

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



Land Acknowledgement

We gather, acknowledging the land we are on, the rocks and waters of this land, the plants and animals of this land, the air we share.

We also acknowledge the original people of this land, including the Nipmuc, Pawtucket, and Massa-adchu-es-et People(s), and all those who have walked on this land before us, as well as our own ancestors.

We remember ourselves as part of a web extending back in time, forward in time, and in every direction in time.



Welcome To Worship at FCC Natick!

It doesn't matter to us if you grew up in a church or never set foot in one before. You matter to us. We welcome you as you are, because we believe that we are all embraced by God's inclusive and extravagant love.

As a congregation, we strive to practice radical inclusivity and extravagant hospitality. When we gather for worship, we want everyone to have access, to be comfortable, and feel welcomed.

If you are new here, we invite you to introduce yourself to the pastor, and fill out the card in the *Welcome Newcomers* brochure and place it in the offering plate so that we can extend a more personal welcome!

To help you worship with comfort and meaning:

- We invite you to change any portion of today's service to language in which you feel included. We welcome all into God's presence and worship God in wholeness.
- **Large Print Bibles and worship bulletins** are available from the ushers. The bulletin is also available in digital form using the weekly QR code.
- **Noise cancelling headphones** are available from the ushers.
- *Listening Everywhere* app is supported. (Download to a smartphone, bring headphones.)

Childcare for infants through age 3 is available. There is a video link to the sanctuary for parents who wish to stay with their child. There is a changing station in the nursery.

- **Verbal cues** are used along with the bulletin text to direct the congregation. For instance, "Please rise in body or in spirit."
- Our building is **handicap accessible**. This includes handicap parking spaces, a handicap entrance near the lot, an all-floors handicap elevator, and handicap restrooms on 2 floors.
- There is a **gender-neutral bathroom** on the second floor.
- There is an **Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)** on the wall on the ground floor elevator lobby. When turned on, it provides step-by-step instructions.
- **Narcan** doses are available via the ushers or the church office.

We realize that our best intentions and efforts may sometimes fall short. Please let us know if there is anything else we can do. Speak to an usher or drop a note in a collection plate.

Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death.
- Desmond Tutu

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on 'Vulpius'

S.W. Müller

Thomas Foster, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Jeanette Szretter

One: When we are all despairing,
when we see no way ahead,
and hope has gone away...

All: Roll back the stone! Alleluia!

One: Because we're coming with the women,
because we're ready for the earth to move,
and the angel's on her way...

All: Roll back the stone! Alleluia!

One: As we see the light of dawn,
as we hear God call us toward new life,
and we move to join the dance of joy...

All: Roll back the stone! Alleluia! Amen.

*by Janet Morley

* OPENING HYMN 205

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Easter Hymn

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing ye heavens and earth reply: Alleluia!

....

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, he all doth save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ is led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of Earth and heaven! Alleluia!
Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the resurrection thou! Alleluia!

EASTER STATEMENT OF FAITH

by Roddy Hamilton

*** SHARING GOD'S PEACE**

*In person we rise to greet each other with a wave, bow or a high five.
And we send God's peace to those watching from home!*

One: God's peace be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

*** SONG OF CELEBRATION** (Hymn 40: *Halle, Halle, Halleluja*)

Halle, Halle Halle-luja.
Halle, Halle Halle-luja.
Halle, Halle Halle-luja.
Halleluja. Halleluja.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Christ the Everliving

Pamala Steward/John Purifoy

Senior Choir; Thomas Foster, director/piano; Darryl Robins, trumpet

SCRIPTURE

Mark 16:1-8

WORD FOR ALL AGES

MUSICAL RESPONSE

READING

Jesus Wept (adapted)

by Sam Trumbore

REFLECTION

Who Will Roll Away the Stone?

MUSICAL RESPONSE

GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Creator God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

ALLELUIA

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR SUBSTANCE

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

Offertory

John Ness Beck

*** SONG OF PRAISE**

Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above all heavenly hosts:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*** SENDING HYMN 493**

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Promise

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see....

There's a song in every silence, seeking work and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Hornpipe, from Water Music, HWV 349

G.F. Handel

Easter Offering

Today we have a special offering, divided between *One Great Hour of Sharing* (OGHS) and *Southborough Safe Spaces* (SBSS). OGHS is a UCC program combating injustice through funding and hands-on assistance. SBSS provides spiritually inclusive support and advocacy for LGBTQIA+ youth and their families. Use the *Special Offering* envelope during this Easter service to support these worthy organizations.

