

# 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.



# Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 5, 2025

Love doesn't just sit there, like a stone;  
it has to be made,  
like bread,  
remade all the time,  
made new.  
- Ursula K. LeGuin

## PRELUDE

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

arr.by J.B. Taylor

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Gail Martin

One: Some stories are silenced.

**All: Your story is welcome here.**

One: Some stories are stolen.

**All: Your story is welcome here.**

One: Some stories are dangerous.

**All: Your story is welcome here.**

One: God calls us to make room for each other's stories, so –

**All: Your story is welcome here. Amen!**

## \* OPENING HYMN #314

*As We Gather at Your Table*

Beach Spring

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

As we gather at your table, there are many without bread.  
Those who hunger, yes for justice, but who also must be fed.  
“Feed my sheep,” Jesus commands us, may we listen and obey.  
May our prayer turn into action, may we never turn away.\*

## **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**

*You Are A Light*

You are a light on the hill, O people: light for the City of God!  
Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the City of God!  
Bring forth the reign of mercy, bring forth the reign of peace;  
Bring forth the reign of justice, bring forth the City of God!

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

*Lead Me, Lord*

arr. by Mark Hayes

## **SCRIPTURE**

Exodus 12:14-20

## **WORD FOR ALL AGES**

## **MUSICAL RESPONSE**

Children (age 3-Grade 6) depart for Sunday School (Godly Play & Connect).  
Parents may accompany children and return to worship once they are settled.

## **REFLECTION**

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

## **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 #461** *We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky* How Can I Keep From Singing  
We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wildflowers growing,  
For we are part of all that is within life's river flowing.  
With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation,  
That all may have abundant life in every earthly nation.

When bodies shiver in the night and, weary, wait for morning,  
When children have no bread but tears, and warhorns sound their warning,  
God calls humanity to wake, to join in common labor,  
That all may have abundant life in oneness with their neighbor.

God calls humanity to join as partners in creating  
A future free from want or fear, life's goodness celebrating.  
That new world beckons from afar, invites our shared endeavor,  
That all may have abundant life and peace endure forever.

#### BLESSING

**POSTLUDE** *Come, Thou Almighty King* Felice de Giardini, arr.by Victor C. Johnson

\*(Additional verse four by Linda Noonan, used with permission, in recognition of those starving in Gaza)

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

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### Desperately Seeking Coffee Hour Hosts

We are in need of hosts for Coffee Hour for **November 9<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and December 28<sup>th</sup>**. You can sign up online [here](#) or contact Lane McDonough at [lanemcd26a@gmail.com](mailto:lanemcd26a@gmail.com)

## THIS SUNDAY

### **I AM MY NEIGHBOR'S KEEPER: A Benefit Concert (co-sponsored by FCCN) Sun., Oct 5<sup>th</sup> @ Edwards Church, Framingham at 3pm (FREE: Donations accepted)**

Renowned bassist and composer Avery Sharpe will present a concert of original compositions which form the collection, *I Am My Neighbor's Keeper*. These compositions respond to the political and racial divisions in our country, highlighting our commitment to one another and reminding us that as our neighbor's keeper, we should help one another. Mr. Sharpe will offer a narrative to introduce each song, amplifying its significance in our spiritual and day to day lives. Musically, the compositions are laden with Jazz, Gospel, African, Blues and other influences.

Edwards Church is located at 39 Edwards Street in Framingham. The concert will start at 3pm and doors will open at 2:30pm. Edwards Church is a fully accessible space. This concert is free to the public, and donations to support *A Place to Turn* in their work to address hunger in MetroWest Massachusetts will be accepted. Advance tickets and donations may be made through Eventbrite at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/i-am-my-neighbors-keeper-a-benefit-concert-tickets-1641609049859>. For further information, please contact Open Spirit Center at 508-877-2050 or [debbie@openspiritcenter.org](mailto:debbie@openspiritcenter.org)

