

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 truth always leads to love
and the perpetuation of peace.
Its products are never bitterness and strife.”

~ John Lewis

PRELUDE

Pastorale

Caleb Simper

Thomas Foster, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Linda Michel

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sharon Kirby

One: What do you bring before the Holy One this day?

All: We bring our anxiousness and fears; our hopes and our dreams

One: What do you seek?

All: We seek peace for our weary souls.

One: You will find it in this place, for this is the house of the Most Holy.

**All: Open our hearts and our spirits, O God,
to hear your words of comfort and peace.**

*** OPENING HYMN NCH 498**

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Chereponi

Refrain:

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Knelt at the feet of his friends, silently washing their feet.
Jesu you acted as servant to them

refrain

Neighbors are rich and poor, varied in color and race,
neighbors are near and far away

refrain...

These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbors to us and you.

refrain

Loving puts us on our knees, showing our faith by our deeds;
Serving the neighbors we have from you.

refrain

Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet,
this is the way we should live with you.

refrain

CENTERING PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Holy One, we have come to you this day bringing all that we have,
our lives, our hopes and dreams, our fears and sorrows.

We place these before you in faith and hope,
knowing that no matter what has happened you are with us
and blessing us.

Open our hearts to receive your words and your spirit,
that we may find healing and comfort.

Open our lives to the wondrous possibilities for service and joy
that you offer to us.

Ease our minds and spirits that we may hear
the words of encouragement and peace this day. 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

Mark 12:28-34

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.

REFLECTION

How Much is Enough

Rev. Linda Michel

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

* SENDING HYMN

Renew Your Church

All is Well

Renew your church, its ministries restore: both to serve and adore.
Make us again, as salt throughout the land, and as light from a stand.
‘Mid somber shadows of the night, where greed and hatred spread their blight,
O send us forth with power endued. Help us, God, be renewed.

Teach us your word, reveal its truth divine; on our path let it shine.
Tell of your works, your mighty acts of grace; from each page show your face.
As you have sent your Christ to save, in love to triumph o’er the grave,
O let our hearts with love be stirred. Help us, God, know your word.

Teach us to pray, for you are ever near; your still voice let us hear.
Our souls are restless till they rest in you; this is life, full and true.
Before your presence keep us still that we may find for us your will.
And seek your guidance every day. Teach us, God, how to pray.

Teach us to love, with strength of heart and mind, each and all humankind!
Break down old walls of prejudice and hate; leave us not to our fate.
As you have loved and given your life to end hostility and strife,
Your grace we must be mindful of: Teach us, God, how to love.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Flute Solo and Gigue

G.F. Handel

Our Guest Preacher this morning is Rev. Linda Michel

Since retirement Rev. Linda has been an active member of United Congregational Church in Worcester, UCC, and the Worcester NAACP. She also sits on the Board of Worcester Area Mission Society and the Massachusetts Central Association. She and her husband Bob are most grateful to be living in a beautiful and diverse neighborhood in Worcester that is close to Elm Park and downtown. They are blessed that their family lives close by.

Calendar for Nov. 3 - 10, 2024

More at fccnatick.org/events

Sunday, Nov. 3	No <i>Adult Faith Group</i> due to the Retreat
Communion	*10:30 AM <i>Worship</i> w/ guest pastor Rev. Linda Michel in the sanctuary
	10:45 AM <i>Godly Play</i> and <i>Connect</i>
	11:30 AM <i>Post-Worship Fellowship</i> : Coffee Hour in Vestry
Mon., Nov. 4	First day for new Church Administrator, Colleen King
Wed., Nov. 6	NOON <i>Mid-Week Connection</i> , Zoom (ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek)
	7:00 PM <i>Pub Theology</i> at 7 South Kitchen & Bottle
Thurs., Nov. 7	7:00 PM <i>Prayer Circle</i> via Zoom (ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle)
	7:30 PM Choir rehearsal
Sat., Nov. 9	10:00 AM <i>Christmas Pageant Rehearsal</i> in Vestry
Sunday, Nov. 10	9:00 AM <i>Adult Faith Group</i>
	*10:30 AM <i>Worship</i> w/ guest pastor Rev. Cindy in the sanctuary
	10:45 AM <i>Godly Play</i> and <i>Connect</i>
	11:30 AM <i>Post-Worship Fellowship</i> : Coffee Hour in Vestry

This Week

Thanks to Coffee Hour hosts Judy & Mark Dixon!

