

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.”

Sunday, January 29, 2012 • 9:00AM
The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

WE GATHER AS THE CHURCH



PRELUDE

“March in G”

Smart

SHARING OF PARISH ACTIVITIES

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. Prayer requests will be collected during the second hymn.

A SIGN OF OUR UNITY AND RECONCILIATION

Please greet those around you, wishing them “peace” or “the peace of Christ.”

INTROIT

“The Whole World’s in God’s Hands”
Youth Bell Choir

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

CALL TO WORSHIP: THE SHOFAR

“Awake, sleepers from your sleep, and slumberers arise from your slumber!”

Mishneh Torah, Laws of Repentance 3:4

INVOCATION IN WORD, SONG, AND DANCE

One: Ten years ago, this congregation said “YES!” to the invitation to live more deeply into a wider hospitality. Our worship today is a celebration of God’s “YES!” to us, and our “YES” back to God.

Sung refrain:

1. Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry in the high-est! To God be glo-ry for- ev - er!
2. Glo-ria a Dios, Glo-ria a Dios, Glo-ria en los cie- los! A Dios la glo-ria por siem -pre!

Al-le-lu-ia, a- men! Al-le-lu-ia, a- men! Al-le-lu-ia, a- men!

Glory to God in the highest and the lowest and all around us.
Glory to God who said “yes!” to us in creation, “yes!” to us in our birth,
“yes!” to us in our baptism, “yes!” to us in our waking this day!
We give you glory, Holy God for this water, for this life,
for the ways in which you continue to create new life in us and around us,
for the ways you are still saying “yes!”

Refrain

Glory to God, in the highest and in the lowest.
Glory to God, who in the deep, deep waters of the Jordan was baptized,
Was made Christ as beloved and through this gave us our baptism,
our common source of faith and the heart to which we live it.
We give you Glory, oh Christ, for this water, for this life,
for the ways in which you are redeeming still
and still saying yes to all of who we are.

Refrain

Glory to God, in the highest and the lowest.
Glory to God, who is all around us,
who breathes into each of us the breath of inspiration,
who tore through the heavens to be with us in our own baptism.
We give you Glory, Oh Spirit, for this water, for this life,
for the ways in which you are sustaining still.

Refrain

✠ HYMN #114

“Many Gifts, One Spirit”

MANY GIFTS

LITANY

“Let them Come In”

Congregational response: Hasten the day!

✧ HYMN

“Welcome”



Let us walk to- geth - er for a - while and ask where we be - gin
 Let us talk to- geth - er of a time when we will share a feast,
 Let us dream to- geth - er of the day when earth and heav'n are one,



to build a world where love can grow and hope can en - ter in,
 where pride and po - wer kneel to serve the lone - ly and the least,
 a ci - ty built of love and light, the new Je - ru - sa - lem,



to be the hands of heal - ing and to plant the seeds of peace.
 and joy will set the ta - ble as we join our hands to pray.
 where our mourn - ing turns to danc - ing, ev - ery crea - ture lifts its voice!

refrain



Sing - ing wel - come, wel - come to this place, you're in - vit - ed to



come and know God's grace, all are wel - come, the love of Christ to share, 'cause



all of us are wel - come here, all are wel - come in this place.

WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL IN WORD

A THOUGHT FOR YOUNG MINDS

Children (PreK-5th grade) who wish may depart for Church School.

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 1:21-28

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

“Moving In, Casting Out”

John A. Nelson

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND FAITH

CALL TO PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Leader: Our worship is praise-giving for the amazing “Yes!” from God. Our worship is practice in giving a joyful “Yes!” back to God, and “Yes!” to one another. Every offering we make – heartfelt praise, humble gift, holy tithe – is an opening for the “Yes!” of life to make us new.

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

RECEIVING TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE MUSICAL OFFERING

“Draw the Circle Wide”
Adult Choir

Gordon Light, Mark Miller

✠ 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 of the deepest “Yes,” Christ of the most extravagant welcome: we belong to you. You have touched us with the gift of your grace. Now we pray your blessing on the gifts we have offered. They are humble, but they reflect our hearts’ desire – that your glory fill the earth, and your gracious rule come to all people. Bless us, too, so we may joyfully draw wider and wider the circle of your loving “Yes!” Amen and Amen!

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise

It is right, and our joy to give you thanks,

Hope-breathing, love-sowing God....

....

