

# 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.

“Everything we do, even the slightest thing we do,  
can have a ripple effect and repercussions that emanate.  
If you throw a pebble into the water on one side of the ocean,  
it can create a tidal wave on the other side.

-Victor Webster

**PRELUDE**

*Prelude No. 6 in B flat major*

Joseph Seeger

Thomas Foster, organ

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Wayne Szretter

One: In the midst of the world's demands

**All: God calls us beloved.**

One: When we doubt our very worth

**All: God calls us beloved.**

One: From our first breath to our last

**All: God calls us beloved.**

One: Repeating it until we believe it,

**All: God calls us beloved.**

**\* OPENING HYMN 327**

*I Was There to Hear your Borning Cry*

Waterlife

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;  
in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word I was there to cheer you on;  
you were raised to praise the living God, to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk to rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,  
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,  
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your morning cry, I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.

### **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**

*Simple Gifts*

John Coats, Jr.

Senior Choir, Thomas Foster, director

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 1:4-11

### **BAPTISM OF THEO CHENJUN KANEALII ZHU**

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

#### **Congregational Promise:**

Theo, we welcome you into the family of faith.  
God grant you strength for life's journey,  
joy in your faith,  
the freedom of love,  
and the hope of new life in Jesus Christ  
who makes us one.

## 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

*Next...*

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

### \* SENDING HYMN 374

*Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant*

Servant Song

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are all pilgrims on a journey, we are trav'lers on the road;  
we are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen the journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

## **BLESSING**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Gigue in A major*

Handel

**Baptism of Theo Chenjun Kanealii Zhu.** This morning we celebrate Theo's baptism, and promise to support him and his parents, Johnny and Marie Zhu. Marie came across FCCN one afternoon while driving past it and was immediately drawn to FCCN's open and affirming message. That is exactly how she would like to raise Theo, with kindness for his fellow human and the unwavering knowledge that he will never have to question God's love for him.

# Calendar for Nov. 24 – Dec. 1, 2024

More at [fccnatick.org/events](http://fccnatick.org/events)

- Sunday, Nov. 24**      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 *Holiday Book and Advent Calendar Fair* in Vestry
- Mon., Nov. 25**      4:30 PM FCCN hosts Open Door at Natick Elks
- Thurs., Nov. 28**      **Thanksgiving Day holiday**  
\*church office closed
- Fri., Nov., 29**      **Thanksgiving Day holiday observed**  
\*church office closed
- Sat., Nov., 30**      10:00 AM *Christmas Pageant Rehearsal* in the Vestry  
1:00 PM *Hanging of the Greens* in the sanctuary
- Sunday, Dec. 1**      **1<sup>st</sup> Day of Advent**  
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 Carolyn Williams & Gail Martin

## This Sunday

### 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.

## **This Week**

### **FCCN hosts Open Door**

**Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm at Natick Elks**

FCC Natick has signed up for Monday, November 25th to prepare a community meal. For more information on volunteering, contact Kirsten McDonough at: [kirstenmcd26a@gmail.com](mailto:kirstenmcd26a@gmail.com)

### **Christmas Pageant Rehearsal**

**Saturday, Nov. 30, 10:00 am in the Vestry**

### **Hanging of the Greens**

**Saturday, Nov. 30, 1:00-3:00pm in the sanctuary**

Come join the fun and help prepare the sanctuary for Advent. Contact Sarallyn to RSVP in case of schedule change.

## **On the Horizon**

### **Pub Theology**

**Wed. Dec. 4, 7:00 pm at 7 South Bottle & Kitchen**

Join us for fun conversation with folks from the Eliot Church. Topic: Intersection of family, holidays, controversy, and boundaries. Sign up link: <https://ucc.fccnatick.org/pubtheology>

### **Living Creche & Carols with Brass**

**Sat. Dec. 7, 3:00-4:30 pm**

### **Holiday Stroll and Natick Common Tree Lighting**

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

### **Annual Bring A Friend Holiday Breakfast**

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

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

### **Christmas Pageant**

**Sun. Dec. 8, 10:30 am in the sanctuary**

# 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](mailto: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
Dorothy Young		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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://ucc.fccnatick.org/worship-video)).

**Calendar, News, and Program information at [FCCnatick.org](http://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**

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**