

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.

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 19, 2025

“When our days become dreary with low-hovering clouds of despair,
and when our nights become darker than a thousand midnights,
let us remember that there is a creative force in this universe,
working to pull down the gigantic mountains of evil,
a power that is able to make a way out of no way
and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows.

Let us realize the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

PRELUDE

Uematsu

arr. Satou

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sue Mascioli

One: Are you looking for a place to belong?

All: Come and see it here!

One: Are you looking for a moment of peace?

All: Come and see it here!

One: Are you looking for connection and meaning?

All: Come and see it here!

One: Are you looking for a glimpse of God?

All: Come and see it here! Amen!

* OPENING HYMN No. 516

O Day of God, Draw Near

St Michael

O day of God, draw near in beauty and power,
come with your timeless judgment now to match our present hour.

Bring to our troubled minds, uncertain and afraid,
the quiet of a steadfast faith, calm of a call obeyed.

Bring justice to our land, that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come foundations that endure.

Bring to our world of strife your sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more and desolation cease.

O day of God, draw near as at creation's birth;
let there be light again, and let your judgment reign on earth.

CENTERING PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS*

O Life-Giver at the heart of all Being,
holy is your presence.
May your Empire of grace replace our own,
and your delight be fulfilled,
as this world becomes heaven.
Give us our sustenance, one breath at a time,
and make us completely forgiving of ourselves and others.
Save us from the weakness of our will,
and deliver us from the power of evil.
For all Being is yours; all power is yours; all glory is yours,
in this moment,
in eternity. 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 Jesus the Light of the World

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, Jesus, the light of the world;
Glory to the Christ-child bring, Jesus, the light of the world.

We will follow the light, beautiful light,
come where the dewdrops of mercy are bright;
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the light of the world.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 2:1-11

WORD FOR ALL AGES

MUSICAL RESPONSE

READING

A Holy Alchemy by Kim Mason

REFLECTION

Making Good Wine

MUSICAL RESPONSE

GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

ALLELUIA

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR SUBSTANCE

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

Tom Foster, organ

As the plates are passed from person to person, we share our financial gifts.
Even if we are not adding money to the place, 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 Hundred

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*** SENDING HYMN No. 517**

O God of Every Nation

Llangloffan

O God of every nation, of every race and land,
redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand.

Where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us, and heal our strife-torn world.

From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray!

Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign,
and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

12 Variations on "Ah, vous dirai-je, Maman"

Mozart

*by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Calendar for Jan. 19 – Jan. 26, 2025

More at fccnatick.org/events

- Sun., Jan 19** 9:00AM *Adult Faith Group*
10:30AM *Worship* with Rev. Cindy in the sanctuary
10:45AM *Godly Play and Connect*
11:30AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour* in Vestry
11:30AM *FCC Book Group*
5:00PM *Crosswalk Youth* in Vestry
- Mon., Jan 20** 9:00 AM 20th Annual Natick Community Celebration of the
Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Natick High School Auditorium
4:30 PM FCCN Hosting: Open Door Meal at the Natick Elks
Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
Church Office closed
- Wed., Jan. 22** NOON *Mid-Week Connection, Zoom* ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek
- Sat., Jan. 25** 4:00PM *FCCN Movie: Luca* in the Vestry:
- Sun., Jan. 26** 9:00AM *Adult Faith Group*
10:30AM *Worship* with Rev. Cindy in the sanctuary
11:30AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour* in Vestry
11:30AM Budget Info Session in Chat Room
5:00PM *Crosswalk Youth Group* in the Vestry

TODAY

Thanks to our Coffee Hour hosts: [Carolyn and Gail Cheever!](#)

FCCN Book Group

Sun., January 19, after worship at Amy's house.

Join us for this informal, friendly gathering with lunch and catching up and talking about our book pick: **The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World by Kimmerer** (non-fiction). For more info about directions to the meeting location and to RSVP, please contact the church office at admin@fccnatick.org

THIS WEEK

20th Annual Natick Community Celebration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

Mon., January 20, 9:00 AM @ Natick High School Auditorium

Program begins at 10am. Keynote by Jemele & Amy Adams.

FCCN to host Open Door Meal

Mon., January 20, 4:30 PM at the Natick Elks.

To help out with the meal, please go to sign up link at:

<https://ucc.fccnatick.org/opendoor>

FCCN Movie Screening: Luca

Sat., January 25, 4-6PM in the Vestry

Come join the fun; for kids and adults of all ages! Snacks will be provided.

NEXT SUNDAY

FCCN Budget Info Session

Sun., January 26, after worship, classroom

Join members of the Finance Team for a review of the proposed congregational budget, to be voted on at our congregational meeting on Feb. 2. We will be proposing a budget relying on a larger draw from the endowment than we would like. We see so many good signs of growth and progress at FCCN, but we are also aware that expenses are outpacing income. Your understanding and input are some of our most valuable resources! So come learn, ask questions, and be more prepared for annual meeting.

ON THE HORIZON

FCCN Annual Meeting

Sun., February 2 at Noon in the Vestry

Come for a delicious lunch and vote on the 2025 budget and other church business. RSVP to save your seat! We need a quorum of 50 members.

ON THE HORIZON (continued)

FCCN “*Let’s Play Games!*” Family Event

Sat., February 8, 2-4PM in the Vestry

Bring your own games or play someone else’s! Snacks will be provided.

City Reach Clothing Collection Drop-Off (DEADLINE EXTENDED)

***drop off donations in the Vestry by February 9**

Items needed: Socks, Underwear, Coats, Sweatshirts, T-shirts, Jeans, Bags, Backpacks, Blankets, Sleeping Bags, Toiletries, (No children’s clothes, please).

ONGOING thru FEB 9th

FCCN Souper Bowl 2025 Food Drive (friendly competition thru Feb. 9)

YouGiveGoods will deliver goods to “A Place to Turn” after the food drive.

Shop for products at <https://ucc.fccnatick.org/souperbowl2025>

Penguin Team: South of Rt 135. **Polar Bear Team:** North of Rt. 135.

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.

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

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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