

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.”

June 19, 2011 • 9:30 AM

Trinity Sunday



WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

HYMN SING

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: We lift our voices in praise —

Two: With the voice of light:

shimmering in star skies and moonrise, flooding bright with sun.

All: We give thanks to God:

Mystery, Teacher, and Revealer.

One: We lift our voices in praise —

Two: With the voice of waters: tumbling free, running deep,
bringing life; moving on.

**All: We give thanks to God:
Source, Life, and Power.**

One: We lift our voices in praise —

Two: With the voice of living things: bird and whale song,
cricket lullabies, trout silently flashing.

**All: We give thanks to God:
Creator, Love, and Breath.**

✘ HYMN #122

“God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale”

ROEDER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Loving God, Gracious Christ, Empowering Spirit,
what a gift we have to live in relationship.

To live in relationship with You:

**All: knowing ourselves accepted,
finding ourselves graced,
hearing ourselves called.**

To live in relationship within this good creation:

**blessed together in original goodness,
held together in mutual care,
joined together in common life.**

To live in relationship with one another:

**grounded in life-giving community,
formed by truth-telling stories,
knit with spirit-renewing fellowship.**

In silence, let us also remember the strains and separations in our relationships with
you, creation, and one another, trusting in your power to make all things new.

(We unburden ourselves in silence)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Remember this Word of God: if we say we have no strains or separations, the
truth is not in us. But even as we confess those broken places, God rushes in with
holy power, leading us to wholeness. Brothers and sisters, in Jesus' name 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

✦ HYMN #145

“Morning Has Broken”

BUNESSAN

Prayer requests will be collected.

Children (PreK–4th grade) may attend the one-room Sunday Schoolhouse.

SCRIPTURE READING: from Genesis 1–2

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

“The Dog in the Night”

John A. Nelson

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and PASTORAL PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

“Shall We Gather at the River”

Dale Wood

Bell Choir

OFFERTORY

Leader: The first words of the Bible are about God’s own generosity. God gave us the gifts of a wondrous, growing creation, our home, the good green earth and the animals that live here with us. On this summer morning, we come together to thank God and to offer our gifts so that the ministry of this church will continue to grow and be a blessing to the world.

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

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE MUSICAL OFFERING

✦ 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

God, we present these offerings that they may be a part of your creative, liberating rule in our world. With them we offer our all our ministries, today and in the days ahead, that each one of us may be part of your answer to the hopes and needs of all creatures that dwell in sea, sky, and earth. In Jesus' name; Amen.

✘ HYMN #150

“God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

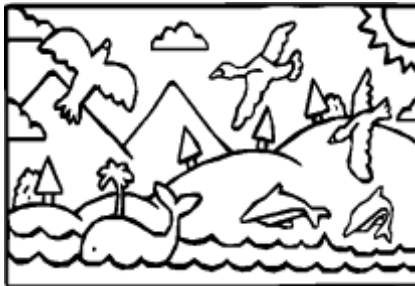
HOLY MANNA

✘ BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN

(Hymnal, 898)

POSTLUDE

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, 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

Ushers: Bette Mahon, Judy Laydon, Lew Meier, Angie Hayes

Worship Leader: Nancy Hunt

Preacher: Pastor John A. Nelson

Musician: Mary Mirecki

Parish Visitor: Mary Wassung

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary to the Glory of God and
In Loving Memory of C.M. (Tommy) Thomas and
In celebration for all fathers everywhere, by Iva Thomas;
and

In Loving Memory of Raymond Herzberg,
Richard Willis, and Harry Gustavsen, by the Herzberg family.

✠ All who are able may stand at these times

Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession adapted and reprinted
from Seasons of the Spirit™ © Wood Lake Publishing.

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

Director of Religious Education & Youth

Ministries: Russell Kirby

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: Sandra Kuchta

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:

Chuck, recent cancer diagnosis • Madeline Geria, 4-year old with leukemia • David Upton, in hospice care • Reuben, teenager recovering from surgery for brain cancer.

Continuing concerns:

For those suffering the after-effects of natural and human-made disasters.

An infant who will require surgery soon • Jodoin family, as their son joins the U.S. Army • Dan Daily, brain tumor • Dorothy MacDowell • Matt Liebal, deployed to Iraq • For a family struggling economically • Laureen McCarthy, struggling with persistent virus • Ed Peckham, hospitalized with complications from heart surgery • Glenna Rondeau, with myasthenia gravis • 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 • Rene Laurençot, Sr., complications from open heart surgery.

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:

Becky Fraser, new diagnosis of breast cancer • Beth Lanz, ovarian cancer • Marie, undergoing cancer therapy • Debbie Krasne, lung cancer treatment • Janine Schuliger, recovering from cancer surgery • Carl Stamm, lymphoma • Ellen Goeben, chemotherapy • Dorothea, breast cancer treatment • Sandy Doboë, multiple myeloma • 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; 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:

Thomas Forbes
Joey Miklojck • Shari Scace
Jim Kopelke • Ellen Bailey
Eric Hamel

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:**

For the Bell Choir and Children's Bell Choir, and for Lynne Floyd who directs them.

