

# 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 of Easter

May 18, 2025

Believe nothing merely because you have been told it,  
or it has been traditional,  
or because you yourselves have imagined it.  
Believe whatsoever you find to be conducive to the good,  
to benefit the welfare of all things.  
- Buddha

## PRELUDE

*Walk with Me, Lord (Spiritual)*

Harmony Grove

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Ramage

- A: I believe every person is valuable.  
B: I believe everyone should be treated with kindness.  
C: I believe we all need to keep our minds open to new ideas.  
A: I believe it's important to keep asking questions.  
B: I believe we want a peaceful world.  
C: I believe we are responsible for keeping the earth healthy and beautiful.  
A: I believe we want to live in a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.  
B: I believe each one of us can make a difference.  
C: I believe we should respect one another and keep on learning and growing and weaving our lives together.  
A: I believe.  
B: I believe.  
C: I believe.

## \* OPENING HYMN 445

*We Are One in the Spirit*

Peter Scholtes

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side.  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side.  
And we'll guard each other's dignity and save each one's pride.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love.

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

Giver of all life, whose presence is holy,  
may you come first in our hearts.  
May all Creation become your community of grace,  
and your desire be fulfilled throughout the earth,  
as it is in your own heart.  
Sustain us with the breath of life moment by moment.  
Forgive us, and give us the gift of forgiveness.  
Lead us past our temptations,  
and save us from the power of the evil that would ensnare us.  
For all that is, and all power, and all glory, come from you,  
now and forever.  
Amen.

### **\* 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*

John Thompson, Randy Scruggs

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

## SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

## CONFIRMATION LITURGY

As your family of faith,  
We celebrate all that you are and all that you are becoming.  
We promise to respect your questions and hear your answers.  
We are willing to be challenged and changed by you.  
We welcome you across the threshold of young adulthood,  
and we affirm that you are blessings in our midst.

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**     *We Are One in the Spirit (Peter Scholtes)*     Harmony Grove

## REFLECTION

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**     *What a Covenant*     Harmony Grove  
Elisha Hoffman, Anthony Showalter

## GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**ALLELUIA**

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR SUBSTANCE

### OFFERING INVITATION

**ANTHEM**     *I Will Change Your Name (D.J. Butler)*     Harmony Grove

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**

*Hush, Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name*

African-American Spiritual

Hush, Hush, Somebody's calling my name.  
Hush, Hush, Somebody's calling my name.  
Oh, Hush, Hush, Somebody's calling my name.  
O my God, O my God,  
What shall I do? What shall I do?

Sounds like Jesus. Somebody's calling my name.  
Sounds like Jesus. Somebody's calling my name.  
Oh, Sounds like Jesus. Somebody's calling my name.  
O my God, O my God,  
What shall I do? What shall I do?

I'm so glad. Trouble won't last always.  
I'm so glad. Trouble won't last always.  
Oh, I'm so glad. Trouble won't last always.  
O my God, O my God,  
What shall I do? What shall I do?

**BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**    We Are Family (Nile Rodgers, Bernard Edwards)    Harmony Grove

\*Steve Garnaas-Holmes

**CONFIRMATION TODAY**

This morning we bless, affirm and confirm young adults who joined Sarallyn and Rev. Cindy in a marathon pilgrimage retreat earlier this spring. Through conversations, written exercises, games, art, and debate they have reflected on and articulated their individual beliefs at this point in time. We are grateful for their honest reflection, and celebrate the journey they are on! **Congratulations to: Kiely Chiaruttini, Ryan Mulloy, and Charlie Toye.**

# Calendar for May. 18 – May. 25, 2025

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

Sun, May 18	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
	11:30AM	<i>Welcome Lunch</i> in the Chat Room #116
Tues, May 20	6:30PM	<i>Movie Night: John Lewis documentary</i> in the Vestry
Wed, May 21	NOON	<i>Mid-Week Connection</i> , Zoom <a href="https://ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek">ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek</a>
	7:00PM	<i>FCC Coordinating Council Meeting</i> in the Chat Room #116
Thurs, May 22	7:00PM	<i>Centering Prayer Circle</i> via Zoom
Sun, May 25	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

## TODAY, SUNDAY, MAY 18

**THANKS TO OUR COFFEE HOUR HOST THIS WEEK:** Sara & Doug Hanna!

### WELCOME HARMONY GROVE

This morning, we welcome the musical stylings of Willie Sordillo, Zoë Krohne, Dave Clark, and Marlene Del Rosario, aka Harmony Grove! Their mission is to entertain while presenting a vision which offers hope, joy, and possibility in an often troubled world.

