

# 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.

# Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024

Be kind,  
for everyone you meet  
is fighting a hard battle.

- Plato

## PRELUDE

*Trio*

François Couperin

Thomas Foster, organ

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Doug Hanna

One: God calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves;

**All: the one who is weak and the one who is strong,**

One: the one who is happy and the one who is sad,

**All: the one who couldn't manage to get dressed this morning,**

One: the one who got here but is crumbling inside,

**All: the one whom we understand and the one we don't,**

One: the one who is embraced and the one who is shunned,

**All: the one who is like us and the one who is different.**

One: Come, let us worship together!

**All: We come, embraced by God's love!**

## \* OPENING HYMN 314

*As We Gather at Your Table*

Beach Spring

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

## **CENTERING PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS**

Our 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.  
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.

## **\* 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 participating from home!*

One: God's peace be with you.

**All: And also with you!**

## **\* SONG OF CELEBRATION** [Hymn 375: *Weave*]

Weave, weave, weave us together.  
Weave us together in unity and love.  
Weave, weave, weave us together.  
Weave us together, together in love.

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

*In Remembrance*

Buryl Red

Senior Choir; Thomas Foster, director

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

John 15:9-17

## **WORD FOR ALL AGES**

## **MUSICAL RESPONSE**

After the Word For All Ages, children (age 3 – grade 6) depart for Sunday School (Godly Play & Connect). 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.

## **REFLECTION**

## **MUSICAL RESPONSE**

## **CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**INVITATION TO THE FEAST**

**TELLING THE STORY**

**COMMUNION PRAYER**

**SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

**THANKSGIVING 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 444**

*Lord of All Hopefulness*

Slane

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,  
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

## **BLESSING**

## **POSTLUDE**

*St. Fulbert*

C.S. Lang

# Calendar for May 5 – May 19, 2024

- Sunday, May 5**      9:00 AM *Adult Faith Group* – Contemplation and Action  
10:30 AM *Worship* led by Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry  
10:45 AM *Godly Play and Connect*.  
11:30 AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour* in Vestry  
~ NOON *Tai Chi* (Tom Foster, ongoing) in Vestry  
1:00 PM *Family Promise Walk to End Homelessness*  
7:00 PM *Guatemala Partners Report Back* [tinyurl.com/smtreportback](https://tinyurl.com/smtreportback)
- Wed., May 8**      NOON *Mid-Week Connection*, Zoom [ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek](https://ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek)  
**Deadline** [Sign ups for Lasagna Dinners are due](#)
- Thurs., May 9**      7:00 PM *Prayer Circle* via Zoom ([ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle](https://ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle))  
7:00 PM *How to Host an Immigrant Family* (see below)  
7:30 PM *Choir Rehearsal*
- Saturday, May 11**      5:00 PM *Chef Bob's Lasagna Dinner* (WVWC fundraiser)
- Sunday, May 12**      9:00 AM *Adult Faith Group* – Contemplation and Action  
10:30 AM *Worship* led by Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry  
10:45 AM *Godly Play and Connect*.  
11:30 AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour* in Vestry  
~ NOON *Tai Chi* (Tom Foster, ongoing) in Vestry

## Events: TODAY

Thanks to coffee hour hosts, the Mulloy & DeVincent families!  
Hosts needed for May 12<sup>th</sup> and June. [sharonkirby3@gmail.com](mailto:sharonkirby3@gmail.com).

## Learning Tai Chi (with Tom Foster) continues

### Sundays, 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.

## Family Promise Walk to End Homelessness

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

Support our team, *FCC Natick Walks the Walk*, to raise awareness and funds for MW families struggling with housing insecurity. A 2.3 mile walk around Natick, with food, vendors, and music along the way. Donate at [ucc.fccnatick.org/FPwalk](https://ucc.fccnatick.org/FPwalk).



