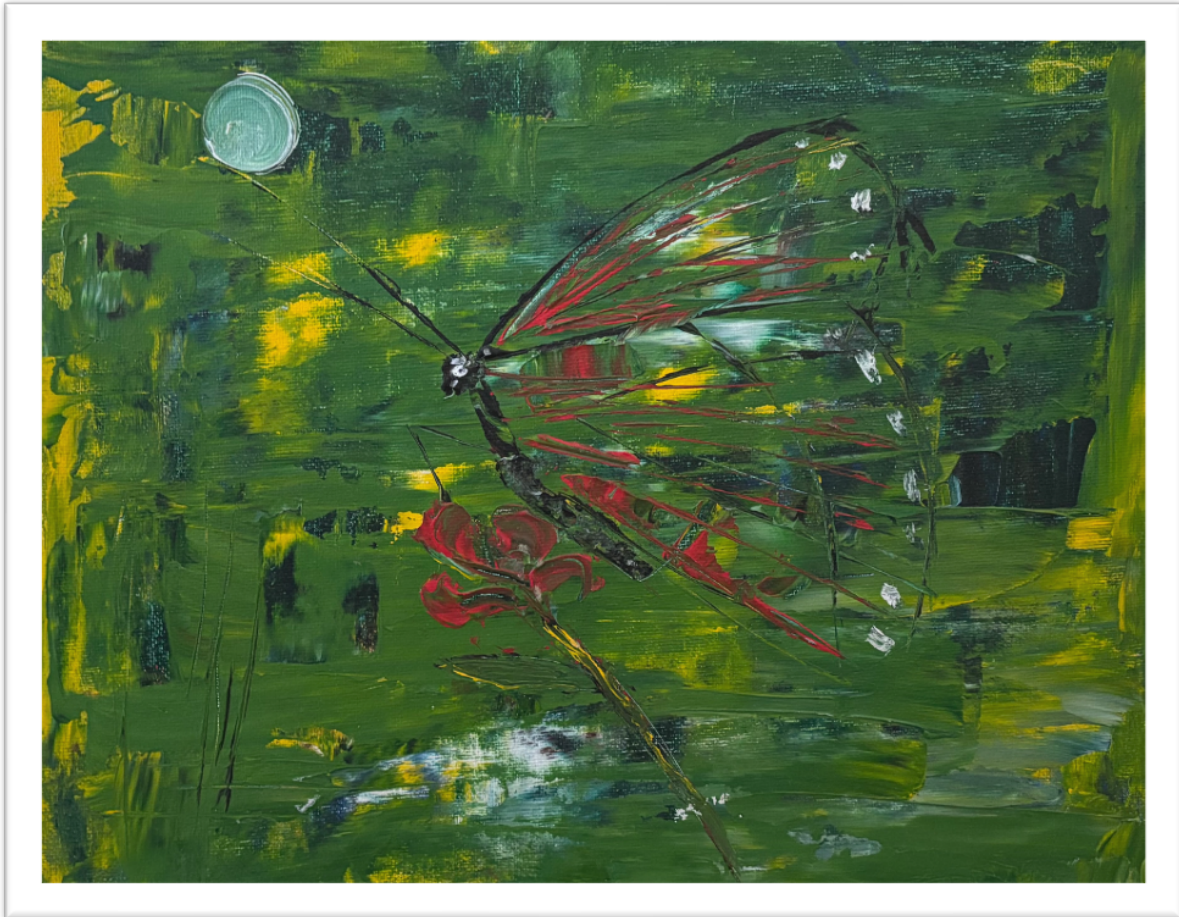


FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK

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.

Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 2025

I wish the world was kinder.
A little softer on those who are healing, grieving, waiting,
or just starting to understand how lonely the road can be.
May we greet one another with the same kind of light
that we ourselves are searching for.
Just because we look strong
doesn't mean we feel strong –
we just carry the heavy things well.
~ 'Kinder' by Ullie-Kaye

PRELUDE

Voluntary in C Major
Elaine Smith-Purcell, organ

Henry Purcell

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Carolyn Williams

One: God calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves;

All: the one who is weak and the one who is strong,

One: the one who is happy and the one who is sad,

All: the one who couldn't manage to get dressed this morning,

One: the one who got here but is crumbling inside,

All: the one whom we understand and the one we don't,

One: the one who is embraced and the one who is shunned,

All: the one who is like us and the one who is different.

