

# 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.”*

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April 17, 2011 • 9:00 & 11:15AM

*The Sixth Sunday in Lent*

*Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion*

# Lent 6

## Friday

of the last week

*... in which Jesus is taken  
by the authorities,  
questioned, tortured,  
and crucified*

## WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

HYMN SING

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

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 11:1-11

*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.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

*We come to prepare for the holiest of weeks.*

**We will journey through praise, with joy on our lips;  
we will travel through betrayal and death,  
cradling hope in our hearts.**

*Jesus leads us through this week, and we will follow,  
for he is the life we long for, he is the Word who sustains us.*

**We wave palm branches in anticipation,  
we lay our love before him, to cushion his walk.**

*Setting aside all power and might, he comes: modeling humility  
and compassion for all of us.*

**Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who brings us the kin-dom of God.**

## SHARING OF PARISH ACTIVITIES &amp; 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.

## WE UNBURDEN OURSELVES BEFORE GOD

*One: Let us confess before God our tendency, like the Jerusalem crowds, to profess our faith in moments of enthusiasm and deny our faith in moments of stress.*

**All: O God, we sing and praise you,  
happy of heart and strong of spirit,  
when we are among others who praise you, too.  
But in times of stress, we have sought scapegoats  
to be targets for our anger.  
We have let fear be our guide, instead of love;  
we have even been too busy to seek you,  
too selfish to obey you.  
Your compassion is without bounds, O God.  
You restore us to a right spirit and bring us together  
to worship you again. God of steadfast love,  
teach us how to be steadfast; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*One: God’s compassion knows no bounds. When we repent — when we turn back to the source and ground of our being — that compassion enters our lives again, renewing and healing. Sisters and brothers, I declare: in Christ Jesus we are forgiven.*

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

## WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

## A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

*Divine Activity Time (for PreK-4<sup>th</sup> grade) takes place in the Multipurpose Room.  
Prayer requests will be collected.*

SCRIPTURE READING: from Mark 14

*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

“INRI”

John A. Nelson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and PASTORAL PRAYER

## WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

OFFERTORY

*Leader: To be a Christian in this day and age is to offer up our lives and deaths to God. These gifts are a sign of the offering of our whole selves.*

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

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE MUSICAL OFFERING

“Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed”  
(Adult Choir; Diana Spranklin, flute)

*Governor*

✠ DOXOLOGY

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

**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 of all true power and glory, we thank you that Jesus Christ came to Jerusalem not with a sword to challenge the power of this world, but with love, recognizing your authority in human life. Enable your church to choose your ways, joining in the victory over sin and death. Establish your righteous kin-dom on earth. Use our gifts and our lives to your glory, through Jesus, the One who comes in your name. Amen.**

✠ HYMN #298

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

HAMBURG

✠ BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN

(Hymnal, 898)

POSTLUDE

“Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed”

*Linker*

**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 "Sermons and Sunday Bulletins" 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:** Judy Layden, Angie Hayes,  
Georgie Granger, Bob Castronova  
**Worship Leader:** Ron Johnson

**11:15AM**

**Ushers:** Sue Smith, Alan White  
**Worship Leader:** Carl Putnam

**Preacher:** The Rev. John A. Nelson

**Parish Host:** Bob Nielsen

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary to the Glory of God and  
In Celebration of our children,  
by John & Catherine Vincent.

✠ All who are able may stand at these times

Prayer of Confession, Offering invitation, and Dedication adapted and reprinted by permission of the publishers from *Touch Holiness*, ed Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. © 1990 The Pilgrim Press.

