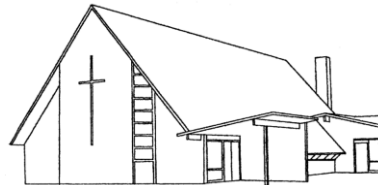


# NIANTIC COMMUNITY CHURCH

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.”

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October 2, 2011 • 9:00 & 11:15AM

*The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

## WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

“Prelude and Fugue in E minor”  
“Let Us Break Bread Together”  
Agape Choir

*Bach*

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

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

“Zion Rejoice”  
Gospel Choir (9:00AM)

*McAllister*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus said: “I am the bread of life.”

**People: We take and share the bread of life—the bread of God that gives life to the world.**

Jesus said: “I am the true vine.”

**We are branches of the vine – the vine that bears the fruit of God’s love to all people.**

Jesus said: “This is my body ... This is my blood.”

**We are the body of Christ! Christ is in us, and we are in Christ! We are the grain scattered on the hillside that has been gathered together and made one loaf. We are the grapes grown in the field that have been pressed together to make the drink of a single cup.**

We bring the gift of God’s New Covenant to the world.

**May it truly be so! Come Holy One! Make our words of unity and love into a reality.**

✕ HYMN #593

“Here I Am”

HERE I AM

Prayer requests will be collected.

## **FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE**

### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We come into your presence with thanks, Creator God, for everything that fills our lives with joy: the love of family and friends, the comfort of our homes, the learning of school and work, and the delight of leisure. Often, we have taken all these for granted, failing to see them as your gifts: please forgive us. You tell us to comfort those who are in trouble, but often we have focused on our own worries instead: please forgive us. You tell us to cherish each other and the earth, but often we have ignored each other and abused the planet. In this time of worship, help us to see ourselves differently: as people who belong to you, who listen to you most closely of all, who follow you. Amen.**

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you who turn back to God, for you are forgiven and set free in new life.

**Thanks be to God!**

### INVITATION

### THANKSGIVING PRAYER

God be with you,

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts:

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us thank God:

**It is good to thank God....**

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER ("trespasses")

### ✠ ACT OF PRAISE (*sung*)

GREATOREX

**Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ,  
And to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen; Amen.**

## PREPARING THE ELEMENTS

## SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

We celebrate an open communion, and welcome every person to the table. We understand the sharing of the bread and the cup in Jesus' name to be a reenactment of an ancient vision of God's feast for all people. We don't require you to be a member of our church, or any church, to participate with us in this feast of grace: all that is needed is that you desire God's nurture. Today communion will be received in the pews. Please pass the tray before taking the bread or cup; allow your neighbor to serve you. We hold the bread until all are served to signify our unity in Christ. We take the cup as we are served, to signify our personal relationship with Christ. (We use unfermented grape juice.)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. By the power of your Holy Spirit keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, our homes, and our places of labor and leisure, that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ. Amen.**

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION

*"For the Bread"  
verses 1 and 4*

FOR THE BREAD

Children attending Church School (PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade) may leave during the singing of the hymn.

## **WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN SONG AND WORD**

## THE HYMNS WE SING

Paul Althouse

### ✠ HYMN #378

*"Amazing Grace"*

NEW BRITAIN

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Based on Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

Give thanks today, for God is good and God's love lasts forever.

Let us announce the goodness of God, for we have been saved and gathered in from many places and journeys.

**With overflowing hearts, we bring our thanks to God.**

We wandered in deserts of despair. Our hearts were hungry and thirsty; our souls grew faint within us.

We cried out to God in our trouble

and God drew near to us in our distress and brought us safely home.

**With overflowing hearts, we bring our thanks to God.**

We give thanks for rivers in the desert and springs of water in the dry ground. In the places where evil flourished, good brings a new harvest of hope. The sanctuary of God is for all who long for it and the hunger in our lives is fed with God's plenty.

**With overflowing hearts, we bring our thanks to God,**

**for we are those who are offered the kin-dom of God, this day.**

SERMON

"Favorite Songs"

John A. Nelson

**WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH**

OFFERTORY

Leader: In stories from the Bible, in the words of a psalm, in the harmony and power of voices joined together, we remember: Jesus Christ has unleashed a mighty spirit of grace. We live within that spirit-gift, every day! God leads us to new life: how shall we respond? With offerings and tithes: a token of our thankfulness.

