

# 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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May 22, 2011 • 9:00 & 11:15AM  
*The Fifth Sunday of Easter*



## WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

“Andante”

*Mozart*

### 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

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

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The One who shaped the universe, crafts us into a community of faith:

**Many: a people to shelter the homeless,  
a family to feed the hungry.**

The One who made kittens and elephants, shapes us in the divine image:

**so we can glow with grace  
as we welcome the hopeless and helpless.**

The One who blesses us with flowers and waterfalls,  
gifts us with the way, the truth, the life:

**so we can go to tell the story,  
to bring healing to a broken world.**

## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

The Stone tossed aside by the architects of sin and death, is the One who becomes the foundation for redemption, the cornerstone for grace and hope. We can confess freely and openly to God, who will not shame us, but forgive us and welcome us home.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**In humility, we must confess how we have not yet matured as your children, Gentle Parent. The hurting and helpless of our world cry out, and we cover our ears with hands which could be serving them. The forsaken and ridiculed of our neighborhoods and schools are looking for a community of acceptance, and we cover our eyes with hands which could welcome them. The lonely and grieving are listening for hope, and we cover our mouths with hands which could embrace them while singing gentle songs of grace.**

**Forgive us, Refuge of the broken. Our times are in your hands, so help us to believe we can be healed in this moment. Our hearts are in your heart, so transform ours that we can serve your children. Our lives are made new victory over death and fear of Jesus Christ, our Guide and Savior, so call us to give away all that we are, in his name.**

*(We pray in silence)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The good news is that in Christ, our sins are forgiven, our lives are made whole, we become God’s own people. Do you not believe?

**Many: We believe. And in believing we will live as those chosen, not only to tell a Story, but to live it out each and every day. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## ANTHEM

“Holy Highway”  
Men’s Choir

*Ginger Hendricks*

**WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD**

## A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

## ✠ HYMN #164

“Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life”

THE CALL

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

SCRIPTURE READING: John 14:1-14

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

“A Room of Our Own”

John A. Nelson

## **WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH**

PRAYERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (9AM)

OFFERTORY

Leader: When Jesus calls us to believe in him today, he’s telling us that we can trust the goodness of God in our lives. Generosity springs from our trust in God’s goodness, a goodness that is stronger than anything else in the world. This morning, as we give our gifts in support of the ministry of our church, we say that we trust our past, present, and future to God.

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

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE MUSICAL OFFERING

(9:00AM)

“A Gaelic Blessing”

*Rutter*

(Adult Choir)

(11:15AM)

“Voluntary”

*Mozart*

✠ 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

**To have faith is to trust in giving: God’s giving of life and Spirit; the giving of God’s own self in Jesus Christ. To have faith is to trust in our giving, too: that when we empty ourselves we not only help others, we also make space for grace to enter our lives. Giving God, bless all that we offer, and use it to bring us home to your gracious realm on earth. In Jesus’ name; Amen.**

✠ HYMN #206

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

HOUSTON

✠ BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN

(Hymnal, 898)

POSTLUDE

“Gloria”

*Mozart*

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



**A SPECIAL WELCOME TODAY TO OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY!** Russ Kirby has served in professional lay ministry for well over a decade, working with people of all ages, particularly children, youth and young adults. He's a native Oklahoman who received his bachelor's degree in Oral Communications/Broadcasting at the University of Central Oklahoma (1992), and his Master of Divinity at Drew Theological School (2009) in New Jersey. He also lived for a year in North Texas. Russ loves people, will try just about anything once, and enjoys food, photography, home improvement projects, carpentry, sound reinforcement, computers, camping, and more.

## **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:** Catherine Vincent, Nancy Burkhardt, Susan and Rene Laurençot  
**Worship Leader:** Bob Caste

**11:15AM**

**Ushers:** Ocean Pellett, Catherine Daboll  
**Worship Leader:** Brooke Stutzman

**Preacher:** Pastor John A. Nelson

**Parish Visitor:** Peg Herzberg

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary to the Glory of God,  
and in celebration and thanksgiving for all the joy granddaughter MaKenna  
has brought to my life this past year, by Liz Buhler.

