

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.



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 26, 2025

The community I desire is not grudging;
it is exuberant, joyful, grounded in affection, pleasure, and mutual aid.
Such a community arises not from duty or money
but from the free interchange of people who share a place,
share work and food, sorrows and hope.
Taking part in the common life means dwelling in a web of relationships,
the many threads tugging at you while also holding you upright.
- Scott Russell

PRELUDE All Creatures of Our God and King arranged by J.B. Taylor

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill Ramage

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 #102** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWM Rhondda

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
lead me on through death's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to 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** *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

This Is My Prayer

by Ken Dosso

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 14:5-22, excerpts

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS *Promise Of The Congregation*

We welcome you with joy into the membership of this congregation.

We embrace your gifts, your needs, your dreams.

**We know your presence and participation
will change the shape of this body
and help it grow in new ways.**

**We will support you in your journeys,
affirm you in your ministries,
and surround you with our compassion and care.**

**We pray that all of us,
united in faith and community,
may grow in our knowledge of God
and our love for one another.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE

After receiving New Members, 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

Sea Glass

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 #378

We Thank You for Our People

Holy Manna

God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil,

hardy spirits, rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil.

Faithful Rock of generations, you whom parents' parents praised:

here in hope as we remember may our song to you be raised.

Thank you God, for gentle pleasure: lessons learned and secrets told,

hopes and memories saved as treasure, passed to young ones by the old,

pranks and glories, songs and stories, food by loving hands prepared.

God, we bless you for your presence in our tears and laughter shared.

Still we must confess before you, sometimes savior, we have failed;

though we worship and adore you, sometimes love has not prevailed.

Temper racing, devil chasing, hearts estranged by ice or flame

you transform by ways forgiving. Grace amazing! Grace, your name!

By your spirit of creation keep us bold for risking still,

eager in anticipation, ever strong to do your will.

Bind us close to one another, sharing life and death and birth,

welcoming as sister, brother, all your children on the earth.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

To God Be The Glory

arr. by Jason Krug

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

Special thanks to our coffee hour hosts this week, the Hanna family!

UPCOMING EVENTS

More at fccnatick.org/events

THIS SUNDAY

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Sunday, October 26th during worship

This morning, we welcome eight new members at FCC Natick. It is a joy to covenant with: Karen Tripp, Kerri & Doug Westberg, Tiffany & Andrew Walther, Art & Karen Palmunen, and Stephanie Blackwelder.

THIS WEEK

BYSTANDER TRAINING AT FCC NATICK

Monday, Oct. 27, 7:00-8:30pm in the Vestry

Next Monday, we will be hosting a training by the ACLU for those in Metrowest who want to understand how best to respond in these times. See the Friday 10/24 LINK edition for more info on registration. If you are able to help with hosting (setting up chairs, other needs that might arise), please contact Rev. Cindy at revcindyfccn@gmail.com

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 at email: learn2relax@yahoo.com.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

PUB THEOLOGY ~ CHANGE OF DATE

Sunday, November 2nd at 7:00pm in Chat Room #116

Mark your calendars. 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.

NOVEMBER EVENTS continued

BURLINGTON ICE STANDOUT

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

Carpool leaving FCC Natick at 10:30

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

FCC HOLIDAY BOOK FAIR AND BAKE SALE

Saturday 11/15 and Sunday 11/16

Featuring a selection of adult and children's books and holiday books; gift items, calendars and Advent calendars. Payment: VENMO sharon-kirby-11 (phone last digits 3292); cash or check payable to: Wellesley Books. Please note: Natick Health Dept has not inspected these home-baked items: good will offering for bake sale, suggested price for 1 cookie & glass of juice \$1.00. **Proceeds benefit FCC**

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

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/ Saralyn at saralyn@fccnatick.org

EVERY WEEK AT FCCN:

Sundays at 9:00am - Adult Faith Group

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

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

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 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.