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

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE MUSICAL OFFERING

(9:00AM)

"Toccata for Communion"

*Frescobaldi*

(11:15AM)

"In Remembrance"

*Courtney, Red*

(Adult Choir)

✠ 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

**Holy God, may the harmonies of earth and the harmonies of heaven dance together, raising our spirits and blessing every giver of praise. And let these gifts, laid on the altar, be blessed to carry healing and hope to your children. We ask it in Jesus' name; Amen.**

✠ HYMN #89

“Joyful, Joyful”

ODE TO JOY

✠ BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN

(Hymnal, 898)

POSTLUDE

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

*Rawsthorne*

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



NCC has been offered a unique opportunity by the UCC Conference. They are providing staff assistance for us to tackle needs we have identified. At present we are organizing for three initiatives:

- a. Inspiring Generosity
- b. Nurturing Faith
- c. Visionary Leadership

The work of the Inspiring Generosity committee was already helpful in shaping last year's pledge campaign. The other two committees are developing their goals and plan major efforts this year. We are calling these three efforts the Threshold Initiative.

The three committees will be meeting with their UCC advisors on Saturday, Oct 8 at 9:00AM in the Fellowship Room. If you would like to learn more about this work or if serving on a helpful church committee is on your Bucket List, feel free to attend this session.

## **WELCOME TO NIAN TIC 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. CD recordings are available in the church library or 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 Bulletins, and Hymnals  
are available. Please ask an usher for assistance!**

### **Today's Worship Leaders**

**9:00AM**

**Ushers:** Carolyn and Phil Lombardo,  
Jan Johnson, Bob Castronova  
**Worship Leader:** Doris Beebe

**11:00AM**

**Ushers:** Nancy Burkhardt, Betty Jones,  
Jill Johnson, Edna Gilstad  
**Worship Leader:** Jane Milardo

**Preacher:** Pastor John A. Nelson

**Parish Visitor:** Pam McCauley

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary to the Glory of God,  
and in Loving Memory of Dick Daboll,  
by Catherine Daboll and family.

✘ All who are able may stand at these times

### **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 (offered by worshipers during previous weeks):

*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:

Monty, recovering from ankle replacement • Healing for Tami Scace • Carole and her family, going through trying times • Dan and Jim • Aunt Lyla and John • Rose, with health problems • Jim and Holly Logan, liver and pancreatic cancer • Rich and all living with Crohn's disease • For success in a new business for Mary Ann Birch • Deb, in chemotherapy •

### Continuing concerns:

Families and individuals struggling economically

Owen Duarte, for a successful school year and attention to special needs • Stephen, stomach cancer • Susan Brown, broken wrist • Leo Martin, broken ankle • Ashley Rotchford, studying in Cairo • Violet Rowles • Ophelia White, in rehab • Dawn, with brain illness, and family • Todd, in Afghanistan • Ginger

Ely, health concerns • Meloney and family, as she prepares for death • Holly, Tiffany, and Emily • Barbara Silvia, at Bridebrook rehab • Pat Spencer, recovering from heart attack • Roger Spencer, leg infection • Anna, with bipolar disease • Lisa, difficult pregnancy • Dan and Alma • Lila, Tom, Eleanor, and Phyllis • Traveling mercies for parents in Ireland • Dot Mike, at Bridebrook rehab • Paul Swann, in hospice care.

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:*

Tina Daniels, breast cancer • Dan Daily • Ed Painter • Ellen Goeben, chemotherapy • Sandy Doboie, multiple myeloma • Clara Ball – and their families, friends, and caregivers.

*Friends and family now serving our country in the armed forces:* Scott Basham; Greg Balsmeier; 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:**

John Miller • Aunt Melony  
Janine Theve • Traci Hart  
Mary Kay Lescoe • Joyce Greineder  
Martha Olsen

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:**

Thanking God that testing shows the mass in Dawn's brain is not cancerous • Birth of grandson Brogan Ashburn, son of Octavia and Jason Ashburn • Marriage of Peg and Tom • Marriage of Kristen and Ryan • John Pyatt's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday • A job for Stefanie • For family visits • Nephew Forrest now able to walk, after recovery from broken leg & ankle • Anniversaries for Ashburns, Gilstads, and Grangers • The marriage of Anne Johnson and Justin Palmer, and the gathering of family and friends • For children and grandchildren • For family and friends giving support and guidance during a nervous breakdown • For all those bold enough to follow God humbly toward their goals and dreams!