## 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.)*

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### New Concerns:

For good results from medical tests • Mary Kay, with cancer • Angela, recovering from surgery • For Bruce and family, facing major decision • Donna Magee, lung cancer diagnosis • Eunice Waller, recovering from broken hip •

A special prayer of blessing for NCC member Nori Lembree and the members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, traveling to Honduras for a work project and for the high school students trip to Italy

### Continuing concerns:

Paul, with pneumonia • Candy, facing surgery • Walter, health concerns • For family acceptance

of the marriage of Laura and Rachel • Eli Gilman, born 12 weeks premature, and family • For those struggling with depression • Angela, recovering from surgery • Families facing decisions • Eleanor Winters, recovering from knee surgery • Doris, cancer recurrence • Marines and sailors of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 3<sup>rd</sup> Marines, and Echo Company • Holly Lohman, liver cancer • Those who are unemployed, underemployed, and those whose employment is uncertain • Aunt Kate, recovering from surgery • Jeff Harris, in ICU • For our leaders, to seek transforming and peaceful resolutions to the world's conflicts • Amy, in a difficult time • Debbie, back pain • Alan Mitchell (son of Ocean Pellett), recovering from surgery • Beth Lanz, ovarian cancer • Sam McCullough,

liver cancer • Mary Kay, cancer recurrence • Ryan, son of Sue Anglim, in Sapporo, Japan • Ungle Dougie • Friends struggling in their lives and marriage • Ernestine Milardo, losing sight • Safe travels for friends and family • Helen Dey • Roc Carboni • David Upton • For the people of Japan, devastated by the earthquake and tsunami • The people of Libya • Ellen Goeben, recovering from surgery • Kathy, Lyla, and Conner • 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:*

Dorothea, breast cancer • Sandy Doboie, 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:**

Mary Kent Stewart •  
Crew of the USS Thresher (10 April 1963)  
Ray Romeo • Margaret Pecz  
Charles Wendt • Betty Thomas  
Michael Peck • Sidney Swann  
David Isbell • Harry Zrakas

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:**

*Women's Fellowship Board:*  
Jane Barth; Judy Layden; Sue Putnam

### **Praise and Celebration:**

Good results from skin cancer surgeries for Alan Mitchell • For birth of Molly Michelle Anglim, daughter of Patrick & Jennifer, granddaughter of Gregg and Sue • For Doreen's improving health • All who donated shoes & suitcases for mission to Honduras • Michael & Stephanie, moving to Tampa with jobs • Birth of Julius Keanu, son of Brian Donovan, grandson of Carol • Grateful prayers from Georgie, for healing and for loving care • Answered prayers for a healthy new granddaughter • Matt Beebe & family, safe at Yokota AFB, Tokyo.

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**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](mailto: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](mailto:prayers@nianticcommunitychurch.org), or call the church office (860-739-6208).

**PREPARING AN ESTATE PLAN** is good Christian stewardship - saying thanks to God, expressing your love and concern for family, and showing charity toward others.

**2011 SECOND QUARTER 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)

**MIDDLE SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP** -*today* from 12:30-2:00 PM. This is our last meeting before we go to Wanakee.

**HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP-** Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate Sale between services on *today*. Get some delicious chocolate just in time for Easter.

**NEXT SUNDAY MORNING, April 24th Easter Sunday.**

6:00 a.m. Ecumenical Sunrise Service (McCook's Point)

7:30 a.m. Easter Communion Service;

9:00 & 11:15 a.m. Celebration of the Resurrection

Pastor John Nelson preaching, "The Never-Ending Story.". Childcare for children under the age of 5 will be provided at 9 & 11:15 a.m. services. Scripture: Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43; or Mark 16:1-8.

**EASTER EGG HUNT** between services on Easter Sunday, April 24. Please meet in the Multipurpose Room after the 9:00 o'clock service. Remember to bring a basket if you have one to collect eggs.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped clean the grounds on Service Sunday. The grounds and gardens look terrific. It was wonderful to see so many people of all ages working side by side. It always amazes me, even though I know it will happen at this church, that if you just ask somebody(ies) will always step up. L. Castronova.

**NEED A LITTLE EASTER GIFT FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL?** One Table, Many Meals is available in the church office, or we can mail one anywhere in the U.S. Over 600 recipes are in our NCC cookbook (\$15). This fundraiser supports the ministries of Parish Life. Call the church office or stop by (860)739-6208.

