

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



Lent I

Sunday

of the last week

*... in which Jesus
answers the bristling
power of Rome with
the strange power of
humility*

March 13, 2011 • 9:00 & 11:15AM • *The First Sunday in Lent*

An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.

Mohandes Gandhi

He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to
perpetrate it. She who accepts evil without protesting against it is really
cooperating with it.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

"All Night, All Day"

Youth Bell Choir

arr. Callahan

arr. Thompson

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 "Let There Be Peace on Earth" *arr. Althouse*
Agape (Georganne Agles, Zach Deziel, Marissa Mirecki, Baird Welch-Collins)

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

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 13: 1-7 Caroline Gonsalves, Marissa Mirecki
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.

MUSICAL OFFERING "Magnify the Lord" *Joshua Troop*
NCC & Miracle Temple Children's Choirs

CALL TO WORSHIP Sean Heaney, Jackson Pirelli, Ryan McCauley

One: Lord, we know that you see what is happening in your world. Sadly, bullying is nothing new. It seems to be increasing and is happening to the young and the elderly and in places as far away as Libya and as nearby as the neighborhood school.

All: Are we really all that different? Aren't we all your children?

Lord, we are different colors. Lord we are different sexualities and ages. We come from different backgrounds, and may have different sexual orientations.

But, maybe we aren't all that different. We are all your children.

Lord, we are rich and poor and everything in between. We are tall, short, and may not look like each other. We celebrate different holidays and practice different faiths.

Lord, help us to accept one another because we know that we are all your children.

✦ HYMN #560 "Help Us Accept Each Other" ACCEPTANCE

MISSION MOMENT Sandra Spencer

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION Elizabeth Heaney

One: Dear Lord, Guide us if we have strayed from your word.

All: We have all been victims, but we have also degraded your children.

We are quick to judge and assume flaws in others, while our hearts know that you love us all the same.

We are overly aware of our differences and we forget our similarities. Help us to grow strong inside and to accept others as they are.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Carin Estey

Rejoice, for the Lord knows us and our faults. When we follow the Lord, we are admired. Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, God loves you as you are now. You are forgiven.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

Quin Selmeski

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

Amelia Selmeski

✕ HYMN #444

"Oh Young and Fearless Prophet"

BLAIRGOWRIE

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

A SKIT FOR THOUGHT

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 11:1-11

J.T. Spranklin

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.

REFLECTION

"A Powerful Choice"

John A. Nelson

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

PRAYERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Jay Mirecki, Clayton Cushing

Leader: Scripture calls us to be kind, trustworthy, and filled with love. Jesus reminds us that even when others are unkind, we can still be accepting. Let us remember to be selfless, just as Jesus was.

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

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE MUSICAL OFFERING "That's Why We Praise Him"

Youth Praise Band
(Clayton Cushing, Jake Graham, Jay Mirecki, Amelia Selmeski)

✘ DOXOLOGY

OLD 100TH

**Praise God throughout these forty days;
Praise Christ, our Lord whom God did raise;
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.**

✘ UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rose Datum, Meghan McCauley

**Ever-present God, we give gifts that we hope will make those who walk in
darkness, walk in light! Grant hope to those in despair and forgiveness and
acceptance to the young and the old, the black and the white colored and the
short and the tall people's mistakes. We dedicate ourselves so that this may
happen. Grant to each giver a sense of peace. Amen.**

✘ HYMN #431

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

WORLD PEACE

✘ BENEDICTION

The Prayer of St. Francis

✘ THREE-FOLD AMEN

(Hymnal, 898)

POSTLUDE

excerpts from "Notturmo"
Bradley King

Ottorino Respighi

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

✘ ✘ ✘

"Love is the final fight."

John M. Perkins

Special thanks to Evan King, photographer,
and to Amy Gonsalves for helping with the youth.

