

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), 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.



Welcome To Worship at FCC Natick!

It doesn't matter to us if you grew up in a church or never set foot in one before. You matter to us. We welcome you as you are, because we believe that we are all embraced by God's inclusive and extravagant love.

As a congregation, we strive to practice radical inclusivity and extravagant hospitality. When we gather for worship, we want everyone to have access, to be comfortable, and feel welcomed.

If you are new here, we invite you to introduce yourself to the pastor, and fill out the card in the *Welcome Newcomers* brochure and place it in the offering plate so that we can extend a more personal welcome!

To help you worship with comfort and meaning:

- We invite you to change any portion of today's service to language in which you feel included. We welcome all into God's presence and worship God in wholeness.
- **Large Print Bibles and worship bulletins** are available from the ushers. The bulletin is also available in digital form using the weekly QR code.
- **Noise cancelling headphones** are available from the ushers.
- *Listening Everywhere* app is supported. (Download to a smartphone, bring headphones.)

Childcare for infants through age 3 is available. There is a video link to the sanctuary for parents who wish to stay with their child. There is a changing station in the nursery.

- **Verbal cues** are used along with the bulletin text to direct the congregation. For instance, "Please rise in body or in spirit."
- Our building is **handicap accessible**. This includes handicap parking spaces, a handicap entrance near the lot, an all-floors handicap elevator, and handicap restrooms on 2 floors.
- There is a **gender-neutral bathroom** on the second floor.
- There is an **Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)** on the wall on the ground floor elevator lobby. When turned on, it provides step-by-step instructions.
- **Narcan** doses are available via the ushers or the church office.

We realize that our best intentions and efforts may sometimes fall short. Please let us know if there is anything else we can do. Speak to an usher or drop a note in a collection plate.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

We don't inherit the earth from our ancestors,
we borrow it from our children.

- David Brower

PRELUDE

The Earth Prelude
Thomas Foster, organ

L. Einaudi

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Simone Gill

One: To bring new life to the land,
to restore the waters,
to refresh the air –

All: We join with the earth and with each other.

One: To nurture the forests,
to care for the plants,
to protect the creatures –

All: We join with the earth and with each other.

One: To celebrate the seas,
to rejoice in sunlight,
to sing the song of the stars –

All: We join with the earth and with each other.

One: To renew our spirits,
to create human community,
to promote justice and peace –

All: We join with the earth and with each other.

One: Because we are all related,
all connected,
and all united in God –

All: We join with the earth and with each other. Amen.

* **OPENING HYMN 98**

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

Roeder

God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars;
How does the creature say Awe? How does the creature say Praise?

God of the earthquake, God of the storm, God of the trumpet blast;
How does the creature cry Woe? How does the creature cry Save?

God of the rainbow, God of the cross, God of the empty grave;
How does the creature say Grace? How does the creature say Thanks?

God of the hungry, God of the sick, God of the prodigal;
How does the creature say Care? How does the creature say Life?

God of the neighbor, God of the foe, God of the pruning hook;
How does the creature say Love? How does the creature say Peace?

God of the ages, God near at hand, God of the loving heart:
How do your children say Joy? How do your children say Home?

CENTERING PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS*

(*From the Church of England, slightly adapted.)

One: Our God who art in heaven

All: You are also at home in the air, soil forests and Oceans

One: Hallowed be your name

All: By the care we take of your creation

One: Your kingdom come

All: All that you see is good

One: Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.

All: Your will to till and care

One: Give us this day our daily bread

All: That all may have sufficient to live life in fullness.

One: Forgive us our trespasses

All: Our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species and for future generations

One: As we forgive those who trespass against us

All: By reconciliation with justice and peace

One: Lead us not into temptation

All: The temptation to equate dominion with exploitation

One: And deliver us from evil

All: The evil of destroying your gift of creation

One: For yours is the kingdom

All: Yours, Lord, not ours

One: The power and the glory

All: A love that unites all things

One: For ever and ever

All: You are the beginning and you are the end. Amen. So be it.

*** 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 participating from home!*

One: God's peace be with you.

All: And also with you!

*** SONG OF CELEBRATION**

Halle, Halle Halle-luja. Halle, Halle Halle-luja.
Halle, Halle Halle-luja. Halleluja. Halleluja.

CHOIR ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth
Senior Choir; Thomas Foster, director

Philip Keveren

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 10:13-16

BAPTISM OF ARTHUR JOSEPH WILLIAMS

CONGREGATIONAL PROMISE:

Arthur, we welcome you into the family of faith.
God grant you strength for life's journey,
joy in your faith,
the freedom of love,
and the hope of new life in Jesus Christ
who makes us one.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

After the baptism, children (age 3 – grade 6) depart for Sunday School (Godly Play & Connect). Parents may accompany children and return to worship once they are settled. After worship, parents may enjoy a cup of coffee and adult conversation, then pick up their children in the classroom at 11:45 am.

