

# 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.



## CENTERING PRAYER

### 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  
(James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond 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 9:28-36

### WORD FOR ALL AGES

### MUSICAL RESPONSE

This Little Light of Mine

Traditional

### REFLECTION

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

### ANTHEM

*Apocalypse Lullaby* (Annabelle Chvostek)

Harmony Grove

### COMMUNION

#### JOYS AND CONCERNS

#### INVITATION TO THE FEAST

#### TELLING THE STORY

#### COMMUNION 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 THE BREAD AND CUP**

Rabo de Nube (Silvio Rodriguez)

**THANKSGIVING 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 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. 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**

*When the Saints Go Marching In*

Traditional

Oh, when the saints go marching in  
Oh, when the saints go marching in  
Oh, Lord I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in

And on that Hallelujah Day  
Oh, on that Hallelujah Day  
Oh, Lord I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in

**BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

*Iko, Iko*

Traditional

# Calendar for Mar. 2 – Mar. 9, 2025

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

- Sun, Mar. 2**                    9:00AM *Adult Faith Group*  
                                     10:30AM *Worship with Rev. Cindy in the sanctuary*  
                                     11:30AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour in Vestry*  
                                     1:00-3:00PM *Mardi Gras Parade & Celebration, starting @ FCCN*
- Wed, Mar. 5**                    NOON *Mid-Week Connection, Zoom [ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek](https://ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek)*  
                                     6:30PM *Ash Wed Soup Dinner in the Vestry*  
                                     7:00PM *Ash Wed Service in the Sanctuary*
- Thurs, Mar. 6**                 7:00PM *Centering Prayer Circle via Zoom*
- Sun, Mar. 9**                    9:00AM *Adult Faith Group*  
                                     10:30AM *Worship with Rev. Cindy in the sanctuary*  
                                     11:30AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour in Vestry*  
                                     11:45AM *Coffee Chat: FCC Immigration Response in Chat Room 116*

**This Sunday's coffee hour hosts: Natasha & Tim McLaughlin**

## OUTREACH ACTIVITIES 2025 - FEBRUARY

This month, on behalf of the members and friends of FCC Natick, the Outreach Team donated \$1,352 to the United Church of Christ's (UCC) California Wildfire 2025 Fund. This money supports the UCC Global HOPE team, which supports the immediate needs and long-term recovery efforts of California communities impacted by the fires. The team works with local communities to ensure an equitable approach to their long-term recovery.

The Outreach Team donated \$500 from the Outreach & Mission budget. The remaining \$852 was raised during the special communion offering on February 2, 2025. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the special offering. Also, this month, members and friends of FCC Natick contributed \$4,179.53 as part of our Souper Bowl 2025 Food Drive to support A Place To Turn. These contributions to YouGiveGoods.com were used to purchase and deliver over 1,000 items to Natick's A Place To Turn food pantry over the past week.

**TOTAL 2025 MISSION & OUTREACH CONTRIBUTIONS: \$5,617.37.**

**TODAY, SUNDAY MAR. 2**

## WELCOME HARMONY GROVE

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

## **TODAY, SUNDAY MAR. 2**

### **MARDI GRAS PARADE AND CELEBRATION**

**Mar. 2, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**

**Procession begins at First Congregational Church**

**2 E Central Street**

**Ends at St. Paul Episcopal Church**

**39 E Central Street**

Carnival . . . Mardi Gras . . . Shrove Tuesday! Whatever we call it, it's an occasion to party before the solemn season of "Lent" begins. FCC and St. Paul's invite you to join them for the festivities! Whoever you are, whatever your tradition or beliefs, we all could use a chance to name our joys (our "alleluias"), make some noise while we parade from one church to the other, and eat a lot of pancakes. We will then bury our "alleluias" and take them back out on April 20th where they will be strung up in the trees at both churches to celebrate Easter; new life, joy, and love overcoming all else.

- Sign up to help with the pancake festival!
- Bring a brass instrument, drums, or noise makers to FCC at 1pm to learn "The Saints go Marching in"
- Join us for the parade/procession from FCC to St. Paul's at 1:45pm
- Come as you are! OR dress in all the colors and all the beads and frills!
- ALL ARE WELCOME!

