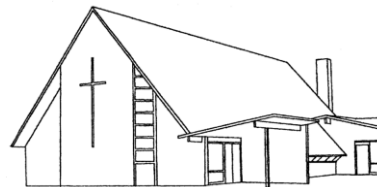


NIANTIC COMMUNITY CHURCH

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 16, 2011 • 9:00 & 11:15AM

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost • Heritage Sunday

WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH

PRELUDE

“Prelude and Fugue in G Minor”

Bach

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: Each morning, God’s grace awakens us, each evening, God’s peace cradles us.

**Many: Compassion is our constant companion,
as we go through work, school, the day.**

In every moment, God is present with us;

God whispers words which can change our lives.

**Justice is our faithful teacher,
pointing to where we can carry out fairness and faithfulness.**

When we find ourselves groping in the shadows,
God's light will provide a way home.

**We turn the corner, and hope is waiting for us;
we return home, and find a feast prepared.**

✠ HYMN #117

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

ST. ANNE

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We know, despite our sincere efforts to live in God's way, that all too easily we slip off the path to the kingdom. Trusting that God will answer our prayers and forgive us, let us confess our sins, as we pray together,

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Great Lover of Justice, hear our prayers:
challenged to treat all people equally,
we take sides and pick favorites;
chosen to be your children,
we forget how many others share that honor;
called to be examples of faith,
we reveal our unfaithful natures to our families and friends.**

Forgive us, Giver of Rest.

**Enable us to stop putting you to the test,
so we can open our hearts to your healing
touch of compassion and hope.**

**As Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, has given all for us,
may we give ourselves to you –
confidently, completely, faithfully.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news: the One who created goodness and beauty is also the One who shows no partiality, but offers grace and peace to all.

**All: God has heard our prayers and has done the very thing we asked –
forgiven us, healed us, restored us. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES TO THIRD GRADE STUDENTS (9AM)

Leader: Today as we celebrate Heritage Sunday, we not only look to our past, but we also look to our future. As we have done so many times before, once again we give the gift of a Bible to each of these young readers before you.

Congregation (to the children): You are our future and our present, and we celebrate this moment with you!

Leader (to the children): The tradition of giving young people a new Bible at this point in life has been done by this church and many other churches for a long, long time. When you receive your Bible today, you will join many, many others over the years who have gotten a Bible at your age, too.

Leader: See these Bibles...

Congregation: Old and young alike, we have been where you are now. These are special Bibles that we use to read and learn about God and God's people.

Leader: Some of these Bibles are very old. Some are older than this building! Some of these Bibles are very new, younger than you. Today you will get your own Bible, given to you by us, your church family.

Leader: Our church has some very important Bibles, too. Niantic Community Church came from two different churches that joined together many years ago. This Bible came from the Methodist Church. This Bible came from the Congregational Church. Today, our combined church uses *this* Bible, and we read from it every Sunday.

Congregation: Today we give *you* an important Bible. It isn't a Congregational Bible; it isn't a Methodist Bible. It is YOUR Bible, given with Christ's love. We pray that you read it often, all the rest of your life.

Leader: Here is your special Bible, a loving gift from your church. Keep it with you. Learn and grow closer to God as you read it, and may it become part of your heritage.

Congregation: Praise be to God!

Leader: To the families and loved ones of these children, we ask: will you continue to love and nurture your child, exploring with them the scriptures of this Bible?

Families and Loved Ones: We will take time to share and learn with our child the stories and wisdom of our faith.

Leader: To all in this place we ask: Will you continue to love and nurture these children, helping them live out the scriptures of their Bibles as the Body of Christ?

Congregation: We will. The Bible you're holding now is your very own. Not just to have, but to read, and learn and grow. We pray God's blessing on you, on this Bible, and on your faith journey.

Leader: You are now among the many people of faith who have been given this special gift. It's not a decoration for your room; it is a symbol of this church's love for you, a symbol of God's love in your life and a symbol of the Body of Christ to which you belong.

Congregation: You are our future, and our present, and these Bibles connect you to our past. So be it. Amen.

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS (9AM)

✦ HYMN

"When Our Founders"

BEACH SPRING

Prayer requests will be collected; Children attending Church School (PreK-5th grade) may leave during the singing of the hymn.

