

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.



Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

November 2, 2025

All of the places of our lives are sanctuaries;
 some of them just happen to have steeples.
 And all of the people in our lives are saints;
 it is just that some of them have day jobs
 and most will never have feast days named for them.
 — Robert Benson

PRELUDE Nearer, My God, to Thee Lowell Mason arr. by Jason Krug

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP Kristen McDonough

One: When the saints go marching in –

All: I want to be there!

One: And when the sun begins to shine –

All: I want to be there!

One: And when the trumpet sounds it's call –

All: I want to be there!

One: And when the new world is revealed –

All: I want to be there!

One: Yes, I want to be in that number –

All: When the saints go marching in!

*** OPENING HYMN #316** Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ Linstead

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:

bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,

teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,

gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

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** *God's Hands*

God's hands are your hands. God's hands are my hands.
God's hands are our hands, working together.
God's hands are your hands. God's hands are my hands.
God's hands are our hands, working for love.

CHOIR ANTHEM Many Gifts, One Spirit Diane Hannibal and Joel Raney

SCRIPTURE Luke 6:20-31

WORD FOR ALL AGES

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Following Word for All Ages, 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

Those on site are invited to come forward, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup of juice, and eat it right away. If you prefer to remain in your seat, the Worship Team is glad to come to you.

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 #486** For All the Saints (verses 1, 2, 4, 5) Sine Nomine

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might:
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the struggle long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and we are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

BLESSING

POSTLUDE O God, Our Help in Ages Past William Croft, arr. by Victor Johnson

*Please join us for coffee hour in the Vestry following the worship service.
Special thanks to our coffee hour hosts this week, Gail Martin & Carolyn Williams!!*

COMMUNION FUND

On Communion Sundays, we invite contributions to the fund we use to help our neighbors who are struggling financially. As always, it is optional to donate to this fund. If you would like to participate, folks on site can use the Communion Fund envelopes. You can also donate by check or through the church website; just include "Communion Fund" in the memo line.

UPCOMING EVENTS

More at fccnatick.org/events

THIS SUNDAY

COFFEE HOUR CHAT: NATICK SERVICE COUNCIL

Sunday, November 2nd, following worship in the Chat Room #116

Guest speaker, Rachel Vingsness, Director of Programs & Operations.

PUB THEOLOGY

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

NOVEMBER EVENTS

COFFEE HOUR CHAT: LEGACY GIVING-HELP FCCN TOUCH THE FUTURE!

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

Join us 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 email: Generosity@fccnatick.org.

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

DECEMBER EVENTS

FCC HOLIDAY BOOK FAIR AND BAKE SALE

Saturday Nov. 15 and Sunday Nov. 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

DECEMBER 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+.

FCC Book Group: Time of the Child by Niall Williams

Sunday, November 30th in the Parlor following coffee hour

Join us for a light lunch and discussion. RSVP to church office at admin@fccn.org

The book is set in a small Irish village where time seems to have passed by with beautiful language, turns of phrase, characters, setting and story. We get to know Dr Jack Troy, living with his eldest daughter, Ronnie; the village's long-time minister showing signs of dementia and a younger minister finding his way. The story begins as a newborn baby is found at the annual Christmas Fair profoundly changing the village and its inhabitants.

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 \(ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek\)](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 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

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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.