One: Come, let us worship together!

All: We come, embraced by God's love!

* OPENING HYMN 314

As We Gather at Your Table

Beach Spring

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

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 watching from home!*

One: God's peace be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

*** SONG OF CELEBRATION**

Sanctuary

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
And with thanksgiving
I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You

CHOIR ANTHEM

Blessings

Mark Burrows

Senior Choir, Elaine Smith-Purcell, director

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 6

by Nan C. Merrill

WORD FOR ALL AGES

MUSICAL RESPONSE

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

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.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

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**

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 444**

Lord of All Hopefulness

Slane

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Invocation to the Trinity

arr. by Jane Carrier

*UCC Mental Health Network, adapted

Calendar for May. 4 – May. 11, 2025

More at fccnatick.org/events

Sun, May 4	9:00AM	<i>Adult Faith Group</i>
	10:30AM	<i>Worship with Rev. Cindy in the sanctuary</i>
	11:30AM	<i>Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour in Vestry</i>
Tues, May 6	7:00PM	<i>ONA Meeting in the Vestry</i>
	7:00PM	<i>Faith Formation Meeting in the Chat Rm</i>
Wed, May 7	NOON	<i>Mid-Week Connection, Zoom ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek</i>
	7:00PM	<i>Pub Theology in the Chat Room</i>
Thurs, May 8	6:30PM	<i>Natick Is United Meeting in the Vestry</i>
	7:00PM	<i>Centering Prayer via Zoom</i>
Sun, May 11	9:00AM	<i>Adult Faith Group</i>
	10:30AM	<i>Worship with Rev. Cindy in the sanctuary</i>
	11:30AM	<i>Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour in Vestry</i>

TODAY, SUNDAY, MAY 4

THANKS TO OUR COFFEE HOUR HOSTS THIS WEEK:

Beth & Declan Garreau, who will be treating us with cupcakes!

WALK TO END HOMELESSNESS: Join Family Promise Metrowest today and be part of a powerful afternoon that will make a difference in our community. Event will be held at Natick High School, 15 West Street, Natick at Noon. All activities begin at noon; all activities (food, music, and fun) begin at noon are free!

ON THE HORIZON

WV FUNDRAISER ~ LASAGNA DINNER: Chef Bob and the crew will be hosting another upcoming lasagna dinner on Sat, May 17th from 5-7pm. Dine in or Take-out. Cost: \$15 (vegetarian or meat). Menu includes salad and garlic bread. Deadline to order is Wed, 5/14. Place your order online: ucc.fccnatick.org/lasagna. All are welcome.

ON THE HORIZON CONTINUED

WELCOME LUNCH ~ SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, 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

FCCN IS HOSTING THE OPEN DOOR COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday, May 19th. We will serve about 60 people at the Elks Club in Natick. Please join us. Our menu is Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, Salad, Dinner Rolls, and Dessert. Here is the sign-up genius link.

MOVIE NIGHT AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Tuesday, May 20th, 6:30-9:00pm, in the Vestry. John Lewis: Good Trouble, a documentary about the life of John Lewis (2020, PG, 97 min.) on. FREE ADMISSION; Please RSVP: admin@fccnatick.org Snacks provided, discussion to follow

SUMMER EVENTS

FCCN BOOK GROUP: SUN, JULY 13th, CHAT ROOM, AFTER WORSHIP
Lunch offered. RSVP to admin@fccnatick.org

Please join us for lunch and discussion about the book, *The Walk* by Evans. Gretchen will be leading the discussion. All are invited whether you’ve read the book or not! Hope to see you there. Note: audiobook-4 hours.

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	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 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 *Prayground* 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

Interim Music Director

Elaine Smith-Purcell
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Director of Spiritual Vitality and Congregational Care

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Sunday Nursery Staff

Grace Seiche

Outreach Minister

Rev. Dr. John Weagraff

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Financial Assistant

Cynthia Hamwey

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