

# 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 16, 2025

What I'm looking for is a blessing not in disguise.  
- Jerome K. Jerome

## PRELUDE

Prelude in C Major  
Elaine Smith-Purcell, organ

Joseph Barnby

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

David Coulter

One: You made it! You're here!

**All: Beloved, you are a blessing.**

One: Through the computer and TV screens or into the sanctuary,  
you got here!

**All: Beloved, you are a blessing.**

One: No matter what you dealt with this past week,  
no matter what shape you're in this morning,  
you made it here today.

**All: Beloved, you are a blessing.**

One: It wouldn't be the same without you,  
we're so glad you are here.

**All: Beloved, you are a blessing. Amen!**

## \* OPENING HYMN

*Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

Festal Song

Arise, your light is come! the Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! fling wide the prison door  
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! all you in sorrow born,  
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! the mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

## CENTERING PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS\*

O Divine Parent, Giver of Life,  
whose presence is holiness,  
may our hearts be in you.  
Transform the world  
according to your delight,  
that all earth may become a holy place.  
Give us each moment that moment's breath.  
Give us your gift of forgiveness,  
that receiving it deeply we may give it freely.  
Transform our desires,  
and free us from evil powers;  
for all creation, and all power, and all beauty  
are yours, now and 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 *Lift Every Voice and Sing* The Black National Anthem

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 6:17-26*

## WORD FOR ALL AGES

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**

Elaine Purcell-Smith, piano

**READING**

*“A Blessing for When You Don’t Feel #Blessed”*

by Kate Bowler

**REFLECTION**

*How ‘Bout Now?*

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**

Elaine Purcell-Smith, piano

**GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY IN PRAYER**

**Joys And Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Alleluia**

**OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR SUBSTANCE**

**Offering Invitation**

**Offertory**

Elaine Purcell-Smith, 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 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**

*Blest Are They*

Blest Are They

Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God.  
Blest are they who dwell in sorrow; they shall be consoled.

(refrain)

Rejoice and be glad!  
Blessed are you, holy are you.  
Rejoice and be glad!  
Yours is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they, the meek and lowly; they shall inherit the earth.  
Blest are they who thirst and hunger; they shall have their fill.

(refrain)

Blest are they who show God's mercy; mercy shall be their reward.  
Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see their God!

(refrain)

Blest are they who search for peace; they are the children of God.  
Blest are they who suffer in faith; heaven's joy is theirs.

(refrain)

"Blest are you who suffer hatred, all for my sake", Jesus said.  
Rejoice, be glad, for yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see.

(refrain)

**BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

Elaine Purcell-Smith, organ

\*Steve Garnaas-Holmes

# Calendar for Feb. 16 – Feb. 23, 2025

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

- 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
- Mon., Feb. 17**  
*President's Day Holiday: Church Office closed*
- Wed, Feb. 19**  
NOON *Mid-Week Connection, Zoom* [ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek](https://ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek)  
7:00PM *FCC Coordinating Council* in the Vestry
- Thurs, Feb. 20**  
12:30PM *Lunch Bunch in the Vestry*  
7:00PM *Centering Prayer Circle* via Zoom
- Sun, Feb. 23**  
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 *Caring Coalition* held at Temple Israel, Natick

**TODAY**

**This Sunday's coffee hour hosts are the McDonough Family!**

## THANK YOU!

**Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Offering on Christmas Eve last year, the Outreach Team, on behalf of FCC Natick, donated \$2,809.47 to the MetroWest Free Medical Program.** For over 17 years, the MetroWest Free Medical Program has provided immediate health-related care and connections to individuals in our community who are underinsured and uninsured.

## Welcome: Interim Music Director

**The Music Ministry Transition Team is delighted to welcome Elaine Smith-Purcell as FCC Natick's Interim Music Director!** Folks were introduced to her on Feb. 2, when she filled in for one Sunday. We are so pleased to be able to work with her over the next few months. Her talent and skill at the keyboard and in choral leadership will provide stability for the choir and Sunday morning worship. We'll continue to welcome musical guests like Harmony Grove as well. Any questions, please see Rev. Cindy or Beth Canterbury.

## **TODAY**

### **FCCN Souper Bowl 2025 Food Drive Celebration**

**Sun., Feb 16 in the Vestry**

The drive will remain open through worship this Sunday, February 16, when you visit the updated Penguins vs. Polar Bears [YouGiveGoods site](#).

### **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](mailto:admin@fccnatick.org)

### **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.

## **NEXT WEEK**

### **Lunch Bunch**

**Thurs., February 20 at 12:30pm in the Vestry**

## **NEXT SUNDAY**

### **Caring Coalition**

**Sun., February 23 at 1:00pm at Temple Israel, Natick**

If interested in attending, contact Lane McDonough at (508) 241-2734.



## NEXT SUNDAY

### Next Sunday: February 23 ~ “Connected” The Musical

Join us for a special worship service next Sunday as we welcome the creator of [“Connected” the Musical](#), Kathryn Denney. “Connected” shares the journey of Gabriel, a young person coming to understand they are transgender, and sharing that with family and friends. We will hear songs from the musical shared by Kathryn and other talented artists. Join us for this uplifting service, and those in person are invited to a Coffee Chat with Kathryn and the singers. Thanks to Deede Bergeron for introducing us to Kathryn!

## 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](mailto:fcc_events@firstchurchnatick.org)**
- **Eventbrite tickets (fees apply)**

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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 *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

### Interim Music Director

Elaine Smith-Purcell  
music@fccnatick.org

### Sunday Nursery Staff

Grace Seiche

### Outreach Minister

Rev. Dr. John Weagraff

### Financial Assistant

Cynthia Hamwey

**FCCnatick.org**