**WELCOME LUNCH:** Following worship in the Chat Room #116

### SARALLYN SABBATICAL GIFT

Our Director of Spiritual Vitality and Congregational Care, Sarallyn Keller, will be on sabbatical this summer! Leadership is giving Sarallyn a month-long sabbatical in gratitude for her leadership and service, including the four years of transition between settled pastors. Leadership also recognizes the importance of time to reflect and renew, especially for a healthy and sustained career in the church. Sarallyn will be gone Jun 22-Aug. 3. We will miss her! We have given Sarallyn \$2,000 from the Sabbatical Fund to support her time away. If you would like to contribute to an additional financial gift for Sarallyn, we will be taking a **special collection today during worship**. Special envelopes will be provided onsite, you can also contribute online or via check; please indicate “Sarallyn” in the memo line. As always, this offering is completely optional. Any questions, please contact Rev. Cindy.

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

FCCN offers scholarships for students who are pursuing studies at institutions of learning beyond the high school level. See your recent LINK email or contact the church office to receive an application. **Deadline: June 1, 2025.**

## THIS WEEK

### FCCN IS HOSTING THE OPEN DOOR COMMUNITY MEAL

**Monday, May 19 at the Natick Elks Club.** We will serve about 60 people. Please join us. Our menu: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, Salad, Dinner Rolls, and Dessert.

### MOVIE NIGHT AT FCCN: JOHN LEWIS, GOOD TROUBLE DOCUMENTARY

**Tuesday, May 20th, 6:30-9:00pm, in the Vestry**

A documentary on the life of John Lewis (2020, PG, 97 min.). FREE; Please RSVP to: [admin@fccnatick.org](mailto:admin@fccnatick.org) Snacks provided, discussion to follow

## SUMMER EVENTS

### CHARLES RIVER ROTARY CLUB ICE CREAM FUNDRAISER

**Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 11:30am-3:00pm on the Natick Common**

This will be the 12th Scoopapalooza; raising funds to support local non profits including FCN.

**\*Volunteers are needed from 9:00am-4:00pm to help with setup, ticket tables, scooping ice cream, tear down and cleanup.** Please contact Hank Szretter ([hank@crclub.org](mailto:hank@crclub.org)) or June Szretter ([junesz@mac.com](mailto:junesz@mac.com)) for more information and to sign up.

### SNEUCC (Central MA Association-United Church of Christ)

**Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:05 PM, at Polar Park, Worcester, Deadline: July 3rd**

Member Churches are invited to a WOO SOX Game against Scranton for an individual cost of only \$35 per ticket! We will have our own space on the Triple Decker Garden, which includes a 2 hour buffet. To reserve tickets please email Bob Kersting at [treasurercentralmaassn@gmail.com](mailto:treasurercentralmaassn@gmail.com) Please include your name, contact information and number of tickets. A confirmation email will follow. On the day of the game, tickets will be held at Will Call in your name. If you have any questions, email Bob Kersting at above email or call 774-452-0137.

### FCCN BOOK GROUP: *The Walk* by Richard Paul Evans

**Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, Chat Room, after worship**

**Lunch offered. RSVP to [admin@fccnatick.org](mailto:admin@fccnatick.org)**

Please join us for lunch and discussion about the book, *The Walk*. 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](mailto:prayers@fccnatick.org).

Eric Carricker	The McLaren Family	Kate, Janet & Andrew Levesque
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	Doug Shirley	All immigrant families seeking justice
Dorothy Young	Diane	The people of Ukraine & Russia
Jennie Lynch	Madhu Gupta	The people of Santa Maria Tzeja
Tanya	Steve & Deb Evers	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 *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](mailto:revcindyfccn@gmail.com)  
508-653-0971

## **Interim Music Director**

Elaine Smith-Purcell  
[music@fccnatick.org](mailto:music@fccnatick.org)

## **Director of Spiritual Vitality and Congregational Care**

Sarallyn Keller  
[sarallyn@fccnatick.org](mailto:sarallyn@fccnatick.org)  
508-740-3134

## **Sunday Nursery Staff**

Grace Seiche

## **Outreach Minister**

Rev. Dr. John Weagraff

## **Church Office**

Colleen King, Office Administrator  
[admin@fccnatick.org](mailto:admin@fccnatick.org)  
508-653-0971

## **Financial Assistant**

Cynthia Hamwey

**FCCnatick.org**