Prayer Trees

Each week during Lent, we have added a new prayer station around the edge of the sanctuary. Visit to find a guided activity to help you engage with the scripture for the week. You may write a prayer on a colored strip of cloth, then hang it on one of the prayer trees up front.

Lenten Artwork

Carolyn Williams created the three mixed media pieces displayed at the back of the dais throughout Lent. Collage art created by Sarallyn Keller has been used for bulletin covers, the Soul Sabbatical guide, and prayer stations in the sanctuary.

Calendar for March 31 – April 7, 2024

- Sunday, Mar. 31**
Easter Sunday
- 9:00 AM *Adult Faith Group – Contemplation and Action*
10:30 AM *Worship led by Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry*
No Godly Play or Connect
11:30 AM *Post-Worship Easter Egg Hunt*
Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour in Vestry
Lily Deliveries (after Coffee Hour)
- Wed., April 3**
- NOON *Mid-Week Connection, Zoom ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek*
- Thurs., April 4**
- 7:00 PM *Prayer Circle via Zoom ()*
7:30 PM *Choir Rehearsal*
- Sunday, Apr. 7**
- 9:00 AM *Adult Faith Group – Contemplation and Action*
10:30 AM *Worship led by Rev. Linda Michel*
Godly Play and Connect
11:30 AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour in Vestry*
3:00 PM *Family Open Skate at Chase Arena*

Upcoming Events: This Week

Family Open Skate

Sunday, April 7th, 3-4:30 pm, Chase Arena

Meet at the Arena. Rent skates or bring your own. RSVP to Sarallyn so she brings enough snacks.

Upcoming Events: Save The Date

ONA Flags to Bags

Saturday, April 13, 9 am

Family Hike at Elm Bank

Saturday, April 27, 10 am

FCCN Yard Sale

Saturday, May 4th.

Get The LINK

Get to **The LINK**, the FCC eNewsletter, for more information on these and other events, communications from our Pastor and Moderator, and more. Subscribe at:

ucc.fccnatick.org/subscribe



Easter

In memory of Ron.

The DeVincent Family

Wishing for peace to all those living in nations in crisis.

Lisa Fusaro &
Maura Shaughnessy

For Mother Earth and healing!

Kirby/Ripley's

*Remembering our son, Chris, with unending love,
on Easter and always.*

Laura & Charles Gobron

*For justice in our country and all the places in the world
where there is suffering.*

Jennings Family

Glory be, glory be – celebrating loved ones.

Pam Weagraff

In memory of Helen, Margaret, Alan, and Xenia.

McLaughlin Family

In memory of loved ones.

Hank & June Szretter

In loving memory of John and other family members.

Lorraine Oakes

Dedicated to all those who are working for peace in Ukraine and Gaza.

Gail Martin & Carolyn Williams



Rejoice,

Dedication



For friends and family – past, present and future.

Seiche Family

In memory of Gwen Appleyard.

Amy Appleyard & Matt Basiliere

Alleluia!

Hanna Family

*In loving memory of Laura's parents,
Barbara & Olin Hayes.*

Laura & Charles Gobron

To the glory of God and in memory of loved ones.

Wayne & Jeanette Szretter

In honor and memory of loved ones.

The Levesque Family

*In memory of Cynthia & Richard Ehret and Robert McDonough,
who have left us with many lessons and gifts.*

McDonough Family

*In honor of all the caregivers
who take care of our loved ones.*

Mindy & Peter Hoge

*In loving memory of Richard Hayes, Sr. and Richard Jr.
Wish you were here.*

Anna Hayes

He is risen!

PRAYER LIST

Sharing Your Prayer Requests. Prayer concerns and celebrations to be shared during worship can be done so verbally (raise your hand to be recognized) or in writing (use provided notecards) or emailed to prayers@fccnatick.org.

