

NIANTIC COMMUNITY CHURCH

An Open, Affirming, & 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.”

Alleluia!
CHRIST,
having
risen from
the dead,
dies now
no more +
death shall
no longer
have
dominion
over him

THE DAY OF RESURRECTION

April 24, 2011

Easter Sunday

9:00 & 11:15AM

WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

GATHERING MUSIC

Bell Choirs

PRELUDE

“Christ Lay in the Bonds of Death”

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 first hymn.

INTROIT

“O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing”
Adult Choir

arr. Council

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the day that our God has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

All: This is the day of resurrection. Let us rejoice and be glad!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

This is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes. Let us rejoice and be glad!

This is the day of celebration.

We sing, we pray, we shout for joy –

and still, not even words can contain the marvel of the Good News.

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Amen.

✠ HYMN #302

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”
Prayer requests will be collected.

EASTER HYMN

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 25:6-9

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you have told us that you would not leave us without your Spirit.
You have promised us that you would never leave us or forsake us.
Yet at times we have felt abandoned by you because we have looked for you
only in ways that fit our limited notions of you
or in places and with people that have felt comfortable for us.

Lord, have mercy.

We have looked for you in tombs of dead conventions and in traditions that have
lost their power. At times, we have forgotten that you are a living God,
not to be enshrined among the dead but celebrated among the living.
We have been perplexed and terrified when your messengers bring us
good news of your presence manifested in unexpected ways.

Christ, have mercy.

When we have heard the reports of resurrection power,
we have reacted with fear and silence.
We have not trusted even though we longed for this truth:
that your love would never let us go.
We have not recognized your presence with us.

Lord, have mercy.

Help us, Lord Jesus, to see you through the eyes of faith.

Help us to hear you in the voices of neighbors and strangers.

Help us find the trust that gives life.

Help us receive your power of love. We pray in your name, Jesus; Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Sisters and brothers, the power of resurrection is at work in us and with us.
In all things, old and new, the Spirit of Christ leads us
in victory over sorrow and death, disbelief and fear.
Receive God's grace in the hidden place in your heart, where there are no words.
Our tombs are empty: Christ is risen! In Him, we are forgiven and set free.

Christ is risen indeed: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

Children who wish may leave to attend *Divine Activity Time* (for PreK-4th grade).

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and PASTORAL PRAYER

✘ HYMN #306

“The Strife Is O’er”

VICTORY

Choir sings antiphon at beginning and after last stanza

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 16:1-8

SERMON

“The Never-Ending Story”

John A. Nelson

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

OFFERTORY

Leader: God is the One with all power: to make and unmake; to create and destroy; to give life and to give new life. But even our all-powerful God relies on us to do something: tell the story of the love that came to earth and would not, could not die. We are here to hear the story, so we can spread the story. May all our giving serve to share the good news of resurrection grace and joy.

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

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE MUSICAL OFFERING

“Hallelujah (from Mount of Olives)”
(Adult Choir)

Beethoven

✘ 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

The gift of resurrection reminds us that all we possess comes to us by the life-giving grace of God. May these gifts and offerings serve as a token of our gratitude. Bless them, Resurrection God, to your justice and love in the world. Bless us to live in new life, and share that life with others. In Jesus’ name; Amen.

✘ HYMN #303

“The Day of Resurrection”

LANCASHIRE

✘ BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN

(Hymnal, 898)

POSTLUDE

Hallelujah Chorus from “Messiah”

G.F. Handel

The congregation is invited to join the Choir for the Postlude (music provided).

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: Dennis & Sonya Hoisington,
Edna Gilstad, Lew Meier
Worship Leader: Joyce Wood

11:15AM

Ushers: Jerry & Nancy Burkhardt,
Doris Beebe, Germaine Ruderman
Worship Leader: Paul Helvig

Preacher: The Rev. John A. Nelson

Parish Visitor: Carl Putnam

✠ All who are able may stand at these times

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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: Lynn 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:

John Mooney, recovering from heart surgery • Those affected by tornadoes in North Carolina and through the southeast • Karen, undergoing bone marrow transplant • Jim, severe heart and lung problems.

Continuing concerns:

For good results from medical tests • Angela, recovering from surgery • For Bruce and family, facing major decision • Eunice Waller, recovering from broken hip • 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 • Marines and sailors of 2nd Battalion 3rd Marines, and Echo Company • 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 • For the people of Japan, devastated by the earthquake and tsunami • The people of Libya • 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.

