

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.



The question is not what you look at, but what you see.
- Henry David Thoreau

PRELUDE

All Things Bright and Beautiful

arr. by J.B. Taylor

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Karen Maki

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 #67** *God, Who Stretched The Spangled Heaven*

Hyfrydol

God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place,
Flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space;
We, your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you;
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.

We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;
Known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;
Probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power,
Facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.

As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew,
Children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor, well begun;
Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.

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 *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 *Close Your Eyes and See* by Pepper Choplin

SCRIPTURE Exodus 16, excerpts

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.

READING A Prayer for References by Richard Orloff

REFLECTION What is It? 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 #520**

Restless Weaver

Beach Spring

Restless Weaver, ever spinning threads of justice and shalom;
Dreaming patterns of creation where all creatures find a home;
Gathering up life's varied fibers every texture, every hue:
Grant us your creative vision. With us weave your world anew.

Where earth's fragile web is raveling help us mend each broken strand.
Bless our urgent, bold endeavors cleansing water, air, and land.
Through the Spirit's inspiration off'ring health where once was pain
Strengthen us to be the stewards of your world knit whole again.

When our violent lust for power ends in lives abused and torn,
From compassion's sturdy fabric fashion hope and trust reborn.
Where injustice rules as tyrant, give us courage, God, to dare
Live our dreams of transformation. Make our lives incarnate prayer.

Restless Weaver, still conceiving new life now and yet to be
Binding all your vast creation in one living tapestry:
You have called us to be weavers. Let your love guide all we do.
With your reign of peace our pattern, we will weave your world anew.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

by Mark Hayes

*Please join us for coffee hour in the Vestry following the worship service.
Special thanks to our coffee hour hosts this week, Lane & Kirsten McDonough!*

GENEROSITY INGATHERING

Today we celebrate the commitments we are making to
financially sustain the ministry of FCCN in the year ahead.
The work we do together is more important than ever.

If you brought your sustainer form with you today, you are
invited to add it to the offering plate (additional sustainer
forms are available from the ushers).

If you already shared your sustainer commitment with the
Generosity Team, thank you.

If you'd like to submit your sustainer commitment by email
or online form, or if you have any thoughts or questions,
contact the Generosity Team at generosity@fccnatick.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

More at fccnatick.org/events

THIS SUNDAY

FCC HOLIDAY BOOK FAIR AND BAKE SALE

Sunday Nov. 16, before & after worship

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

FCCN PRIDE, TRANS AND MENTAL HEALTH FLAGS PREVIOUSLY UPCYCLED INTO BAGS!

Sunday, November 16th in the Vestry during coffee hour

Get yours before they are gone! – limited supply (Cash, check or Venmo)

Small zippered bag \$15

This is a fundraiser for FCCN and ONA Justice work

Questions? See Carolyn Williams.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

LUNCH BUNCH

Thursday, November 20th at 12:30pm in the Vestry

Lunch Bunch convenes on the third Thursday of most months, for a purely social brown bag lunch. Folks gather in the vestry (or the outside tent in good weather) for lively conversation and laughter around the table, as we share important details of our lives. There are drinks, snacks, and treats to share, and even hot soup in cold weather. Do drop in!

LASAGNA DINNER FUNDRAISER FOR WEST VIRGINIA WORK CAMP

Saturday, November 22nd~ Saturday 11/22, 5-7pm (Vestry Or Take Out)

Chef Bob Returns! Proceeds go to the WV Work Camp Mission.

Featuring Meat or Vegetarian Lasagna, Salad & Garlic Bread for \$15. Gluten Free option available. **Place your order by Wed., 11/19, please.**

Link to the online order form: <https://forms.gle/LjP5U4qbSYLganoK6>

HANGING THE GREENS

Sunday, November 23rd, 1-3pm

Come join the fun and help prepare the sanctuary for Advent. Contact [Sarallyn](#) to RSVP in case there are schedule changes.

STAR ADVENT WORKSHOP

Sunday, November 30th, following worship

Everyone is invited to kick off the advent season with cookies and Stars!

***Cookie Decorating, *Advent Wreaths, *Christmas Ornaments, *and More!**

NOVEMBER EVENTS continued

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 priest showing signs of dementia and a younger priest finding his way. The story begins as a newborn baby is found at the annual Christmas Fair profoundly changing the village and its inhabitants.

DECEMBER EVENTS

FCC's CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS

A SUPERHERO CHRISTMAS ~ Dec. 21st during worship

Our Christmas pageant has the usual cast of characters with some new, fun twists. Rehearsals: Saturday mornings from 10-11am in December. For more info, contact Sarallyn at sarallyn@fccnatick.org

MINISTRY TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT

HELLO FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM!

We're so glad you're here-- and yes, this is our friendly pitch to invite you to check us out!

We're the Team behind "all things worship" from candle lighting and doing collections to setting the Communion table each month. We also prepare for special meaningful services like the New Years' service, Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday. Eastertide with Maundy Thursday, the Saturday Night Vigil and Easter is like our World Series time!

Most of our tasks are simple and quick—especially if you're already attending service! And there's a bonus: joining Worship Team is a great way to connect with others and be a part of something deeply meaningful. We know that our tasks might not seem glamorous, but they are essential. What we do helps create the space for our church family to gather, reflect and grow together in faith. That's the heart of who we are.

Curious? We'd love to tell you more. You can: *Chat with one of us, *Shadow us during a service *Join one of our meetings. Reach out any time: David Coulter: coulterdl@aol.com, Ric Ripley: fwr334@gmail.com, John Weagraff: johnweagraff@verizon.net, or to me: Jeannine Keedy: jkeedy@rcn.com. We hope to see you soon—come help us set the table!

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.