**When our founders built a legacy
they were building, not in vain,
for the witness of God's majesty,
grace amidst a world of pain.
We who gather here for worship
ask for opened eyes to see
how the Spirit leads your people
to embrace new mystery.**

**We are thankful for the witnesses
that have gone before us here,
who surround us and encourage us
still to hope and persevere.
May we lay aside our burdens,
all the sin that weighs us down,
so to run the race before us
and receive a glorious crown.**

**At the book, the font, the table,
still we gather in God's peace
to find healing for God's people,
seeking joy and full release.
As our journey now continues,
be our guide on trails we blaze.
Holy Spirit, wind and water,
pour out flames of prayer and praise.**

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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.

HERITAGE SUNDAY REFLECTION

Elizabeth Kuchta and John A. Nelson

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

PRAYERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

Leader: We broke this ground that a church may rise where the ancient gospel of her Lord shall be proclaimed. A church where little children shall learn to love God and grow in the beauty of Christian grace and character.

All: We broke this ground.

A church where through the years countless youth shall come to worship, pause to pray, and rise to serve. A church where the weary and heavy laden shall find an inner peace. A church where multitudes shall be refreshed in spirit, relieved from pain, released from bondage, redeemed from sin.

We broke this ground.

We laid these stones for a building that shall stand as a symbol of the Church Universal, the cornerstone of which is truth, the creed of which is love, and its towers eternal hope.

We laid these stones.

For a church with an open door for all people, who need the help of God through us. A church which takes hold on two worlds, and stands for the unseen and eternal, and which offers the abundant life which now is and which is to come.

We laid these stones.

In loving memory of those who have gone from us, whose hearts and hands have served this church; with gratitude for all whose faith and consecrated gifts make this house possible, for all who may share this spiritual adventure; and with hope for all who shall worship in this house in years to come.

We laid these stones.

We dedicated this church for the worship of God in prayer and praise; for the preaching of the gospel message; for the celebration of the holy sacraments.

We dedicated this church.

For the furtherance of brotherhood and unity; for the founding and hallowing of the family; for the nurture and guidance of children.

We dedicated this church.

Now mindful of the inheritance into which we have entered, and the glorious company, seen and unseen, whose communion we share, and deeply sensible of those bonds by which we are bound to the Lord of all life and to each other, we offer ourselves anew to the worship and work of our Heavenly Creator.

We dedicate ourselves to the vision of God's gracious rule on earth, with gratitude for all who have carried us this far, and with steadfast devotion to Christ Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life.

OFFERTORY

Leader: We are living, breathing messages of God's love for the world. This is our work of faith and our labor of love and our steadfastness of hope in Jesus Christ. Like the earliest Christians, we are here in this place because of the commitment and faith and generosity of others who shared the good news of the gospel in their time. So we turn now, in our time, and share our faith and our commitment through generous giving to support the ministry of this church in Christ's name.

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

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE MUSICAL OFFERING

(9:00AM)	"God Is My Shepherd" (Adult Choir)	<i>Dvorak</i>
(11:15AM)	"Balm in Gilead" Lynne Floyd, <i>soprano</i>	<i>arr. Harry T. Burleigh</i>

✠ 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

Everything belongs to God; we are caretakers. Today we return these gifts to the generous God who entrusted them to us. Bless the gifts, Holy One, and bless the giving, and bless the givers to be loving servants to all in need. We ask it in the name of Christ Jesus; Amen.

✠ HYMN #64

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

NICAEA

✠ BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN

(Hymnal, 898)

POSTLUDE

“Ye Servants of God” (Hanover)

Rawsthorne

**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

11:15AM

Ushers: John & Catherine Vincent,
Lew Meier, Bob Nielsen

Ushers: Anne Davis, Catherine Daboll
Worship Leader: Terri McTigue

Worship Leader: Margaret Holmberg

Preacher: Pastor John A. Nelson

Parish Host: Annette Silvia

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of our parents, Peter and Edith Ferraro and
Phillip and Harriet Whritner, by Kay & John Whritner.

✠ All who are able may stand at these times

Call to Worship adapted from Thom M. Schuman, lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com. "When Our Founders," words copyright © 2011 Stephen P. West (adapted). Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003. www.umcworship.org.

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:

Christine, with thyroid cancer and facing shortage of medication • Kristen's mother, with breast cancer • Deb and Bob, in chemotherapy • Denny, back surgery • Safe travel for family and friends.

