

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.

"All of us need a purpose that is large enough to include God
and long enough to include eternity.
We need a purpose that makes life worth living
and gives meaning to our dying.
We need a purpose that calls forth our true stature
and elicits the hidden fire within us.
We are called to life with imagination and courage
because we have a purpose that endures past sunset".
- Mark Trotter

PRELUDE

Air

Gottlieb Muffat

Thomas Foster, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sara Hanna

One: We can do so much more as a community than on our own.

All: Imagine that!

One: We can build bridges, move mountains, change lives.

All: Imagine that!

One: We can make God present, here and now.

All: Imagine that!

One: But it will take all of us, together, as we –

All: Imagine that! Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN 481**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lift Every Voice

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,

Ring with the harmonies of liberty;

Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,

Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,

Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
God who has brought us thus far on the way;
God, who by glorious might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you;
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget you;
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

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** *Draw the Circle Wide*

Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.

CHOIR ANTHEM

The Potter's Hand by D. Zschech/arr. by Lloyd Larson
Senior Choir, Thomas Foster, director

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 130

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

For the Unknown

by Cole Arthur Riley

REFLECTION

The Watch

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

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

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Voluntary

William Herschel

GENEROSITY INGATHERING

Today we celebrate all the commitments folks have made to financially sustain the ministry of FCCN in the year ahead. The work we do together is more important than ever.

If you brought your sustainer form with you today, you are invited to add it to the offering plate (additional sustainer forms are available from the ushers).

If you already shared your sustainer commitment with the Generosity Team, thank you.

If you'd like to submit your sustainer commitment by email or online form, or if you have any thoughts or questions, contact the Generosity Team at stewardship@fccnatick.org.

Thank you for all you do to support the ministry of FCCN!

Calendar for Nov. 10 - 17, 2024

More at fccnatick.org/events

Sunday, Nov. 10 <i>Generosity Campaign Ingathering</i>	9:00 AM <i>Adult Faith Group</i> 10:30 AM <i>Worship w/ Rev. Cindy in the sanctuary</i> 10:45 AM <i>Godly Play and Connect</i> 11:30 AM <i>Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour in Vestry</i> 11:30 AM <i>Coffee Hour Chat: Guatemala History/Partnership Delegation</i>
Mon., Nov. 11	<i>Veteran's Day</i> (Church Office closed in observance of holiday).
Wed., Nov. 13	NOON <i>Mid-Week Connection, Zoom</i> (ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek)
Thurs., Nov. 14	7:00 PM <i>Prayer Circle</i> via Zoom (ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle) 7:30 PM <i>Choir rehearsal</i>
Sat., Nov. 16	10:00 AM <i>Christmas Pageant Rehearsal</i> in Vestry
Sunday, Nov. 17 <i>Thanksgiving Ingathering Service for Natick Service Council</i>	9:00 AM <i>Adult Faith Group</i> 10:30 AM <i>Worship w/ Rev. Cindy in the sanctuary</i> 10:45 AM <i>Godly Play and Connect</i> 11:30 AM <i>Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour in Vestry</i>

This Sunday

Thanks to Coffee Hour hosts Robin & Jeff Clausen!

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.

This Week

FCC Natick Community Hike

Sat., Nov. 16, at 2:00 pm at Elm Bank

Faith Formation is sponsoring an FCC Natick Community Hike on Saturday, November 16 at 2 at Elm Bank. This is a wooded trail that runs beside the Charles River. We will meet in the parking lot at the top of the hill. RSVP to Sarallyn so we know to wait for you! (Rain plan is for a game day in the vestry – so we can still get together in case of bad weather... bring your favorite board game to share.) All ages welcome!

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.

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 McLaren Family	Family & Friends of Noah Lynch
Angela	Lois and Pam Dotter	Family & Friends of Mary Connolly
Jacqui	Katie	Family & Friends of Tom Tannar
Joel	Char Hannon	Peg & Charlie Ostrander
Debbie Collins	Irene & Walter	The Levesque Family
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	Uncle Al & Aunt Deb	Ann and George Schmidt
Brian J.	Paul S.	Charles Gobron
Beverly Newell	Don & Heather C.	Susan Eck and family
Anna Hayes	Mary Cerreto	Richard Conway
John Sullivan	Connie Sullivan	Abigail Brewer
Ronnie	Phil Jennings	Doug & Barbara Shirley
Jane Hall	Faye Bishop	Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey
Jenna Hayes	Tommy Hannon	Alice Bridinger
Abby Robbins	Paul	Pat & Jane Conaway
Natalie Friend	Anne	Peace for the world and in everyone's day
Jayne Hayes	Molly	All immigrant families seeking justice
Myriam's Mom	Evelyn and Family	The people of Ukraine & Russia
Robbins Family	Mike McCormick	The people of Santa Maria Tzeja
Jackie Snizek	Malfrid Abrahamsen	Angels of Hope in Uganda
Mark Sullivan	Bob Brown	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

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