✠ All who are able may stand at these times

Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession adapted and reprinted from Lectionary Liturgies by the Rev. Thom Schumann © 2011 (lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com). Used with permission.

### **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:**  
**Librarian, Newsletter Editor:** Jennifer Datum

**Pastor and Teacher:** The Rev. Dr. 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:

Support for Zach and Frankie • for families supporting loved ones dealing with substance abuse • Renewed health for Mary Kay and JQ, in cancer treatment • For two women opting for aggressive treatment of breast cancer • For Carol, Willy, and Jack.

### Continuing concerns:

Healing and wisdom for a friend with a newly diagnosed condition • Ed Peckham, recovering from open heart surgery • Rene Laurençot, Sr., recovering from open heart surgery • For good results from Becky's biopsy • Natalie Davis and father Terry, as she donates a portion of her liver to his healing • Sue Smith's mother, recovering from stroke • Traveling mercies for Kate, traveling to Italy; for Brian; for Patrick, moving to Florida • Those making budget decisions in our state and nation • Germaine Ruderman • David

Helsel, hospitalized • Roe, recovering from surgery • prayers of healing for Joyce Greineder • Bertha, recovering from near-death experience • Ted Dana, kidney problems • Helen (mother of Sue Smith), hospitalized • Pat Maclary, recovering from surgery • Safe travel for Tricia, on internship in Guam • Tom, hospitalized • Clapsadle and Bailey families.

*A note from NCC member Sandy Butcher:*  
"I have just been notified that the mother of one of our dear friends, Camilla Edmond, was killed yesterday in a tornado in Tuscaloosa. I cannot even imagine the shock and pain that Camilla and her family are feeling. Would you please keep them in your prayers. Also, prayers for the others who are devastated because of the horrible storms." • For the people of Japan, devastated by the earthquake and tsunami • The people of Libya • 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:*

Joe, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer • Successful cancer surgery for Maribeth • Donna Magee, lung cancer • Shari Scace, in chemotherapy • Oskar Bosch, in cancer treatment • 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:**

Fran Rago •  
Humbert Salluzzo • Theresa Porter

Britta Rogers • Alcosky Crockett  
Irene Lial

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.

### **Praise and Celebration:**

For nurses in our congregation and community, especially in National Nurses Week

For Matthew Jacobsen's graduation • For MaKenna's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday • From Roe, for prayers of concern and healing • Laura and Matt, starting a new life together and expecting first child • Birth of Darwin, to Kevin & Sydney Cooper.

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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!

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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).

**THINK ABOUT THE PART THAT YOU WANT TO PLAY IN OUR CHURCH'S FUTURE.** You have the opportunity to support this ministry in many ways. Naming the Church as a beneficiary in your estate plan or the making of an endowment gift can assure your continued participation in this ministry far into the future.

**PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP** this Tuesday 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.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP-** this Sunday- 12:30-2:00 Meet at Giants Neck Heights Parking lot located on Giants Neck Road at the train tracks and we will walk into the park for our hike. Make sure and wear comfortable shoes for walking. I need an adventurous adult to join us and snacks for after our trek. Thanks for letting me know how you will be able to help. We are meeting here rather than the park because Rocky Neck State Park is already charging parking fees for the season.

**HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP-** Sunday, May 22, 3:00-5:00 PM. All youth and adults who are going on the Youth Works mission trip to Philadelphia this summer will be meeting in the Dining Hall to complete paperwork and make reverse tie dye t-shirts for the trip. We will be using bleach to make the shirts, so please wear old clothes. If you can email me (amy.agles@nianticcommunitychurch.org) your shirt size ASAP, that would be appreciated.

**NEXT SUNDAY MORNING, MAY 29TH. CONFIRMATION SUNDAY.** Worship Services at 9 & 11 am; "Between Hour Café" 10:00-11:00am; Sunday School for all ages 10:15am. Pastor John A. Nelson, preaching. Scripture readings. Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21.

