

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.

Pentecost Sunday

June 8, 2025

In everyone's life, at some time, our inner fire goes out.
It is then burst into flame by an encounter
with another human being.
We should all be thankful for those people
who rekindle the inner spirit.
- Albert Schweitzer

PRELUDE

Down to the River to Pray
Elaine Smith-Purcell, piano

arr. by Anna Laura Page

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Carolyn Williams

One: The world needs people who will answer God's call.

All: Holy Spirit, set us on fire!

One: People who will choose love over fear, again and again.

All: Holy Spirit, set us on fire!

One: Even when it's hard, and scary, and lonely.

All: Holy Spirit, set us on fire!

One: May we be the people. May this be the place.

May now be the time.

All: Holy Spirit, set us on fire! Amen!

* OPENING HYMN 6

Bring Many Names

Westchase

Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
Holiness in glory, living, loving God.
Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!

Strong mother God, working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
Setting each equation, genius at play:
Hail and Hosanna! Strong mother God!

Warm father God, hugging every child,
feeling all the strains of human living,
Caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:
Hail and Hosanna! Warm father God!

Old, aching God, gray with endless care,
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
Glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:
Hail and Hosanna! Old, aching God!

Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
Crying out for justice, giving all you have:
Hail and Hosanna! Young, growing God!

Great, living God, never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
Closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna! Great, living God!

CENTERING PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS*

Source of laughter,
Spirit innocent and pure,
Holy is your name.
May love be seen as all that is.
May earth be seen as heaven is.
Nourish us this day with your bountiful supply,
And allow us to receive as
We give that right to others.
Restore us from the perils of illusion,
And renew our perception of truth.
For truth is the kingdom,
And love is the power,
And Yours is the glory 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 467** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me I'm Gonna Live*
(Verse 1)

I'm gonna live so God can use me
anytime, Lord, and anywhere.
I'm gonna live so God can use me
anytime, Lord, and anywhere.

CHOIR ANTHEM *More Love* words & music by Mark Miller
Emily Springer, soloist | Elaine Smith-Purcell, piano

SCRIPTURE Acts 2:1-21

CELEBRATION OF FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

WORD FOR ALL AGES

MUSICAL RESPONSE

CELEBRATION OF GRADUATES (A Special Presentation and Blessing for the Journey)

CELEBRATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS (Presentation of the Memorial Scholarships)

CELEBRATION OF MEMBERSHIP (A Celebration of our 25 year members)

MUSICAL RESPONSE

GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL 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 363**

In the Midst of New Dimensions

New Dimensions

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wand'ring in their sep'rate ways?

refrain:

God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever,
now and evermore.

Through the flood of starving people, warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?

refrain

Though we reach the highest heavens, holding worlds at our command,
We are yet a desert people searching for the promised land.

refrain

Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.

refrain

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

William Doane; arr. by John Rasley

Elaine Smith-Purcell, organ

*by Penny Nixon

Calendar for June 8 – June. 15, 2025

More at fccnatick.org/events

| | | |
|----------------|---------|--|
| Sun, June 8 | 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> |
| Wed, June 11 | NOON | <i>Mid-Week Connection, Zoom ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek</i> |
| | 7:00PM | <i>Porch Theology @ Wayne/Jeanette Szretter's house</i> |
| Thurs, June 12 | 7:00PM | <i>Centering Prayer Circle via Zoom</i> |
| Sun, June 15 | 6:30AM | <i>West Virginia Workcamp Mission group departs</i> |
| | 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, JUNE 8

THANKS TO OUR COFFEE HOUR HOSTS THIS WEEK:

Jeff and Robin Clausen!

THIS SUNDAY

REVERSE OFFERING 2025: Pass along Peace & Comfort

Please share how you put this donation to work. You can write it on the leaf in your envelope and add it to the tree in the sanctuary, or send Rev. Cindy an email revcindyfccn@gmail.com with your stories (and even pictures, if you have them)! Please report back by June 8th when we will celebrate the impact of this project.

SING TOGETHER: AMERICA ERA TOUR:

Intergenerational musical collaboration. Sun., June 8 at 4pm,

Common Street Spiritual Center, 13 Common St., Natick. Join our own Lorraine Oakes and her friends for a wonderful free concert w/ Natick High Choir students.

