

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.

The important question to ask is not,
“What do you believe?”
but “What difference does it make that you believe?”
Does the world come nearer to the dream of God
because of what you believe?
- Verna Dozier in “The Dream of God”

PRELUDE

Soeur Monique
Thomas Foster, organ

François Couperin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ric Ripley

One: Through sun and shadow,

All: God’s love will remain.

One: Through valley and mountaintop,

All: God’s love will remain.

One: Through rain and rainbow,

All: God’s love will remain.

One: Through tragedy and triumph,

All: God’s love will remain.

One: Through loss and victory,

All: God’s love will remain.

One: Through all that love brings,

All: God’s love will remain.

One: Come, let us gather with the God of love.

* **OPENING HYMN 80**

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

St. Anne

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!

Under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
From everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears mortals all away;
They fly, forgotten, as the dream dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last, and our eternal home.

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

Be Still

John Purifoy

SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 6:6-8

WORD FOR ALL AGES

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.

READING

Prayer Ballot

by Luke Stevens-Royer

REFLECTION

God and Country

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 407**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I pause along my journey; by thy help thus far I've come;
And I hope, by thy great mercy, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
Came to rescue me from danger, gave his body, shed his blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I am called to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

Henry Purcell

Calendar for Oct. 27 - Nov. 3, 2024

More at fccnatick.org/events

- Sunday, Oct. 27** 9:00 AM *Adult Faith Group* – Contemplation and Action
10:30 AM *Worship w/ Rev. Cindy* in the sanctuary
10:45 AM *Godly Play and Connect*
11:30 AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour* in Vestry
NOON *Take down the tent*, to help, talk to Sarallyn
5:00 PM *Crosswalk Youth: Movie and Pizza Night*
- Mon., Oct. 28** 7:00 PM *Knitting Circle Meet-Up* in Hayes Parlor
- Wed., Oct. 30** NOON *Mid-Week Connection, Zoom* (ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek)
- Thurs., Oct. 31** 7:00 PM *Prayer Circle* via Zoom (ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle)
No choir rehearsal this week
- Nov. 1-3** *FCCN Fall Family Retreat* (on the Cape)

***Daylight Savings Time ends, clocks “fall back” 1 hour at 2 am Nov. 3**

- Sunday, Nov. 3** No *Adult Faith Group* due to the Retreat
Communion *10:30 AM *Worship w/ guest pastor Rev. Linda Michel* in the sanctuary
10:45 AM *Godly Play and Connect*
11:30 AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour* in Vestry

Today

Thanks to Coffee Hour hosts Doug & Sara Hanna!

Generosity Coffee Chat

Sunday, Oct. 27, in the Chat Room after worship

Join us in the Chat Room (classroom 116) after worship for a discussion about financial giving to FCC Natick. Generosity Team members will share their thoughts, answer your questions, and help us all Imagine Together what God is calling us to do and be.

Good inTENTions

Sunday, Oct. 27, noon, inside the lot fence.

It's time to bring *the tent* in for the winter. Join a crew of volunteers Sunday at noon. Please talk to Sarallyn if you can join in.

Knitting Circle Meet-Up

Monday, Oct. 28, 7 pm, Hayes Parlor

This Week

Casting Call for the Christmas Pageant

Our Pageant this year, *Bed, Bethlehem & Beyond*, will tell the familiar Christmas story through the eyes of a tired innkeeper in Bethlehem, along with the usual cast of characters: angels, shepherds, kings, and a young couple on a journey of discovery.

We are still looking for children and youth to join the cast and adults to help with the production. Rehearsals are Saturday mornings (10-11 am) starting Nov. 9th, with the performance during worship on Dec. 8th. Please contact Sarallyn to sign up.

Remember to set your clocks back *next* weekend (Nov. 3)

Daytime Savings Time ends at 2 am Sun., Nov. 3rd. Adjust your clocks so you don't come early (horrors!) to worship.