### **CROSSWALK YOUTH (grades 7-12)**

**Sun., October 5<sup>th</sup> @ Corn Maze @ Hanson Farm, Framingham.**

Departing: 2:30pm from St. Paul's Episcopal Church | Returning: approx. 5:30pm

## THIS WEEK

### **FAMILY PROMISE METROWEST: FCCN HOST WEEK**

**Our next host week begins October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.** Contact Chris Gentry @ [jcmsgentry@gmail.com](mailto:jcmsgentry@gmail.com) to sign up: 1) Prepare & deliver a meal for approx. 5-10 people (1-2 volunteers for Tues/Thurs). 2) Purchase & deliver groceries, list provided by FPM. (1-3 volunteers). Or sign up directly at: <https://cerv.is/0002x1112>. **\*Gift cards always welcome.**

## **THIS WEEK continued**

### **OWL SESSIONS 2025-26**

**Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm**

FCC is planning OWL sessions. Parent orientation meeting. ALL 7th-8th graders welcome. Contact Sarallyn @ [sarallyn@fccn.org](mailto:sarallyn@fccn.org) with questions.

### **BURLINGTON ICE STANDOUT**

**October 8<sup>th</sup> (2nd Wed. each mo.) ~ 10:30am carpool @ FCCN ~ 11am-1pm**

For more information, or to save a spot, contact Rev. Cindy at [revcindyfccn@gmail.com](mailto:revcindyfccn@gmail.com)

## **OCTOBER-NOVEMBER EVENTS**

### **DONATE TO FCCN's TRUNK OR TREAT**

**Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:rclausen@gmail.com) to learn more info.

### **YOGA WITH LIVE DRUMMING FUNDRAISER**

**(co-sponsored by FCCN, Natick is United, Roots & Wings Yoga & Healing Arts)**

**Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00-8:15pm in the Vestry**

Instructor Maggie Sky will be hosting and teach on embodied movement; a "deep dive" yoga practice. Bruno Giles will be co-leading with drumming. Suggested donation: \$25-\$50. All proceeds will go to benefit CASA. Contact Maggie to register: [learn2relax@yahoo.com](mailto:learn2relax@yahoo.com) ~ space limited.

### **EYES ON OWLS ~ SAVE THE DATE!**

**Date: Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> from 1-2pm @ FCCN's Sanctuary**

Tickets \$7.00 from [EventBrite](https://www.eventbrite.com), advance ticket sales only, fees apply

Marcia and Mark Wilson highlight the owls' unique adaptations, habitats and behaviors in the wild, while sharing tips on how you can look for owls yourself. Questions are welcomed. Recommended for ages 6+.

## **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](https://ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek))**

**Wednesdays at 7pm - Centering Prayer Circle [Zoom](https://ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle) ([ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle](https://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	Charles	Betty Benefito
Chris Stefanatos	Lois and Pam Dotter	Family and Friends of Jane Conaway
Susan & Bob	Char Hannon	Friends & Family of Kenny Hoffman
Angela	Shirley Lilly	Pete and his family
Joel	Uncle Al & Aunt Deb	Family and Friends of Ronnie Eastman
Debbie Collins	Paul S.	John Hickey
Jeanna B.	Don & Heather C.	Marty
Aunt Kathy	Mary Cerreto	Family and Friends of Charles Gobron
Eric	Connie Sullivan	Dale
Sarah Kazim	Phil Jennings	Joe Barnes
Joan Person	Faye Bishop	Amy Hollister
Brian J.	Tommy Hannon	Virginia Fenton
Beverly Newell	Paul	The Family and Friends of Janet Collins
Anna Hayes	Anne	Tammy, daughter Ashley & Veronica
John Sullivan	Molly	Declan and his parents Beth & Kenny
Jane Hall	Evelyn and Family	Myriam's brother Alex
Jenna Hayes	Mike McCormick	Mary Anderson
Abby Robbins	Malfrid Abrahamsen	Peg & Charlie Ostrander
Natalie Friend	Bob Brown	Frankie Notarbartolo
Jayne Hayes	Doug Shirley	Melissa & Tiffany Wallace
Myriam's Mom	Diane	Ann & George Schmidt
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
Katie	Janet Peterson	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.