

# 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), as well as the legacy of the Natick Praying Indians, 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.

# 19th Sunday after Pentecost

September 29, 2024

“An enemy who gets in, risks the danger of becoming a friend.”

- Joy Harjo

## PRELUDE

*Soeur Monique*  
Thomas Foster, piano

François Couperin

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Karen Maki

One: In a divided and despairing world –

**All: We will proclaim God’s hope!**

One: Where there is injustice and inequality –

**All: We will proclaim God’s justice!**

One: When people feel invisible and broken –

**All: We will proclaim God’s compassion!**

One: Everywhere, and all the time –

**All: We will proclaim God’s love!**

## \* OPENING HYMN 371

*Living God, Your Joyful Spirit*

Goldberg

Living God, your joyful Spirit breaks the bounds of time and space,  
rests in love upon your people, drawn together in this place.

Here we join in glad thanksgiving, here rejoice to pray and praise:

Lord of all our past traditions, Lord of all our future days.

As your bread may we be broken, scattered in community;  
we who know your greatest blessings called to share Christ’s ministry.  
May we gently lead each other, share our hunger and our thirst;  
learn that only through our weakness shall we know the strength of Christ.

Lord, when we grow tired of giving, feel frustration, hurt and strain,  
by your spirit’s quiet compulsion, draw us back to you again.

Guide us through the bitter searching when our confidence is lost;  
give us hope from desolation, arms outstretched upon the cross.

Living God, your power surrounds us, as we face the way Christ trod,  
challenge us to fresh commitment to the purposes of God:  
called to share a new creation, called to preach a living word,  
promised all the joys of heaven, through the grace of Christ our Lord.

## **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**                      *God's Hands*

God's hands are your hands. God's hands are my hands.  
God's hands are our hands, working together.  
God's hands are your hands. God's hands are my hands.  
God's hands are our hands, working for love.

**CHOIR ANTHEM**                      *Let Us Build a House*                      Haugen, Medema & Larson  
Senior Choir; Thomas Foster, director

**SCRIPTURE READING**                      1 Peter 3:8-12

## **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.



Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved  
In living situations to do the truth in love;  
To practice your acceptance, until we know by heart  
The table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,  
Who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,  
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;  
Renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

**BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

*Fugue*

William Selby

# Calendar for Sept. 29 – Oct. 5, 2024

More at [fccnatick.org/events](https://fccnatick.org/events)

- Sunday, Sept. 29**      9:00 AM *Adult Faith Group* – Contemplation and Action  
10:30 AM *Worship* with Rev. Cindy in the Sanctuary  
10:45 AM *Godly Play and Connect*  
11:30 AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour* in Vestry  
5:00 PM *Where Can We Live in Peace?* Migrant Crisis documentary  
5:00 PM *Crosswalk Youth Group*, at St. Paul’s
- Wed., Oct. 2**              NOON *Mid-Week Connection*, Zoom [ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek](https://ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek)  
7:00 PM *Back Yard Theology*, at Deede & Randal’s home
- Thurs., Oct. 3**            7:00 PM *Prayer Circle* via Zoom ([ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle](https://ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle))  
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
- Sunday, Sept. 29**      9:00 AM *Adult Faith Group* – Contemplation and Action  
10:30 AM *Worship* with Rev. Cindy in the sanctuary  
10:45 AM *Godly Play and Connect*  
11:30 AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour* in Vestry
- Saturday, Oct. 5**        7:00 PM *Festive-All Concert Community Celebration* in Sanctuary

**Today**

Thanks to Coffee Hour hosts, Robin & Jeff Classen!

## Where Can We Live in Peace? The Migrant Crisis [film]

**Sunday, Sept. 29, 5-7 pm, in the sanctuary**

Join award-winning filmmaker Judy Jackson for a screening of her latest film, “Where Can We Live in Peace?”, with a discussion after. The documentary humanizes the struggle and dangers migrants face. QR code reserves your spot. This event is jointly sponsored by the FCC Natick, the Congregational Church of Needham, and the non-profit Partners for Guatemala Education.



## Stories from the Southern Border

**Sun, Sep 29 – Sun, Oct 20, 2024, on display in the Sanctuary**

“Stories from the Southern Border,” a traveling photography exhibit Natick resident and artist Rolf Larson. He shares portraits and stories of those who live near the border: undocumented immigrants, asylum seekers, and immigrant advocates.

## **This Week**

### **Knitting Circle Meet-up**

**Monday, Sept 30 @ 7 pm in the Hayes Parlor**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry combines the care and love of fiber arts (knitting and crocheting) into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace. Healing prayers are knitted into shawls and blankets and given to those during illness or recovery, or at times of loss or in times of joy. All are welcome to join our circle – we are happy to teach knitting and crocheting skills as well as share resources. RSVP to Saralyn if you are interested.