Continuing concerns:

Families and individuals struggling economically

Rich Smith, in Afghanistan • Those experiencing loss • 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 • 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 •
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:

Carrie, in treatment for lung 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:

Joseph Nolan • Charles Christensen
Helen Holmberg Skaggs • Ken Esposito
Michael A. Guarini • Betty Brooke

John Miller • Aunt Melony
Janine Theve • Traci Hart

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:

Burial Ground Committee: Ellen Ashburn;
Bruce Brailey; Stanley Dalrymple, *honorary
member*; Elizabeth Kuchta; Iva Thomas;
Linda Helvig; Jan Cushing; Donald Hobbs;
Wilbur Beckwith

Praise and Celebration:

Successful surgery for Gerry • Dot Mike is
back at home! • 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 • 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!

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).

MEMORIAL GIFTS MEET TWO IMPORTANT NEEDS AT ONCE. They allow you to express your feelings at the loss of a loved one. In addition, the gift to the Church helps support its ministry. Appropriate cards are sent to the bereaved family indicating the fact that your memorial gift was made (but not the amount).

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the 2011 third quarter are available this morning in the Narthex. In an effort to save postage, please pick up yours as you leave this morning's service. Thank you!

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP on Tuesday, October 18th from 10:-11:30. Our guest speaker is Tami Scace, who will discuss Reiki.

"THE ROAD BACK TO YOURSELF - THE SECOND JOURNEY" by Joan Anderson is the inspiration for sacred conversation, reflection and creative opportunities during a new program beginning Wednesday, Oct. 19th for five weeks. Offered at two times, 1-3PM and 7-9PM, the program is free and books are available in the Parish Life office for \$6. This is one of many nurturing faith ministries of Parish Life. Facilitated by Patty Chaffee, Community Minister. Please call the church office to register.

Tuesday, Oct 18, 1:00 PM, **WCSA MEETING** . Delores Green from Friends of Maria, a resource network for women, will speak. All are welcome.

THE DINNER/MOVIE GROUP will meet for dinner at 5:15PM on Wednesday, October 19th at Family Pizza, 233 Main Street, Niantic. Following dinner we plan to attend the movie "The Ides of March" at Niantic Cinema. All women of the church are invited to join us – NO reservations necessary! Any questions, please call Judy Layden (860-739-6741).

NEXT COMMUNITY MEAL IS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22ND. The menu is creamy baked ziti, green beans, salad, fruit cocktail and brownies. Food needs: boxes of ziti, spaghetti sauces, shredded mozzarella cheese, shredded parmesan cheese and brownies. Please leave all food items in the kitchen by Wednesday afternoon, October 19th and mark "for community meal." Please leave brownies in the freezer outside the scullery marked with the date and "for community meal." We will also need servers for the meal on Saturday from 11:30 - 1:30. Call Anne if you are able to help. 860-739-7455.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING, October 23rd. 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: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 or Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46.

REMINDER: Signing up for weekly Wednesday email and our monthly newsletter, Tidings, electronically is easy. Just go to nianticcommunitychurch.org, enter your email under "Sign up for our church's Email Newsletters," 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

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

A TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND will be led in early 2012 by the Rev. Linda Barnes of Colchester Federated Church. Linda and her co-leader, Sister Patty, will be at NCC on Tuesday, October 25 at 7pm to make a presentation on the trip. Come to learn more – no obligation!

"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 16

- 9:00AM Worship Service
10:00-11:00AM "Between Hour Café"
(Dining Hall)
10:15AM **Adult Sunday School** – Sermon
Talk-back (Fellowship Room)
11:15AM Worship Service
5:00PM Youth Fellowship-6th-12th (Dining
Hall, Multipurpose Room)

MONDAY OCTOBER 17

- 7:00PM Prudential Board (Fellowship Room)
7:00PM Men's Choir (Sanctuary)
7:00PM Toastmasters (Multipurpose Room)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18

- 7:15AM Breakfast Bible Study (Niantic Diner)
10:00AM Caregivers Support Group
(Fellowship Room)
12:30PM WCSA (Fellowship Room)
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)
7:00PM Boy Scouts (Dining Hall)

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 19

- 1:00&7:00PM The Road Back to Yourself – The
Second Journey (Fellowship
Room/Parish Life Office)
7:00PM Confirmation Mentor Orientation
(Fellowship Room)
7:30PM NA (Dining Hall)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

- 11:30AM Spirited Pens (Parish Life Office)
6:00PM Shoreline Food Pantry (Dining Hall)
6:30PM Confirmation Class (Multipurpose
Room)
7:00PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
8:00PM AA (Dining Hall)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

- 9:00AM Community Meal Prep (Kitchen)
10:00-11:00AM AA (Multipurpose
Room/Fellowship Room)
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