

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 in Lent

April 6, 2025

It's not hard work to distance yourself from another person.
The real work is to draw them close and lift them up.
- Rabbi Nachman of Breslov,
in *The Amen Effect* by Sharon Brous

PRELUDE

Elaine Smith-Purcell, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Andrew Walther

One: Some days the world is so overwhelming.

All: Pour out your love on us, God of life!

One: The problems, the need, the conflicts are endless.

All: Pour out your love on us, God of life!

One: It can make us feel more dead than alive.

All: Pour out your love on us, God of life!

One: We come here to remember all you created us to be.

All: Pour out your love on us, God of life!

* OPENING HYMN 78

There Is Love All Around You

Love

There is love all around you, there is joy on the wind.
Stretch your hand to your brother, and new life will begin.
Stretch your hand to your sister, and new life will begin!

There is peace if we seek it, there is truth that will win.
There is God in our sister; God is love; let love in.
There is God in our brother; God is love; let love in!

There are tears all around you, there are souls without friend.
Feel the pain of another, and let love bloom again!
Feel the pain of another, and let love bloom again!

Like a stream growing stronger, love is shared friend to friend
and flows on to the Maker, love is life without end.
Love flows on to the Maker, love is life without end!

STATEMENT OF FAITH*

We believe the day is coming
when God's grace will change the human heart,
and we will live as one with every living thing.

We believe the day is coming
when Christ's compassion will fill the earth,
and no one will do harm, be hurt, or feel alone.

We believe the day is coming
when the Spirit's freedom will unbind our souls,
and we will live generous lives for each other
with a joy no circumstance can alter.

We believe the day is coming,
and we wait and work for it with steadfast hope,
for God has promised it, and God is faithful.

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** *Amen We Praise Your Name O God*

Amen, we praise your name, O God. (Sing amen!) (2X)

Amen, amen. Amen, amen.

Amen, we praise your name, O God.

CHOIR ANTHEM The Gift of Love arr. Hal H. Hopson/paraphrase: I Cor 13

SCRIPTURE READING John 12:1-8

WORD FOR ALL AGES

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.

READING

What I Didn't Know

by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

REFLECTION

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

MUSICAL RESPONSE**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**THANKSGIVING PRAYER**

RESPONSE *Nada te turbe* (Nothing can trouble)

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten,

Those who seek God shall never go wanting.

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten,

God alone fills us.

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**

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 380**

We Are Not Our Own

Yarnton

We are not our own. Earth Forms us, human leaves on nature's growing vine,
fruit of many generations, seeds of life divine.

We are not alone. Earth names us: past and present, peoples near and far,
family and friends and strangers show us who we are.

Through a human life God finds us; dying living, love is fully known,
and in bread and wine reminds us: we are not alone.

Therefore let us make thanksgiving, and with justice, willing and aware,
give to earth and all things living, liturgies of care.

And if love's encounters lead us on a way uncertain and unknown,
all the saints with prayer surround us: we are not alone.

Let us be a house of welcome, living stone upholding living stone,
gladly showing all our neighbors we are not alone!

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Elaine Smith-Purcell, organ

Calendar for Apr. 6 – Apr. 13, 2025

More at fccnatick.org/events

- Sun, Apr. 6**
9:00AM *Adult Faith Group*
10:30AM *Worship* in the sanctuary
11:30AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour* in Vestry
12:00PM *Godly Play Training* in LS Classroom
- Wed, Apr. 9**
NOON *Mid-Week Connection*, Zoom ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek
7:00PM *Soul Sabbatical 2025: The Amen Effect* in the Parlor
7:00PM *Building & Grounds Mtg* in the Parlor or via Zoom
- Thurs, Apr. 10**
7:00PM *Centering Prayer Circle* via Zoom
- Sun, Apr. 13**
PALM SUNDAY
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 *Mini-Pantry Parade*
12:30PM *West Virginia Work Camp Info Session* in the Chat Rm #116

Thanks to Coffee Hour hosts: The Hanna Family!

TODAY, SUNDAY, APRIL 6

HELP BUILD MOUNT PASTA! - COLLECTION FOR ENTIRE MONTH OF APRIL.

Help us build a mountain of 1,000 pasta boxes in the sanctuary. All pastas are welcome (*maybe not lasagna*). On May 1, we'll caravan our nearly half-ton of pasta to **A Place to Turn!**

FCCN YARD SALE - Drop your *Merch at the Church* - *See schedule below:

- **Sundays April 6th, 13th, and 27th**, before or after church
- **April Vacation Week: April 19th - 26th** *Drop Off: by appointment
- **Wed April 30th**, 6 - 8 pm, • **Thurs May 1st**, 6 - 8 pm, • **Fri May 2nd** 6 - 8 pm

Contact: Gail Martin at 617-283-9180 or Kirsten McDonough at 508-241-2735

ACHIEVE PROGRAM FUNDRAISER - COLLECTION ENDS TODAY: SUN., APRIL 6

Everyone is invited to put their bottles & cans in a designated container in the Vestry lobby.

