

# 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 of Easter

April 27, 2025

There lives more faith in honest doubt, believe me,  
than in half the creeds.  
- *Alfred Lord Tennyson*

## PRELUDE

Elaine Smith-Purcell, organ

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Lane McDonough

One: The sun has risen - and will rise tomorrow.

**All: We will believe!**

One: Spring has come - and will come next year.

**All: We will believe!**

One: Love overcomes fear - and will overcome again.

**All: We will believe!**

One: God is with us, no matter what.

**All: We will believe!**

One: We will remind each other, and we will believe. Amen.

## \* **OPENING HYMN 426**     *I've Got Peace Like a River*     African-American Spiritual

I've got peace like a river,

I've got peace like a river,

I've got peace like a river, in-a my soul.

(Repeat)

I've got joy like a fountain,

I've got joy like a fountain,

I've got joy like a fountain, in-a my soul.

(Repeat)

I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean, in-a my soul.  
(Repeat)

I've got faith like an anchor,  
I've got faith like an anchor,  
I've got faith like an anchor, in-a my soul.  
(Repeat)

## **CENTERING PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS\***

Beloved, Center and Source of our living,  
whose presence is heaven,  
your holy love fills Creation.  
May your delight be fulfilled  
and your Realm unfold among us,  
the visible world blossoming out of the unseen.  
We turn to you alone for our sustenance,  
the bread of life each day.  
Set us free from our failings,  
as we set free all who have failed us  
Lead us beyond our desires  
and save us from the grip of evil.  
For the world is within you;  
all power is from you,  
and all glory is about you,  
in eternity, which is in the present moment.  
Amen.

\*Jesus prayer paraphrase by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

## **\* 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 watching from home!*

One: God's peace be with you.

**All: And also with you!**

**\* SONG OF CELEBRATION (NCH Hymn 236)**     *Halle, Halle, Halleluja*

Halle, Halle Halle-luja.

Halle, Halle Halle-luja.

Halle, Halle Halle-luja.

Halleluja. Halleluja.

**ANTHEM SOLO**

*God is my Shepherd, Psalm 23*

Antonin Dvořák

Beth Canterbury, soloist; Elaine Smith-Purcell, organ

**SCRIPTURE**

John 20:19-29

**BAPTISM OF ZOE LYNN YU DELUDE**

**Congregational Promise:**

Zoe, we welcome you into the family of faith.

God grant you strength for life's journey,

joy in your faith,

the freedom of love,

and the hope of new life in Jesus Christ

who makes us one.

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**

**REFLECTION**

Doubting Thomas

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**

**GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY IN PRAYER**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS**

Creator 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.

And 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.

**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**

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 520**

*Restless Weaver*

Beach Spring

Restless Weaver, ever spinning threads of justice and shalom;  
Dreaming patterns of creation where all creatures find a home;  
Gathering up life's varied fibers every texture, every hue:  
Grant us your creative vision. With us weave your world anew.

Where earth's fragile web is raveling help us mend each broken strand.  
Bless our urgent, bold endeavors cleansing water, air, and land.  
Through the Spirit's inspiration off'ring health where once was pain  
Strengthen us to be the stewards of your world knit whole again.

When our violent lust for power ends in lives abused and torn,  
From compassion's sturdy fabric fashion hope and trust reborn.  
Where injustice rules as tyrant, give us courage, God, to dare  
Live our dreams of transformation. Make our lives incarnate prayer.

Restless Weaver, still conceiving new life now and yet to be  
Binding all your vast creation in one living tapestry:  
You have called us to be weavers. Let your love guide all we do.  
With your reign of peace our pattern, we will weave your world anew.

## **BLESSING**

## **POSTLUDE**

Elaine Smith-Purcell, organ

### **Baptism of Zoe Lynn Yu Delude**

This morning we celebrate Zoe's baptism, and promise to support her and her parents, Wei Yu and Nick Delude. Wei is an electrical engineer, originally from China. Nick is a finance director; his entire family is from MA and Nick grew up in the congregational church. They were married in 2014 in England while they were both studying there. They write, "We moved to Natick in 2016 and had our first child Alana in 2021 through surrogacy, she was later baptized in FCCN in summer 2022. We hope Alana and Zoe will grow up in a community that shares the same values of loving each other and caring about each other. We also hope they will grow up feeling loved and supported not only by us, but also by the community and God."

# Calendar for Apr. 27 – May. 4, 2025

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

<b>Sun, Apr. 27</b>	9:00AM <i>Adult Faith Group</i> 10:30AM <i>Worship</i> with Rev. Cindy in the sanctuary 11:30AM <i>Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour</i> in Vestry
<b>Mon, Apr. 28</b>	7:00PM <i>Knitting Circle</i> in the Parlor
<b>Wed, Apr. 30</b>	NOON <i>Mid-Week Connection</i> , Zoom <a href="https://ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek">ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek</a>
<b>Thurs, May 1</b>	7:00PM <i>Centering Prayer</i> via Zoom
<b>Sat, May 3</b>	9:00AM <i>FCCN Yard Sale</i> in the FCCN front yard
<b>Sun, May 4</b>	9:00AM <i>Adult Faith Group</i> 10:30AM <i>Worship</i> with Rev. Cindy in the sanctuary 11:30AM <i>Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour</i> in Vestry

Thanks to Coffee Hour hosts: The McDonough Family!