REFLECTION

Arthur's World

MUSICAL RESPONSE

GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

ALLELUIA

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR SUBSTANCE

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY

*** SONG OF PRAISE**

Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above all heavenly hosts:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Mountain brook with rushing waters, eagle perched in lofty tree,
flowering hillside in the springtime, white tailed deer alert and free!
Beauty, Beauty all around us! Jubilate! Sing for Joy!
Help us, God, preserve earth's splendor for tomorrow's world to see.

Pure the water freshly flowing toward its ocean destiny,
clean the air of God's creation, rich the soil, the mine, the sea.
"Earth is good!" God's word proclaimed it. Jubilate! Sing for Joy!
Save us, God, from wasteful living that destroys earth's dignity.

Waving fields of wheat and barley, ripened apples, cherries red,
cattle grazing in the pasture; by God's bounty we are fed!
Well supplied the world around us! Jubilate! Sing for Joy!
May no greed or warring madness scorch the earth or rob our bread.

Keep us faithful in the struggle to conserve earth's threatened store
as we seek to save the forest, clean the stream, protect the shore.
God and humans work together, Jubilate! Sing for Joy!
Partners working till as stewards we can say, "Earth's good!" Once more.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan
(The acts of God are righteous)

Johann Krebs

Celebration of Baptism

This morning, we celebrate the baptism of Arthur Joseph Williams, child of Lori and Steve Williams. Steve has been part of the church family since the early 80's. Lori first attended back in 2018 and the family has been part of events since then. Arthur's parents write, "We were blessed by Arthur arriving in our lives in June of 2021. Lori tries to keep up with Arthur each day and Steve works from home, allowing him the ability to assist with Arthur, mainly swimming lessons. Our faith is an integral part of our lives, so we wanted to have Arthur baptized. Our hope is for Arthur's faith to become real to him and he can walk with God on the journey of life."

Calendar for April 28 – May 6, 2024

- Sunday, Apr. 28** 9:00 AM *Adult Faith Group* – Contemplation and Action
10:30 AM *Worship* led by Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry
 Baptism of Arthur Joseph Williams
10:45 AM *Godly Play and Connect.*
11:30 AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour* in Vestry
~ NOON *Tai Chi* (Tom Foster, ongoing) in Vestry
12:30 PM West Virginia Work Camp meeting in Parlor
2:00 PM *What's An Aquifer?* trail walk on the CRT
- Wed., May 1** NOON *Mid-Week Connection, Zoom* ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek
- Thurs., May 2** 7:00 PM *Prayer Circle* via Zoom (ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle)
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday, May 4** 9:00 AM *FCCN Yard Sale (9 am – 2 pm)*
- Sunday, May 5** 9:00 AM *Adult Faith Group* – Contemplation and Action
10:30 AM *Worship* led by Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry
10:45 AM *Godly Play and Connect.*
11:30 AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour* in Vestry
~ NOON *Tai Chi* (Tom Foster, ongoing) in Vestry
1:00 PM *Family Promise* Walk to End Homelessness

Events: TODAY

Thanks to our Coffee Hour hosts, the O.W.L. families!

Hosts needed May 12, 24. Contact sharonkirby3@gmail.com.

Learning Tai Chi (with Tom Foster) continues

Sundays, after coffee hour in the Vestry

Tai Chi is a traditional Chinese mind-body exercise that almost anyone can do. This “moving meditation” relieves pain, improves balance, and reduces stress. Tom Foster will teach the simplest version, Yang-style 24 Form, on Sundays in the Vestry after Coffee hour.

Earth Day All Around Natick (Day 2)

April 28, many events around Natick

A listing of dozens of events around town can be found at www.econatick.org/actions/3562.

"What's an Aquifer? Walk and Learn to Protect our Water

Sunday, April 28, 2:00-3:30 pm; CRT parking area on Mechanic St.*

Join a local hydrogeologist (Sarah Hanna) for a 2.5-mile walk (round trip) along the Cochituate Rail Trail and learn about the aquifers that supply our water system, as well as ways we can work together to protect our water. *Meet at the Cochituate Rail Trail parking area on Mechanic St.

Upcoming Events: This Week!

FCC Yard Sale – volunteers needed

Saturday, May 4th, 9 am – 2 pm on the church lawn

The Outreach team is holding a yard sale! **We need volunteers** (adults and youth) to come out in force to assist with collecting items, selling on May 4, and clean up! Feel free to sign up for multiple time slots. Outreach Members who are organizing the Sale will be present during all shifts start to finish! This is a very fun intergenerational church event! Questions call, text or email Gail Martin 617-283-9180, pgail1975@gmail.com. **Sign up:** ucc.fccnatick.org/yardsale.

Drop Off Times for Yard Sale Items: Sunday 4/28 9-10 am and 4-8 pm on Wed.-Fri. 5/1-3.

Family Promise Walk to End Homelessness

Sunday, May 5, 1 pm starting at Natick High School

Join/support our team, *FCC Natick Walks the Walk*, as the raise awareness and funds for families struggling with housing insecurity in Metrowest. A 2.3 mile walk around Natick, with food, vendors, and music along the way. Donate at ucc.fccnatick.org/FPwalk.

