

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.



When God makes [Their] presence felt through us,
we are like the burning bush:
Moses never took any heed what sort of bush it was –
he only saw the brightness of the Lord.
- George Eliot

PRELUDE

Goodness of God
Elaine Smith-Purcell, piano

by Mary McDonald

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sarabeth Guptill

One: Come on in, gather 'round.

All: Hear the story of God's love.

One: Draw up close to the welcoming fire.

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 #12** *Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise*

St. Denio

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory, thou dwellest in light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
‘Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

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**

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

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning arr. by Philip Kern
Trad. African American Spiritual

BLESSING FAITH FORMATION TEAM

Michelle Brewer
Beth Canterbury
Lynn Carriker
Robin Clausen
Amy Corbin
Mark Dixon
Gretchen Dubois
Rick Dubois

Chris Gentry
Sarabeth Guptill
Sara Hanna
Justin Kear
Kirsten McDonough
Lane McDonough
Bill Ramage
Gwyn Ramage

Amy Foley
Ric Ripley
Grace Seiche
Heather Seiche
Maura Shaughnessy
Alyssa Springer
Jessica Treadwell
Pam Weagraff

Congregational Response (Together)

We believe that the spirit of God moves in each of us,
no matter how young we are or how old we grow.

God is as close as the air around us, just waiting for us to breathe in.
No one needs to learn how to breathe; it is how we are made.

It is language that we must learn – the language of God’s great love story
with the world, the language of prayer, the language of care,
the language of selflessness.

We will seek to be a community where everyone is welcome
and everyone can experience the love of God.

We make this promise with God and with each other
as we strive to follow the way of Jesus Christ, our Teacher. Amen

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3:1-6

BLESSING THIRD GRADERS AND THEIR BIBLES

Ethan Treadwell, Galen Fletcher Troutman, and Nicholas Woodson

Jeremiah 29:11-14a

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope.

Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me,
I will hear you.

When you search for me, you will find me.

If you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Children (age 3-grade 6) are invited to depart for a special Rally Day Art Project in the Vestry, exploring our fall theme of *Weaving Our Story*. Parents may accompany children and return to worship once they are settled.

REFLECTION

Blazing a Trail

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 #4** *Come Living God When Least Expected* Rendez à Dieu

Come, Living God, when least expected, when minds are dull and hearts are cold,
through sharp'ning word and warm affection revealing truth as yet untold.
Break from the tomb in which we hide you to speak again in startling ways;
break through the words in which we bind you to resurrect our lifeless praise.

Come now, as once you came to Moses within the bush alive with flame;
or to Elijah on the mountain, by silence pressing home your claim.
So, let our minds be sharp to read you in sight or sound or printed page,
and let us greet you in our neighbors, in ardent youth or mellow age.

Then, through our gloom, your Son will meet us as vivid truth and living Lord,
Exploding doubt and disillusion to scatter hope and joy abroad.
And we will share his radiant brightness, and, blazing through the dead of night,
illuminate by love and reason, for those in darkness, faith's delight.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

The Joyful Trumpet
Elaine Smith-Purcell, organ

by Gene Clarke

*Please join us for an ice cream social during coffee hour
in the Vestry following the worship service.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

More at fccnatick.org/events

THIS SUNDAY

RALLY DAY ICE CREAM SOCIAL TODAY

Please join us for an ice cream social during coffee hour in the Vestry following the worship service.

IMMIGRATION FILM: "THE COMPATRIOTS"

Showing this Sunday at 2pm

The Center for Arts in Natick will host a special hometown screening of the film, The Compatriots on September 14 at 2 pm, with a live Q&A with the filmmakers, who first met in middle school in Natick. It was the friendship between director Spencer Cohen and producer Alberto Sayan that inspired this story about immigration and belonging in the US. Go to the TCAN website for more info & tickets

METROWEST SINGS OUT

Protest chorus practicing at FCC Natick and Edwards Church in Framingham FCCN dates/times (Sundays from 2:00-3:30pm on 9/14, 9/28, 10/12, & 10/26)

Do you like to sing? Metrowest Sings Out, a new protest chorus wants you! No need to read music nor audition. All are welcome! Come when you can. Rehearsals: 2nd & 4th Tuesday evenings in Framingham and/or 2nd & 4th Sunday afternoons in Natick. Let's show people how fun it is to stand up for our democracy by making a joyful sound! To join, register here at: <https://forms.gle/B8X93HtWsapW8gqf9>
Questions? please contact Laura Beck (compassion.peace.hope@gmail.com)

THIS WEEK

FCCN OPEN DOOR MEAL

Mon., September 15th @ 4:00pm at the Natick Elks

We will serve about 60 people at the Elks Club. Our menu is Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, (all three items and dessert will be made ahead of time) Salad (made at the Elks) Dinner Rolls, and Dessert. Contact Kirsten at kirstenmcd26a@gmail.com with any questions. Please join us.