**WCSA MEETS** Tuesday, April 19, at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Room. We will be assembling Health Kits for Church World Service. All are welcome. For questions, contact Karen Peacock (739-9996) or Carol June (739-8851)

**REMINDER:** Signing up for weekly Wednesday email and our monthly newsletter, Tidings, electronically is easy. Just go to [nianticcommunitychurch.org](http://nianticcommunitychurch.org) and follow the prompts.

**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.)

**CHILDREN- PLEASE REMEMBER** to keep filling your Heifer Ark banks. We will be collecting them on Easter Sunday. Hope that you have had fun learning about all of the animals that Heifer International sends around the world.

**OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE** – So many possibilities...A bulletin board volunteer is needed to help freshen up some of the bulletin boards throughout the church periodically. If you are interested, call the church office at 860-739-6208.

**IF YOU ENJOY BEING IN THE KITCHEN** but our big one is overwhelming...the tiny one in the Fellowship Room needs to be organized and given a good cleaning once a month. Let us know if this speaks to the domestic diva in you. Call the church office...860-739-6208.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD** is the date of the next meal that NCC serves at the Community Meal Center in New London. Our menu is Shepherd's pie, green beans, salad, fruit cocktail and brownies. We need help serving the meal from 11:30 - 1:30 on Saturday. For food we'll need brownie makers to please leave brownies in the freezer or on the counter in the kitchen marked with the date and "community meal". For food contributions we'll need a tub of margarine, large bags of frozen corn and boxes of mashed potato mix. Please leave all items in the kitchen by Wednesday noon, April 20th. For questions please call Anne Davis at 739-7455. Thank you.

**HEIFER ARK PROJECT.** Are you looking for a meaningful experience? Good news: The Prudential Board has endorsed a Heifer Ark fundraiser! This church has transformed the lives of thousands of the world's poor, including our own Beatrice Birra and her family. The need has never been greater. You can save lives, restore hope and transform the future. All it takes is a goat, or a cow, or a flock of chicks, ducks and geese. Tami Scace and Bill Wernau will be available during coffee hours from now through Easter to receive donations. Alternative gift cards will be available that can be used to honor friends and relatives on special occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries. Ark calendars and banks are available for the younger children (see Amy Agles). They will have fun, and make a meaningful contribution, learning in the process that they too can make a difference. Bill is available to explain his personal experiences with Heifer projects overseas and here in New England. Invite

him to your home and bring along a friend! Let's "Pass on the Gift", enriching the lives of donors and recipients. A meaningful experience indeed!

**THE MIDDLE SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP WANAKEE ROCK-A-THON** was April 3 and we thank each and every one of you for your support of the mission work trip to Meredith, NH the end of this month. The Rock-a-Thon raised over \$1900!!!! Total money from the pancake supper, quarter contest and Rock-a-thon is over \$2600! Wanakee, here we come! Please check out the new bulletin board in the Dining Hall and see the kids who are going to Wanakee this year and learn a little more about them.

**BEEN TO WANAKEE AND WANT TO GO AGAIN?** Out of middle school and wishing that you could still go? Never been there, but want to see what all the excitement is about? Well, we have an opportunity for all of you. NCC has reserved the cabin at Wanakee for the weekend of August 12, 13 and 14. Please let Amy Agles know if you would like to be a part of this work weekend at Arbutus Hill Farm (Meredith, NH) owned by Jen Mayo, a former Heifer recipient.

**CONSIDERING MEMBERSHIP???** Please join us on Saturday, April 30 from 9-12 p.m. to learn more about NCC and what it means to become a member. For more information or to register please contact Patty Chaffee at (860) 739-6208.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR-** Saturday, April 30 is the Fourth Annual Walk for the Homeless in New London. The walk traces the route of the homeless from the overnight shelter to the breakfast program site, daytime hospitality center and the Community Meal Center. If you are interested in getting a group to walk from NCC, please let Amy know. Registration for the event is by April 23- fee for an individual is \$12 or \$10 each for a team of 5 or more. Registration the day of the event is \$15 or \$13 each for a group of 5 or more. This walk provides critical financial support for the work of the New London Homeless Hospitality Center.

