

# 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.

# Easter Sunday

April 20, 2025

Goodness is stronger than evil;  
love is stronger than hate;  
light is stronger than darkness;  
life is stronger than death.  
- Desmond Tutu

## PRELUDE

*Easter Proclamation Choir*  
with Daryl Robbins, trumpet ; Elaine Smith-Purcell, organ

Antonio Vivaldi, arr. Tom Fettke

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

## CALL TO WORSHIP\*

Janice Gilkes

One: When we are all despairing,  
when we see no way ahead,  
and hope has gone away...

**All: Roll back the stone! Alleluia!**

One: Because we're coming with the women,  
because we're ready for the earth to move,  
and the angel's on her way...

**All: Roll back the stone! Alleluia!**

One: As we see the light of dawn,  
as we hear God call us toward new life,  
and we move to join the dance of joy...

**All: Roll back the stone! Alleluia! Amen.**

\*by Janet Morley

## \* OPENING HYMN 205

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

Easter Hymn

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing ye heavens and earth reply: Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Dying once, he all doth save, Alleluia!  
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!  
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!  
Soar we now where Christ is led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of Earth and heaven! Alleluia!  
Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!  
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!  
Hail the resurrection thou! Alleluia!

**EASTER STATEMENT OF FAITH** by Roddy Hamilton

Janice Gilkes

**\* 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.

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *Christ Is Risen! Christ Is Alive!* by Lloyd Larson & Brian Wren  
Senior Choir; Elaine Smith-Purcell, director

**SCRIPTURE** Mark 16:1-8

**WORD FOR ALL AGES**

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**

**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**

*Offertory*

John Ness Beck

**\* 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 493**

*In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

Promise

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see....

There's a song in every silence, seeking work and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

## BLESSING

*Just before the blessing, children are called up for the Easter Egg Hunt.  
Pre-K to Grade 1 will do their hunt in the play yard. Grades 2 and above hunt on the  
front lawn. All return their eggs to the Vestry to exchange them for a goodie bag.*

## POSTLUDE

*Trumpet Tune in D Major*

by David Johnson

## CELEBRATING EASTER MUSIC

Special thanks to all who bring their musical gifts to worship today, including  
Interim Music Director Elaine Smith-Purcell, the choir, and Daryl Robbins on trumpet.

### EASTER OFFERING

Today we have a special offering, divided between  
the **UCC One Great Hour of Sharing** and  
the **Jewish Family Services of Metrowest**.

The UCC One Great Hour of Sharing theme this year is  
“*Be the Light*.” The program provides support to refugees  
in disaster areas internationally. The Jewish Family  
Services of Metrowest is a leading resource in immigrant  
and resettlement programs, as well as services for  
struggling families and elders. Please use the Special  
Offering envelope during this Easter service to support  
these worthy organizations.

# Calendar for Apr. 20 – Apr. 27, 2025

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

**Sun, Apr. 20**

## EASTER SUNDAY

9:00AM *Adult Faith Group*  
10:30AM *Worship with Rev. Cindy in the sanctuary*  
11:30AM *Easter Egg Hunt*  
11:45AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour in Vestry*

**Mon, Apr. 21**

*Patriot's Day Holiday; church office closed*  
*129<sup>th</sup> Boston Marathon*

**Wed, Apr. 23**

NOON *Mid-Week Connection, Zoom [ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek](https://ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek)*

**Thurs, Apr. 24**

12:30PM *Lunch Bunch in the Vestry*  
7:00PM *Outreach Team via Zoom*  
7:00PM *Centering Prayer via Zoom*

**Sun, Apr. 27**

9:00AM *Adult Faith Group*  
10:30AM *Worship with Rev. Cindy in the sanctuary*  
11:30AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour in Vestry*

## TODAY, SUNDAY, APRIL 20

### 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!**

**FCCN YARD SALE - Drop your Merch at the Church - Schedule:** \*Next Sun., 4/27, before or after church, \*April Vacation Week: 4/19-4/26 ~ Drop Off: by appointment. Also: \*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.**