THIS WEEK

FCCN BOOK GROUP MEETUP

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

Tues., September 16th @ Wellesley Books, 82 Central St., Wellesley at 7:00pm

Journalist, activist, and pastor Liz Walker joins us to discuss her new book. Buy tickets online at 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.

LUNCH BUNCH

Thursday, September 18 @ 12:30pm in the Vestry

Bring your own brown bag lunch, we'll provide munchies, drinks and dessert.

SEPT-OCT EVENTS

FCC DIAPER DRIVE: Support A Place To Turn

Bring diapers to FCCN through September 28th

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. Click 'Make A Donation' then follow the prompts; in the Comment box state 'For The Diaper Project.'

INTERGENERATIONAL APPLE PICKING & CRISP BAKING

Saturday, September 20 - meet @ FCC @ 2pm

Join us for a fun afternoon at Dowse Orchard and then back to the FCC kitchen for baking. You'll have a delicious dessert for dinner! All ages welcome! RSVP to Saralyn @ saralyn@fccn.org so we have enough ingredients

GODLY PLAY INFO SESSION

Sun., September 21 at Noon in classroom #200

Contact Saralyn Keller @ saralyn@fccn.org if interested.

SEPT-OCT EVENTS

DANCE FOR DEMOCRACY (sponsored by FCCN)

Sun., September 21st @ Plymouth Church, 87 Edgell Rd., Framingham @ 3pm

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

LGBT ASYLUM TASK FORCE GALA

Sat., September 27th @ DCU Ctr, 50 Foster St., Worcester from 5:30-10:30pm

You are cordially invited to an evening of celebration, dining, and dancing. Come meet with asylum seekers, as they share their stories of trial and triumph! Register online for tickets at link: <https://onecau.se/tfgala>

DONATE TO FCCN's TRUNK OR TREAT

Saturday, October 25 in the church parking lot

Join us for FCCN's Trunk or Treat event during the Spooktacular events on the town common. We are collecting items for the trunk or treat--candy, gluten-free snacks, and novelty toys. Donation of items accepted through 10/20. Contact Robin Clausen @ rclausen@gmail.com to learn more info.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL MA ASSOCIATION

(of the Southern New England Conference of the UCC)

Sun., September 28th @ First Parish of Bolton, 673 Main St., Bolton @ 3-4:30pm

Theme: The Heart of Faith. Register [HERE](#)

I AM MY NEIGHBOR'S KEEPER:

A Benefit Concert (sponsored by FCCN)

Sun., October 5th @ 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](#)

SEPT-OCT EVENTS

WELCOME LUNCH ~ SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, October 5, after Worship ~ Chat Room #116

“New” folks at FCC Natick are invite to lunch on Sunday, October 5! Especially for folks who have been attending FCCN for a year or less, this is a great chance to meet folks, share thoughts, and get questions answered. Rev. Cindy, the Welcome Team, and a few long time FCC members will be hosting. We’ll provide the food, the fun, and childcare! Please contact Jeannine Keedy @ jkeedy@rcn.com. Please **RSVP by Friday, September 29th**.

BURLINGTON ICE STANDOUT

October 8th (2nd Wed. of the month) ~ carpool leaving FCC Natick at 10:30am

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 11-1. 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 11 am. For more information, or to save a spot, contact Rev. Cindy at revcindyfccn@gmail.com

EVERY WEEK AT FCCN:

Sundays at 9:00am - Adult Faith Group

Wednesdays at Noon - Mid-Week Connection Zoom (ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek)

Wednesdays at 7pm - Centering Prayer Circle Zoom (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.

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	John Hickey
Angela	Shirley Lilly	Marty
Joel	Uncle Al & Aunt Deb	Family and Friends of Charles Gobron
Debbie Collins	Paul S.	Dale
Jeanna B.	Don & Heather C.	Joe Barnes
Aunt Kathy	Mary Cerreto	Steve & Deb Evers
Eric	Connie Sullivan	Amy Hollister
Sarah Kazim	Phil Jennings	Virginia Fenton
Joan Person	Faye Bishop	The Family and Friends of Janet Collins
Brian J.	Tommy Hannon	Tammy, daughter Ashley & Veronica
Beverly Newell	Paul	Declan and his parents Beth & Kenny
Anna Hayes	Anne	Myriam's brother Alex
John Sullivan	Molly	Mary Anderson
Jane Hall	Evelyn and Family	Peg & Charlie Ostrander
Jenna Hayes	Mike McCormick	Frankie Notarbartolo
Abby Robbins	Malfrid Abrahamsen	Melissa & Tiffany Wallace
Natalie Friend	Bob Brown	Ann & George Schmidt
Jayne Hayes	Doug Shirley	Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey
Myriam's Mom	Diane	Pat & Jane Conaway
Robbins Family	Madhu Gupta	Peace for the world and in everyone's day
Jackie Snizek	Tanya	All immigrant families seeking justice
Dorothy Young	Fay	The people of Ukraine & Russia
Jennie Lynch	Lyla	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 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.

Our website is a great place to learn about programs, activities, and events – check us out at 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.

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) if you have any questions or concerns.