

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.



“Our peoples are joined by suffering but also by hope.”
- Chief Caring Hands of the Natick Praying Indians

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

John Weagraff

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 #485 *Bless Now, O God, the Journey* Bred Dina Vida Vingar**

Bless now, O God the journey that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.

Bless all of us, your pilgrims, who share this winding way,
whose hope burns through the terrors, whose love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound.
Together we are seeking the road where faith is found.

Divine Eternal Lover, you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise where milk and honey flow.
But waiting not for places, you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.

CENTERING PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS*

O Great Spirit, our Father from above,
we honor your name as sacred and holy.
Bring your good road to us,
where the beauty of your ways in the spirit-world above
is reflected in the earth below.

Provide for us day by day—the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon.
The corn, the squash, and the wild rice.
All the things we need for each day.
Release us from the things we have done wrong,
in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us.
Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road, and
set us free from the evil one and his worthless ways.
Aho! May it be so!

*** 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!

SCRIPTURE Exodus 12:1-14

WORD FOR ALL AGES

MUSICAL RESPONSE

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

READING In the beginning by Natick Praying Indians

REFLECTION The Sacred Journey 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 #504** (v. 1,3,4,5) *God of Justice, God of Mercy* Hyfrydol

God of justice, God of mercy, make us merciful and just!
Help us see all your creation as from you a sacred trust.
And when people cry in anguish for their own or others' pain,
Show us ways to make a difference, O dear God, make us humane!

You have formed us, God of rainbows, in our image for your will.
Seeing our diverse reflections, trusting you, we marvel still;
For our colors, strengths and talents show what one alone would lack –
Genders, abilities, cultures, identities, all the races, white and Black.

Grant all people work with meaning, strength to care for those they love.
Food for table, truth for telling, challenges to rise above.
But remind us, God of justice, this is now our work, our call!
Changing life's oppressive systems into ones empow'ring all.

So the vision you have planted in each human mind and heart
Now becomes the spark of action calling us to do our part.
Keep that vision clear before us, make us agents of your will,
Instruments of peace and justice, may we your desires fulfill.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

**Wildman, Terry M., First Nations Version: An Indigenous Bible Translation of the New Testament (pp. 9-10)*

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

More at fccnatick.org/events

TODAY

GUEST MUSICIAN

We welcome back Sim Spasojevic as our musician this morning, while Elaine is away.

SEEKING (1) FINAL COFFEE HOUR HOST(S)

We are in need of one final host for the Coffee Hour on **Sun., Dec. 28th.**

Please contact Lane McDonough at lanemcd26a@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK

LUNCH BUNCH

Thursday, Oct. 16th in the Vestry

Come gather in the vestry for lively conversation and laughter around the table.

NATICK ARTISTS OPEN STUDIOS

Sat., Oct. 17th and Sun., Oct. 18th in the Vestry

The Natick Art Association will hold its annual "Natick Artists Open Studios" on the weekend of Oct. 18-19.

OCTOBER EVENTS

DONATE TO FCCN's TRUNK OR TREAT

Saturday, October 25th 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.

TRAINING SESSION FOR BUILDING AMBASSADORS

Sunday, Oct. 26th following coffee hour in Chat Room #116

We are thrilled to announce a new initiative at FCC Natick: Widening Our Welcome: Building Ambassadors – Building Community one event at a time! As we open our recently renovated spaces to host a variety of people and events, we invite you to help us broaden our community engagement and foster an atmosphere of hospitality and care.

The training will last approximately 30-45 minutes and is open to anyone wishing to know the building "basics." Included will be a brief walk-through of our updated

OCTOBER EVENTS continued

Training Session For Building Ambassadors (cont)

space, covering: safety procedures & equipment, emergency protocols, light switches & lighting systems, basic kitchen functions, and other helpful features for hosting events. No RSVP required! If you have questions or would like more info, please contact Wayne Szretter at wjszretter@comcast.net.

YOGA WITH LIVE DRUMMING FUNDRAISER

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

Tuesday, October 28th at 7:00-8:15pm in the Vestry

Instructor Maggie Sky will be hosting and teaching on embodied movement yoga.

Bruno Giles will be co-leading with drumming. Suggested donation: \$25-\$50.

Proceeds go to CASA. Register w/ Maggie: learn2relax@yahoo.com ~ space limited.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

EYES ON OWLS ~ SAVE THE DATE!

Date: Saturday, November 15th from 1-2pm @ FCCN's Sanctuary

Tickets \$7.00 from [EventBrite](#), advance ticket sales only, fees apply

Marcia and Mark Wilson highlight the owls' unique adaptations, habitats and behaviors in the wild. Questions are welcomed. Recommended for ages 6+.

DECEMBER EVENTS

CASTING CALL FOR FCC's CHRISTMAS PAGEANT --- WE NEED YOU!

A SUPERHERO CHRISTMAS ~ Dec. 21st during worship

Our Christmas pageant has the usual cast of characters with some new, fun twists.

Rehearsals: Sat. mornings in Nov/Dec. Sign up w/ Sarallyn at sarallyn@fccnatick.org

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

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.