2nd Annual Interfaith Community Walk: "Taking Peace to the Streets"  
-- Sunday, 4/17, 3pm @ St. Sophia Church ... Please join Pastor John, other area clergy, New London youth, and many more for a walk through downtown New London. We stand together against all violence! Contributions will benefit the Drop-In Learning Center; the

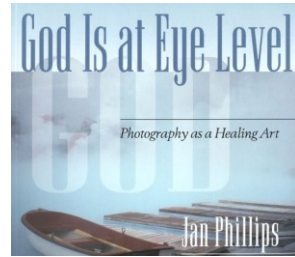
**Our Record of Faithfulness In Giving And Attending**  
Received to Date for 2011: \$121,277.69; Needed to be current for 2011: \$123,692.25  
**Last Sunday's Attendance:** 9:00 a.m. – 162; 11:15 a.m. – 50; Church School – 29;  
**Total: 241**



# The Healing Art of Photography

An interactive conversation about the discovery of God from behind the lens.

*"The soul should always stand  
ajar, ready to welcome the  
ecstatic experience."  
– Emily Dickinson*



Professional photographer Denton Hoyer of Niantic will join us for the **first** session to talk about photography and getting the most out of your digital camera. A Q & A will follow.

This is an interactive program that will require use of a camera, developing prints, and time outside of the group session. God Is at Eye Level by Jan Phillips, is necessary for group discussion. Register in the church office at (860)739-6208 or email questions to **Patty@NianticCommunityChurch.org**. Limited space. Books (\$15) can be obtained through Amazon.com or ask us for help.

Wednesdays  
7:00-9:00 p.m.  
6 Weeks  
Beginning May 4

## 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.

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### SUNDAY, APRIL 17

- 9:00AM Worship Service  
10:00-11:00AM "Between Hour Café"  
(Dining Hall)  
10:15AM Sunday School for All Ages  
**Adult Offerings:** Embracing An Adult Faith  
(Fellowship Room)  
11:15AM Worship Service  
12:30PM Middle School Fellowship (Dining  
Hall)

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### MONDAY, APRIL 18

- 7:00PM Prudential Board (Fellowship Room)  
7:00PM Men's Choir (Sanctuary)  
7:00PM Toastmasters (Dining Hall)

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### TUESDAY, APRIL 19

- 7:15AM Breakfast Bible Study (Niantic Diner)  
10:00AM Caregivers Support Group (Fellowship  
Room)  
1:00PM WCSA (Fellowship Room)  
**NO** Children's or Gospel Choir  
Rehearsal  
**NO** Youth or Adult Bell Rehearsal  
7:00PM Communications Committee (Parish  
Life Office)  
7:00PM Boy Scouts (Dining Hall)

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### WEDNESDAY APRIL 20

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

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### THURSDAY, APRIL 21~MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 11:30AM Spirited Pens (Parish Life Office)  
6:00PM Shoreline Food Pantry (Dining Hall)  
6:30PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
6:30PM Confirmation (Sanctuary)  
7:00PM Maundy Thursday Service  
(Sanctuary)  
8:00PM AA (Dining Hall)

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### FRIDAY, APRIL 22~GOOD FRIDAY

- Church Offices Closed*  
3:00 PM Community Meal Prep (Kitchen)  
6:30PM Confirmation (Sanctuary)  
7:00PM Good Friday Service (Sanctuary)  
7:30PM AA (Dining Hall)

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### SATURDAY, APRIL 23

- 9:00AM Community Meal Prep (Kitchen)  
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](mailto:NianticCommChurch@sbcglobal.net)

[www.NianticCommunityChurch.org](http://www.NianticCommunityChurch.org)

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30-5:00 p.m.; Friday 8:30-Noon