## **INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK: MAR 1–MAR 4**

### **DIETRICH BONHOEFFER DOCUMENTARY**

**Saturday, March 1, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

**Christ Lutheran Church, 113 Union Street**

Join us as we learn together about one of the key figures in Lutheran social justice. Despite his untimely death at the age of 39 at the hands of the Nazis, German-born Dietrich Bonhoeffer has emerged as one of the greatest theologians of the 20th century. Educated in both Germany and at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, Bonhoeffer became one of the early voices of resistance to the rise of Adolf Hitler. He helped form one of the seminaries for the rebellious Confessing Church, a breakaway church whose members resisted National Socialism. This 2003 documentary by Martin Doblmeier, which includes some of the final interviews given by Bonhoeffer's contemporaries, is considered a definitive survey of the theologian's life and contribution to the church.

### **INTERFAITH IFTAR @ COMMON STREET SPIRITUAL CENTER**

**Mar. 3, 5:00-8:00PM, RSVP welcomed at email [info@commonstreet.org](mailto:info@commonstreet.org)**

## **INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK: MAR 1–MAR 4**

### **INTERFAITH MUSIC CELEBRATION @ HARTFORD STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Mar. 4, 7:00-900PM**

Everyone is invited to Hartford Street Presbyterian Church for a prayerful and joyful evening of music, in the traditions of the members of HSPC and Shekinah Igreja Presbiteriana.

## **NEXT WEEK**

### **ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP AND SERVICE (in person only)**

**March 5, 6:30 supper, 7 pm service**

We'll begin with a soup supper in the Vestry at 6:30, then move to the sanctuary for a service of music and prayer. We will share communion, and ashes will be offered to those who would like them. The themes of Ash Wednesday can feel so serious, as we think about the dust we come from and the dust to which we return. But gathered together in community, we help each other through.

### **COFFEE CHAT: FCCN IMMIGRATION RESPONSE**

**March 9, after worship, Chat Room**

Learn a bit about the current state of immigration in the US, and reflect on how this impacts religious communities, as well as how FCC Natick might respond.

## **ON THE HORIZON**

### **SOUL SABBATICAL 2025: THE AMEN EFFECT: A LENTEN JOURNEY TO MEND OUR BROKEN HEARTS & WORLD**

**Wednesdays: March 12 – April 9, 7:00-8:30pm**

During Lent this year we will explore the premise that sacred connection is the antidote to loneliness and alienation, and that turning to one another in compassion and curiosity is essential to our healing, both individually and collectively. We will dig into the human longing for connection – in relationships, in community, with God – that innate yearning to be known, to be seen, and to find our way, not alone, but together.

You are invited to join our small group gatherings on Wednesday evenings during Lent this year. We will meet 5 times with our small group and do daily devotional work on our own for 45 days to strengthen our individual understanding of these issues and to enrich the group discussions.

You will need a few resources for this Soul Sabbatical:

•The book *The Amen Effect* by Sharon Brous (*copyright 2024, Penguin Random House*) \*books available at Ten Trees Bookstore on Main Street



## ON THE HORIZON

- Soul Sabbatical Participant Guide (*available this Sunday, March 2; see Sarallyn*)
- A journal to write your reflections (optional)
- A candle, if you wish

Each week will have the same rhythm ~ We will use a variety of prayer practices to dig deeper into the idea that life is better when we travel together. That the connections we have with one another are essential to live and thrive as whole persons. We hope that you will consider joining us on this journey of discovery. Contact Sarallyn to register for the Soul Sabbatical.

Even if you are unable to join us for the small group gatherings, you can pick up a copy of the Lenten materials and participate in these spiritual practices at home.

### **COFFEE CHAT: DANIEL'S TABLE**

**March 16, after worship, Chat Room**

Learn a bit about the current state of immigration in the US, and reflect on how this impacts religious communities, as well as how FCC Natick might respond.

### **TERRIFIC TURTLES LIVE ANIMAL PROGRAM**

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

**\$5.00 p.p. advance ticket sales only**

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)**

### **INSTALLATION OF REV. CINDY WORTHINGTON-BERRY**

**Sun., March 23 at 3:00pm in the Sanctuary & Vestry**

### **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. 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  
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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**