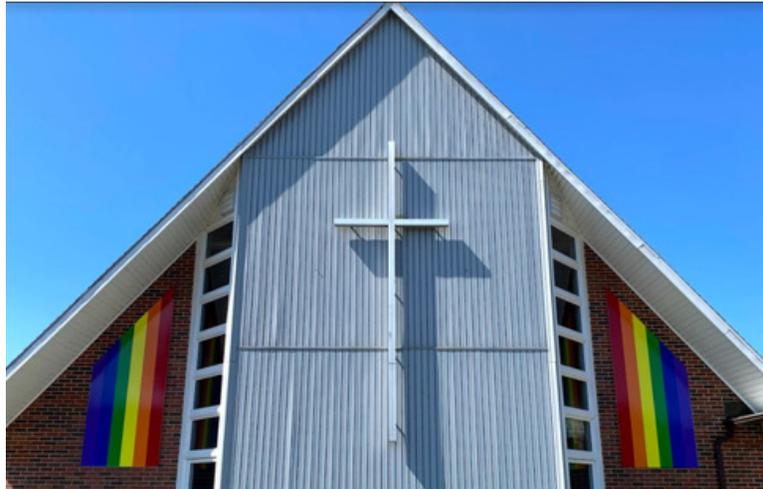




Niantic Community Church

## What the Rainbow Panels Say

**“No matter who you are, you are welcome here!”**



This statement is the first thing we say before every service, it's also the first thing posted on our website, it's a belief that guides our worship, our meetings, our gatherings, and our prayers. The rainbow panels are a way to show our community that we are inclusive to all.

They represent all people, not just gay people. Gilbert Baker, the artist who designed the rainbow flag, intended the colors to represent; sexuality, life, healing, the sun, nature, art, harmony and the spirit. In the Bible, Genesis 9:13 states, “I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”

The NCC panels firmly anchored to the front of our church strongly convey to people passing by and to all who come through our doors that all are welcome.

By displaying the panels, we acknowledge and repent for the damage the Christian church has brought to others in the past through exclusion or oppression. NCC wants to show that we are moving forward and want all visitors to feel welcomed to include themselves in every facet of our church life. That is our outside wall message. Let us work to be sure we convey the same message inside our walls.