**DR. SEBASTIAN MOZZICATO** will present "Caring for Someone with Bi-Polar Disorder" NCC on Sunday, May 22 at 12:30 p.m. The program is free but reservations are encouraged. Dr. Mozzicato works with River Valley Services in Middletown where he is a principal psychiatrist in the community service program. All are welcome and refreshments will be served. (860) 739-6208.

**A WORK IN PROGRESS** support group for those who are unemployed or expect to be, meets every other Wednesday, 9:30-11:00 a.m. The next support group is May 25th. Program is free but registration is preferred. Facilitated by licensed clinical social worker, Liz Pelissier. Call (860)739-6208.

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB** has chosen "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen as their next book. We will meet on June 26th at 7 pm in the Fellowship Room. All are welcome.

**GRADUATION CELEBRATION - SAVE THE DATE.** The Pastor Parish Relations Committee invites all to gather Saturday, June 11, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. to celebrate Pastor John Nelson's graduation from Chicago Theological Seminary with his Doctor of Ministry in Preaching. Graduation date is May 14, 2011, but our local NCC celebration allows all of us to join in this joyous occasion with John's family, friends and colleagues. The celebration consists of a short ceremony in the sanctuary followed by a picnic. We will be giving John a gift on behalf of the congregation. Those wishing to contribute can do so by placing your donations in the offering labeled "Graduation Donation". For those NCC history buffs June 11, 2011 also marks the 50th anniversary of NCC moving into our current building. Sounds like another good reason for a celebration!

**DINNER (AND REHEARSAL!) FOR THE CONFIRMATION CLASS** and their mentors and families is planned for Friday, May 27 and we need your help. The meal will be catered but we still would love your assistance with set up, decorating, serving the meal, and clean up. Thank you for contacting Amy Agles and letting her know how you will be able to help.

**NEXT COMMUNITY MEAL** is on Saturday, May 28th. The menu is baked beans with franks, salad, fruit cocktail, bread and butter and brownies. We'll need help serving the meal at the Center in New London from 11:30 and 1:30; volunteers to make a batch of brownies and the following food donations: franks, a dispenser of mustard and a tub of margarine. Please leave food donations in the kitchen by Wednesday afternoon, May 25th and brownies in the freezer marked with the date. Please indicate Community Meal on all items. Questions, please call Anne Davis at 860-739-7455.

**MULTICULTURAL JUSTICE CELEBRATION MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>. UNITED ACTION CONNECTICUT (UACT)** is holding its 6th Annual Justice Celebration on Tuesday evening, May 31st from 7-9 p.m. at the Masonic Temple, 33 Pleasant St. in Middletown. A multicultural program of homemade ethnic foods and desserts, festive music and folk dancing will be featured. Honorees include State Rep. Betsy Ritter of Waterford, Co-Chair of the General Assembly's Public Health Committee, for her determined leadership on health care reform; and CT Students for a Dream for their inspiring leadership on immigration issues. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$30 per couple. Proceeds make possible UACT's interfaith organizing on behalf of justice and quality of life issues. To reserve tickets or for further info, please call 860.882.3849 or email [uact4change@hotmail.com](mailto:uact4change@hotmail.com). Simultaneous translation in English/Spanish will be available at this event.

**WANTED - COLORFUL PIECES OF MATERIAL!!!!** The decorating theme for the upcoming United Action CT Justice Celebration is multicultural. Pieces of material are needed to add lots of color to the tables. If you have material that you don't mind loaning for May

31st please contact Ellen Ashburn (860-287-2486). The material could be dropped off in the church office. Please attach a tag with your name on it so it can be returned to you.

**FOR A NEW BABY BOY:** if you have any gently-used clothing sizes birth - two years, blankets, or any baby equipment, please bring your items to the church office or call the parsonage and leave a message. Pastor John and Angela have a missionary friend whose young daughter is having a baby and needs everything for this baby.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL-** July 11-15, 9am-Noon with a cool theme- "Shake it Up Cafe". Craft Supplies are in. Could you help run the Craft Station? Just let me know. Thanks. Deb Fountain. (VBS Registration Forms now available on the NCC website!)

