



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.”

May 29, 2011 • 9:00 & 11:15AM

Sixth Sunday of Easter • Confirmation Sunday

Illustrations in today’s bulletin are from a Confirmation activity: students came up with phrases they would put in front of the church, to attract passers-by and give some hints of the character of our congregation.

WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

“Psalm 19”

Marcello

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: Here, in this place, in these moments,
we can speak of what God has done:

**Many: the One who is closer than
our imagination tells us.**

Here, in these moments, with this gathered people,
we will sing of what God is doing:

the One who lives in us, and calls us the Beloved of the Lord.



In every place, at every moment, with every person,
we dare imagine what God will do:

**the One who will move us to serve others,
to be with them as surely as God is with us.**

✘ HYMN #64

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

NICAEA

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

One: Loving God, draw us together and make us one as we sing with the whole of creation in praise of you, as a new day unfolds its infinite potential.

**All: Help us never to lose our sense of wonder,
as we see, hear, taste and touch the beauty of this world in all its diversity.**

Inspire us with the energy to put right all that is bruised or broken:

Show us that we are all linked in one humanity.

Open our lips,

that we may sing with joy the Good News of your love for everyone.

Open our hands,

that we may reach out to one another, to touch and to connect.

Open our ears,

that we may listen to the voices of those who are unheard.

Open our eyes,

that we may recognize Christ in the faces of people shunned and marginalized.

Open our minds,

that we may search more honestly for the truth.

Open our hearts,

that we may live out your purpose. May it be so!

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

✘ HYMN #605

“Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters”

BEACH SPRING

Children attending *Divine Activity Time* (for PreK-4th grade)

may leave during the singing of the hymn. Prayer requests will be collected.

SCRIPTURE READING: John 14:15-21

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

“One: The Least Lonely Number”

John A. Nelson

PRAYERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

OFFERTORY

Leader: We learn oneness with one another and with God in so many ways: the Word of scripture; the Word made flesh in Jesus; the work and witness of loving disciples sitting right next to us today. We give ourselves to that oneness. Our gifts are one way that we love one another and the world around us, the world God loves.

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

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE MUSICAL OFFERING

(9:00AM)

“Blessed Jesus, We are Here”

Bach

(11:15AM)

“Hallelujah, Amen”

Handel

(Adult Choir)

✘ 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

In our giving, we remember Jesus’ giving, and God’s giving. In our giving, we become one with all who give. God, we pray your blessing on every gift given, every intention of generosity, and especially on the oneness of compassion, solidarity, and love into which you lead us. May what we do here celebrate and hasten your gracious rule in all the earth. In Jesus’ name; Amen.

SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION (11:15AM)

✘ HYMN (insert)

“Now in the Days of Youth”

DIADEMATA

✘ BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN

(Hymnal, 898)

POSTLUDE

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

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



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

11:15AM

Ushers: Bob Nielson, Peg Herzberg,
Anita Potts, Alan White

Ushers: John & Kay Whritner, Chris &
Sara Bayreuther

Worship Leader: Ellen Ashburn

Worship Leader: Carol Donovan

Preacher: Pastor John A. Nelson

Parish Visitor: Candy Neilson

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary to the Glory of God,
and in celebration of our 36th anniversary,
by Bob & Mary Wassung.

✕ All who are able may stand at these times

Call to Worship adapted and reprinted from Lectionary Liturgies by the Rev. Thom Schumann
(lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com) © 2011. 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: 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. 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.)*

New Concerns:

Glenna Rondeau, with myasthenia gravis •
Becky Fraser, new diagnosis of breast cancer •
Beth Lanz, ovarian cancer • For those facing
personal, financial, and faith struggles due to
failed expectations • Juanita Durham,
recovering from surgery • Helen (mother of
Sue Smith), in rehab in Michigan • Healing for
Billy.

Continuing 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 • Healing and wisdom
for a friend with a newly diagnosed condition
• Ed Peckham, hospitalized with congestive

heart failure • Rene Laurençot, Sr., complications 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 • 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 • Healing for Joyce Greineder • Bertha, recovering from near-death experience • Ted Dana, kidney problems • hospitalized • Pat Maclary, recovering from surgery • Safe travel for Tricia, on internship in Guam • Tom, hospitalized.

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.

In treatment for cancer:

Joe, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer • Ellen Goeben, chemotherapy • Successful cancer surgery for Maribeth • Donna Magee, lung cancer • Shari Scace, in chemotherapy • Dorothea, breast cancer • Sandy Doboë, 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:

Eric Hamel • 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.

Thanksgiving for Ministers of our Church:

Adult Choir: Judy Barnard; Karen Deziel; Lynne Floyd; Jerry Gilstad; Carole Glenn; Anne Gonsalves; Roe Granger; Ed Hemstreet; Ron Johnson; JessieMay Kessler; Merrilyn McNatt; Jan Miceli; Avery Morgan; Christa Moro; Ocean Pellett; Ned Ruete; Brooke Stutzman; Bob Wassung; Sue Wilbur

Praise and Celebration:

For the arrival of Russ Kirby, and his ministry at NCC • For a first wedding anniversary! • For Matthew Jacobsen's graduation • For MaKenna's 1st birthday • From Roe, for prayers of concern and healing • Laura and

Matt, starting a new life together and expecting first child.