And so,

In the company of each other and in company with those throughout God's world we proclaim what generations before us have claimed:

Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who come in the name of our God,

Hosanna in the Highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

...

And so, Holy One, remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ

We yield our life over to you in glad thanksgiving

As a holy and passion-filled offering,

As we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

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 we will take communion by intinction: please come forward to receive bread, then dip it into the cup. (We use unfermented grape juice.) If you wish to be served in the pew, please indicate so to an usher.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Because the broken bread has meant our healing, because the outpoured cup has meant our life, because our common sharing has meant the communion of our souls, and because we have again be blessed by your presence, God, we give you thanks and pray that our lives may be renewed in the life and the love of Jesus Christ. Amen

✠ HYMN #577 “God of Grace and God of Glory” CWM RHONDDA

✠ BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN (Hymnal, 898)

POSTLUDE “Morning has Broken (Bunessan)” *Rawsthorne*

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

✠ ✠ ✠

**CALL TO NCC ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2012 AT 10:30AM**

Notice of call is given herewith to the members of the Niantic Community Church for an Annual Meeting Sunday, January 29, 2012 at 10:30AM at the Church for the purpose of hearing annual reports, election of officers, boards and committees, and any other business that needs to be brought forth. Please note that we will have *one worship service* on January 29th, which will be at 9:00AM. Church School will meet during that hour and child care will be provided through the end of the Annual Meeting. Refreshments will be provided for all.

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 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: Judy DeVey, Marion McKenzie, Candace and Keith Neilson

Worship Leader: John Mahon

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson

Liturgist: The Rev. Christa Swenson

Communion Ministers: The Revs. Caroline Edge and David C. Mut

Liturgical Dancers: Cindy and Rebecca King; Pamela and Megan McCauley;
Diana and Sara Spranklin, and Nan Rigdon (*choreographer*)

Worship space adorned by members and friends of Open, Affirming, Reconciling ministries: Walter Bobrowski; Judy DeVey; Roe Granger; Elizabeth Heaney; Peter Heaney; Peg Herzberg; Jackie Kalajainen; Russ Kirby; Marion McKenzie

Parish Host: Carl Putnam

Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary to the Glory of God and in celebration and thanks for the accomplishments of the OAR Committee (past, present and future),
by the Kalajainen 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 & Music Director: Dr. 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

Christian Education & Youth Minister:

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

CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY, 15, 2012 AT 7PM

Notice of call is given herewith to the members of the Niantic Community Church for a Congregational Meeting Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 7:00PM at 170 Pennsylvania Avenue to reconsider summer suppers or replace them with different types of community outreach.

Child care will be provided.

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:

Ron Topping, with leukemia, in hospice care • Vera Winters • Marcia Graham • Muriel Briggs • Catherine Daboll • Carrie Winter Stadnick, lung cancer • Beth, financial and medical crises • Carol & Steve, medical issues • Support for friends adopting an infant • Sandy, stressful job situation • Julie, difficult decisions • Bob, with cancer • Katie Christian • Kylie Jones.

Continuing concerns:

Families and individuals struggling economically • Homeless children • Women who are victims of domestic violence
Andy, stroke recovery • Lisa, dealing with grief and search for employment • Pat Maclary, medical tests • Cooper, recovering from surgery • Janine and Christina Schulliger
Comfort and peace for Aunt Eunice • A friend with a troubled heart • Sue Basham, recovering from surgery • Molly Alexander, in hospice care • Great-niece Anna and family • Phyllis; Aunt Lyla.
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:

10-year-old Jake, leukemia • Jeff, return of melanoma • Doris Curtis • 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; Robin Bourne; Josh Earnhart; Matt Fergione; Tony Fergione; Paul Harper; Matt Liebal; Craig McCauley; Thomas Miller; J.P. Neilson; Brian Perchal; Zachary Peters; Peter Rondeau; Rich Smith; 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:

Beth Kopitzki • Harold Potts • Lillian Irene Datum
Walter, *father of Walter Bobrowski*
Barbara, *sister of Peggy Bobrowski*
Agnes, *mother of Peggy Bobrowski*
Walter Broderick
Ruth Adamy • Ophelia White

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:

Open, Affirming, Reconciling Committee: Walter Bobrowski; Judy DeVey; John Mahon; Peg Herzberg; Elizabeth Heaney; Peter Heaney; Russ Kirby; Jackie Beyerle-Kalajainen; Annette Silvia; Christa Swenson

Praise and Celebration:

For a wonderful vacation and safe travel • Joy
for the safe return of Rich Smith from

Afghanistan • 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).

