

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.



Love demands expression.
It will not stay still, stay silent, be good, be modest,
be seen and not heard, no.
It will break out in tongues of praise,
the high note that smashes the glass and spills the liquid.
— Jeanette Winterson

PRELUDE

Morning Has Broken

arranged by J.B. Taylor

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Carolyn Williams

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**

All Are Welcome (verses 1, 3, 4)

Two Oaks

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space,
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us;
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone,
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger;
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

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**

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

Be Still

John Purifoy

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 13

WORD FOR ALL AGES

Open and Affirming Covenant –

One: The First Congregational Church of Natick –

All: That's us!

One: affirms the dignity and worth of every person.

All: EVERY PERSON!

One: We are called to express the love and welcome of Christ.

All: We each carry the Christ-light in the world.

One: We celebrate the diversity of God's creation –

All: God's creativity is amazing to behold!

One: and the gifts, talents and resources –

All: like listening, organizing, teaching

One: of all who strive to build a church that is faithful to God.

All: Want to serve on Council?

One: We, therefore, covenant again –

All: God is our partner!

One: to be an Open and Affirming congregation.

All: and we seek to earn that status every day.

One: We embrace and support those who experience rejection

**All: No matter who you are, or where you are on the journey,
you are welcome here!**

One: and find themselves in exile from spiritual community.

**All: We take responsibility for the harm the church has done in the past,
and seek a new way forward.**

One: We welcome people of every ability, race –

All: Each person a beloved child of God.

One: culture, gender, –

All: Each person a beloved child of God.

One: economic circumstance, –

All: Each person a beloved child of God.

One: gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation.

**All: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex,
Asexual, and whatever new ways of living we will learn.
Each person a beloved child of God! Amen.**

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.

REFLECTION

Sacred Stories

LGBT Asylum Task Force

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 #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

God of Grace and God of Glory

John Hughes; arr. by Jason Krug

*Please join us for coffee hour in Chat Room #116 following the worship service.
Special thanks to our coffee hour hosts this week, the Clausen Family!*

LGBT ASYLUM TASK FORCE

This morning we welcome participants from the LGBT Asylum Task Force, a ministry of Hadwen Park Congregational Church, UCC. It is illegal to be LGBTQ in 60+ countries. Folks flee from persecution to the US for safety, but it can take up to two years for their paperwork to be processed and for them to be allowed to work. The Task Force provides housing, food, and connections to free legal, healthcare, educational, and job readiness resources during this waiting period.

Visit lgbtasylum.org for more details about their work and how you can get involved. Today we will also take a special offering to support the task force's work. You are invited to use the special envelopes, and checks can be made out to FCC Natick, with "LGBT Asylum" in the memo line.

UPCOMING EVENTS

More at fccnatick.org/events

THIS WEEK

FCCN's TRUNK OR TREAT

Saturday, October 25th in the church parking lot

In addition: WE NEED 1-3 add'l cars to participate. ~ please contact Robin @
rclausen@gmail.com

OCTOBER EVENTS

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!

Training Session for Building Ambassadors

This first training session will last 30-45 minutes and is open to anyone. Included will be a brief walk-through of our updated space, covering:

- Safety procedures and equipment
- Emergency protocols
- Light switches and lighting systems
- Basic kitchen functions
- Other helpful features for hosting events

No RSVP is required—simply join us after Coffee Hour. If you have questions please contact Wayne Szretter at wjszretter@comcast.net

KNITTING CIRCLE

Monday, October 27th at 7pm in the Parlor

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 co-leading w/ Bruno Giles with drumming. Suggested donation: \$25-\$50. Proceeds go to CASA. Register w/ Maggie:
learn2relax@yahoo.com.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

PUB THEOLOGY ~ CHANGE OF DATE

Sunday, November 2nd at 7:00pm

Mark your calendars instead for Sun., November 2nd @ 7pm. Details to follow soon!

SAVE THE DATE ~ Coffee Hour Chat: Help FCCN Touch the Future!

Sunday, November 9th, following worship in the Chat Room #116

Grab your treats! and join us in the Chat Room off the Vestry by Noon to explore ways that you can include First Congregational Church Natick in your Legacy Giving plans! Because you are committed to our shared mission today, this brief session will highlight some of the creative ways in which to care for you and your family while also continuing your commitment to FCCN in the future, strengthening our ability to serve God and our world for generations to come. Your questions are welcome! Feel free to reach out to Generosity@fccnatick.org.

BURLINGTON ICE STANDOUT

Nov. 12 (and second Wed. of every month)

Carpool leaving FCC Natick at 10:30

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 Together we grow connections, make our voice louder, support one another, and bring the body of Christ to life in the world.

NOVEMBER EVENTS continued

EYES ON OWLS

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 have thrilled audiences of all ages with their live owl presentations for the past 30 years. It's New England's favorite wildlife program! Questions are welcomed. Recommended for ages 6+.

DECEMBER EVENTS

12th ANNUAL INTERFAITH COMMUNITY VIGIL

Sunday, Dec. 14th @ 5:00pm

For loved ones who struggle or have struggled with substance use.

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