## TODAY, SUNDAY, APRIL 27

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

Help us build a mountain of 1,000 pasta boxes in the sanctuary. All pastas are welcome (*except lasagna*). On May 1, we'll caravan our nearly half-ton of pasta to **A Place to Turn!** which will help APTT meet its monthly demand for pasta. You can bring boxes to the sanctuary and add to the Mt. Pasta peak, or leave them on the cart next to the elevator on the first floor. Thank you!

### DROP YOUR *MERCH AT THE CHURCH!* (for the FCCN yard sale)

**Schedule:** \*Sun., 4/27, before or after church.

Drop Off by appointment: \*Wed 4/30, 6-8pm, \*Thurs, 5/1, 6-8pm, \*Fri, 5/2, 6-8pm.

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

**We need volunteers. If you can help, please go to SignUp Genius online.**

### INTERFAITH PANEL ON ISRAEL/PALESTINE - Sun., April 27<sup>th</sup>

**2:00-4:00pm - held at Christ Lutheran Church, 113 Union St., Natick**

All are invited to an interfaith panel on the book *The Lemon Tree*, which reflects on the experience of Arab and Jewish families through one home.



## **TODAY, SUNDAY, APRIL 27 continued**

For the last year or so, I've been talking with a member of the Islamic Center of Boston in Wayland, the amazing Shaheen Akhtar. Shaheen has a passion for interfaith work, and bringing people together for challenging conversations. Recently she's been organizing interfaith panels in towns around the state to discuss the conflict and violence in Israel and Palestine through the lens of the book *The Lemon Tree*.

**Christ Lutheran has agreed to host one of these panels, and we are co-sponsors.** I've watched a number of these panels online, and they are emotional and powerful as well as challenging. I encourage you to attend to hear first-hand experiences and be part of this community reflection.

You don't need to read the book, but copies are available for \$16. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions ([revcindyfccn@gmail.com](mailto:revcindyfccn@gmail.com)).

*-Rev. Cindy*

## **NEXT WEEK**

**KNITTING CIRCLE – Mon., April 28<sup>th</sup> – 7:00pm in the Parlor**

**FCCN YARD SALE - Sat., May 3rd, 9:00am-2:00pm in the FCCN front yard**

## **ON THE HORIZON**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:prayers@fccnatick.org).

Eric Carricker	The McLaren Family	Steve & Deb Evers
Chris Stefanatos	Lois and Pam Dotter	Family & friends of Richrd Farrar
Kenny Hoffman	Katie	Friends & Family of Tommy Zack
Susan & Bob	Char Hannon	Friends & Family of Kathleen Grant
Angela	Irene & Walter	Amy Appleyard and family, <i>(following the loss of her father, Dennis)</i>
Joel	Charles	Family & friends of Richard Conway
Debbie Collins	Shirley Lilly	Family & friends of Alice Bridinger
Jeanna B.	Aunt Gwen	The family & friends of Wayne Smith <i>(Rev. Cindy's uncle)</i>
Aunt Kathy	Robin and Laura	Tammy, daughter Ashley & Veronica
Eric	Uncle Al & Aunt Deb	The family & friends of Rev. John Lilly
Sarah Kazim	Paul S.	Declan and his parents Beth & Kenny
Joan Person	Don & Heather C.	The family & friends of Barbara Shirley
Brian J.	Mary Cerreto	Myriam's brother Alex
Beverly Newell	Connie Sullivan	Mary Anderson
Anna Hayes	Phil Jennings	Peg & Charlie Ostrander
John Sullivan	Faye Bishop	Frankie Notarbartolo
Ronnie	Tommy Hannon	Melissa & Tiffany Wallace
Jane Hall	Paul	Ann & George Schmidt
Jenna Hayes	Anne	Charles Gobron
Abby Robbins	Molly	Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey
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	Doug Shirley	Angels of Hope in Uganda
Jennie Lynch	Diane	Overdose victims
	Madhu Gupta	

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](mailto: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](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: please 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  
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508-653-0971

### Director of Spiritual Vitality and Congregational Care

Saralyn Keller  
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### Church Office

Colleen King, Office Administrator  
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### Interim Music Director

Elaine Smith-Purcell  
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### Sunday Nursery Staff

Grace Seiche

### Outreach Minister

Rev. Dr. John Weagraff

### Financial Assistant

Cynthia Hamwey

**FCCnatick.org**