

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.

In everyone's life, at some time, our inner fire goes out.
It is then burst into flame by an encounter
with another human being.
We should all be thankful for those people
who rekindle the inner spirit.

- Albert Schweitzer

PRELUDE

Diapason Movement
Thomas Foster, organ

John Keeble

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sue Mascioli

One: The world needs people who will answer God's call.

All: Holy Spirit, set us on fire!

One: People who will choose love over fear, again and again.

All: Holy Spirit, set us on fire!

One: Even when it's hard, and scary, and lonely.

All: Holy Spirit, set us on fire!

One: May we be the people. May this be the place. May now be the time.

All: Holy Spirit, set us on fire! Amen!

* OPENING HYMN 6

Bring Many Names

Westchase

Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story, holiness in glory, living, loving God.

Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!

Strong mother God, working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation, setting each equation, genius at play:

Hail and Hosanna! Strong mother God!

Warm father God, hugging every child,
feeling all the strains of human living, caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:

Hail and Hosanna! Warm father God!

Old, aching God, gray with endless care,
calmly piercing evil's new disguises, Glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:

Hail and Hosanna! Old, aching God!

Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
saying no to falsehood and unkindness, Crying out for justice, giving all you have:

Hail and Hosanna! Young, growing God!

Great, living God, never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing, closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:

Hail and Hosanna! Great, living God!

CENTERING PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS*

* from *The Gospel by Gen Z*

Our Parent who art the top G
hallowed be thy vibe

Thy W come
thy crushing it be done
on the streets as it is in heaven

Secure us this day
our daily bag

And forgive us our L's
as we don't throw hands
w those who do us dirty

and lead us not through the sus
but deliver us from the opp of opps

For if you forgive others who do you dirty
God will forgive you for all the shade you've thrown

But if you demand God cancel others
God will hold you accountable and keep the receipts

* **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

Come, Dove of Heaven

Mark A. Miller

Senior Choir; Thomas Foster, director

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:1-17

COMING OF AGE CELEBRATION SERVICE

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Annabelle Joy Springer
Benjamin Hayden Clausen
Collin Norris Toyne
Isla Canterbury Van Geel

PROMISE OF THE PARENTS

We recognize you are no longer a child.
You are coming of age.
As you begin to carve out the life that will be your own,
we will stand behind you and support you.
You are holy and wonderful and blessed,
and we won't look away from you.
We are your parents, and we support you on this journey.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER FOR THE PARENTS (TOGETHER)

God of patience and love,
strengthen and uphold these parents as they support their youth.
Remind them they can't walk the journey for their teen,
and they can't shield them from pain.
Be with these parents
as their roles and relationships with their children shift.
May parents and teens see your image in each other,
and know you are with them all the while. Amen.

PROMISE OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE TEENS

We will stand behind you on your journey.
You are unique expressions of the creative power of God.
God is calling you.
Explore, ask, claim, and embrace.
You are holy and wonderful and blessed,
and we won't look away from you.
We are your church family and we support you on this journey.

PROMISE OF THE YOUTH OF THE CONGREGATION

We will, with God's help.
We offer you our friendship.
You are holy and wonderful and blessed,
and we won't look away from you.
We will make the journey together.

BLESSING OF THE TEENS

May the Living God fill you with courage, wisdom and joy.

Amen!

May Jesus the Christ, inspire your living and remind you that you
are loved.

Amen!

May the fire of the Holy Spirit burn brightly within you.

Amen!

And may the blessing of God
who made you just as you are,
who declares you beautiful and beloved,
and who walks with you your whole live through
surround you this day and forevermore.

Amen!

MUSICAL RESPONSE

After the Coming of Age Celebration, children (age 3 – grade 6) depart for Sunday School (Godly Play & Connect). Parents may accompany children and return to worship once they are settled.

READING

When We Breathe Together

by Jan Richardson

REFLECTION

Speaking Your Language

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

refrain:

Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing;
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.”

refrain

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
when they were confounded by their idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.

refrain

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

refrain

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.

refrain

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Sei Lob und Ehr dem höchsten Gut
(Praise and Honor to the Highest)

Domenico Zipoli

During the Postlude, please enjoy an extended opportunity to greet your neighbor with a reprise of the Passing of the Peace, at the invitation of our guest photographers.

Today's Coming of Age Celebration Service

Our teenagers are moving into an important time in their lives. They are no longer children. More and more often they will confront choices they must make for themselves. Today we celebrate a rite of passage where we recognize the blessing of God's gift of teenhood.

You, the congregation, are witnesses of this rite of passage. You are here today to actively help in this process by your presence, your prayers and your love.

Remember, when the congregation is called on to reply, "Amen," you are literally saying, "Yes, Lord - let it be so."

Introducing the “Coming of Age” Group

Annabelle Joy Springer

My name is Ann Springer, and I have been a part of this church family for as long as I can remember. From the early days in the childcare room to now, at 13 years old, I have grown alongside this community in so many ways. I first became involved in the life of our church through the Godly Play and Connect programs, where I discovered stories from the Bible that sparked my curiosity about faith. One of the most impactful experiences for me was participating in the OWL (Our Whole Lives) program with two of my closest friends from church. Together, we navigated discussions about values, relationships, and our changing selves within the safe space of our OWL class.

