

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.

We need, in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers.

- Bayard Rustin

PRELUDE

Ayre of Four Parts
Thomas Foster, organ

John Dowland

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP *

Amy Foley

One: We bring our whole selves to worship today.

All: Beloved children of God, come in!

One: We come from our places of struggle, our places of hope.

All: Beloved children of God, come in!

One: We come from our brokenness, and from our beauty.

All: Beloved children of God, come in!

One: We come here now, each of us wanted, needed.

All: Beloved children of God, come in!

One: We come, knowing we are loved by God, just as we are.

All: Beloved children of God, come in! Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN 7**

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Hymn to Joy

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, every blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing, all who live in thee are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

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** *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

At the Foot of Liberty

Keith Larsen

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 139:1-14a

WORD FOR ALL AGES

ONA Covenant

One: The First Congregational Church of Natick –

All: That's us!

One: affirms the dignity and worth of every person.

All: EVERY PERSON!

One: We are called to express the love and welcome of Christ.

All: We each carry the Christ-light in the world.

One: We celebrate the diversity of God's creation –

All: God's creativity is amazing to behold!

One: and the gifts, talents and resources –

All: like listening, organizing, teaching

One: of all who strive to build a church that is faithful to God.

All: Want to serve on Council?

One: We, therefore, covenant again –

All: God is our partner!

One: to be an Open and Affirming congregation.

All: and we seek to earn that status every day.

One: We embrace and support those who experience rejection

**All: No matter who you are, or where you are on the journey,
you are welcome here!**

One: and find themselves in exile from spiritual community.

**All: We take responsibility for the harm the church has done in the past,
and seek a new way forward.**

One: We welcome people of every ability, race –

All: Each person a beloved child of God.

One: culture, gender, –

All: Each person a beloved child of God.

One: economic circumstance, –

All: Each person a beloved child of God.

One: gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation.

**All: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex,
Asexual, and whatever new ways of living we will learn.**

Each person a beloved child of God! Amen.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

After *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.

CELEBRATING 21 YEARS OF OPEN AND AFFIRMING

Carolyn Williams

READING

Prayer of Storytelling

by Mandie McGlynn

REFLECTION

The Desk

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 363**

In the Midst of New Dimensions

St Michael

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wand'ring in their sep'rate ways?
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,...

We your people, ours the journey
now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,

We your people, ours the journey
now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

Though we reach the highest heavens, holding worlds at our command,
We are yet a desert people searching for the promised land.
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,

We your people, ours the journey
now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,

We your people, ours the journey
now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Fugue

William Selby

Welcome Keith Larsen!

This morning musician Keith Larsen brings his talent to our worship service. Many of us know Keith as a crew chief at Cabell-Lincoln Workcamp in WV. The rest of the world knows Keith as an award-winning singer / songwriter. Keith's song, "Hold On," won the People's Choice Award in the *Nashville Songwriters Association International/Country Music Television* songwriting competition. He is a two-time selection to *Texas Songwriter Serenade*, finishing as a finalist and semi-finalist. He has appeared in two seasons of American Public Television's nationally syndicated show *Songs at the Center*.

Calendar for Oct. 20-27, 2024

More at fccnatick.org/events

Sunday, Oct. 20 ONA Sunday	9:00 AM	<i>Adult Faith Group</i> – Contemplation and Action
	10:30 AM	<i>Worship w/ Rev. Cindy</i> in the sanctuary, <i>Godly Play/Connect</i>
	11:30 AM	<i>Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour</i> in Chatroom
	NOON	<i>Natick Open Studios</i> (noon-5:30 pm) in Vestry
	12:30 PM	<i>Natick Historical Society Field Trip</i>
Mon., Oct. 21	4:30 PM	FCCN hosts <i>Open Door</i> at the Elks Club
Tues., Oct. 22	6:30 PM	<i>LGBTQ Movie Night: "Will & Harper"</i> in Vestry
Wed., Oct. 23	NOON	<i>Mid-Week Connection, Zoom</i> (ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek)
Thurs., Oct. 24	12:30 PM	<i>Lunch Bunch</i> in Vestry
	7:00 PM	<i>Prayer Circle</i> via Zoom (ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle)
Saturday, Oct. 26	NOON	<i>Trunk-or-Treat</i> in church parking lot during <i>Spooktacular</i>
	7:00 PM	<i>Silent Movie Night: "The Cameraman"</i> in Sanctuary
Sunday, Oct. 27	9:00 AM	<i>Adult Faith Group</i> – Contemplation and Action
	10:30 AM	<i>Worship w/ Rev. Cindy</i> in the sanctuary, <i>Godly Play/Connect</i>
	11:30 AM	<i>Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour</i> in Chatroom
	NOON	<i>Take down the tent</i> , to help, talk to Sarallyn
	5:00 PM	<i>Crosswalk Youth: Movie and Pizza Night</i>

Today

Thanks to Coffee Hour hosts Robin & Jeff Clausen!

Natick Artists Open Studios (Day 2)

Sun., Oct. 20th, noon – 5 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.

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.

This Week

FCC hosts Open Door

Monday, Oct. 21, 4:30 pm at the Elks Club

Open Door provides a free community meal every Monday at the Natick Elks Club. On Monday, FCC folks will prepare and serve dinner. Food prep at 4:30 pm, meal served at 5:30 pm, cleaned up by 6:30 pm. To pitch in, contact Jeff Clausen at clausenj@gmail.com.

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 (rclausen@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.

SAVE THE DATE: WWC Fundraiser Dinner

Saturday, Nov. 9, 5-7 pm in the Vestry or take out. ucc.fccnatick.org/chefbob

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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