

# 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.



**Thirteenth Sunday**

**September 7, 2025**

*We tell ourselves stories in order to live.*  
- Joan Didion

**PRELUDE**

*I Need Thee Every Hour*  
Elaine Smith-Purcell, piano

by Anna Laura Page

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Karen Maki

One: Come on in, gather 'round.

**All: Hear the story of God's love.**

One: Find yourself a place at the table.

**All: Hear the story of God's love.**

One: Lean in close and breathe in deep.

**All: Hear the story of God's love. Amen.**

**\* OPENING HYMN #316**

*Let Us Talents and Tongues*

Linstead

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

**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**

*Sing a New World Into Being*

Sing a new world into being, sound a bold and hopeful theme.

Find a tune for silent yearnings, lend your voice and dare to dream:

Dream a church where all who worship find their lives and loves belong.

Sing a new world into being, sing as Christ inspires your song!

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*Let Us Build a House*  
Elaine Smith-Purcell, piano

Word/Music by Marty Haugen,  
arr. Lloyd Larson

**SCRIPTURE**

Exodus 2:1-10

**WORD FOR ALL AGES**

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**

**BLESSING THE BACKPACKS**

**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 #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?  
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?  
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.

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

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

**BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*  
Elaine Smith-Purcell, organ

arr. by Marianne Kim

*Please join us for coffee hour in the Vestry following the worship service.  
Special thanks to our coffee hour hosts this week, the Hanna Family!*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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

## THIS WEEK

### FAITH FORMATION GODLY PLAY TRAINING

Tues., Sept. 9th at 7:00 pm in Classroom #200

### BURLINGTON, VT ICE STANDOUT

Wed., Sept. 10th and every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month

Meet at FCCN parking lot at 10:30am to carpool. Let's come together to bear witness, while standing in solidarity with people detained or being processed at the Burlington ICE center. Every Wednesday there is an organized and peaceful standout from 11am-1pm. Rev. Cindy is committing to going the second Wed. of the month for the rest of the year (barring illness or pastoral emergency) and will take as many as her car can fit. Others are welcome to carpool from the church, and there is a Natick Is United group leaving town at 11am. Contact Rev. Cindy at [revcindyfccn@gmail.com](mailto:revcindyfccn@gmail.com) for more information, or to save a spot.

## NEXT WEEK

### FCCN OPEN DOOR MEAL

Mon., Sept 15<sup>th</sup> at the Natick Elks Club, starting at 4:00pm

To help out with the meal, or if you have any questions, please contact Kirsten at [kirstenmcd26a@gmail.com](mailto:kirstenmcd26a@gmail.com)

### FCCN BOOK GROUP MEETUP:

**BOOK - No One Left Alone: A Story of How Community Helps Us Heal**

Tues., Sept 16<sup>th</sup> @ WELLESLEY BOOKS, 82 Central St., Wellesley at 7:00pm

Journalist, activist, and pastor Liz Walker joins us to discuss her new book. This is a ticketed event. Buy tickets online thru Eventbrite [HERE](#) (fees apply) or by calling at Wellesley Books at 781-431-1160 during store hours (no fees). **NOTE:** Please order a ticket for \$5.00 by calling the store or ordering online thru Eventbrite. A book will be purchased for the group.



## SEPT-OCT EVENTS

### **DANCE FOR DEMOCRACY (Sponsored By FCCN)**

**Sun., Sept 21st @ Plymouth Church, 87 Edgell Rd., Framingham at 3:00pm**

A joyful way to be with community, while supporting CASA, a nonprofit serving our immigrant neighbors. Email RSVP to [compassion.peace.hope@gmail.com](mailto:compassion.peace.hope@gmail.com) You may donate directly online to CASA Emergency Mutual Aid at: [HERE](#)

### **I AM MY NEIGHBOR'S KEEPER: A BENEFIT CONCERT**

**(sponsored By FCCN)**

**Sun., Oct 5<sup>th</sup> @ Edwards Church, 39 Edwards St., Framingham at 3:00pm**

Concert will be held in the sanctuary at Edwards Church. Tickets are by donation. Tickets and donations may be made online at Eventbrite [HERE](#)