Sue Mascioli	Charles	Irene & Walter
Joel	John Lilly	Friends and Family of Mary French
Debbie Collins	Tony Parkes	Friends and Family of Doug Duncan
Jeanna B.	Robin and Laura	Aunt Gwen
Aunt Kathy	Tom Hamm	Melissa and Tiffany Wallace
The Lewis Family	Char Hannon	Ann and George Schmidt
Nathan Duarte	Mark Stunkel	Charles Gobron
Eric	Noah & Jennie Lynch	Susan Eck and family
Deb Evers	Karin Garcia's fiance	Richard Conway
Sarah Kazim	Uncle A1 & Aunt Deb	Friends & Family of Michael Connolly
Joan Person	Jack Mulloy	Abigal Brewer
Brian J.	Paul S.	Hillaree and family
Beverly Newell	Don & Heather C.	Friends & Family of John Hartman
Anna Hayes	Mary Cerreto	Doug & Barbara Shirley
John Sullivan	Connie Sullivan	Mary Connolly
Ronnie	Phil Jennings	Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey
Jane Hall	Faye Bishop	Alice Bridinger
Jenna Hayes	Tommy Hannon	Pat & Jane Conaway
Abby Robbins	Paul	Peace for the world and in everyone's day
Natalie Friend	Anne	Disaster victims in Maui, Morocco, Libya
Jayne Hayes	Molly	All immigrant families seeking justice
Myriam's Mom	Johnson Family	The people of Ukraine & Russia
Robbins Family	Evelyn and Family	The people of Santa Maria Tzeja
Jackie Snizek	Mike McCormick	Angels of Hope in Uganda
Mark Sullivan	Malfrid Abrahamsen	Overdose victims

The prayer list is updated periodically. If you find a name has been rotated off the list for whom you would like continuing prayers, please contact Prayer List Coordinator Linda Champion at lchampion17@gmail.com or the office at 508-653-0971. Also, if a known issue has been resolved, please let us know. Thank you to all for your care and prayers.

Welcome To Worship at FCC Natick!

Offering. Every week we practice the spiritual discipline of generosity by sharing our financial resources. We call this the Offering. We offer multiple ways to give. In person we pass the plate through the congregation, where donations by cash and check are welcome. By mail, checks may be sent to the church office. Online (get there using the *QR code* or by visiting ucc.fccnatick.org/give), you may give using a credit card. But if this is your first time with us, please consider yourself our guest and just pass the plate along.

If you'd like to learn more about money at FCCN, please see the pastor.



Communion. We usually celebrate communion on the first Sunday of the month. Folks online are invited to have a bit of food and drink handy. In person, we serve communion in several different ways, so the worship leader will instruct you. Our communion table is open to all who find meaning there, regardless of age, membership, or belief.

Photography/Videography Policy. Sunday worship is livestreamed via local cable access. In addition, we occasionally take video or photography during worship and elsewhere on the church property. By your presence, you grant FCCN unrestricted rights to use and publish, transmit, or telecast images that may be taken of you for use in communication related to the church. Please contact the church office (508-653-0971 or admin@fccnatick.org) with questions or concerns.

Name Tags. Please consider wearing a **name tag** – and a pronoun pin! Nametags are on the board in the elevator lobby (ground floor) and upper vestibule of the Sanctuary. If you don't yet have a nametag or are missing yours, make a note on the sheet and one will be on the lobby board next week. We want our church to be a place where everyone knows your name!

The LINK e-Newsletter. The LINK is emailed to subscribers every Tuesday and Friday. Please subscribe to the LINK, to stay in the loop. The Community LINK goes out Tuesdays (with happenings in Natick beyond the church). The Worship LINK goes out Fridays (and is more focused on the goings on in the congregation and that Sunday's service). It's free to subscribe.

Hybrid Worship. Many folks worship from home, at least from time to time. Join us live online (ucc.fccnatick.org/livestream). Natick residents can join us through local access cable (Comcast Xfinity 22, Verizon Fios 29, RCN 03). You can also find worship recordings on our website (ucc.fccnatick.org/worship-video).

Welcome To Worship at FCC Natick!

Open and Affirming. FCCN is an Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation, affirming the dignity and worth of every person. We welcome everyone into full participation, including people of every ability, race, culture, gender, economic circumstance, gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation.

Denominational Affiliation: FCCN is a member of the **United Church of Christ**, a liberal Protestant denomination within the Christian tradition. It offers for reflection a traditional Statement of Faith, yet values the individual's right and ability to prayerfully and thoughtfully determine what to believe regarding the Bible, God, creation, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, etc. The UCC values outreach and justice work. It seeks to be inclusive. Authority is held by members of the local congregation, not the church's pastor or national staff.

Children and youth. Children and youth are always welcome in our worship services. The *Playground* down front has a great view and quiet activities. Midway through worship, children ages 3 through grade six are invited to join in for Sunday School: preschoolers through kids in grade 3 explore sacred story through the *Godly Play* curriculum, and youth in grades 4 through 6 participate in our *Connect* program. Staffed *nursery care* is also available near the sanctuary throughout the service. Ask an usher for directions and additional information.

First Congregational Church of Natick (FCCN) Staff

Pastor

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry
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Director of Spiritual Vitality and Congregational Care

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Minister of Music

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Grace Seiche

Outreach Minister

Rev. Dr. John Weagraff

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Custodians

Galba & Marlene Carvalho