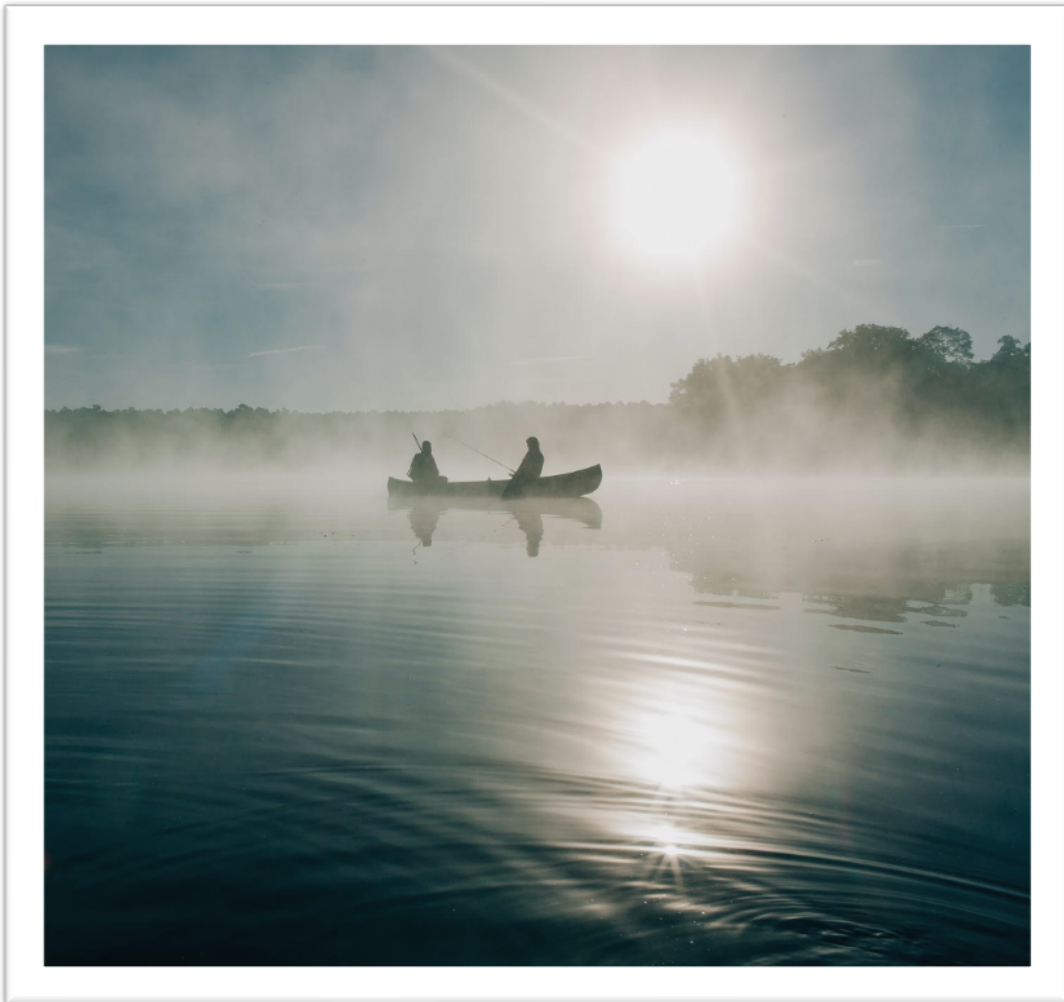


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK

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.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 9, 2025

“O God, Thy sea is so great and my boat is so small.”

- The Breton Fisherman's Prayer

PRELUDE

Lead the Way (Brian Blade)

Harmony Grove

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Carolyn Cheever

One: Come to us right where we are, God.

All: Call us into your way of life!

One: See all our gifts, and all our wounds.

All: Call us into your way of life!

One: Help us go deeper, knowing you are with us.

All: Call us into your way of life!

One: Take us with you, to change the world.

All: Call us into your way of life! Amen.

* OPENING HYMN

Wade In The Water

Spiritual

Refrain:

Wade in the water.

Wade in the water, children.

Wade in the water.

God's gonna trouble the water.

Well, who are these children all dressed in red?

God's a-gonna trouble the water.

Must be the children that Moses led

God's a-gonna trouble the water.

Refrain:

Jordan's water is chilly and cold.

God's gonna trouble the water.

It chills the body, but not the soul

God's gonna trouble the water.

Refrain:

If you get there before I do.
God's gonna trouble the water.
Tell all of my friends I'm coming too.
God's gonna trouble the water.

Refrain:

CENTERING PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS*

Our God, in heaven, holy is your name,
your reign come, your will done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
and help us forgive,
as we have been forgiven.
In the time of trial, lead us into light,
for yours is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

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** *Lift Every Voice* The Black National Anthem
James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamand Johnson

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 5:1-11

WORD FOR ALL AGES

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Fishers of All (Becky Buller)

Harmony Grove

REFLECTION

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Freedom (Toshi Reagan)

Harmony Grove

GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

Joys And Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Alleluia

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR SUBSTANCE

Offering Invitation

Offertory

Alan Clayton Matthews, Recorder

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** *Latin Jazz Doxology* Old Hundredth; arr: W. Sordillo

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** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*
(Traditional with additional lyrics by Willie Sordillo)

I'm gonna live so God can use me
Anytime and anywhere
I'm gonna live so God can use me
Anytime and anywhere

