

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Love
Works!
Cabell-Lincoln Workcamp

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.

Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 22, 2025

Work is love made visible.

- Kahlil Gibran

PRELUDE *Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God* Getty, Townend, & Morricone
Elaine Smith-Purcell, piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP WV Work Camp participants

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

All: Let's choose the path of love.

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

All: Let's choose the path of love.

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

All: Let's choose the path of love.

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

All: Let's choose the path of love.

* **OPENING HYMN #467** *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me* I'm Gonna Live

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.

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

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

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

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

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.

SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:9-21 (The Message)

WORD FOR ALL AGES

Stone Soup

WORKCAMP SING-ALONG

REFLECTIONS FROM WORKCAMP

MUSICAL RESPONSE Here I Am, Lord Daniel Schutte, arr. by Jack Schrader
Eric Carriker, soloist; Elaine Purcell-Smith on piano

GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

ALLELUIA

SABBATICAL BLESSING FOR SARALLYN KELLER

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 #374**

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

Servant Song

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are all pilgrims on a journey, we are trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen the journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Let Us Build A House

Marty Haugen; arr. by Lloyd Larson

Elaine Smith-Purcell, organ

Calendar for June 22 – June. 29, 2025

More at fccnatick.org/events

Sun, June 22	9:00AM <i>Adult Faith Group</i>
	10:30AM <i>Intergenerational Worship w/ West Virginia Workcamp Team in the sanctuary</i>
	11:30AM <i>Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour in Vestry</i>
Mon., June 23	7:00PM <i>Knitting Circle in the Parlor</i>
Tues., June 24	10:30AM <i>Worship Team in the Vestry</i>
Wed, June 25	NOON <i>Mid-Week Connection, Zoom ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek</i>
Thurs, June 26	5:00PM <i>Natick Nights: <u>FCCN Love Is (Still) Louder</u> on front lawn</i>
	7:00PM <i>Outreach Team via Zoom</i>
	7:00PM <i>Centering Prayer Circle via Zoom</i>
Sun, June 29	<i>No Adult Faith Group: July & August</i>
	9:30AM <i>Summer Worship with Rev. Cindy in the Vestry</i>
	9:45AM <i>Summer Godly Play & Connect</i>
	10:30AM <i>Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour in Vestry</i>

TODAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 22

THANKS TO OUR COFFEE HOUR HOSTS THIS WEEK:

Maura Shaughnessy and Lisa Fusaro!

WEST VIRGINIA WORKCAMP TEAM

The workcamp attendees will be sharing reflections, music, and readings this Sunday, June 22nd for our Intergenerational worship service.

THIS WEEK

FCCN TO HOST FOR FAMILY PROMISE THE WEEK OF: JUNE 23rd

Contact [Chris Gentry](#) to learn more about [Family Promise Metrowest](#) and this week's opportunities. You can sign up directly at this link: <https://cerv.is/0002x1091>

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

THIS WEEK (continued)

FCC NATICK WILL HOST A LOVE IS (STILL) LOUDER CELEBRATION in front of the church during Natick Nights on June 26, from 5:00–8:00 pm.

We'll have rainbow swag and a community art project. Community groups including Natick Is United and Qmmunity will be on hand to join in the celebration and share information. For more info, or if you'd like to help out, contact Rev. Cindy at revcindyfccn@gmail.com

SUMMER WORSHIP: SUNDAY, JUN 29th, shift to 9:30am & Vestry

Starting Sunday, June 29, our worship service will move to 9:30 am and be held in the Vestry. This will help keep us all cool in the summer heat! We will continue to stream via Pegasus whenever possible, depending on the schedule of our tech team.

Summer Godly Play

Will be offered June 29 & July 13-27, after the Word for All Ages.

Worship returns to 10:30am on Sunday, Sept. 7 ~ Backpack Sunday!

Stay tuned for more details.

Staff Summer Schedules: Sarallyn will be on sabbatical June 22-Aug. 3, Rev. Cindy will take vacation during the summer months, and the church office will move to a summer schedule. Stay tuned for those details.

SUMMER EVENTS

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

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 or call 774-452-0137.**

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
Chris Stefanatos
Kenny Hoffman
Susan & Bob
Angela
Joel
Debbie Collins
Jeanna B.
Aunt Kathy
Eric
Sarah Kazim
Joan Person
Brian J.
Beverly Newell
Anna Hayes
John Sullivan
Ronnie
Jane Hall
Jenna Hayes
Abby Robbins
Natalie Friend
Jayne Hayes
Myriam's Mom
Robbins Family
Jackie Snizek
Dorothy Young
Jennie Lynch
Katie

The McLaren Family
Lois and Pam Dotter
Char Hannon
Irene & Walter
Charles
Shirley Lilly
Aunt Gwen
Robin and Laura
Uncle Al & Aunt Deb
Paul S.
Don & Heather C.
Mary Cerreto
Connie Sullivan
Phil Jennings
Faye Bishop
Tommy Hannon
Paul
Anne
Molly
Evelyn and Family
Mike McCormick
Malfrid Abrahamsen
Bob Brown
Doug Shirley
Diane
Madhu Gupta
Tanya
Fay

West Virginia Workcampers
Family & friends of Chelsea
Blessings for Saralyn on sabbatical
Joe Barnes
Steve & Deb Evers
Amy Hollister
Virginia Fenton
The Family and Friends of Janet Collins
Family & friends of Richard Farrar
Friends & Family of Tommy Zack
Friends & Family of Kathleen Grant
Amy Appleyard and family,
(following the loss of her father, Dennis)
Tammy, daughter Ashley & Veronica
Declan and his parents Beth & Kenny
Myriam's brother Alex
Mary Anderson
Peg & Charlie Ostrander
Frankie Notarbartolo
Melissa & Tiffany Wallace
Ann & George Schmidt
Charles Gobron
Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey
Pat & Jane Conaway
Peace for the world and in everyone's day
All immigrant families seeking justice
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 ldchampion17@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
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508-653-0971

Interim Music Director

Elaine Smith-Purcell
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Director of Spiritual Vitality and Congregational Care

Sarallyn Keller
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Sunday Nursery Staff

Grace Seiche

Outreach Minister

Rev. Dr. John Weagraff

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Colleen King, Office Administrator
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Financial Assistant

Cynthia Hamwey

FCCnatick.org