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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).

**TRUSTS ALLOW YOU TO MAKE A GIFT TO THE CHURCH IN THE FUTURE.** You may set up the Trust now, keep the income for yourself or other beneficiaries as long as you choose, or for life. The Church would receive the property after that. Current income tax deductions can be available.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR** rehearsals have begun on Tuesdays, 5:30-6:15. New singers welcome and encouraged in both groups! They meet in the Sanctuary.

**GOSPEL CHOIR** rehearsals follow the Children's Choir rehearsals, 6:15-7:00 All are still welcome to join us!

**BLOOD DRIVE** set for October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-6:30pm in the Dining Hall at NCC. To make an appointment to donate blood, call the American Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767.

**NEXT SUNDAY MORNING, October 9<sup>th</sup>.** Worship Services at 9 & 11:15am; 10:00-11:00am "Between Hour Café;" 10:15am Adult Sunday School. Pastor John A. Nelson, preaching. Scripture readings: Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 or Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14.

**THE 4TH ANNUAL NCC CHILI COOK-OFF IS ALMOST HERE.** It's time to register to enter the competition. Great prizes, awesome fellowship, and fabulous food. Family friendly, live music and activities and food for kids. Meet WFSB Channel 3 anchor Kevin Hogan. Saturday, October 15th, 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the dining hall. All are welcome. Call the church office to register for the competition 739-6208. All inclusive \$10 adults/\$5 kids 12 and under/\$30 per family max. See you there.

**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.

**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY-** Care to help spread word of the great work we do at NCC? Well, we can help you do it. One Table, Many Meals has been reduced to the overstock cookbook price of \$10. Yep, it's true! If only half of all church members bought just one cookbook to give away, we would be sold out! And our cookbook would be spread throughout the community. Give one to your mailman, your doctor, your hairdresser, your dentist, your neighbor, your Realtor, teachers and friends. Help us spread the word.... they are available in the church office or call (860)739-6208.

**NIANTIC COMMUNITY CHURCH CHILDREN'S CENTER** is now enrolling for fall classes. We register children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. We are a small non-profit, family oriented childcare that is NAEYC accredited. We accept Care4kids and offer scholarships. Please call Kathy at (860)739-0877 or email at [director@nccchildrenscenter.com](mailto:director@nccchildrenscenter.com)

**THE NEXT BOOK WE WILL DISCUSS IS "Unbroken"** by Laura Hillenbrand. We will meet November 13th at 7 pm at NCC. Please join us!

**"DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT: WITH YOUR VOICE JUSTICE CAN HAPPEN!!!"** Save the Date: The evening of November 29th, United Action Connecticut (UACT) announces a gathering of congregations to inspire and motivate us as we move forward together. Location to be announced soon.

**OUR RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS IN GIVING AND ATTENDING**

Received to Date for 2011: \$310,015.76; Needed to be current for 2011: \$325,087.23  
LAST SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE: 9:00 a.m. - 134; 11:15 a.m. - 33; Church School - 20  
**Total: 187**

# Equipping the Saints for Ministry

The New London Association presents an afternoon of workshops with new ideas for all of us.

**Sunday, November 6**

**2:00-4:30 p.m.**

**Federated Church of Colchester  
60 Main Street, Colchester, CT**

**Attend two of the following three workshops:**

**Best Practices for Healthy Churches:** A workshop designed to name and dig into the best practices and resources available for implementing your church's safe conduct policy effectively and consistently. Tips, strategies and resources will be shared to enable lay members and church staff to work faithfully and creatively together to form and keep a healthy and life-giving environment for your congregation.

Karen Ziel, Minister of Christian Education, CT Conference UCC

**Social Networking - Promises and Pitfalls:** Social networking services like Facebook and Twitter have gained a following at an astonishing rate. Some use it casually, but for others it serves as a critical means to communicate with the world. How will we in the Church use this new medium to share the grace of God and strengthen our communities?

