

# 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.

# Juneteenth Sunday

June 15, 2025

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.  
We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality,  
tied in a single garment of destiny.

Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.

- Martin Luther King, Jr., Letter from Birmingham Jail

## PRELUDE

*Like a River Glorious*  
Elaine Smith-Purcell, piano

by Anna Laura Page

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Doug Hanna

One: Sometimes it feels like the world is a terrible place.

**All: God of love, free us from our fear!**

One: We start to believe all the bad news.

**All: God of love, free us from our fear!**

One: We forget that we are all made in your image.

**All: God of love, free us from our fear!**

One: Remind us of our beauty, our power, our belovedness.

**All: God of love, free us from our fear! Amen!**

## \* OPENING HYMN #366

*We Are Walking*

Siyahamba

We are walking in the light of God, (4x)

We are walking, we are walking -- Oo --

We are walking in the light of God.

We are walking, we are walking -- Oo --

We are walking in the light of God.

“We are singing...”

“We are dancing...”

“We are marching in the light of God...”

## CENTERING 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 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**      *Change the World with Love*      Joseph Martin and Brad Nix  
Elaine Smith-Purcell, piano

**SCRIPTURE**      Luke:26-39

**WORD FOR ALL AGES**

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**

**READING**      Blessed, When the World Has Fallen Apart      by Vanessa Titang

**REFLECTION**      Legion      Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

**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 #481**

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*

Lift Every Voice

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,

Ring with the harmonies of liberty;

Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,

Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,

Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our people sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
God who has brought us thus far on the way;  
God, who by glorious might, led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met you;  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget you;  
Shadowed beneath your hand, may we forever stand,  
True to our God, true to our native land.

## **BLESSING**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Come, Thou Almighty King* arr. by Mark Hayes, Marvin Gaspard  
Elaine Smith-Purcell, organ

# Calendar for June 15 – June. 22, 2025

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

<b>Sun, June 15</b>	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>
<b>Wed, June 18</b>	NOON	<i>Mid-Week Connection, Zoom <a href="https://ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek">ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek</a></i>
<b>Thurs, June 19</b>		<b><i>Juneteenth Holiday; church office closed</i></b>
	12:30PM	<i>Lunch Bunch in the Vestry</i>
	7:00PM	<i>Centering Prayer Circle via Zoom</i>
<b>Sun, June 22</b>	9:00AM	<i>Adult Faith Group</i>
	10:30AM	<i>Intergenerational Worship with West Virginia Workcamp Team in the sanctuary</i>
	11:30AM	<i>Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour in Vestry</i>

**TODAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 15**

**THANKS TO OUR COFFEE HOUR HOSTS THIS WEEK:**

The Westberg family!

**THANK YOU TO NATICK CULTURAL COUNCIL:** A local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency for the generous grant of \$500 helping to pay for our Spring Family Nature programs, *Terrific Turtles* and *Arthropod Petting Zoo* with Prof. Bugman. We value and appreciate their support of our community programs enriching families and children's knowledge of our natural world.

**THIS WEEK**

**WEST VIRGINIA WORKCAMP TRIP**

**Sat., June 14<sup>th</sup> – departing at 6:30 am**

The workcamp team will be hitting the road early! Keep the team in your prayers this week and don't miss their presentation next Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> for our Intergenerational Worship.

## THIS WEEK

### **LUNCH BUNCH, Thurs., June 19<sup>th</sup> – 12:30 pm, in the Vestry**

Bring your own brown bag lunch. We'll provide munchies, drinks & dessert!

### **FCCN TO HOST FOR FAMILY PROMISE THE WEEK OF: JUNE 23<sup>rd</sup>**

That means that our congregation is primarily responsible for preparing two meals and buying groceries for that week. Contact Chris Gentry to learn more about Family Promise Metrowest and sign up for one of the following opportunities!

You can also sign up directly using the following link: <https://cerv.is/0002x1091>

- Prepare and deliver a meal for about 5-10 people (1-2 volunteers needed for Tuesday and for Thursday)
- Purchase and deliver groceries from a shopping list provided by FPM. (1-3 volunteers needed)
- Also, gift cards are always welcome.

## SUMMER EVENTS

### **12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHARLES RIVER ROTARY CLUB ICE CREAM**

**FUNDRAISER: Sat., June 21<sup>st</sup>, 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](mailto:hank@crrclub.org)) or June Szretter ([junesz@mac.com](mailto:junesz@mac.com)) for more information and to sign up.

### **SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS: SUNDAY, JUN 29<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30am**

Services will move to the air-conditioned Vestry.

**SNEUCC (Central MA Association-United Church of Christ): Sun., July 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:05 PM, at Polar Park-Worcester. Deadline: July 3<sup>rd</sup>.** 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](mailto:treasurercentralmaassn@gmail.com) or call 774-452-0137.**

**FCCN BOOK GROUP: *The Walk* by Richard Paul Evans: Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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](mailto:prayers@fccnatick.org).

Eric Carricker	The McLaren Family	West Virginia Workcampers
Chris Stefanatos	Lois and Pam Dotter	Chelsea and her family
Kenny Hoffman	Katie	Fay
Susan & Bob	Char Hannon	Tanya
Angela	Irene & Walter	Steve & Deb Evers
Joel	Charles	Amy Hollister
Debbie Collins	Shirley Lilly	Virginia Fenton
Jeanna B.	Aunt Gwen	The Family and Friends of Janet Collins
Aunt Kathy	Robin and Laura	Family & friends of Richard Farrar
Eric	Uncle Al & Aunt Deb	Friends & Family of Tommy Zack
Sarah Kazim	Paul S.	Friends & Family of Kathleen Grant
Joan Person	Don & Heather C.	Amy Appleyard and family,
Brian J.	Mary Cerreto	<i>(following the loss of her father, Dennis)</i>
Beverly Newell	Connie Sullivan	Tammy, daughter Ashley & Veronica
Anna Hayes	Phil Jennings	Declan and his parents Beth & Kenny
John Sullivan	Faye Bishop	Myriam's brother Alex
Ronnie	Tommy Hannon	Mary Anderson
Jane Hall	Paul	Peg & Charlie Ostrander
Jenna Hayes	Anne	Frankie Notarbartolo
Abby Robbins	Molly	Melissa & Tiffany Wallace
Natalie Friend	Evelyn and Family	Ann & George Schmidt
Jayne Hayes	Mike McCormick	Charles Gobron
Myriam's Mom	Malfrid Abrahamsen	Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey
Robbins Family	Bob Brown	Pat & Jane Conaway
Jackie Snizek	Doug Shirley	Peace for the world and in everyone's day
Dorothy Young	Diane	All immigrant families seeking justice
Jennie Lynch	Madhu Gupta	The people of Ukraine & Russia
		The people of Santa Maria Tzeja
		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**