

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.

20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 6, 2024

“All dreaming is dangerous to those who benefit from our hopelessness.”

- Cole Arthur Riley

PRELUDE

Opening Voluntary
Thomas Foster, piano

Caleb Simper

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Myriam Jennings

One: The whole world is in God's hands.

**All: Everything that lives and breathes.
Everything that simply is. Everything.**

One: From the farthest spaces, to the inmost places.

**All: Everything that lives and breathes.
Everything that simply is. Everything.**

One: The whole world is beloved by God.

**All: Everything that lives and breathes.
Everything that simply is. Everything.**

One: From the bird at our feeder, to the stranger halfway around the world.

**All: Everything that lives and breathes.
Everything that simply is. Everything.**

One: God calls us to hold and love the whole world, too.

**All: Everything that lives and breathes.
Everything that simply is. Everything. Amen.**

* OPENING HYMN 316

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Linstead

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound! ...

Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

CENTERING PRAYER

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** *Spirit of Life*

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me. .

CHOIR ANTHEM *Wake Up, Church, Wake Up!* Pepper Choplin
Senior Choir; Thomas Foster, director

SCRIPTURE READING Jeremiah 29:10a, 11-14a

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.

REFLECTION

MUSICAL RESPONSE

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

INVITATION TO THE FEAST

TELLING THE STORY

COMMUNION 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 THE BREAD AND CUP

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

ALLELUIA

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR SUBSTANCE

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

As the plates are passed from person to person, we share our financial gifts.

Even if we are not adding money to the plate, we offer thoughts of gratitude.

As you hold the plate, you might breathe deeply and pray,

“May all the earth be healthy and whole.”

*** SONG OF PRAISE**

Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, O God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O Ruler of all nations:
Let your reign come; on earth your will be done.
In peace may all earth's people draw together,
And hearts united learn to live as one.
O hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;
Myself I give you; let your will be done.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Concluding Voluntary

Caleb Simper

HURRICANE RELIEF (Communion Fund Offering)

The stories, images, and numbers coming out of the southeast US are heartbreaking. Lives lost, homes lost, entire communities destroyed. One way we can help is with financial donations to the organizations already providing disaster relief. Our denomination, the United Church of Christ, is responding now and is committed to a long-term presence as communities rebuild. This morning's Communion Fund Offering will be sent to the UCC's Hurricane Helene response efforts.

You are invited to use the "special offering" envelope, send a check with "Hurricane" in the memo line. You can also give through the "Give" section on the FCCN website (select "Special Collections" and add "Hurricane" to the memo line). As with all collections, this is completely optional. Thank you for also holding the impacted communities in prayer.

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.

On the Horizon

FCC Bookgroup

Sunday, October 13th after worship in the parlor

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.

Coffee Hour Chat: Angels of Hope (Uganda)

Sunday, October 13th after worship in the Chat Room (116)

Fay DeAvignon will share stories about her “Angels of Hope” medical clinic in Uganda. Angels of Hope clinics are supporting vaccines, eyesight, hydration, nurse visits, and malaria treatment. This service helps Ugandans to be able to stay in their country.

Lunch Bunch

Thursday, October 17th at 12:30 pm in the Vestry

Lunch Bunch returns to the third Thursday of the month at its new regular time: 12:30 pm. There will be drinks, snacks, and stories to share. All are welcome.

Natick Artists Open Studios

Sat., Oct. 19th, 11 am – 5 pm, Vestry, Library, and around town

Sun., Oct. 20th, noon – 5:30 pm, Vestry, Library, and around town

Several art studios throughout Natick are open for the public to meet and engage with the artwork of some 60 local artists. Our Vestry will be one site for artist’s showing their work.

Concert and Dinner to benefit West Virginia Workcamp

Saturday, Oct. 19th, at All Saints Church – Chelmsford (5 pm, 7 pm)

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.

As 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) to sign-up or for more information! Stop by to revel in the fun and Trunk-or-Treat with us on!

LGBTQ Movie Night: "Will & Harper"

Sunday, Oct. 22, 6:30 - 9:00 pm in the Vestry

Will & Harper is a Netflix Documentary, R (for language), 110 minutes, starring Will Ferrell and Harper Steele, directed by Josh Greenbaum. In this intimate portrayal of friendship, transition, and America, Will Ferrell and his close friend of thirty years decide to go on a cross-country road trip to explore a new chapter in their relationship. Informal discussion afterwards.

SILENT MOVIE NIGHT: The Cameraman (Buster Keaton)

Sat., Oct. 26 at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.

A screening of the 1928 silent film 'The Cameraman' starring Buster Keaton, with live music score improvised on piano by Rob Humphreville. Free admission, free will donations accepted.

Fall Family Retreat - Final Payment Due

Friday, Nov. 1-3 at Craigville Retreat Center on Cape Cod

Our Fall Retreat is just around the corner and final payments are due. (People who already paid a deposit will receive additional info this week.) *It's not too late to join us* - there are a few spots available – contact Sarallyn for more info.

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.

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|---|
| Linda Champion | Peg & Charlie Ostrander | Family & Friends of Tom Tannar |
| Pam Dotter | Fran Schroeder | The Levesque Family |
| Joel | Char Hannon | Bob Brown |
| Debbie Collins | Irene & Walter | Tanya |
| Jeanna B. | Charles | Steve Perry |
| Aunt Kathy | John Lilly | Frankie Notarbartolo |
| Eric | Aunt Gwen | Melissa and Tiffany Wallace |
| Sarah Kazim | Robin and Laura | Ann and George Schmidt |
| Joan Person | Noah & Jennie Lynch | Charles Gobron |
| Brian J. | Uncle Al & Aunt Deb | Susan Eck and family |
| Beverly Newell | Paul S. | Richard Conway |
| Anna Hayes | Don & Heather C. | Abigail Brewer |
| John Sullivan | Mary Cerreto | Doug & Barbara Shirley |
| Ronnie | Connie Sullivan | Mary Connolly |
| Jane Hall | Phil Jennings | Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey |
| Jenna Hayes | Faye Bishop | Alice Bridinger |
| Abby Robbins | Tommy Hannon | Pat & Jane Conaway |
| 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 ljchampion17@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).

Calendar, News, and Program information at 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

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