## **Guatemala Partnership Report Back**

**Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm via Zoom**

Join us to hear about all the great news from our friends in Santa María Tzejá! Learn about the exciting developments in the community around education, the new marketplace, and more!

<https://tinyurl.com/smtreportback>

### **Events: This Week**

## **How To Host An Immigrant Family**

**Thursday, May 9, 7-8:30 pm**

**at Hartford St. Presbyterian Church & Zoom**

Join members of Natick, community organizers, and service providers to learn about the need for host families to provide emergency shelter to recently arrived immigrants. 99 Hartford St, Natick, or use QR to RSVP.



## **Lasagna Dinner fundraiser for WVWC**

**Saturday, May 11, 2024, 5-7 pm (Vestry or take out)**

**Please Pre-order by Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Lasagna Dinner (meat, vegi, GF options), salad and garlic bread for \$15, take out or eat in the vestry. Benefits West Virginia Work Camp. Pre-orders only: [ucc.fccnatick.org/chefbob](http://ucc.fccnatick.org/chefbob)

### **Events: On the Horizon**

## **OUTMetrowest Trivia Night**

**Thursday, May 16, 6:00 – 8:30 pm at Framingham H.S.**

The ONA team is supporting OUTMetrowest by attending their upcoming Trivia night. We are seeking players for a fun night on our 6-person team. Contact Carolyn Williams for more info. Advance tickets are \$35 and include pizza, salad, and a soft drink. ONA will provide snacks.

## **FCC Website Photo Day – SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> before, during and after worship**

Our new website will be launched later this summer. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, professional photographers from Theory One Design will join us to take high quality images to help us convey through the website what makes this a special place. Please come! Dress normally. (It's Pentecost, but no red this year.) Ushers and staff will guide you passed whatever is different that day. Details to come.



## Meet “Nile”, the Inflatable Humpback Whale

**Saturday, June 8, 1:00-3:00 pm in the Vestry**

Join us for this unique experience as you are invited INSIDE the belly of the whale! During your half-hour visit inside Nile, you’ll learn about these majestic creatures, how to protect whales, and about the crucial role whales play in our ecosystem. Outside of the whale will be interactive exhibits and hands-on activities. This program is appropriate for ages 5+.



This is a timed-entry ticketed (\$4) event. Tickets can be purchased with venmo, EventBrite, or in-person after worship at FCC (starting 5/19). For full details: QR or [ucc.fccnatick.org/whale](http://ucc.fccnatick.org/whale).

## May is Mental Health Month

The Town of Natick is sponsoring a variety of events, all free and open to everyone. Check out the calendar at [bit.ly/mentalhealth\\_natick](http://bit.ly/mentalhealth_natick) or scan the QR:



# 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](mailto:prayers@fccnatick.org).

Irene & Walter	Char Hannon	Friends and Family of Mary French
Joel	Charles	Friends and Family of Doug Duncan
Debbie Collins	John Lilly	Aunt Gwen
Jeanna B.	Tony Parkes	Melissa and Tiffany Wallace
Aunt Kathy	Robin and Laura	Ann and George Schmidt
The Lewis Family	Tom Hamm	Charles Gobron
Nathan Duarte	Mark Stunkel	Susan Eck and family
Eric	Noah & Jennie Lynch	Richard Conway
Deb Evers	Karin Garcia's fiance	Friends & Family of Michael Connolly
Sarah Kazim	Uncle A1 & Aunt Deb	Abigal Brewer
Joan Person	Jack Mulloy	Hillaree and family
Brian J.	Paul S.	Friends & Family of John Hartman
Beverly Newell	Don & Heather C.	Doug & Barbara Shirley
Anna Hayes	Mary Cerreto	Mary Connolly
John Sullivan	Connie Sullivan	Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey
Ronnie	Phil Jennings	Alice Bridinger
Jane Hall	Faye Bishop	Pat & Jane Conaway
Jenna Hayes	Tommy Hannon	
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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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