Praise and Celebration:

For Abrah's wedding on June 18th • For all graduations, and all that they represent in effort, encouragement, and possibility • For all those bold enough to follow God humbly toward their goals and dreams! • For birthdays: Jan Miceli, Pam Stevens • Jean Holland's twin granddaughters • For Laura, doing well after years of struggle • For Ollie York's 90th birthday • For the arrival of Russ Kirby, and his ministry at NCC • For a first wedding anniversary!.

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).

WE ACCEPT ENDOWMENT GIFTS. The income will be used for special Church projects. The principle of the gift is never spent and continues indefinitely.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL begins this morning and takes place during the worship service. This one room Sunday School is for children from age 4 through 4th grade and will take the place of the Divine Activity Time. There will be no individual Sunday School classes following the service during the summer months. Only Adult Christian Ed will be offered at 10:45AM. We need leaders or assistants for our Live B.I.G. Summer One Room Sunday School. Hear, See, and Live your Belief In God! Sign-up sheet is outside the CE door. Please see Russ if you have any questions.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING, June 26th. Worship Service at 9:30AM with One Room Church School in the Multipurpose Room; Adult Sunday School at 10:45AM in the Fellowship Room. Pastor John A. Nelson, preaching. Scripture readings. Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13 (or Jeremiah 28:5-9 and Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18); Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42.

WCSA - TUES, JUN 21, 12:30 AT PAT DORAN'S HOME (214 NIAN TIC RIVER ROAD). Please bring an appetizer, finger food, or dish to share for our annual picnic. There will be a short meeting afterward. To carpool, we will meet at the church parking lot at 12:15pm. All are welcome. For questions, contact Karen Peacock (739-9996) or Carol June (739-8851)

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 22nd. Program is free but registration is preferred. Facilitated by licensed clinical social worker, Liz Pelissier. Call (860)739-6208.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25TH IS OUR NEXT COMMUNITY MEAL. The menu is hot dogs in rolls, mac, cheese and broccoli casserole, salad, fruit cocktail and brownies. We'll need 6-7 volunteers to help serve the meal and brownie bakers to leave their fare in the freezer outside the scullery marked with the date and "community meal." Food donations include franks, split top hot dog rolls, mustard, relish, macaroni and shredded cheeses. Please leave all food donations in the kitchen by Wednesday p.m., June 22nd marked "community meal." Please call Anne Davis (860-739-7455) if you have questions or are able to help.

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.

REMINDER: Signing up for weekly Wednesday email and our monthly newsletter, Tidings, electronically is easy. Just go to nianticcommunitychurch.org and follow the prompts.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is just around the corner-July 11-15 from 9:00AM-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". Please return completed forms to Judy in the church office.

JACK FROST BAZAAR ALERT: Beginning on September 15th, Susan Swetland will host weekly crafting sessions at her house, 25 Oak Hill Drive, Niantic, on Thursdays 9am to noon and 7 to 9pm. Come join in the fun as we create items to sell at the bazaar in November. Please call Susan (860-739-2700) with any questions and ideas. Thank you!

I AM MAKING AN APPEAL FOR YOUR KIND SUPPORT on behalf of my daughter, Jaclyn Woodworth-Harper. She is currently enrolled in the nursing school of Everett Community College, Everett, Washington, and has been selected as 1 of 20 students to take part in a medical missionary trip to the Dominican Republic in December. During their mission week, the nursing students will offer daily clinics, providing immunizations, family health education and hygiene kits. Volunteers are required to do their own fund raising, which is why I am asking for your kind and generous support for this important outreach ministry. In addition, I would like to thank WCSA for its \$100 contribution toward the health kits for this project. I will be downstairs following worship this week to accept donations. Thank you, Jeannette Woodworth.

THIS WEEK AT NIAN TIC 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, JUNE 19

- 9:30AM Worship Service
One Room Church School – Ages 4-
4th grade (Multipurpose Room)
10:30 Fellowship (Dining Hall)
10:45AM Adult Sunday School – Sermon Talk-
back (Fellowship Room)

MONDAY, JUNE 20

- 7:00PM Toastmasters (Dining Hall)

TUESDAY, JUNE 21

- 7:15AM Breakfast Bible Study (Niantic Diner)
10:00AM Caregivers Support Group
(Fellowship Room)
12:30PM WCSA (Picnic @ Pat Doran's home)
7:00PM Communications Committee (Parish
Life Office)
7:00PM Boy Scouts (Dining Hall)

WEDNESDAY JUNE 22

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 23

- 6:00PM Shoreline Food Pantry (Dining Hall)
8:00PM AA (Dining Hall)

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

- 2:30 PM Community Meal Prep (Kitchen)
7:30PM AA (Dining Hall)

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

- 9:30AM Worship Service
One Room Church School – Ages 4-
4th grade (Multipurpose Room)
10:30 Fellowship (Dining Hall)
10:45AM Adult Sunday School – First Light
"The Advent of the Messiah"
(Fellowship Room)

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