empty our wallets!

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

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE MUSICAL OFFERING

(9:00AM)

“Holy, Holy, Holy”
(Adult Choir)

Tchaikovsky

(11:15AM)

“O Thou, In All Thy Might”

Wood

✦ 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

Ever-present God, with this offering we present also ourselves:
all that we have been; all that we are; all that we shall become.
May our giving in this moment be just a beginning of
a new journey of trust with you. Bless these gifts and bless us
to your grace-filled purposes. Amen.

✠ HYMN

“God’s Eye Is on the Sparrow”

SPARROW

1. Why should I feel discouraged,
Why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely
And long for heaven and home,
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend will be:
God’s eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me;
God’s eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.

Refrain

I sing because I’m happy, I sing because I’m free,
For God’s eye is on the sparrow, And I know God watches me.

2. “Let not your heart be troubled,” Christ’s tender word I hear,
And resting on God’s goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path God leads me But one step I may see;
God’s eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me;
God’s eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.

Refrain

3. Whenever I am tempted, Whenever clouds arise,
When songs give place to sighing, When hope within me dies,
I then draw close to my Savior, From care God sets me free;
God’s eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me;
God’s eye is on the sparrow, and I know God watches me.

Refrain

✠ BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN

(Hymnal, 898)

POSTLUDE

“God Himself is With Us”

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: Edna Gilstad, Jan Johnson,
John & Catherine Vincent

Worship Leader: Brooke Stutzman

11:15AM

Ushers: Ocean Pellett,
Liz Buhler

Worship Leader: Jeannette Woodworth

Preacher: The Rev. John A. Nelson

Parish Host: Candy Neilson

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary to the Glory of God,
and in loving memory of my mother, Rita Kenway,
by Nan Rigdon.

✠ All who are able may stand at these times

Illustration by Leonard John Matthews. Prayer of Confession adapted from Thom M. Shuman, © 2011

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,
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:

Jeanett Martin, at Bridebrook • Lisa Gustavsen, injured back • Debbie Krasne, chemotherapy • Mike, long struggle with cancer • Carrie, lung cancer • Families facing crisis and major decisions • Safety for all travelers, especially MaKenna and Kelly • Shirley Smith, pancreatic cancer.

Continuing concerns:

Norma and Ed Cook • Ron Johnson, shoulder surgery • John Mahon, shoulder replacement • Ron Hathaway, knee replacement • For everyone seeking work in hard times • Pfizer employees facing the uncertainty of layoffs • Gail (Kay Whritner's sister) • Ron Hathaway, knee replacement • Parents who are divorcing • Kate, Rett Syndrome • Ron Johnson, rotator cuff surgery • John Mahon, shoulder replacement • Alan Mitchell, traveling to Seattle for medical consultation • Amy, on bed rest for pregnancy complications • Judy,

broken wrist • Congregational Church of Plainville, whose roof collapsed due to snow weight • Norma Cook, recovering from surgery • Montville High School community, dealing with student's suicide • Christine Herzberg, unemployed • Abby, skiing accident with serious injuries • Doreen and Walter • Paul Harper and crew of USS Abe Lincoln • Aunt Lyla, Kathy, and Connor • Paul Swann • Those suffering from depression and anxiety.

The homeless and the hungry: God, help us to remember that homelessness and hunger anywhere is our burden, as well.

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:

Ed Painter, cancer treatment • Sandy, suffering through chemotherapy for stage 4 colon cancer • Beth, ovarian cancer • Christine Morales, thyroid cancer • Chris, bilateral mastectomy, and George • Debbie Krasner • Bret • Drew, metastatic colon cancer • Dorothea, breast cancer • 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:**

Marjorie Crockett • Donna Kelly
Matt Gentry • Virginia Baker

Nancy Bahrenburg • Loretta Joyce •
Trish Murray • Edith Richards
Hart Perry • Gary Saunders
Mark Whitney • Steve Fowler
Nancy Morissette • Rita Kenway
Richard Cooper
Joseph Mendes • Ron Caron
Virginia Baker
Mary Lee • Joseph Lombardo

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:**

Endowment Committee: Edna Gilstad; Dick Goeben; Catherine Daboll; Mary Wassung; Bruce Brailey; Madelyn Wyckoff

Praise and Celebration:

Lenore and Donald Campbell's 50th wedding anniversary • Mercedes, cancer in remission • Norma now recovering at home • Successful surgeries for John Mahon, Ron Johnson, Ron Hathaway • Zachary Peters, now serving in the U.S. • A mortgage paid in full! • A full-time job for Alyssa • Baby Tony, safely arrived • Evelyn Calderone, out of hospital • Mark Hanson's successful surgery • Deb's recovery from breast cancer.

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 OWNING all of your assets jointly might result in paying Federal estate taxes that might be avoided through proper estate planning? Ask your tax advisor and have your advisor add the Church to your estate-plans as a beneficiary.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING, March 6th. Communion served by intinction. 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: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9.

THE PRUDENTIAL BOARD MEETING is scheduled for Monday, February 28th at 7pm in the Fellowship Room.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB meets this evening at 7 pm in the Fellowship Room. We will be discussing "Sarah's Key". Please join us.