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.

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.

Post-Election Midweek Connection

Wed., Nov. 6, noon – 1 pm, Zoom (ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek)

This Wednesday's midweek connection will offer us a time to be together as we reflect on the 2024 presidential election. We may or may not know who the next president will be, but we'll ground ourselves in community and the presence of God.

Fundraiser Dinner for WV Workcamp

Deadline to Order, Wed. Nov. 6 via ucc.fccnatick.org/chefbob.

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 (or call the office) by Wed. Nov. 6th.

Generosity Campaign Ingathering

Sunday, November 10th during Worship

Next Sunday we *Imagine Together* what God is calling us to do and be, as we celebrate Generosity at FCCN! If you have not already submitted your sustainer form, please bring it to worship on the 10th. Blank sustainer forms will also be available that day. Any questions? Reach out to Rev. Cindy, or the Sustainer Team at stewardship@fccnatick.org

Coffee Hour Chat: Guatemala History/Partnership/Delegation

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

Jeff Clausen will discuss our 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.

On The Horizon

Thanksgiving Ingathering for Natick Service Council

Sunday, November 17 during worship

NSC is giving food gift cards to allow their clients more choice for their Thanksgiving meal. Please make a \$\$\$ donation if you can or bring a food donation for the mini food pantry.

Lunch Bunch

Thursday, November 21st at 12:30 pm in the Vestry

Bring a bag lunch. There will be drinks, snacks, and stories to share. All are welcome.

Walnut Hill School Concert

Thursday, Nov. 21, 6:30 pm

Walnut Hill students will put on a short concert in the Sanctuary. Free. The public is invited.

Metrowest Chamber Players

Friday, Nov. 22, 7:30 pm

Concert in the Sanctuary. Free. The public is invited.

Tracking Dinosaurs with DinoMan

Saturday, Nov 23, 2:00-2:45 pm in the FCC Natick sanctuary

Dinosaur tracks lead right to Natick! Follow DinoMan as he tracks dinosaurs through the mesozoic era. Discover how fossils are formed, learn about how dinosaurs hunted, what they ate and find out about the latest discoveries of dinosaurs in our midst.

- The tracks will lead us to life-sized dinosaurs up to 25 feet tall!
- Join us on this adventure with DinoMan as he educates and entertains us with his magic, merry mayhem and magnificent dinosaurs.
- This program is fun and informative for ages 4+ and is 45 minutes long.

Advance tickets required, \$4 per person, purchase via EventBrite (ucc.fccnatick.org/dinoman) or email fcc_events@fccnatick.org to reserve and pay by Venmo.

Advent Calendars, Holiday Books & Gifts Sale at FCC

Sat., Nov. 23 after DinoMan, Sun. Nov. 24 after worship (in the Vestry)

A selection of Advent Calendars, kids Christmas books, Holiday gifts, and other goodies from *Wellesley Books*. A portion of sales benefit the FCC general fund. Cash, check, Venmo accepted.

NOTE: The recent **Dinner/Performance Benefit** featuring Keith Larsen, Parker MacDonell, and SonLight, **raised \$2400** for the *Ramps for Neighbors* and *West Virginia Work Camp* missions. It takes a big team to cover all the details for an event like this, and heartfelt thanks go to all who helped to bring this occasion to life.

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.

Susan & Bob	The McClaren Family	Family & Friends of Mary Connolly
Angela	Lois and Pam Dotter	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 *Prayground* 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

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