

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.

Think always of the universe as one living creature,
made of one substance and one soul:
how all is absorbed into this one consciousness;
how a single impulse governs all its actions;
how all things collaborate in all that happens;
the very web and mesh of it all.

- *Marcus Aurelius*

PRELUDE

Vater unser im Himmelreich
Thomas Foster, organ

Buxtehude

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP *

Gail Martin

One: With the bricks of justice –

All: together we build a better world.

One: With the bricks of belonging –

All: together we build a better world.

One: With the bricks of understanding –

All: together we build a better world.

One: With the bricks of love –

All: together we build a better world.

One: United by God's Spirit –

All: together we build a better world.

Praise our God, our glories show, Alleluia!
Saints within these courts below, Alleluia!
Angels round the throne above, Alleluia!
All that see and share God's love, Alleluia!

Earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, Alleluia!
Tell of wonders, sing of worth, Alleluia!
Age to age and shore to shore, Alleluia!
Singing praises evermore! Alleluia!

Praise our God, all mercies trace, Alleluia!
Sing of providence and grace, Alleluia!
All that God for us has done, Alleluia!
All God sends us through the Son, Alleluia!

Strings and voices, hands and hearts, Alleluia!
In the concert bear your parts, Alleluia!
All that breathe, your God adore, Alleluia!
Singing praises evermore!, Alleluia!

CENTERING PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS **

Divine Parent, who dwells in the vast cosmos,
May we hold a sense of wonder for Your holy name.
May Your reign of love and justice manifest among us,
On Earth, as it is in the shimmering heavens.
Each day, provide us with the sustenance we need,
And with the same sense of wonder, let us share our resources with others.
Forgive our shortcomings as we strive to forgive those of others,
And guide us along the path of love and wisdom,
Away from the entanglement of harm.
For yours is the kin-dom of awe-inspiring wonder,
The power that fuels the cosmos,
And the glory that lights up the universe,
Now and 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** *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. .

SCRIPTURE READING *Isaiah 58:6-12*

WORD FOR ALL AGES

MUSICAL RESPONSE

After The Word for All Ages, children (age 3 – grade 6) depart for Sunday School (joint Godly Play). Parents may accompany children and return to worship once they are settled.

READING *Overwhelm Prayer* by Mieke Vandersall

REFLECTION *Repairing the Breach*

MUSICAL RESPONSE

GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL 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

* SENDING HYMN 516

O Day of God, Draw Near

St Michael

O day of God, draw near in beauty and power,
come with your timeless judgment now to match our present hour.

Bring to our troubled minds, uncertain and afraid,
the quiet of a steadfast faith, calm of a call obeyed.

Bring justice to our land, that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come foundations that endure.

Bring to our world of strife your sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more and desolation cease.

O day of God, draw near as at creation's birth;
let there be light again, and let your judgment reign on earth..

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

"Horns" from Voluntary in A minor

Anonymous (late 18th C.)

* Loosely based on a resource from housingjustice.org

** UCC “Imagine” Stewardship Resources

Calendar for Oct. 13-20, 2024

More at fccnatick.org/events

- Sunday, Oct. 13** 9:00 AM *Adult Faith Group* – Contemplation and Action
10:30 AM *Worship* with Rev. Cindy in the sanctuary
10:45 AM *Godly Play* (no *Connect*)
11:30 AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour* in Vestry
" *FCC Bookgroup luncheon* in the parlor
TBD *Crosswalk Youth Group* clean up crew
- Mon., Oct. 14** Church Office Closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day
- Wed., Oct. 16** NOON *Mid-Week Connection*, Zoom ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek
- Thurs., Oct. 17** 12:30 PM *Lunch Bunch* in Vestry
7:00 PM *Prayer Circle* via Zoom (ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle)
7:30 PM *Choir Rehearsal*
- Saturday, Oct. 19** 11:00 AM *Natick Open Studios* (11am-5pm) in Vestry
5 PM, 7 PM *Dinner/Concert* benefitting WV Workcamp (in Chelmsford)
- Sunday, Oct. 20** 9:00 AM *Adult Faith Group* – Contemplation and Action
ONA Sunday 10:30 AM *Worship* w/ Rev. Cindy in the sanctuary, *Godly Play/Connect*
11:30 AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour* in Chatroom
NOON *Natick Open Studios* (noon-5:30 pm) in Vestry
12:30 PM *Natick Historical Society* Field Trip

Today

Thanks to Coffee Hour hosts Wayne & Jeanette Szretter!

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. Organized by Sharon Kirby.

Stories from the Southern Border

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

“Stories from the Southern Border” is a traveling photography exhibit by Natick artist Rolf Larson. Stories of undocumented immigrants, asylum seekers, and immigrant advocates.

Coffee Hour Chat: Angels of Hope (Uganda) - Postponed

Previously announced, postponed to early 2025.

This Week

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

The Natick Art Association will hold its annual “Natick Artists Open Studios” on Oct. 19-20. This is an chance for folks to meet and visit with artists living or working in Natick in informal settings to learn about their art and to purchase unique artistic creations directly from the artists.

Concert and Dinner to benefit West Virginia Workcamp

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

An evening of food and music at All Saints Church in Chelmsford. Performances by singer/songwriters Parker MacDonell (a crew chief at Cabell-Lincoln Workcamp) and Keith Larsen, and by Christian Worship Band SonLight. All proceeds to benefit the Ramps for Neighbors program and the Cabell-Lincoln Work Camp (West Virginia). Dinner and show, \$25 (reservations required). Show only, \$15. Dinner at 5 pm, concert at 7 pm. <https://ticketstripe.com/AllSaintsBenefit>



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.

On the Horizon

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.

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 (relausen@gmail.com) to sign-up or for more information! Stop by to revel in the fun and Trunk-or-Treat with us on!

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 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).

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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