### **Back Yard Theology**

**Wednesday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 pm, at the Bergeron/Divinski ranch.**

Fun, conversation, munchies (BYOB) in Deede & Randy's back yard. Contact Saralyn to RSVP.

### **Festive-All Concert Community Celebration**

**Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the sanctuary**

Strings, piano, dance, cabaret – and more! – in a community space that now blends historical architecture and welcoming innovation. Performers from Walnut Hill, Greater Boston School of Dance, the Robinwood Ensemble, Unfinished Cabaret, and musicians from FCC Natick will fill the sanctuary with music and movement. Reception to follow. Freewill offering supports future events and the MetroWest Free Medical Program.

## **On the Horizon**

### **Family Promise Support Week**

**October 7-13 is time to support FPM by volunteering**

**Family Promise Metrowest (FPM) volunteers opportunities include:**

- Provide dinners, groceries or gift cards for shelter guests
- Support the Keeping the Promise event (10/24/24) by
  - being an event committee member to help design a fun and memorable event.
  - helping collect auction items or sponsors.
- Offer individual ESL instruction or help translate documents
- Support Center/Shelter Upkeep (from gardens to minor maintenance).
- Coordinate a donation drive...
- Invite FPM representatives to an event so they can present about FPM's work and how others can get involved.



- Promote Family Promise on Social Media. Work with their communications team to help get the word out about the work and impact of FPM

Reach out to Chris Gentry ([jcmsgentry@gmail.com](mailto:jcmsgentry@gmail.com)) for more information.

## **FCC Bookgroup**

**Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> after worship**

Join with other book lovers to discuss books, this time *The Women: A Novel* by Kristin Hannah. This novel follows a nurse in Vietnam with her eye-opening experiences there, her return home, and the battles she faced. Lunch will be offered. Please RSVP to Sharon Kirby.

## **Concert and Dinner to benefit West Virginia Workcamp**

**Saturday, October 19, 2024, All Saints Church - Chelmsford**

Save the date for a special night! Singer/songwriter Keith Larsen, a crew chief at Cabell-Lincoln Workcamp, will perform with his colleague Parker MacDonell. Dinner at 5 pm, concert at 7 pm. Tickets on sale soon! Dinner and show, \$25 (reservations required). Show only, \$15.

## **Natick Historical Society Field Trip**

**Sunday, Oct. 20\*, 12:30 pm \* *Open and Affirming Sunday***

FCC Natick has a complicated history. Were we really the “First” congregational church in Natick? How did we end up with a building in the center of town? What is our connection to Natick’s Praying Indians? And how does all that history impact our life today?

Join us for a personal and meaningful field trip to the Natick Historical Society. Executive Director Niki Lefebvre will be our guide, showing us artifacts closely tied to our history and helping us to understand just how complicated it is.

This excursion is part of our Open and Affirming anniversary. We renew our commitment to welcoming “people of every ability, race, culture, gender, economic circumstance, gender identity and sexual orientation” including the indigenous communities we have impacted from our very beginning.

## **Trunk-or-Treat**

**Sunday, Oct. 26, 12 - 3 pm in FCC parking lot**

Sign-up to decorate your trunk, distribute treats, and greet our costumed guests. Or donate snacks, nut-free candy, or non-candy items (e.g., small toys/party favors, temporary tattoos) – drop them off at the church office. Contributions accepted via *Venmo*. Contact Robin ([rclausen@gmail.com](mailto:rclausen@gmail.com)) to sign-up or for more information! Stop by to revel in the fun and Trunk-or-Treat with us on!

# 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).

Linda Champion	Peg & Charlie Ostrander	The Levesque Family
Pam Dotter	Fran Schroeder	Bob Brown
Joel	Char Hannon	Tanya
Debbie Collins	Irene & Walter	Steve Perry
Jeanna B.	Charles	Frankie Notarbartolo
Aunt Kathy	John Lilly	Melissa and Tiffany Wallace
Eric	Aunt Gwen	Ann and George Schmidt
Sarah Kazim	Robin and Laura	Charles Gobron
Joan Person	Noah & Jennie Lynch	Susan Eck and family
Brian J.	Uncle Al & Aunt Deb	Richard Conway
Beverly Newell	Paul S.	Abigail Brewer
Anna Hayes	Don & Heather C.	Doug & Barbara Shirley
John Sullivan	Mary Cerreto	Mary Connolly
Ronnie	Connie Sullivan	Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey
Jane Hall	Phil Jennings	Alice Bridinger
Jenna Hayes	Faye Bishop	Pat & Jane Conaway
Abby Robbins	Tommy Hannon	
Natalie Friend	Paul	Peace for the world and in everyone's day
Jayne Hayes	Anne	All immigrant families seeking justice
Myriam's Mom	Molly	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)).

**Calendar, News, and Program information at [FCCnatick.org](http://FCCnatick.org).**

# 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

**FCCnatick.org**