### **FCC DIAPER DRIVE: Support A Place To Turn**

**Bring diapers to FCC through September 28th**

**Help Keep Babies Clean, Dry, and Healthy**

Donate diapers in Most Needed Sizes: 3, 4, 5, & 6 & wipes! The Outreach Team will donate the first 500 diapers. Write a check to: *A Place To Turn*. (Inc. 'The Diaper Project' in the memo line.). Donate online at [www.aplacetoturn-natick.org](http://www.aplacetoturn-natick.org). Click 'Make A Donation' then follow the prompts; in the Comment box state 'For The Diaper Project.'

## EVERY WEEK AT FCCN:

**Sundays at 9:00am - Adult Faith Group**

**Wednesdays at Noon - Mid-Week Connection via Zoom ([ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek](http://ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek))**

**Wednesdays at 7pm - Centering Prayer Circle via Zoom ([ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle](http://ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle))**

**Thursdays at 7pm - Choir Rehearsal**

# 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	Katie	Pete and his family
Chris Stefanatos	Charles	Family and Friends of Ronnie Eastman
Kenny Hoffman	Lois and Pam Dotter	Janet Peterson
Susan & Bob	Char Hannon	Family and Friends of Charles Gobron
Angela	Shirley Lilly	Lyla
Joel	Uncle Al & Aunt Deb	Dale
Debbie Collins	Paul S.	Joe Barnes
Jeanna B.	Don & Heather C.	Steve & Deb Evers
Aunt Kathy	Mary Cerreto	Amy Hollister
Eric	Connie Sullivan	Virginia Fenton
Sarah Kazim	Phil Jennings	The Family and Friends of Janet Collins
Joan Person	Faye Bishop	Tammy, daughter Ashley & Veronica
Brian J.	Tommy Hannon	Declan and his parents Beth & Kenny
Beverly Newell	Paul	Myriam's brother Alex
Anna Hayes	Anne	Mary Anderson
John Sullivan	Molly	Peg & Charlie Ostrander
Jane Hall	Evelyn and Family	Frankie Notarbartolo
Jenna Hayes	Mike McCormick	Melissa & Tiffany Wallace
Abby Robbins	Malfrid Abrahamsen	Ann & George Schmidt
Natalie Friend	Bob Brown	Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey
Jayne Hayes	Doug Shirley	Pat & Jane Conaway
Myriam's Mom	Diane	Peace for the world and in everyone's day
Robbins Family	Madhu Gupta	All immigrant families seeking justice
Jackie Snizek	Tanya	The people of Ukraine & Russia
Dorothy Young	Fay	The people of Santa Maria Tzeja
Jennie Lynch		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 [lchampion17@gmail.com](mailto:lchampion17@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 FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK!

## Get Connected

If you are joining us for the first time, we encourage you to check out the Welcome brochure (available in the pew or from an usher) for lots of information about life at FCC Natick.

Please also consider filling out one of the **Welcome cards** in the pew, and introducing yourself to our pastor, Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry. You can also reach her by email, [revcindyfccn@gmail.com](mailto:revcindyfccn@gmail.com).

Our website is a great place to learn about programs, activities, and events – check us out at [www.fccnatick.org](http://www.fccnatick.org). The website is also where you can sign up for the Link, our weekly email newsletter.

## 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.

## Children and Youth

Children and youth are always welcome in worship. 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. Staffed nursery care is also available near the sanctuary throughout the service. For more information, check out our Welcome brochure or website.

## 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 emailed to [prayers@fccnatick.org](mailto:prayers@fccnatick.org).

## Accessibility

The ***ListenWiFi*** app provides hearing assistance. Download the app to your smartphone and use your own headphones. Large print bulletins are available from the ushers, as are noise-cancelling headphones.

## 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 First Congregational Church of Natick 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)) if you have any questions or concerns.