

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.

Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024

Of all the gifts we can give to people,
the gift of our touch is one of the most priceless.
Through our hands we convey a kind of radiance.
A warmth seeps out from our inner fire,
a wrap for someone's chill, a light for another's dark.

~ Jan Phillips

PRELUDE

Arioso

C.P.E. Bach

Thomas Foster, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Robin Clausen

One: In the midst of life's chaos –

All: Peace be with you.

One: When you are overwhelmed by pain –

All: Peace be with you.

One: If you feel all alone –

All: Peace be with you.

One: In every moment the Living God proclaims –

All: Peace be with you. Amen.

* OPENING HYMN 18

Praise to the Living God

Diademata

Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,
Whose words brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused them to evolve, unwitting, toward God's goal,
Till humankind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls.

Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.
God toils where'er we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.

Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

CENTERING PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS*

Abba, Father:

Blessed be your working;

Soon be your appearing;

Done be your desiring.

Our bread provide us;

Our debts forgive us;

From trials free us. Amen.

* From *The Covenant of Peace:
A Liberation Prayer Book*

*** 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

Because He Lives

Gaither & Gaither

Senior Choir; Thomas Foster, director

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 24:36b-48

WORD FOR ALL AGES

Children (aged 3 – grade 6) depart for Sunday School (Godly Play & Connect) after the Word for All Ages. Parents may accompany children and return to worship once they are settled. After worship, parents may enjoy a cup of coffee and adult conversation, then pick up their children in the classroom at 11:45 am.

MUSICAL RESPONSE**READING**

Prayer for this Church

Nancy Shaffer

REFLECTION*Touch and See***MUSICAL RESPONSE****GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY IN PRAYER****JOYS AND CONCERNS****PASTORAL PRAYER****ALLELUIA****OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR SUBSTANCE****OFFERING INVITATION****OFFERTORY***** 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 372***Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race*

Tallis' Canon

Diverse in culture, nation, race, we come together by your grace.
God let us be a meeting ground where hope and healing love are found.

God, let us be a bridge of care connecting people everywhere.
Help us confront all fear and hate and lust for pow'r that separate.

When chasms widen, storms arise, O Holy Spirit, make us wise.
Let our resolve, like steel, be strong to stand with those who suffer wrong.

God, let us be a table spread with gifts of love and broken bread,
where all find welcome, grace attends, and enemies arise as friends.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Allegro di molto

C.P.E. Bach

Calendar for April 14 - 21, 2024

- Sunday, Apr. 14** 9:00 AM *Adult Faith Group* – Contemplation and Action
10:30 AM *Worship* led by Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry
10:45 AM *Godly Play* only. (No *Connect*).
11:30 AM *Post-Worship Fellowship*: Coffee Hour in Vestry
Coffee Chat: Refugee Resettlement w/JFS in Classroom
- Wed., April 17** NOON *Mid-Week Connection*, Zoom ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek
- Thurs., April 18** 7:00 PM *Prayer Circle* via Zoom (ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle)
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
- Sunday, Apr. 21** 9:00 AM *Adult Faith Group* – Contemplation and Action
10:30 AM *Worship* led by Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry
10:45 AM *Godly Play* only. (No *Connect*).
11:30 AM *Post-Worship Fellowship*: Coffee Hour in Vestry
Coffee Chat: FCC Trustees (John Gentry) in Classroom
~12:15 PM *Learn Tai Chi* (Tom Foster, ongoing) in Vestry

Thanks to our Coffee Hour hosts, Gail Martin & Carolyn Williams!

Hosts needed for May 12, 24 and June. We invite you to step up to provide light refreshments after worship. Contact sharonkirby3@gmail.com. She will help with any questions or assistance.

Upcoming Events: THIS WEEK

Coffee Hour Chat: Refugee Resettlement (JFS)

Sunday, April 14th, after worship in the classroom

TODAY!

Jewish Family Services of Metrowest (JFS) provides social, health, and community services, including immigrant and resettlement services. JFS has served families from South America, the Middle East, Ukraine, and Haiti. **Lino Covarrubias**, CEO of JFS of Metrowest, will talk with us about what was done to support a record number of new arrivals during 2023 and what services JFS continues offering to new arrivals while growing partnerships to offer housing, language classes, job training, and other supports to the immigrant and refugee community.

Learn Tai Chi (with Tom Foster)

Sundays, beginning April 21, after coffee hour in the Vestry

Tai Chi is a traditional Chinese mind-body exercise that almost anyone can do. This “moving meditation” relieves pain, improves balance, and reduces stress. Tom Foster will teach the simplest version, Yang-style 24 Form, on Sundays in the Vestry after Coffee hour, starting 4/21.