## ON THE HORIZON

### FCCN YARD SALE ~ SAVE THE DATE

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

### 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)



# Easter Lily

*Prayers of gratitude and celebration for the promise of new beginnings coming through in spite of darkness.* Wayne & Jeanette Szretter

*Our thanks for being blessed by the FCC community.* Steve & Deb Evers

*Prayers for new beginnings and healing our wounded hearts.* Mindy & Peter Hoge

*Prayers and blessings for the people we've lost this year and welcoming us into this community.* Tiffany & Andrew Walther

*Prayers of hope for people in our country and our world.* Lisa Fusaro & Maura Shaughnessy

*Prayers for anyone in need.* Abiah Troutman

*In memory of my loving and caring husband and father.* Linda MacFarlane

*In loving memory of Susan & Richard Conway.* The Levesque Family

*In loving memory of Jay Bishop.* The Levesque Family

*In honor of Faye Bishop.* The Levesque Family

*In loving memory of John Oakes.* The Oakes Family

*We believe that 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.* Gail Martin & Carolyn Williams



# Rejoice,





# Dedications

*In loving memory of Laura's parents, Barbara & Olin Hayes.* Laura & Charles Gobron

*Remembering our son, Chris, with love.* Laura & Charles Gobron

*For friends and family – past, present and future.* The Seiche Family

*Rejoice! Happy Easter!* The Foley Family

*In loving memory of Robert A. Guptill, Sr. & Headlay Bishop* The Guptill-Bishop Family

*In loving memory of Fred & Elizabeth McCain.* The Guptill-Bishop Family

*In loving memory of Richard Hayes, Sr. and Richard Jr.  
Wish you were here.* Anna Hayes

*In memory of Ron DeVincent and other loved ones.* Brightie DeVincent & Family

*Happy Easter!* Sharon & Ric

*In memory of loved ones.* Hank & June Szretter

*Alleluia!* The Hanna Family

# He is risen!

# 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,
Joel	Charles	<i>(following the loss of her father, Dennis)</i>
Debbie Collins	Shirley Lilly	Family & friends of Richard Conway
Jeanna B.	Aunt Gwen	Family & friends of Alice Bridinger
Aunt Kathy	Robin and Laura	The family & friends of Wayne Smith
Eric	Uncle Al & Aunt Deb	<i>(Rev. Cindy's uncle)</i>
Sarah Kazim	Paul S.	Tammy, daughter Ashley & Veronica
Joan Person	Don & Heather C.	The family & friends of Rev. John Lilly
Brian J.	Mary Cerreto	Declan and his parents Beth & Kenny
Beverly Newell	Connie Sullivan	The family & friends of Barbara Shirley
Anna Hayes	Phil Jennings	Myriam's brother Alex
John Sullivan	Faye Bishop	Mary Anderson
Ronnie	Tommy Hannon	Peg & Charlie Ostrander
Jane Hall	Paul	Frankie Notarbartolo
Jenna Hayes	Anne	Melissa & Tiffany Wallace
Abby Robbins	Molly	Ann & George Schmidt
Natalie Friend	Evelyn and Family	Charles Gobron
Jayne Hayes	Mike McCormick	Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey
Myriam's Mom	Malfrid Abrahamsen	Pat & Jane Conaway
Robbins Family	Bob Brown	Peace for the world and in everyone's day
Jackie Snizek	Tanya	All immigrant families seeking justice
Dorothy Young	Doug Shirley	The people of Ukraine & Russia
Jennie Lynch	Diane	The people of Santa Maria Tzeja
	Madhu Gupta	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 [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  
revcindyfccn@gmail.com  
508-653-0971

### Director of Spiritual Vitality and Congregational Care

Saralyn Keller  
saralyn@fccnatick.org  
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### 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**