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In treatment for cancer:

Doris, cancer recurrence • Holly Lohman, liver cancer • Donna Magee, lung cancer diagnosis • Mary Kay, with 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 Strauhall; 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

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:

Safe Church Committee: Roe Granger; Margaret Holmberg; Judy Sleights

Praise and Celebration:

Safe return from Honduras mission trip • Birth of Addison Wargo, 16 April • Marriage of Greg & Amy • 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.

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For the search committee that took on the ministry of finding a settled Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministries (Dan Estey, Barbara Heaney, Ron Johnson, Rebecca Keenan, Kathy Leindecker, Joyce Wood), Amy Agles, our Acting DREYM, and Russell Kirby, who will join our staff in June.
Thanks be to God!

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).

REMEMBER, if you have no will or Trust, state laws will determine who will inherit your property at your death. State laws do not include your Church or any other charity as a beneficiary.

2011 FIRST 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)

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING, May 1st. 9 & 11:15am Worship Services; 10:00-11:00am "Between Hour Café;" 10:15am Sunday School for all ages. Pastor John A. Nelson, preaching. Scripture readings. Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31.

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP this Tuesday, April 26th, at 7pm in the Fellowship Room. Please join us for uplifting conversation and knitting/crocheting. Lessons and patterns available. Call Jane Barth (860-739-6002) with questions.

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.)

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.

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 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!

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.

HOSPICE SECT WALK, Saturday, May 14th at Mohegan Park, Norwich. Registration brochures are available in the narthex and outside of the church office. If you cannot join in the walk, you can still raise funds for the event or support one of the walkers.

FROM WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB: Our next book is "Cafenova" by S. Jane Scheyder (a local author). We will meet on May 15th at 7 pm in the Fellowship Room. I have been looking for discussion questions and haven't found any specific ones. I do have generic questions to get us started. Hope to see you then. The One Book One Region book for 2011 has been chosen. It is "Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close," a novel by Jonathan Safran Foer. The author will be in the area on Sept 12th so I suggest that we read this book next. Here is the website for One Book One Region. Happy Reading. <http://onebookoneregion.org/>

BEEEN 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.

Our Record of Faithfulness In Giving And Attending

Received to Date for 2011: \$133,568.70; Needed to be current for 2011: \$131,938.40

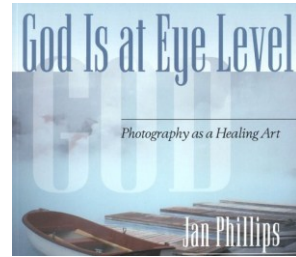
Last Sunday's Attendance: 9:00 a.m. – 176; 11:15 a.m. – 55; Church School – 28;

Total: 259

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.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

- 6:00AM Sunrise Service (McCook's Point)
- 7:30AM Communion Service
- 9:00AM Worship Service
- 10:15AM Easter Egg Hunt (meet in Multipurpose Room)
- 11:15AM Worship Service

MONDAY APRIL 25

- 5:00PM Yoga (Fellowship Room)
- 7:00PM Personnel (Parish Life Office)
- 7:00PM PPRC (Fellowship Room)
- 7:00PM Men's Choir (Sanctuary)

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

- 7:15AM Breakfast Bible Study (Niantic Diner)
- 5:30PM Children's Choir (Sanctuary)
- 6:15PM Gospel Choir (Sanctuary)
- 6:00PM Youth Bell Rehearsal (Multipurpose Room)
- 7:00PM Adult Bell Rehearsal (Multipurpose Room)
- 7:00PM Prayer Shawl Knitting Group (Fellowship Room)
- 7:00PM Boy Scouts (Dining Hall)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

- 9:00AM DISCIPLE (Fellowship Room)
- 9:30AM Work In Progress-support group for the unemployed (Parish Life Office)
- 7:00PM Women's Fellowship Board (Fellowship Room)
- 7:30PM NA (Dining Hall)

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

- 6:00PM Shoreline Food Pantry (Dining Hall)
- 7:00PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 8:00PM AA (Dining Hall)

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

- 2:45PM Middle School members depart for Wanakee
- 7:30PM AA (Dining Hall)

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

- 10:00-11:00AM AA (Dining Hall)
- 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