(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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For the search committee that took on the ministry of finding a settled Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministries

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 johnelson@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).



GIVING TO THE CHURCH through your Will is the most common way to continue your support beyond your lifetime. When your estate plan is prepared, consider a gift to the Church.

NCC'S GOSPEL CHOIR will be singing at the United Action Multicultural Justice Celebration on Tuesday, May 31 in Middletown. Meet at the church at 6:15pm to carpool.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING, June 5th. Worship Services at 9 & 11 am; Communion served in the pews. "Between Hour Café" 10:00-11:00am; Sunday School for all ages 10:15am. Pastor John A. Nelson, preaching. Scripture readings. Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11.

REMINDER: It's easy to signing up to get the weekly Wednesday email and our monthly newsletter, *Tidings*, by email. Just go to nianticcommunitychurch.org and follow the prompts.

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

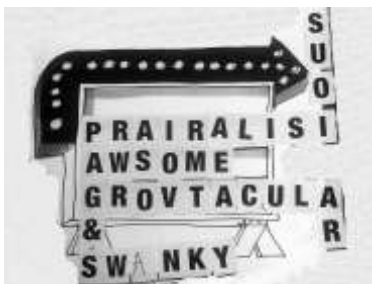
us to join in this joyous occasion with John's family, friends and colleagues. The celebration consists of a short ceremony in the sanctuary followed by a picnic. We will be giving John a gift on behalf of the congregation. Those wishing to contribute can do so by placing your donations in the offering 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!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is just around the corner-July 11-15 from 9:00 AM-12:00PM. VBS will be led by Deb Fountain. Registration Forms are now available on the NCC website, in the church office, and in the narthex. Our theme this summer is "The Shake it Up Cafe". Craft Supplies are in. Could you help run the Craft Station? Please let Deb know (860-739-8586).

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.

MULTICULTURAL JUSTICE CELEBRATION MAY 31ST. 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. 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.

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!

FRIENDS AND MEMBERS of NCC have received an invitation to the retirement celebration of Rev. Robert Moore at St. Matthew's UMC, Acton, MA. The Retirement and Farewell dinner is Saturday, June 11 at 6pm; Festival Worship of Celebration for Pentecost is Sunday, June 12 at 10:30am; Celebration Music Concert is Sunday, June 12 at 3:00pm. RSVP by June 1st to Gary and Bunny Lawton 978-263-9735; email: gelawton@verizon.net. The invitation is posted on the bulletin board by the church office.

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 June 8th. Program is free but registration is preferred. Facilitated by licensed clinical social worker, Liz Pelissier. Call (860)739-6208.

Our Record of Faithfulness In Giving And Attending

Received to Date for 2011: \$175,847.87; Needed to be current for 2011: \$173,197.50

Last Sunday's Attendance: 9:00 a.m. – 190; 11:15 a.m. – 44; Church School – 29;

Total: 263

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, MAY 29

- 9:00AM Worship Service
10:00-11:00AM "Between Hour Café"
(Dining Hall)
10:15AM Sunday School for All Ages
11:15AM Worship Service

MONDAY, MAY 30

*Memorial Day, Church Offices and Children's
Center closed*

TUESDAY, MAY 31

- 7:15AM Breakfast Bible Study (Niantic
Diner)
5:30PM Children's Choir (Sanctuary)
6:00PM Youth Bell Rehearsal (Multipurpose
Room)
NO Gospel Choir (Sanctuary)
7:00PM Adult Bell Rehearsal (Multipurpose
Room)
7:00PM Boy Scouts (Dining Hall)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

- 9:00AM DISCIPLE (Fellowship Room)
7:00PM The Healing Art of Photography
(Fellowship Room)
7:30PM NA (Dining Hall)

THURSDAY, JUNE 2

- 6:00PM Shoreline Food Pantry (Dining Hall)
6:00PM Vacation Bible School Leader
Meeting (FR)
8:00PM AA (Dining Hall)

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

- 5:00PM Children's Center Graduation
family dinner (Dining Hall)
7:30PM AA (Fellowship Room)

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

- 8:00PM 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

SUNDAY MORNINGS RE-IMAGINED – A ONE-YEAR REVIEW

When the congregation voted in June of 2009 to modify the Sunday morning schedule to incorporate more opportunities for study and faith formation, we committed ourselves to a three-year trial. We also agreed that we would regularly review the new schedule to see how well the plan is working and, perhaps, to implement some changes which might make the schedule even more effective. To that end, you are invited to respond to the questions below and return this page to the church office by June 13. You may also email your responses to Judy Snitkin (NianticCommChurch@sbcglobal.net). Your comments will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

1. What has been your experience of the revised Sunday morning schedule?

2. What suggestions do you have that might make Sunday mornings more effective for both worship and learning?

3. Are there particular topics, or aspects of the Bible, or questions of faith that you would like to explore?