Coffee Chat: Advanced Giving Strategies w/FCC Trustees

Sunday, April 21, after worship in the classroom

Please join the FCC Trustees for a ranging discussion of financial topics and brainstorming session on advanced giving strategies. This is intended to be an open conversation about our planned series of events in 2024 focused on more sophisticated ways to support our church's ministries. The Trustees need your voice to guide them to the topics that you want to learn.

Upcoming Events: Earth Day weekend (4/27-28)

Earth Day All Around Natick

April 27-28, many events around Natick

Below are a few of the events around Natick that FCC folks are involved with. A complete listing of dozens of events around town can be found at www.econatick.org/actions/3562.



A Buyer's Guide to Environmentally Friendly Cars: Hybrid, Electric, and Plug-in Hybrid (with Sharon Kirby)

Saturday, April 27, 10 - 11 am in the FCC Vestry

Part of Earth Day and ECO Natick. In the FCCN Vestry. Open to all, free. Looking for an Environmentally Friendly Car? Join us for this 20-minute presentation followed by Q&A with various (EV, PHEV, Hybrid) car owners. We will cover car costs, car comparisons and the range of Hybrids, Electric Vehicles and Plug-In Electric Vehicles. There are lots of choices and incentives available! This overview is a great first step on your journey. Presenter's cars will also be in the church parking lot to view (VW ID.4; Volvo PHEV).

Family Hike at Elm Bank

Saturday, April 27, 10 am

Start Earth Day in Natick with a beautiful hike along the bank of the Charles River. RSVP to Sarallyn for meet-up details.

Family Kayaking at Dug Pond

Saturday, April 27th, 2-3:30 pm

Celebrate Earth Day on the water. Join us for a paddle at Dug Pond in Natick. RSVP Sarallyn.

Upcoming Events: On the Horizon

FCC Yard Sale – volunteers needed

Saturday, May 4th, 9 am – 2 pm on the church lawn

The Outreach team is holding a yard sale! **We need volunteers** (adults and youth) to come out in force to assist with collecting items, selling on May 4, and clean up! Feel free to sign up for multiple time slots. Outreach Members who are organizing the Sale will be present during all shifts start to finish! This is a very fun intergenerational church event! Questions call, text or email Gail Martin 617-283-9180, pgail1975@gmail.com. **Sign up: ucc.fccnatick.org/yardsale.**

Drop Off Times for Church Yard Sale Items

Sun. April 28th 9-10 am, and after worship.
Wed. May 1st 4-8 pm
Thur. May 2nd 4-8 pm
Fri. May 3rd 4-6 pm



Or Call Gail Martin 617-283-9180 to arrange another time.

Family Promise Walk to End Homelessness

Sunday, May 5, 1 pm starting at Natick High School

Join/support our team, *FCC Natick Walks the Walk*, as the raise awareness and funds for families struggling with housing insecurity in Metrowest. A 2.3 mile walk around Natick, with food, vendors, and music along the way. Donate at ucc.fccnatick.org/FPwalk.



Family Kayaking at Lake Cochituate

Saturday, May 18th, time TBD

Join us for a paddle on Lake Cochituate. Bring your own kayak or rent one at the shore on Route 30. RSVP to Sarallyn for meet up details.

FCC Fall Retreat

Friday, Nov. 1 - Sunday, Nov. 3, Cape Cod

There will be a family-friendly FCC retreat the weekend of Nov. 1-3 at the Craigville Retreat Center on Cape Cod. FCC needs to reserve the space now. If you are interested, contact Sarallyn ASAP. (Some 20 people have done so to date, and space is limited, so don't delay.)

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	Char Hannon	Irene & Walter
Joel	Charles	Friends and Family of Mary French
Debbie Collins	John Lilly	Friends and Family of Doug Duncan
Jeanna B.	Tony Parkes	Aunt Gwen
Aunt Kathy	Robin and Laura	Melissa and Tiffany Wallace
The Lewis Family	Tom Hamm	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	Abigail 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: use the QR code or go to ucc.fccnatick.org/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. If they wish, parents may accompany their child to the classroom, then return to the Sanctuary. Parents are encouraged to attend coffee hour after worship, then pick up their child from their classroom at 11:45 am. (Staffed *nursery care* is also available near the sanctuary throughout the service: ask an usher for directions or information.)

First Congregational Church of Natick (FCCN) Staff

Pastor

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry
revcindyfccn@gmail.com
508-653-0971

Director of Spiritual Vitality and Congregational Care

Sarallyn Keller
sarallyn@fccnatick.org
508-740-3134

Church Office

Randal Divinski, Office Administrator
admin@fccnatick.org
508-653-0971

Minister of Music

Thomas Foster

Sunday Nursery Staff

Grace Seiche

Outreach Minister

Rev. Dr. John Weagraff

Financial Assistant

Cynthia Hamwey

Custodians

Galba & Marlene Carvalho