LOOKING FOR A LEADER TO HOST FCCN NATICK DAYS ACTIVITY

Sat., September 6th, 10am-3pm | *Rain date: Sunday, September 7, 1:00-5:00pm

Contact: admin@fccnatick.org Please respond ASAP

Volunteer host will get help from the Welcome Team on activity (TBD).

NEXT WEEK

PORCH/POOL THEOLOGY: Wayne & Jeanette Szretter's back patio & pool.
Wednesday, June 11 @7pm. RSVP to Sarallyn at sarallyn@fccnatick.org
BYOB (& swimsuit). *Contact Sarallyn if you would like to host in July or August.

GUATEMALA PARTNERSHIP 2025: FARM-A-THON FUNDRAISER!
Sat., June 14th - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Natick Community Organic Farm
To register or learn more, please contact Jeff Clausen at clausenj@gmail.com.

WEST VIRGINIA WORKCAMP MISSION TRIP
Sun., June 15th – 6:30 am
Mission group will hit the road early!

SUMMER EVENTS

SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS: SUNDAY, JUN 29th @ 9:30am
Services will move to the air-conditioned Vestry.

12th ANNUAL CHARLES RIVER ROTARY CLUB ICE CREAM FUNDRAISER: Sat., June 21st, 11:30am-3pm on the Natick Common.
***Volunteers needed from 9am-4pm with setup, ticket tables, scooping ice cream, tear down and cleanup.** Please contact Hank Szretter (hank@crrclub.org) or June Szretter (junesz@mac.com) for more information and to sign up.

SNEUCC (Central MA Association-United Church of Christ): Sun., July 20th, 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! See the LINK newsletter for more details. **To reserve your tickets, email Bob Kersting at treasurercentralmaassn@gmail.com** Please include your name, contact info, 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 13th, Chat Room, after worship** Please join us for lunch and discussion on the book, *The Walk*. Gretchen will lead the discussion. All are invited whether you've read the book or not! **RSVP admin@fccnatick.org**

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 | Tanya |
| Chris Stefanatos | Lois and Pam Dotter | Steve & Deb Evers |
| Kenny Hoffman | Katie | Amy Hollister |
| Susan & Bob | Char Hannon | Virginia Fenton |
| Angela | Irene & Walter | The Family and Friends of Janet Collins |
| Joel | Charles | Family & friends of Richard Farrar |
| Debbie Collins | Shirley Lilly | Friends & Family of Tommy Zack |
| Jeanna B. | Aunt Gwen | Friends & Family of Kathleen Grant |
| Aunt Kathy | Robin and Laura | Amy Appleyard and family, |
| Eric | Uncle Al & Aunt Deb | <i>(following the loss of her father, Dennis)</i> |
| Sarah Kazim | Paul S. | Tammy, daughter Ashley & Veronica |
| Joan Person | Don & Heather C. | Declan and his parents Beth & Kenny |
| 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 | Doug Shirley | The people of Santa Maria Tzeja |
| Dorothy Young | Diane | Angels of Hope in Uganda |
| Jennie Lynch | Madhu Gupta | 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 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

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry
revcindyfccn@gmail.com
508-653-0971

Director of Spiritual Vitality and Congregational Care

Saralyn Keller
saralyn@fccnatick.org
508-740-3134

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

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Matt Basiliere | Chris Gentry | Ric Ripley |
| Michelle Brewer | Sarabeth Guphill | Grace Seiche |
| Beth Canterbury | Sara Hanna | Heather Seiche |
| Robin Clausen | Justin Kear | Maura Shaughnessy |
| Amy Corbin | Janet Levesque | Alyssa Springer |
| Gretchen DuBois | Lane McDonough | Jessica Treadwell |
| Rick DuBois | Bill Ramage | Pam Weagraff |
| Amy Foley | Gwyn Ramage | Kristine Weddle |

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Jenna Clausen | Maya Rodriguez

CELEBRATION OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS!

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Michelle Brewer | Maya Rodriguez |
| Jenna Clausen | Peter Rodriguez |
| Regan Foley | David Seiche |
| Cayla Joyce | Dylan Weddle |

CELEBRATION OF OUR 25-YEAR MEMBERS!

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Beth Garry | Brian McQuillan |
| Ron Garry | Valerie McQuillan |
| Steve Palmer | Denise Palmer |
| Sharon Kirby | Ric Ripley |
| Gerry Granfors | |