

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.

“God, the very good judge,
the one who loves my friends and neighbors
more deeply than I could ever imagine,
also loves me.”

-D. L. Mayfield from “*The Myth of the American Dream –
Reflections on Affluence, Autonomy, Safety, and Power.*”

PRELUDE

Andante

Caleb Simper

Thomas Foster, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sarabeth Guptill

One: Break down the barriers, the walls, the fences –

All: All are welcome here!

One: Every nationality, language, status –

All: All are welcome here!

One: Refugee, asylum-seeker, immigrant, humanitarian parolee –

All: All are welcome here!

One: Because this is God’s house –

All: All are welcome here!

*** OPENING HYMN 372**

Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race

Tallis’ Canon

Diverse in culture, nation, race, we come together by your grace.

God let us be a meeting ground where hope and healing love are found.

God, let us be a bridge of care connecting people everywhere.

Help us confront all fear and hate and lust for pow’r that separate.

When chasms widen, storms arise, O Holy Spirit, make us wise.

Let our resolve, like steel, be strong to stand with those who suffer wrong.

God, let us be a table spread with gifts of love and broken bread,

where all find welcome, grace attends, and enemies arise as friends.

CENTERING PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS*

O Love that is so clear and present in the life of Jesus
and his relationship with the oppressed,
Holy is your manifestation.

May your love spread so that we may
one day see what creation was created to be.

May you sustain us as we work for justice
and help us remember that the struggle is long
and the costs are often high.

May you inspire us to be patient as we encounter resistance
and remind us of the holiness of all people.

May you help us continue to raise up the voices of the oppressed
despite often strong opposition from the powerful.

For you will continue to overcome time and time again
until one day all people will realize your power
and you will have to overcome no more. 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

If You Search by Ruth Elaine Schram
Senior Choir, Thomas Foster, director

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:12-24

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

The Nightingale

by Kristin Hannah

REFLECTION

So That My House May Be Filled

Rev. Fran Graveson

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 520

Restless Weaver

Beach Spring

Restless Weaver, ever spinning threads of justice and shalom;
Dreaming patterns of creation where all creatures find a home;
Gathering up life's varied fibers every texture, every hue:
Grant us your creative vision, with us weave your world anew.

Where earth's fragile web is raveling help us mend each broken strand.
Bless our urgent, bold endeavors cleansing water, air, and land.
Through the Spirit's inspiration off'ring health where once was pain
Strengthen us to be the stewards of your world knit whole again.

When our violent lust for power ends in lives abused and torn,
From compassion's sturdy fabric fashion hope and trust reborn.
Where injustice rules as tyrant, give us courage, God, to dare
Live our dreams of transformation, make our lives incarnate prayer.

Restless Weaver, still conceiving new life now and yet to be
Binding all your vast creation in one living tapestry:
You have called us to be weavers, let your love guide all we do.
With your reign of peace our pattern, we will weave your world anew.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Pomposo

Caleb Simper

*Interpretation by Kate Dalton

Welcome Guest Preacher Fran Graveson! Fran is the Migrant Project Coordinator at Worcester Area Mission Society. In this position, she helps churches to collaborate with each other and with non-profits and government agencies in providing support and advocacy for people migrating to Central Massachusetts as refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants. This position was requested by several UCC churches feeling frustrated with their ability to help newly arriving families. Fran's role is relationship-building, education, and project management across multiple organizations. Fran holds a BS in Finance from Bryant University, working in IT project management for 25 years before earning her MDiv at Boston University School of Theology. She is currently authorized for ministry pending call in the Central Massachusetts Association of the SNEUCC.

Fran can be contacted at fgraveson@wamsworks.org.

Calendar for Nov. 17 - 23, 2024

More at fccnatick.org/events

- Sunday, Nov. 17**
*Thanksgiving
Ingathering Service
for Natick
Service Council*
- 9:00 AM *Adult Faith Group*
10:30 AM *Worship w/ guest preacher Rev. Fran Graveson
in the sanctuary*
10:45 AM *Godly Play and Connect*
11:30 AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour in Vestry*
- Wed., Nov. 20** NOON *Mid-Week Connection, Zoom (ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek)*
- Thurs., Nov. 21**
- 12:30 PM *Lunch Bunch in the Vestry*
7:00 PM *Prayer Circle via Zoom (ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle)*
7:30 PM *Choir rehearsal*
- Sat., Nov. 22** 10:00 AM *Christmas Pageant Rehearsal in Vestry*
- Sunday, Nov. 23**
- 9:00 AM *Adult Faith Group*
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*

Thanks to Coffee Hour hosts Lane & Kirsten McDonough!

This Sunday

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.

This Week

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, 7:00 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.

On the Horizon

FCC Holiday Book and Advent Calendar Fair

(Fundraiser for FCC) **Sun. Nov. 24 in the Vestry after worship**

Hosted by FCC Welcome Team and partnered with *Wellesley Books*, who donates 10% of the proceeds to FCC! Come view the assortment of advent calendars, stocking stuffer gifts, children's books, and stop for a sweet treat at the bake sale table; baked by FCC bakers.

Holiday Stroll and Natick Common Tree Lighting

Sat. Dec. 7, 3:00-5:00 pm

A Living Creche and music hosted by Daryl Robbins and friends to sing Christmas Carols.

Annual Bring A Friend Holiday Breakfast

Sun. Dec. 8, 9:30-10:30am

Join the FCC community for our 3rd Annual Bring-a-Friend Holiday Breakfast. There will be bagels, baked goods, fruit and yogurt, quiche and our now famous hot chocolate bar.

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

Colleen King, 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