FCCN BOOK GROUP: TODAY, Sunday, April 6, after worship

Book: *29 Gifts: How a Month of Giving Can Change Your Life* by Cami Walker

Light lunch provided and discussion of our book led by Kirsten McDonough.

GODLY PLAY TRAINING: TODAY, Sun., Apr 6, 12:00pm Noon, LS Classroom

All are welcome to attend!

TODAY, SUNDAY, APRIL 6

2025 EASTER LILIES: ORDERS/DEDICATIONS BEGINS TODAY, SUN., APR 6

In person dedications and donations for lilies begins **this Sunday, April 6th & next Sunday, April 13th**, after worship (in the Narthex). You may also stop by the office during the week, email the office at admin@fccnatick.org or call the church office at 508-653-0971. Dedications & donations deadline: Tuesday, April 15th to be printed in the Easter bulletin.

THIS WEEK

SOUL SABBATICAL 2025: THE AMEN EFFECT:

FINAL WEEK: This Wednesday, April 9th, 7:00-8:30pm

HOLY WEEK 2025

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, April 13, 10:30am, onsite and online

We will wave palms and shout Hosanna! The Palm Sunday banners will parade through our sanctuary. Kids will decorate eggs for Chaplains on the Way, a ministry with unhoused folks in Waltham; see Sarallyn if you can provide some hardboiled eggs (please tell her in advance to make sure no precious eggs are wasted).

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 17, 6:30pm Supper in person, 7:15pm Worship onsite and online

In this Holy Week, we gather to face the pain in Jesus' story, in our world, and in our own lives. We begin with a potluck supper. Then we will share the stories of Jesus' last days and hours and hear his commandment that we love one another. We will offer Communion, sing hymns, and hear music from the choir. If you are able, please bring a non-perishable contribution for the Common Good Mini-Pantry.

EASTER VIGIL

Saturday, April 19, 7pm, through Sunday, April 20, 7am, onsite

The Easter Vigil will take place in the Sanctuary Saturday night into Easter morning. Sign up in the vestry to reserve your time slot. **Signup closes Thursday night, April 17, 2025.** All are invited and encouraged to take part in this spiritual experience. Contact members of the Worship Team if you have any questions: David Coulter (coulterdl@aol.com), Jeannine Keedy (jkeedy@rcn.com), or Ric Ripley (FWR334@yahoo.com), or the church office (admin@FCCNatick.org).

EASTER WORSHIP

Sunday, April 20, 10:30am, onsite and online

All ages join together for worship full of celebration and joy! Following worship, we'll hold our annual Easter egg hunt outside, sponsored by Faith Formation! Teens who would like to help with the egg hunt, see Sarallyn.

NEXT SUNDAY

WEST VIRGINIA WORK CAMP 2025 ~ FINAL INFORMATION SESSION

Sun., Apr.13th, 12:30pm, Chat Rm #116

If you've thought about going and want to know more about the trip, this is your chance to ask questions and learn about the Work Camp. **Registrations are due by May 1st.** We will be planning our transportation and lodging needs for the trip. If you can't attend the meeting but are interested in the trip, please contact **Bob Seiche** at: bobSeiche@gmail.com or **Sarallyn Keller** sarallyn@fccnatick.org

WEST VIRGINIA WORK CAMP MEAT SHOOT FUNDRAISER

Sunday, April 13th

The Framingham Eagles will be the location host for our WV Work Camp Fundraiser. The proceeds will be benefitting the Cabell-Lincoln Work Camp, the mission organization FCCN supports in Huntington, WV that help to make homes "Warm, Safe and Dry". If someone has a donation raffle prize item, they can either bring it to the event OR give it to Bob Seiche or Jeff Crosby. Please contact Bob Seiche at robert.seiche@siemens-healthineers.com for any questions or for additional information.

ON THE HORIZON

FCCN YARD SALE ~ SAVE THE DATE

Sat., May 3, 9:00am-2:00pm

Come check out your next treasure! Household & kitchen, jewelry, framed art, musical instruments, toys, games & puzzles, children's gear, current sports equipment, bicycles & electronics, books/DVD's/records, small furniture items, collectibles/vintage items.

WELCOME LUNCH: SAVE THE DATE!

May 18, after Worship ~ Chat Room #116

"New" folks at FCC Natick are invited to lunch on Sunday, May 18th! Especially for folks who have been attending FCCN for a year or less, this is a great chance to meet folks, share thoughts, and get questions answered. We'll provide the food, the fun, and childcare! Please contact Rev. Cindy to RSVP or with any questions at revcindyfccn@gmail.com

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

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 ljchampion17@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: please 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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