

NIANTIC COMMUNITY CHURCH

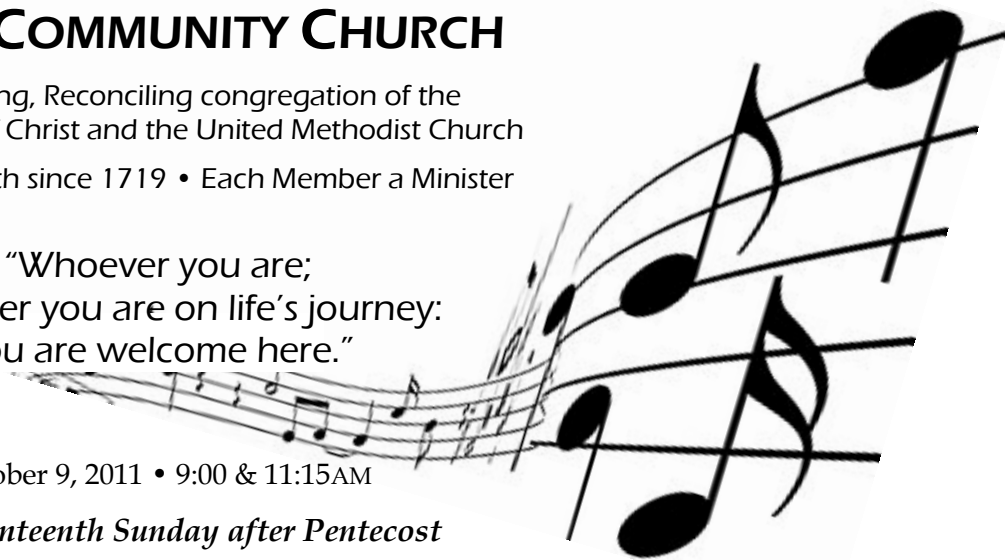
An Open, Affirming, Reconciling congregation of the
United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church

A Heritage of Faith since 1719 • Each Member a Minister

“Whoever you are;
wherever you are on life’s journey:
you are welcome here.”

October 9, 2011 • 9:00 & 11:15AM

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

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: God calls us in from the ends of the earth.

Many: God calls in from the dead centers of our lives.

God calls us together to pray and sing our praise!

God calls us together to serve the Holy One.

God has breathed into us the breath of new life.

Let us worship with joy and sing with grateful hearts, for God’s sake!

✕ HYMN #314

“In the Garden”

GARDEN

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Creator, Healer God,
who gathers the church into one body,
gather us once again in your presence
and strengthen the bonds of affection that hold your people together.
Bless us with grace to reach out to one another in service,
that we may be the signs of your uniting love to our fractured world.
Teach us to show compassion for those in need,
to face challenges with imagination,
and to counter disappointments with prayerful trust.
So may your church show forth your will and your gracious rule. 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 attending Sunday School (PreK-5th grade)
may leave during the singing of the hymn.

PSALTAR: Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b

One: O Holy One, how many and how varied are Your works!

Many: In wisdom You have made them all;

The earth is full of Your creatures.

There is the sea, vast and spacious,

With its creatures beyond number

Living things both small and great.

There go the ships,

And the sea monster that You formed to frolic there.

These all look to You to give them their food when it is due;

When You give to them, they gather it up;

When You open Your hand,

They are filled with good things.

When You hide Your face,

They are terrified;

When You take away their breath,

They die and return to their dust.

When You send forth Your breath, they are created;

And You renew the face of the earth.

May the splendor of the Most High endure forever;

May the Almighty rejoice in the works of creation.

God is the one who looks on the earth and it trembles,

Who touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the Creator as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

May my meditation be pleasing to the Eternal One,

As I rejoice in my God.

Honor the Holy One, O my soul.

Hallelujah!

SCRIPTURE READING: Philippians 4:1-9

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.

SERMON

“Life Together”

John A. Nelson

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

PRAYERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Leader: We are a community of people who want to follow Jesus. We share so much with those early Christians who “struggled in the work of the gospel” but also found joy in the Lord, joy in the life they shared together. No matter what we are carrying this morning, or what we face, we are not alone. At this moment in our worship, we’re invited to share what we have so that others will find the same welcome, and the same joy that we have known.