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: Keith & Candy Neilson,
Judy Layden, Angie Hayes

Worship Leaders: Middle & High School
Youth

11:15AM

Ushers: Dan Scace,
Brooke Stutzman

Worship Leaders: Middle & High School
Youth

Acolytes: Quin Selmeski, Jackson Pirelli

Preacher: The Rev. John A. Nelson

Parish Host: Mary Wassung

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary to the Glory of God
and in Loving Memory of my father, J. Kenneth Dolph,
by Nancy Hunt.

✘ 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

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:

Norma Cook, recovering from surgery

Continuing concerns:

Wisdom and compassion for families facing the unknown • Families struggling with loss • Ann Bense, recovering from surgery • Jeanett Martin, at Bridebrook • Families facing crisis and major decisions • Safety for all travelers, especially MaKenna and Kelly • 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) • Parents who are divorcing • Kate, Rett Syndrome • Alan Mitchell, traveling to Seattle for medical consultation • Amy, on bed rest for pregnancy complications • Judy, broken wrist • 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.

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:

Shari Scace, chemotherapy • Gail Joslin, liver cancer • Alma • Charlie, whose cancer is not responding to chemotherapy • Lisa Gustavsen, injured back • Debbie Krasne, lung cancer • Mike, long struggle with cancer • Carrie, lung cancer • Shirley Smith, pancreatic 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 • Dorothea, breast cancer • Sandy Dobeo,

multiple myeloma • Ken Esposito, health care organizer with the Christian Activities Council, pancreatic cancer • 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:

Steven Brewster • Missy Gardner
Traci Whelden • Norman Fontaine
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

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:

Music and Worship Arts Committee:
Lynne Floyd; Cheri Meier; Carole Glenn;
Mary Mirecki; Avery Morgan

Praise and Celebration:

Justin's new job, and healing from emergency appendectomy • For the beautiful music of our choir • Barbara & B.B. Burnham's 64th wedding anniversary • 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).

THE COSTS OF HAVING YOUR ESTATE PLAN PREPARED can be a terrific bargain. You may save many times the cost in taxes and administrative expenses to your heirs. The estate planning can also make it possible for you to make a gift to your Church.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING, March 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: Psalm 121; Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; Matthew 17:1-9.

WCSA-March 15th, Fellowship Room, 1:00pm – Join us for Bingo! Please bring an inexpensive Bingo prize. Also, bring used magazines to swap or drop off. Any questions, call Carol June, 739-8851.

LENT/EASTER At Home Family Bible Study Guides & Daily Lenten Meditations Booklets available in the Narthex and on the bookshelf across from the Church Office.

TEEN LENT CALENDARS are in. Please stop by the Christian Ed office and get one. They offer a fun and great Lenten daily devotional.

OCCASIONS FOR SERVICE, WITNESS, AND PRAYER CONTINUED

IN CASE YOU WERE WAITING FOR GOD'S CALL, READ ON! There are a couple of excellent opportunities for serving in our church right now. First is the Threshold Initiative: several small groups who will be working with staff of the Connecticut Conference (UCC) to bring some fresh ideas into faith formation, stewardship, and leadership at NCC. Secondly, we're fast approaching the season for landscape work -- could you give a few enjoyable outdoor hours to the church? Please contact John Whritner or Cindy King.

THE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE is accepting applications for student college loans. Application forms are available in the church office. If you have further questions, please contact Edna Gilstad (860-739-9517) or Marion Prescott (860-443-2962.)

WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS . . .The words of the Sermon on the Mount are so familiar that we often fail to take them seriously. We appreciate their poetic beauty, but unconsciously dismiss their relevance. This Quiet Day will explore the implications of Jesus words, "I came that they might have life, and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10). Join us for a Lenten Quiet Day and labyrinth walk, Saturday March 26 9-1. Stay for a non-silent brown bag lunch (from home) at 1:00. Presented by Wendy Lyons. Held in the upper level of the church.

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.