I'm gonna welcome all God's children
Anytime and anywhere
I'm gonna welcome all God's children
Anytime and anywhere

I'm gonna stand with all who need me
Anytime and anywhere
I'm gonna stand with all who need me
Anytime and anywhere

I'm gonna work for peace and justice
Anytime and anywhere
I'm gonna work for peace and justice
Anytime and anywhere

I'm gonna walk in Jesus' footsteps
Anytime and anywhere
I'm gonna walk in Jesus' footsteps
Anytime and anywhere

I'm gonna live so God can use me
Anytime and anywhere
I'm gonna live so God can use me
Anytime and anywhere

BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Love's in Need of Love Today* (Stevie Wonder) Harmony Grove

*Mark Miller

Calendar for Feb. 9 – Feb. 16, 2025

More at fccnatick.org/events

- Sun, Feb. 9**
9:00AM *Adult Faith Group*
10:30AM *Worship* with Rev. Cindy in the sanctuary
11:30AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour* in Vestry
1:00PM *Crosswalk Youth Group* in the Vestry
- Wed, Feb. 12**
NOON *Mid-Week Connection, Zoom* ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek
7:00PM *Pub Theology* in the Vestry
7:00PM *B&G Monthly Meeting* in the Parlor
- Thurs, Feb. 13**
7:00PM *Centering Prayer Circle* via Zoom
- Sat, Feb 15**
2:00PM *Family Event: Let's Play Games* in the Vestry
- Sun, Feb. 16**
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 *FCCN Book Group* in the Parlor
11:45AM *Coffee Hour Chat: Daniel's Table* in Chat Room #116

TODAY

This Sunday's coffee hour hosts are Carolyn Cheever & Gail Martin!

This morning, we welcome the musical stylings of Willie Sordillo, Zoe Krohne, Consuela Candelaria-Barry, and Ron Mahdi, aka Harmony Grove! Their mission is to entertain while presenting a vision which offers hope, joy, and possibility in an often troubled world.

FCCN Souper Bowl 2025 Food Drive (postponed until Feb. 16th)

Note: Due to technical issues with the YouGiveGoods website, the donation deadline has been extended to next Sunday, Feb 16.

Penguin Team: South of Rt 135. **Polar Bear Team:** North of Rt. 135. YouGiveGoods will deliver goods to "A Place to Turn" after the food drive.

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

Crosswalk Youth

Sun., February 9 at 1pm in the Vestry

TODAY

City Reach Clothing Collection Drop-Off

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

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

The Partners for Guatemala Education School Supply Drive

A drive is being hosted here at FCC! The PGE are looking for unused supplies such as pens, pencils, crayons/markers, paintbrushes, and erasers. A bin will be located in the vestry for donated materials until Sunday, February 9th.

NEXT SUNDAY

Pub Theology

Wed., Feb 12 at 7:00pm in the Vestry

Topic and location TBD. Informal spiritual conversation. BYOB. Snacks provided. All are welcome. Contact Sarallyn Keller for more info.

Coffee Hour Chat featuring Daniel's Table

Sun., February 16 at 11:45am in the Chat Room #116

Daniel's Table, a unique non-profit food security organization serving the wider Framingham area. They provide a variety of healthy food channels including, onsite food services, community freezers, grocery deliveries, and nutrition education, through community engagement and collaboration, hoping to ensure community members in need are supported. They will talk with us about their food programs, their wish list, and ways we can help out in-person and online.

FCCN Book Group:

The Conditions of Unconditional Love by Alexander McCall Smith

Sun., Feb 16 at 11:30am in the Parlor

Meet after worship for a light lunch and casual discussion. Please RSVP to Colleen in the church office at: admin@fccnatick.org

ON THE HORIZON

Terrific Turtles Live Animal Program

Sat., March 22, 1:00-2:00 pm

\$5.00 p.p. advance ticket sales only

What is the difference between a turtle and a tortoise? How big can a sea turtle grow? Are all turtle shells the same? Find out for yourself! Learn more about our wonderful shelled friends and meet some real turtles! For ages 6+

Presented by Joy Marzolf, The Joys of Nature.

Tickets must be purchased in advanced and may be purchased by:

•**Venmo, email fcc_events@firstchurchnatick.org**

•**Eventbrite tickets (fees apply)**

Installation of Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

Sun., March 23, 3pm

After a year and a half of ministry together, we will make everything official in March! Save the date of March 23, when Rev. Cindy will be installed as the pastor of FCC Natick. There will be special guests, music, and a reception to follow.

Professor Bugman presents the Anthropod Petting Zoo

Live Animal Program

TWO SHOWS!

Sat., April 5, 1:00-2:00pm & 2:15-3:15pm

\$5.00 p.p. advance ticket sales only

This is a show-and-tell-and-touch featuring live exotic arthropods from all 4 major groups including Crustaceans, like crabs; Insects; Myriapods, like centipedes; and Arachnids aka spiders. Children see, feel, hear, and even smell these arthropods as they learn about the incredible adaptations that help them survive their world and how they benefit us! For ages 6+.

Tickets must be purchased in advanced and may be purchased by:

•**Venmo, email fcc_events@firstchurchnatick.org**

•**Eventbrite tickets (fees apply)**

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

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Minister of Music

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Grace Seiche

Outreach Minister

Rev. Dr. John Weagraff

Financial Assistant

Cynthia Hamwey

FCCnatick.org