How To Host An Immigrant Family

Thursday, May 9, 7-8:30 pm

at Hartford St. Presbyterian Church & Zoom

Join members of Natick, community organizers, and service providers to learn about the need for host families to provide emergency shelter to recently arrived immigrants. 99 Hartford St, Natick, or use QR to RSVP.

Lasagna Dinner fundraiser for WVWC

Saturday May 11, 2024, 5-7 pm (Vestry or take out)

Lasagna Dinner (meat, vegi, GF options), salad and garlic bread for \$15, take out or eat in the vestry. Benefits West Virginia Work Camp. Pre-orders only: ucc.fccnatick.org/chefbob



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.

Sue Mascioli	Char Hannon	Irene & Walter
Joel	Charles	Friends and Family of Mary French
Debbie Collins	John Lilly	Friends and Family of Doug Duncan
Jeanna B.	Tony Parkes	Aunt Gwen
Aunt Kathy	Robin and Laura	Melissa and Tiffany Wallace
The Lewis Family	Tom Hamm	Ann and George Schmidt
Nathan Duarte	Mark Stunkel	Charles Gobron
Eric	Noah & Jennie Lynch	Susan Eck and family
Deb Evers	Karin Garcia's fiance	Richard Conway
Sarah Kazim	Uncle A1 & Aunt Deb	Friends & Family of Michael Connolly
Joan Person	Jack Mulloy	Abigail Brewer
Brian J.	Paul S.	Hillaree and family
Beverly Newell	Don & Heather C.	Friends & Family of John Hartman
Anna Hayes	Mary Cerreto	Doug & Barbara Shirley
John Sullivan	Connie Sullivan	Mary Connolly
Ronnie	Phil Jennings	Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey
Jane Hall	Faye Bishop	Alice Bridinger
Jenna Hayes	Tommy Hannon	Pat & Jane Conaway
Abby Robbins	Paul	Peace for the world and in everyone's day
Natalie Friend	Anne	Disaster victims in Maui, Morocco, Libya
Jayne Hayes	Molly	All immigrant families seeking justice
Myriam's Mom	Johnson Family	The people of Ukraine & Russia
Robbins Family	Evelyn and Family	The people of Santa Maria Tzeja
Jackie Snizek	Mike McCormick	Angels of Hope in Uganda
Mark Sullivan	Malfrid Abrahamsen	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 FCC Natick!

Offering. Every week we practice the spiritual discipline of generosity by sharing our financial resources. We call this the Offering. We offer multiple ways to give. In person we pass the plate through the congregation, where donations by cash and check are welcome. By mail, checks may be sent to the church office. Online (get there using the *QR code* or by visiting ucc.fccnatick.org/give), you may give using a credit card. But if this is your first time with us, please consider yourself our guest and just pass the plate along. If you'd like to learn more about money at FCCN, please see the pastor.



Communion. We usually celebrate communion on the first Sunday of the month. Folks online are invited to have a bit of food and drink handy. In person, we serve communion in several different ways, so the worship leader will instruct you. Our communion table is open to all who find meaning there, regardless of age, membership, or belief.

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 FCCN 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) with questions or concerns.

Name Tags. Please consider wearing a **name tag** – and a pronoun pin! Nametags are on the board in the elevator lobby (ground floor) and upper vestibule of the Sanctuary. If you don't yet have a nametag or are missing yours, make a note on the sheet and one will be on the lobby board next week. We want our church to be a place where everyone knows your name!

The LINK e-Newsletter. The LINK is emailed to subscribers every Tuesday and Friday. Please subscribe to the LINK, to stay in the loop. The Community LINK goes out Tuesdays (with happenings in Natick beyond the church). The Worship LINK goes out Fridays (and is more focused on the goings on in the congregation and that Sunday's service). It's free to subscribe: use the QR code or go to ucc.fccnatick.org/subscribe.



Hybrid Worship. Many folks worship from home, at least from time to time. Join us live online (ucc.fccnatick.org/livestream). Natick residents can join us through local access cable (Comcast Xfinity 22, Verizon Fios 29, RCN 03). You can also find worship recordings on our website: (ucc.fccnatick.org/worship-video).

Welcome To Worship at FCC Natick!

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.

Denominational Affiliation: FCCN is a member of the **United Church of Christ**, a liberal Protestant denomination within the Christian tradition. It offers for reflection a traditional Statement of Faith, yet values the individual's right and ability to prayerfully and thoughtfully determine what to believe regarding the Bible, God, creation, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, etc. The UCC values outreach and justice work. It seeks to be inclusive. Authority is held by members of the local congregation, not the church's pastor or national staff.

Children and youth. Children and youth are always welcome in our worship services. 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. If they wish, parents may accompany their child to the classroom, then return to the Sanctuary. Parents are encouraged to attend coffee hour after worship, then pick up their child from their classroom at 11:45 am. (Staffed *nursery care* is also available near the sanctuary throughout the service: ask an usher for directions or information.)

First Congregational Church of Natick (FCCN) Staff

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