PROPER ESTATE PLANNING can reduce administrative time, expense and inconvenience. Document your estate planning properly. Consider giving the Church the administrative costs you could save.

2011 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS are available in the narthex. In an effort to save postage please remember to take yours with you when you leave worship. If you requested offering envelopes, they can be found with your financial statements. If you have any questions, please call Judy Layden (739-6741). Thank you.

SENIOR YOUTH MISSION TRIP MEETING in the Fellowship Room for Tuesday, January 31 at 7:00 PM.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING, February 5th. 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: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39.

FEBRUARY 5TH IS SUPER BOWL SUNDAY, but that's in the evening. In the morning, it's "Souper Bowl Sunday! Stock up now on canned soup and other boxed or canned items for our annual "Souper Bowl" food drive on Sunday, February 5th! All the food you bring to both church services and any of our Church School classes that day will be given to the Gemma E. Moran Food Center and distributed to those in need. If you have any questions, feel free to call Russ at the office for more information.

THANKS TO Doris Beebe and Ned Ruete for providing a tasty snack supper at youth last Sunday evening! Nothing like tomato soup and grilled cheese on a cold winter evening!

SENIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP on Feb. 5th will be our regular monthly time at the St. James homeless shelter. This will be during the Super Bowl, so any and all youth,

grades 9-12 that are willing to make that sacrifice from 6-8 PM to help others in need are certainly welcome!

JUNIOR YOUTH on Feb. 5th will be cooking the shelter meal the Senior Youth will serve. Junior Youth (grades 6-8) will meet in at church from 5-7 PM. We also have a special presentation for you by Caroline Edge that evening!

WINTER EVENING OF PRAISE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10 7PM. Painting, photography and tapestry share the stage with musicians. Stroll the gallery with your cocoa and cookies, chat with the artists. Come see how God has gifted the artists among us.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BOOK GROUP has chosen for their next book "An Altar in the World" by Barbara Brown Taylor. We will meet on February 26th at 7 pm. Hope to see you there

RECYCLE your traditional incandescent light bulbs in the collection box in the church office. An artist associated with NCC is making art with your old bulbs! Thanks

"WE BELIEVE IN BREAKFAST" UNITED ACTION GROUP. The "We Believe in Breakfast" group has started meeting the first Thursday of each month at When Pigs Fly Restaurant in Waterford to break bread with each other and discern ways in which we can help bring justice to this world where so many people are in need. In particular, we are seeking to promote our shared ministry with other faith communities who are members of United Action, Connecticut. We have decided to focus on bringing affordable health care to all persons. In the weeks to come, you will be seeing a variety of opportunities in which you can become more informed and involved as a person of faith. As Pastor John stated in a recent sermon entitled "'Made New,' have we become too accustomed to the injustice that is pervasive in our society today? In a country like ours, no person regardless of their circumstances should be without affordable health care. "Our God is determined to get into our lives and once you let God into your world, everything changes!" Are you ready to let God into your world? If so, join us for good food and help create a world where every person is cared for. Contact Ellen Ashburn, Ocean Pellett, Alan White, Ron Johnson or Pastor John for more information.

Learn more about the shofar that
we used to begin today's worship service:
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shofar



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, JANUARY 29

9:00AM Worship Service
10:30AM Annual Meeting of Niantic
Community Church (Dining Hall)
5:00-7:00PM Youth Fellowship-6th-12th
(Dining Hall, Multipurpose Room)

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

7:00PM Men's Choir (Sanctuary)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

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 Sr. Youth Mission Trip Meeting
(Fellowship Room)
7:00PM Boy Scouts (Dining Hall)
7:00PM Adult Bells (Multipurpose Room)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

9:30AM Disciple I (Fellowship Room)
7:30PM NA (Dining Hall)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

9:30AM Newcomers Club (Dining Hall and
Kitchen)
6:00PM Shoreline Food Pantry (Dining Hall)
6:30PM Confirmation Class (Fellowship
Room)
7:00PM Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
8:00PM AA (Dining Hall)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

7:30PM AA (Dining Hall)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

10:00-11:00AM AA (Multipurpose &
Fellowship Rooms)
7:30PM AA (Dining Hall)

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN!

Niantic Community Church
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Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30-5:00 p.m.; Friday 8:30-