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

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE MUSICAL OFFERING

“Morning has Broken”

arr. Jim Brickman

✠ 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

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

✠ HYMN #77

“How Great Thou Art”

HOW GREAT THOU ART

✠ BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN

(Hymnal, 898)

POSTLUDE

“How Great Thou Art”

arr. John Carter

**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. CD recordings 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: Judy Layden, Angie Hayes,
Chris & Sara Bayreuther

Worship Leader: Carol Donovan

Acolytes:

Preacher: Pastor John A. Nelson

Guest Musician: Mary Mirecki

Parish Host: Bob Nielsen

11:15AM

Ushers: Bruce Brailey, Ocean Pellett

Worship Leader: Carl Putnam

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary to the Glory of God by the Diaconate Board

✠ 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:

*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:

Rich Smith, in Afghanistan • Those
experiencing loss • Carrie, in treatment for

lung cancer • Janie Pressley, recovering from
out-patient surgery • Beth, recovering from
surgery • Evan Worthington, double organ

transplant • Healing for a family in turmoil • Ellen, recovering from hip surgery • Ginger Ely, failing health • Gerry, recovering from surgery • For teenagers and the parents who love them through thick and thin.

Continuing concerns:

Families and individuals struggling economically

Andrew, substance abuse issues • JoAn Brouwer, broken hip • Marcella, heart surgery • 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 • 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 • Dan, Aunt Lyla, Phyllis • 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:

Sue, breast cancer • Tina Daniels, breast cancer • Dan Daily • Ed Painter • 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:

Ken Esposito

Michael A. Guarini • Betty Brooke

John Miller • Aunt Melony

Janine Theve • Traci Hart • 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.

Thanksgiving for Ministers of our Church:

NCC Children's Center Board: Mary Brailey; Anita Potts; Linda Helvig; Karen Waites; Sue Basham

Praise and Celebration:

A mother coming through another heart crisis • Marriage of Mark and Leslie at Taos Pueblo • A father's 81st birthday • A beautiful & successful art show • Michael and Stefanie have jobs! • Grateful, loving thanks for healing prayers • Molly, home from long-term care after a stroke • Ellen Goeben, finished with chemotherapy • Sandy Doboie, in remission • Birth of grandson Brogan Ashburn, son of Octavia and Jason Ashburn • Marriage of Peg and Tom • Marriage of Kristen and Ryan • Nephew Forrest now able to walk, after recovery from broken leg & ankle • For all those bold enough to follow God humbly toward their goals and dreams!

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!

ON-GOING PRAYER CHAIN. To add a request to the Prayer Chain please send an email to prayers@nianticcommunitychurch.org, or call the church office (860-739-6208).

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING, October 16th. 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 33:12-23; Psalm 99 or Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13); 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS OR CHARITABLE LEAD TRUSTS allow you to make a gift to charity of income or principal, while keeping one or the other for yourself or other beneficiaries. We urge you to investigate these possibilities with your tax advisor.

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.

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 ! 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

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.

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, OCTOBER 9

- 9:00AM Worship Service
10:00-11:00AM "Between Hour Café" (Dining Hall)
"Tend to your Gardens"
10:15AM **Adult Church School** –
Questioning Capital Punishment
"Crossing the Breach" (Fellowship Room)
11:15AM Worship Service
5:00PM Youth Fellowship-6th-12th (Dining Hall, Multipurpose Room)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

- 5:45PM Children's Center Board (Parish Life Office)
6:30pm Outreach Committee (Multipurpose Room)
7:00PM Finance Committee (Fellowship Room)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

- 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)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, *cont'd*

- 7:00PM Maintenance Committee (Office)
7:00PM Boy Scouts (Dining Hall)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

- 7:30PM NA (Dining Hall)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

- 9:30AM Sacred Source Painting (Multipurpose Room)
7:30PM AA (Multipurpose Room)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

- 10:00-11:00AM AA (Multipurpose Room/Fellowship Room)
5:00 PM Chili Cook-off (Dining Hall/Outside weather permitting)
7:30PM AA (Multipurpose Room)

SATURDAY,

- 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