**NEEDED:** Leaders or assistants for our Live B.I.G. Summer One Room Sunday School. Hear, See, and Live your Belief In God! Live B.I.G. is based on three big truths- Think BIG because God is a great BIG God. God loves us with a great BIG love. We are part of God's great BIG world. Please see Amy for sign up. This Summer Sunday School which begins on June 19, will be available for children ages 4 through 4th grade during the Summer worship service at 9:00 AM.

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY** is June 12. This is the first Sunday of our summer worship schedule with one service at 9:00 a.m. Worship will be led by children from pre-K through 8th Grade. The children will be planning the service this Sunday, May 22 and Sunday, June 5. It is important that they are part of the planning and rehearsing with their class. Thanks!

PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN OUR EMPLOYEE FEEDBACK  
PROCESS

We are proud of the dedicated employees of Niantic Community Church and their contribution to the mission of our church. One of our obligations to our employees is to nurture their career development. This process requires clear direction, feedback on performance, and support in developing their professional skills.

We are again asking that congregation members help with the feedback process.

The details of how the review process works and the Performance Feedback Forms are now available in the church office and on line at the NCC website ([www.nianticcommunitychurch.org](http://www.nianticcommunitychurch.org)). The process is simple. Complete a form and:

- mail it to the church in care of the Personnel Committee, or
- enclose it in an envelope and place in the Personnel Committee mail box at church, or
- mail it to Phil Lombardo 3 East Shore Drive, Niantic.

The Performance Feedback Forms must be received by the personnel committee by May 18th. They must be signed; but, since the data will be consolidated by the personnel committee; no specific comment will be connected with any individual. All Performance Feedback Forms received will be destroyed after they are consolidated.

**Our Record of Faithfulness In Giving And Attending**

Received to Date for 2011: \$164,813.36; Needed to be current for 2011: \$164,950.00

**Last Sunday's Attendance:** 9:00 a.m. – 124; 11:15 a.m. – 24; Church School – 22;

**Total: 170**

## 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, MAY 22

- 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 BiPolar Talk (Fellowship Room)  
12:30-2:00PM Middle School Fellowship (meet  
at Giants Neck Heights parking lot)  
3:00PM High School Fellowship/Youth  
Works Mission trip meeting (Dining  
Hall)

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### MONDAY MAY 23

- 7:00PM Personnel (Parish Life Office)  
7:00PM PPRC (Fellowship Room)  
7:00PM Men's Choir (Sanctuary)  
7:30PM Nurturing Faith Threshold Initiative  
(Multipurpose Room)

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### TUESDAY, MAY 24

- 7:15AM Breakfast Bible Study (Niantic Diner)  
5:30PM Children's Choir (Sanctuary)  
6:15PM Gospel Choir (Sanctuary)  
No Adult/Youth Bell Rehearsal

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### TUESDAY, MAY 24

- 7:00PM Prayer Shawl Knitting Group  
(Fellowship Room)  
7:00PM Boy Scouts (Dining Hall)

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### WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

- 9:00AM DISCIPLE (Fellowship Room)  
9:30AM Work In Progress-support group for  
the unemployed (Parish Life Office)  
7:00PM The Healing Art of Photography  
(Fellowship Room)  
7:30PM NA (Dining Hall)

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### THURSDAY, MAY 26

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

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### FRIDAY, MAY 27

- 3:00 PM Community Meal Prep (Kitchen)  
6:30PM Confirmation Dinner/Rehearsal  
(Dining Hall/Sanctuary)  
7:30PM AA (Fellowship Room)

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### SATURDAY, MAY 28

- 9:00AM Community Meal Prep (Kitchen)  
10:00-11:00AM AA (Dining Hall)  
7:30PM AA (Dining Hall)

**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN!**

### Niantic Community Church

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

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