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.

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN SERVICE ASSOCIATION (WCSA) will sponsor a rummage sale on Sat., Apr 9, from 9 - 12. Items needed are clothing, linens and bedding, shoes, toys, sports equipment (except skis) household and kitchen items. Please do not bring computers, typewriters, furniture, rugs or anything heavy. More information will be forthcoming at a later date. For questions, call Doris Beebe.

WOMEN'S RETREAT is almost here. The retreat will be April 1 - 3 at Camp Wightman. Please join us for fun, relaxation and renewal. See Carol Donovan, Ocean Pellett or Ellen Ashburn to sign up. The cost for the weekend is \$120.00 (\$60.00 for Saturday only). Scholarships are available, please talk to Pastor John.

SOUP & SOUL begins March 9 and continues for 7 weeks throughout lent, meeting Wednesdays 5:30-6:45 p.m. Join in a conversation about the Lord's Prayer with Dominic Crossan's, *The Greatest Prayer*. Books available in the church office. \$22. Homemade soups and bread are served and all are welcome. Scholarships available for books and child care can be arranged with ADVANCE notice. Bring a friend!

CALLING ALL WANAKEE ALUMNI- KIDS, YOUNG ADULTS, ADULTS. If you have ever been to Wanakee, we want to know. We are compiling a Master List and we want you on it. Please email Deb Fountain (debfontain@prudentialct.com) with the details: name and

the year(s) you were there (if you can remember), and anyone's name and contact information that you have if they are no longer part of the NCC church home. Thank you!

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! You do not need to be present at both sessions to participate.

DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING? Perhaps you are being called to teach a Sunday School class or lead Divine Activity Time. No previous experience required; someone will be with you for your "on the job training". Please call Amy Agles, Interim DREYM.

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP WANAKEE QUARTER CONTEST CHALLENGES are underway. Cast your quarters, change, and dollars for your favorite! To date we have raised over \$140. All money will be used to fund our mission work trip to the Arbutus Hill Farm in Meredith, NH, owned by Jennifer Mayo, a former Heifer Recipient. Trip dates are April 29, 30 & May 1.

THE LADIES BENEVOLENT SOCIETY of the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme, 2 Ferry Rd. is sponsoring a dinner on Tuesday, March 1, at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Haitian style dinner is a benefit for The Crosby Fund for Haitian Education. NCC Outreach sponsors two Haitian students each year in this program that provides tuition, books, uniforms and a bicycle for transportation for over 150 students. Dinner donations start at \$10. For more information, contact Amy Agles.

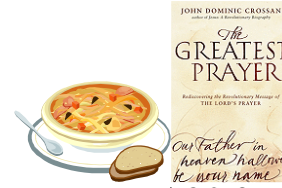
Our Record of Faithfulness In Giving And Attending

Received to Date for 2011: \$67,994.34; Needed to be current for 2011: \$65,766.08

Last Sunday's Attendance: 9:00 a.m. – 102; 11:15 a.m. – 42; Church School – 10;

Total: 154

**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

MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION- FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of shriving, when the faithful confessed their sins to the local priest and received forgiveness before the Lenten season began. Shrove Tuesday also marked the beginning of the 40-day Lenten fasting period when the faithful were forbidden to consume meat, butter, eggs or milk. However, if a family had a store of these foods they would certainly spoil by the time the fast ended on **Easter Sunday**. What to do? Add flour and make pancakes! Hence, the name Fat Tuesday.

To honor these two traditions, we invite you to join us for a pancake supper, Mardi Gras festivities, and closing worship on March 8th beginning at 6:00 PM.

The Pancake Supper is offered by the Middle School Fellowship as a fundraiser for the Wanakee Service Trip.

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 27

- 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)
- 11:15AM Worship Service
- 12:30PM High School & Middle School
Fellowship (Youth Worship Service
Planning)
- 7:00PM Women's Fellowship Book Club
(Fellowship Room)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 4:30PM Intro to Kundalini Yoga (Fellowship
Room)
- 6:00PM PPRC (Parish Life Office)
- 7:00PM Men's Choir (Sanctuary)
- 7:00PM Prudential Board (Fellowship
Room)

TUESDAY MARCH 1

- 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)

TUESDAY, MARCH 1 CONTINUED

- 6:15PM Gospel Choir (Sanctuary)
- 7:00PM Adult Bell Rehearsal (Multipurpose
Room)
- 7:00PM Parish Life Ministries & Worship
Team (Fellowship Room/Office)
- 7:00PM Open, Affirming, & Reconciling
Committee (Parish Life Office)
- 7:00PM Boy Scouts (Dining Hall)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

- 9:00AM DISCIPLE (Fellowship Room)
- 7:30PM NA (Dining Hall)

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

- 9:00AM Newcomers (Dining Hall)
- 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, MARCH 4

- 7:00PM Taizé Prayer Service (Sanctuary)
- 7:30PM AA (Multipurpose Room)

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

- 10:00-11:00AM AA (Multipurpose
Room/Fellowship Room)
- 7:30PM AA (Dining Hall)

Niantic Community Church

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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