On The Horizon

Pub Theology

Tuesday, Nov. 6, 7 pm at 7th South Bottle & Kitchen

Pub Theology returns to the Pub! We will meet up at 7th South Bottle & Kitchen (formerly The Dolphin), just a block from the church. Order appetizers or dinner, and a beverage. Everyone chips in \$\$ to pay the tab. The topic: "Living in Hope instead of Anxiety." RSVP to Sarallyn (sarallyn@fccnatick.org) so we can reserve seats.

Fundraiser Dinner for WV Workcamp

Saturday, Nov. 9, 5-7 pm in the Vestry or take out.

Chicken or eggplant parmesan, pasta with sauce, and garlic bread, all for \$15. You may dine in the Vestry or take out. Please place online orders by Wed. Nov. 6th: ucc.fccnatick.org/chefbob.

Coffee Hour Chat: Guatemala History/Partnership/Delegation

Sunday, November 10th after Worship in the Chat Room (116)

Jeff Clausen will discuss our community's partnership with the indigenous community of Santa Maria Tzejá, Guatemala. The discussion will cover the history of the community and our partnership, along with details on how to join a delegation. The next delegation to Santa Maria Tzejá is scheduled for February 2025, and congregation members are welcome to join this trip or future delegations.

"Building the Beloved Community" -- Theme For Fall 2024

How are you feeling about the upcoming presidential election? Excited? Anxious? Motivated? Filled with existential dread?

There are a lot of feelings swirling around as the election approaches. That's something everyone can agree on. Perhaps we can also agree that, no matter who wins the next election, Nov. 5, 2024 won't magically heal all the challenges, turmoil and division in our country.

Even if we can't control who becomes the next president of the United States, there are things we can control, like how we manage our anxiety, connect to our neighbors, and live out our faith.

So this fall we will be focusing on Building the Beloved Community. Our worship services and other gatherings will ground us in an image of the world the way it is meant to be, help us experience glimpses of that world together, and grow our capacity for bringing that world to life.

Martin Luther King, Jr. popularized the concept of the Beloved Community, building on scripture's "Kingdom of God," where there is peace, justice, abundance and compassion for all. Like King, we recognize we might not live to see this world transformed into that vision, but we can help us all get a little closer.

In the Event of an Emergency Evacuation

- **Walk immediately through the closest available exit.** Remember that the closest exit may be behind you. Check the hallway/door for safety before opening or entering.
- **Assist those with mobility issues to the top of the landing at the closest exit,** then exit and immediately notify emergency personnel of the location of those needing assistance. *Do not remain with the individual.*
- Worship leaders and choir members will assist childcare leaders with the evacuation of the nursery.
- After exiting, **move quickly away from the building.** Use caution crossing sidewalks and street. Emergency vehicles will be entering the parking lot.

Special instruction regarding children in Godly Play/Connect: Rendezvous points for the church school will be either the Peace Pole or the Middlesex Bank drive-through, depending on conditions. When it is safe to do so, children will be escorted to the main entry of the Morse Institute Library, where further information or instructions will be available. Parents will meet their children at the Morse Institute Library. Children may be released to parents when all are safely accounted for.

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.

Lois Dotter	The McClaren Family	Family & Friends of Mary Connolly
Pam Dotter	Angela	Family & Friends of Tom Tannar
Jacqui	Katie	Peg & Charlie Ostrander
Joel	Char Hannon	The Levesque Family
Debbie Collins	Irene & Walter	Bob Brown
Jeanna B.	Charles	Tanya
Aunt Kathy	John Lilly	Steve Perry
Eric	Aunt Gwen	Frankie Notarbartolo
Sarah Kazim	Robin and Laura	Melissa and Tiffany Wallace
Joan Person	Noah & Jennie Lynch	Ann and George Schmidt
Brian J.	Uncle Al & Aunt Deb	Charles Gobron
Beverly Newell	Paul S.	Susan Eck and family
Anna Hayes	Don & Heather C.	Richard Conway
John Sullivan	Mary Cerreto	Abigail Brewer
Ronnie	Connie Sullivan	Doug & Barbara Shirley
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

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
music@fccnatick.org

Sunday Nursery Staff

Grace Seiche

Outreach Minister

Rev. Dr. John Weagraff

Financial Assistant

Cynthia Hamwey

FCCnatick.org