

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.



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

It's like everyone tells a story about themselves inside their own head.
Always. All the time.
That story makes you what you are.
We build ourselves out of that story.
- Patrick Rothfuss

PRELUDE *Hymn of Heaven/When We All Get to Heaven* by Mary McDonald

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Wayne Szretter

One: Come on in, gather 'round.

All: Hear the story of God's love.

One: Let God speak straight to your heart.

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 #2**

The God of Abraham Praise

Leoni

The God of Abraham praise, all praise the eternal name,
who was and is, and is to be, for aye the same!

Our God, the great I AM, ere aught that now appears;

The First, the Last: beyond all thought, through timeless years!

God's spirit floweth free, high surging where it will;
in prophet's word God spoke of old and speaketh still.
Established is God's law, and changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart, on sea or land.

We have eternal life implanted in our soul;
God's love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
Praise to the living God! All praise the eternal name,
Who was, and is, and is to be, for aye the same!

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.

*** 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

Even In This

by Sandi Tempel Dana Mengel

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3:7-14; 4:1-17, excerpts

WORD FOR ALL AGES

MUSICAL RESPONSE

READING

Who, me?

REFLECTION

Recruitment

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 #595**

I the Lord of Sea and Sky

Here I Am Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain

I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? *(Refrain)*

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? *(Refrain)*

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

To God Be The Glory

arr. by Victor Johnson

**Alternative version of the Jesus Prayer by Penny Nixon*

Please join us for coffee hour in the Vestry following the worship service.

Special thanks to our coffee hour hosts this week, the Clausen Family!

UPCOMING EVENTS

More at fccnatick.org/events

THIS SUNDAY

GODLY PLAY INFO SESSION

Sun., September 21 at Noon in classroom #200

Contact Sarallyn Keller @ sarallyn@fccn.org if interested.

DANCE FOR DEMOCRACY (sponsored by FCCN)

Sun., September 21st @ Plymouth Church, 87 Edgell Rd., Framingham @ 2pm

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](#)

THIS WEEK

RESCHEDULED FCCN BOOK GROUP MEETUP

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

Fri., September 26th @ Wellesley Books, 82 Central St., Wellesley at 7:00pm

The FCC Bookgroup meet-up has been rescheduled (from original date: 9/16) with author Liz Walker. **NOTE:** Your ticket will automatically be valid for Fri, 9/26th.

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. Register online for tickets at link: <https://onecau.se/tfgala>

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

FCC DIAPER DRIVE: Support A Place To Turn: through September 28th

Bring diapers to FCCN. 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' or donate online at www.aplacetoturn-natick.org. Click 'Make A Donation' then follow the prompts; in the Comment box state 'For The Diaper Project.'

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL MA ASSOCIATION (SNEUCC)

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

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

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

KNITTING CIRCLE

Mon., September 29th in the Parlor at 7:00pm

RSVP to Saralyn Keller at saralyn@fccnatick.org

OCTOBER EVENTS

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](#)

CROSSWALK YOUTH (grades 7-12)

Sun., October 5th @ Corn Maze @ Hansen Farm, Framingham. Time: TBD

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. 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. each mo.) ~ 10:30am carpool @ FCCN

There is an organized and peaceful standout from 11am-1pm to anyone interested. For more information, or to save a spot, contact Rev. Cindy at revcindyfccn@gmail.com

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 Natick's Spooktacular. Collection items thru 10/20: candy, gluten-free snacks, and novelty toys. Contact Robin Clausen @ rclausen@gmail.com to learn more info.

EVERY WEEK AT FCCN:

Sundays at 9:00am - Adult Faith Group

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

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