ZAPATOS FOR HONDURAS. NCC and St Luke Lutheran Church are once again sending a team to do God's work in Honduras. This year the team of 12 will be building desks and seats for school children in San Marcos. If you would like to help the mission with a donation, new or gently used children's shoes or sandals for a tropical climate would be most appreciated. We leave on April 9th and are packing up the donations on Friday, April 8th. We will also need large suitcases (that you do not want returned) in which to pack the donations. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Nori Lembree at 860-961-7056 or norilembree@yahoo.com.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB has chosen as their next book "Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, an American Town" by Warren St John. We will meet on April 10th at 7 pm in the Fellowship Room at NCC. Hope to see you then.

NIANTIC TOASTMASTERS OPEN HOUSE/SPEECH CONTEST OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. On Monday, March 21st from 6:45 pm until 8:30, Niantic Toastmasters will have a Speech Contest at the Niantic Community Church dining hall. All members of the public are invited to attend. The Speech contest will present both Tall Tales and International (inspirational) speeches. Light refreshments will be served. Please join us. It's free entertainment. Toastmasters helps men and women learn the arts of speaking, listening, and thinking - vital skills that promote self-actualization, enhance leadership potential, foster human understanding, and contribute to the betterment of humankind. Toastmasters core values are integrity, dedication to excellence, and respect for the individual.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP WANAKEE QUARTER CONTEST ENDS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 13. Two participants are very, very close in the count, so if you want your favorite to win, please remember to get you money in on Sunday!

THANKS TO EVERYONE who helped with the Pancake Supper and all those who ate the delicious homemade pancakes. MSF raised over \$312. 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.

WANAKEE ROCK-A-THON PLEDGE DRIVE IS UNDERWAY. Please sponsor the MSF as they rock their way to Wanakee. The date of the Rock-a-thon is April 3 and the kids will be rockin' from 7:00 AM- 3:00 PM.

GOT PRAYER? WE DO! T-SHIRTS HAVE FINALLY ARRIVED. The pre-ordered t-shirts will be available for pick up the next two Sundays during coffee hour. Cost was \$27 for long sleeve; \$22 for short sleeve. Checks should be made out to NCC.

THE NCC CHILDREN'S CENTER will be selling Gertrude Hawk chocolates during coffee hour on Sunday, March 13th. Orders are taken, then delivery to the church will be on April 8th. Come and check out the Easter and non-holiday treats.

Our Record of Faithfulness In Giving And Attending

Received to Date for 2011: \$81,875.00; Needed to be current for 2011: \$82,207.60

Last Sunday's Attendance: 9:00 a.m. – 120; 11:15 a.m. – 54; Church School – 34;

Total: 208

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, MARCH 13

- 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
No Middle or High School
Fellowship today

MONDAY, MARCH 14

- 4:30PM Intro to Kundalini Yoga (Fellowship
Room)
5:45PM Children's Center Board (Parish Life
Office)
6:15PM Church Officers (Pastor's Study)
7:00PM Finance Committee (Fellowship
Room)
7:00PM Men's Choir (Sanctuary)

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

- 7:15AM Breakfast Bible Study (Niantic Diner)
1:00PM WCSA (Fellowship Room)
5:30PM Children's Choir (Sanctuary)
6:15PM Gospel Choir (Sanctuary)
6:00PM Youth Bell Rehearsal (Multipurpose
Room)

TUESDAY, MARCH 15 CONTINUED

- 7:00PM Adult Bell Rehearsal (Multipurpose
Room)
7:00PM Communications Committee (Parish
Life Office)
7:00PM Boy Scouts (Dining Hall)

WEDNESDAY MARCH 16

- 9:00AM DISCIPLE (Fellowship Room)
5:30-6:45 PM Soup & Soul (Fellowship Room)
7:30PM NA (Dining Hall)

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

- 11:30AM Spirited Pens (Parish Life Office)
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, MARCH 18

- 7:30PM AA (Dining Hall)

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

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

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN

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