I have cherished memories of taking part in Christmas Pageants and singing in the children's choir, where I felt the joy of expressing my faith through music and drama. My family has also been an integral part of my church journey. Attending services with my mom and sister has deepened our bond and provided moments of reflection and connection.

While I am still figuring out how I feel about God and my faith journey, this church has been a place where I can ask questions, explore, and grow. Beyond church, I am passionate about musical theater and anime, which inspire my creativity and imagination. Today, I am grateful for the love and support of this church community, and I look forward to continuing this journey of faith together.

Benjamin Hayden Clausen

Hi, I'm Ben. I am 13 and will be in 8th grade next year. I like playing instruments and making music. I play the Baritone saxophone and drums. I like traveling and exploring new places.

I like spending time with friends and family. I like biking and building.

Collin Norris Toyne

My name is Collin. I am a 7th grader at Dover-Sherborn Middle School. I play soccer and basketball for DS. In my spare time I enjoy playing video games with friends. In summer my favorite place to be is at our camper in Maine.

Isla Canterbury Van Geel

Hi, my name is Isla and I'm a 7th grader at Wilson Middle School in Natick. I love theater, singing, dance, and doing martial arts. I also really enjoy traveling to foreign countries. So far, I've been to Mexico, Canada, Ecuador, and my favorite, South Africa.

Calendar for May 19 – May 27, 2024

Sunday, May 19 Pentecost Rite 13 Celebration Photography Day	8:00 AM <u>Photographers Theory One Design will be our guests</u> 9:00 AM <i>Rite-13 Breakfast</i> in Vestry 9:00 AM <i>Adult Faith Group</i> – Contemplation and Action 10:30 AM <i>Worship</i> led by Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry Coming of Age Celebration 10:45 AM <i>Godly Play</i> and <i>Connect</i> . 11:30 AM <i>Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour</i> in Vestry 12:00 PM Procession to Stock the Mini-Pantry 12:30 PM Staged Photos: participants needed (talk to staff) ~ No <i>Tai Chi</i> this week
Wed., May 22	NOON <i>Mid-Week Connection</i> , Zoom ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek
Thurs., May 23	7:00 PM <i>Prayer Circle</i> via Zoom (ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle) No Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, May 26	9:00 AM <i>Adult Faith Group</i> – Contemplation and Action 10:30 AM <i>Worship</i> led by Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry No <i>Godly Play</i> or <i>Connect</i> . 11:30 AM <i>Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour</i> in Vestry ~ No <i>Tai Chi</i> this week
Monday, May 27	Church Office Closed for Memorial Day

Events: TODAY

Thanks to the Clausen family for today's coffee hour. *Hosts are needed for June 3, 16, 23, and 30.* sharonkirby3@gmail.com

FCC Website Photography Day – TODAY!

Sunday, May 19th before, during, and after worship

Our new website will launch later this summer. Today we are joined by professional photographers from Theory One Design. They are here to take high quality images to help us convey on the new website what makes FCC special. Here are some guidelines:

- **Please participate with flexibility.** Some things may be a little different today.
- **There is a “photo free” zone** if you would feel more comfortable. Ask an usher.
- **There will be additional photo opportunities after worship.** Coffee hour, a procession to the Mini-Pantry, and a few other things. Please stay if you can. (There will be pizza at noon.)

No *Tai Chi* class today (5/19) or next week (5/26).

Photos and such today, Tom away next week.

Holi Festival today (5/19) in FCC parking lot

It was rescheduled from Saturday 5/18 due to forecast of rain. Cars should be moved out of the lot by 1 pm. We will issue a reminder if you are still around to help with the photoshoot.

Events: On the Horizon

Guatemala Partnership Farm-a-thon

Saturday, June 1, 2024, 9 am - noon.

Join volunteers from FCC Natick and the Congregational Church of Needham. Participants raise pledges supporting their work at Natick Community Organic Farm on Saturday, June 1 from 9 am - noon. All funds support education and development in Santa María Tzejá. It's a great way to celebrate our earth and support friends globally and locally. To register or learn more, contact Jeff Clausen. You can also participate by sponsoring a worker.

FCC at Natick Nights

Thursday, June 6th 5-8 pm

The Welcome Team has organized an activity – Big Bubbles and Sidewalk Chalk on our lawn. They will also give a tour of our sanctuary to anyone interested. To volunteer to help out with this fun event, please contact Sharon Kirby.

Meet “Nile”, the Inflatable Humpback Whale

Saturday, June 8, 1:00-3:00 pm in the Vestry (30 minute time slots)

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~~ (sold out), or in-person after worship at FCC (starting 5/19). QR for details or ucc.fccnatick.org/whale.

Over half the Whale-mobile tickets are already sold! Reserve your tickets now by emailing fcc_events@fccnatick.org. Specify # of tickets and the time (30 minute slots at 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, or 2:30 pm). Parents wishing to accompany their child (age 5+) must also have a ticket.

Scholarship Applications

Church scholarships for undergraduate/graduate education: **applications due June 1**. Get the form at ucc.fcnatick.org/scholarship or from the office. Scholarships will be awarded on June 9.

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.

Irene & Walter	Char Hannon	Friends and Family of Tony Parkes
Joel	Charles	Friends and Family of Mary French
Debbie Collins	John Lilly	Friends and Family of Doug Duncan
Jeanna B.	Aunt Gwen	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 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

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Grace Seiche

Outreach Minister

Rev. Dr. John Weagraff

Financial Assistant

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