Eric Anderson, Minister of Communications and Technology,  
CT Conference UCC

**Inspiring Transformative Giving: Joyous Annual Stewardship Campaigns:**

If generosity is at the core of the Christian Gospel, why is the annual stewardship effort often such a dreaded and difficult task in the local church? Learn the benefits of reconnecting giving with the Christian journey and applying tried-and-tested fundraising best practices in your church's stewardship campaign.

Patricia (Patsy) Bjorling, Associate Minister for Generosity Ministries,  
CT Conference UCC

To help with planning, an estimate of the number of those attending from each church would be appreciated. Please send to Rev. William Dunlap, Registrar, at [meetinghouserocks@yahoo.com](mailto:meetinghouserocks@yahoo.com).

## FAVORITE HYMNS OF NCC

(according to a survey conducted during Sunday services on March 20 and March 27)

### The Top Four (over 10 votes each)

Here I Am, Lord (18)  
How Great Thou Art (18)  
Amazing Grace (16)  
In the Garden (13)

#### 10 Votes

Morning Has Broken

#### 9 Votes

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

#### 8 Votes

Let There Be Peace on Earth

#### 7 Votes

Lord of the Dance  
On Eagle's Wings

#### 6 Votes

The Old Rugged Cross

#### 5 Votes

Abide With Me; Fast Falls the eventide  
Great is Thy Faithfulness  
It Is Well with My Soul  
Spirit Song  
This Is My Father's world

#### 4 Votes

Are Ye Able, Said the Master  
Be Still, My Soul  
Be Thou My Vision  
For the Beauty of the Earth  
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
Open My Eyes, That I May See  
This Little Light of Mine

### 3 Votes

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine  
Christ the Lord is Risen Today  
Come Ye Thankful People, Come  
Go, Tell It on the Mountain  
Hymn of Promise  
Lift High the Cross  
Onward, Christian soldiers  
The Church's One Foundation

### 2 Votes

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God  
All Things Bright and Beautiful  
America the Beautiful  
Angels from the Realms of Glory  
Blest Be the Tie that Binds  
Come, Christians, join to sing  
Dear Lord and Father of Mankind  
Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty  
Jesus Calls us O'er the Tumult  
Joy to the World, the Lord Is Come  
Just as I Am, Without One Plea  
O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee  
Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me  
Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling  
Sweet, Sweet Spirit  
There's a Song in the Air  
This Is My Song  
This Is the Day  
'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime  
We Gather Together  
What a Friend We Have in Jesus

## 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.

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### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

- 9:00AM Worship Service  
10:00-11:00AM "Between Hour Café"  
(Dining Hall)  
10:15AM **Adult Sunday School** – First  
Light "America as the New  
Rome" (Fellowship Room)  
11:15AM Worship Service  
5:00PM Jr. Youth Fellowship (grades 5-7)  
(Dining Hall)  
6:00PM High School Youth-Shelter Meal  
(Dining Hall)

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### MONDAY, OCTOBER 3

- 7:00PM Christian Ed Committee  
(Multipurpose Room)  
7:00PM Music & Worship Arts  
Committee (Parish Life Office)  
7:00PM Toastmasters (Multipurpose  
Room)

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### TUESDAY OCTOBER 4

- 7:15AM Breakfast Bible Study (Niantic  
Diner)  
5:30 PM Children's Choir (Sanctuary)  
6:00PM Youth Bells (Multipurpose Room)  
6:15 PM Gospel Choir (Sanctuary)  
7:00PM Adult Bells (Multipurpose Room)

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### TUESDAY OCTOBER 4 CONTINUED

- 7:00PM Open, Affirming, Reconciling  
Committee (Fellowship Room)  
7:00PM Parish Life Ministries (Parish Life  
Office)  
7:00PM Worship Team (Office)  
7:00PM Boy Scouts (Dining Hall)

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### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

- 7:30PM NA (Dining Hall)

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### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

- 9:00AM Newcomers Club (Dining Hall &  
Kitchen)  
5:30PM Shoreline Food Pantry (Dining  
Hall)  
7:00PM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
(Sanctuary)  
8:00PM AA (Dining Hall)

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### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

- 7:30PM AA (Dining Hall)

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### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

- 9:00AM Threshold Initiative (Fellowship  
Room)  
10:00-11:00AM AA (Dining Hall)  
7:30PM AA (Dining Hall)

### 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