

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.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 12, 2024

To belong, we need to be missed.

- John Swinton

PRELUDE

Schnücker dich, O liebe Seele

Johannes Brahms

Thomas Foster, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Doug Hanna

One: We really do mean it when we say –

All: This is the place where all are welcome!

One: But sometimes, to some people, it might not feel like –

All: This is the place where all are welcome!

One: So how do we make sure that –

All: This is the place where all are welcome!

One: Let's start by welcoming the presence of God.

* OPENING HYMN 367

Break Not the Circle

Robert

Break not the circle of enabling love,
where people grow, forgiven and forgiving;
break not the circle, make it wider still,
till it includes, embraces all the living.

Come, wonder at this love that comes to life,
where words of freedom are with humor spoken,
and people keep no score of wrong and guilt,
but will that human bonds remain unbroken.

Come, wonder at the Lord who came and comes
to teach the world the craft of hopeful craving
for peace and wholeness that will fill the earth;
he calls his people to creative living.

Join then the movement of the love that frees,
till people of whatever race or nation
will truly be themselves, stand on their feet,
see eye to eye with laughter and elation.

CENTERING PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS*

*Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Giver of all life, whose presence is holy,
may you come first in our hearts.
May all Creation become your community of grace,
and your desire be fulfilled throughout the earth,
as it is in your own heart.
Sustain us with the breath of life moment by moment.
Forgive us, and give us the gift of forgiveness.
Lead us past our temptations,
and save us from the power of the evil that would ensnare us.
For all that is, and all power, and all glory, come from you,
now and 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 participating from home!*

One: God's peace be with you.

All: And also with you!

*** SONG OF CELEBRATION** [Hymn 375: *Weave*]

Weave, weave, weave us together.
Weave us together in unity and love.
Weave, weave, weave us together.
Weave us together, together in love.

CHOIR ANTHEM

We Are Family

Sonja Poorman

Senior Choir; Thomas Foster, director

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

WORD FOR ALL AGES

READING

Mattering by Anonymous

adapted by Mark Hicks

MUSICAL RESPONSE

After the 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. 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

What about Justus?

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

* SENDING HYMN 374

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

Servant Song

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are all pilgrims on a journey, we are trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other go the mile and bear the load. ...

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shadow of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen the journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Canzona

Domenico Zipoli

Calendar for May 12 – May 19, 2024

Sunday, May 12	9:00 AM <i>Adult Faith Group</i> – Contemplation and Action
	10:30 AM <i>Worship</i> led by Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry
	10:45 AM <i>Godly Play</i> and <i>Connect</i> .
	11:30 AM <i>Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour</i> in Vestry
	~ NOON <i>Tai Chi</i> (Tom Foster, ongoing) in Vestry
Wed., May 15	NOON <i>Mid-Week Connection</i> , Zoom ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek
Thurs., May 16	NOON <i>Lunch Bunch</i> in Vestry
	7:00 PM <i>Prayer Circle</i> via Zoom (ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle)
	7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, May 18	2:00 PM <i>Holi Festival</i> in the FCC Parking Lot
Sunday, May 19	ALL DAY <u>Photographers Theory One Design will be in our midst</u>
Pentecost (no red)	9:00 AM <i>Rite-13 Breakfast</i> in Vestry
Rite 13 Celebration	9:00 AM <i>Adult Faith Group</i> – Contemplation and Action
Photography Day	10:30 AM <i>Worship</i> led by Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry
	10:45 AM <i>Godly Play</i> and <i>Connect</i> .
	11:30 AM <i>Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour</i> in Vestry
	various Staged Photos: participants welcome
	~ No <i>Tai Chi</i> this week

Events: TODAY

Thanks to Lane McDonough and friends for a coffee hour save.
Hosts needed June 3, 16, 23, and 30. sharonkirby3@gmail.com

Learning Tai Chi (with Tom Foster) continues

Today after coffee hour in the Vestry. (No class 5/19 or 5/26)

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.

Guatemala Partnership Report Back recording

Did you miss the powerful report back from the February 2024 trip to Santa Maria Tzeja? Our FCC reps joined people from around the world in sharing their experiences, including a short video from documentary filmmaker Judy Jackson! Watch at ucc.fccnatick.org/guatzoom.

Events: This Week

OUTMetrowest Trivia Night

Thursday, May 16, 6:00 – 8:30 pm at Framingham H.S.

The ONA team is supporting OUTMetrowest by attending their upcoming Trivia night. We are seeking players for a fun night on our 6-person team. Contact Carolyn Williams for more info.

Kayak Outing on Lake Cochituate

Saturday, May 18th 10 am

Explore a local gem from the water and discover a secret keyhole passage between two ponds. Rent a kayak or bring your own. RSVP to Sarallyn for details.

FCC Website Photography Day – NEXT SUNDAY!!

Sunday, May 19th before, during, and after worship

Our new website will launch later this summer. Next Sunday, May 19th, professional photographers from Theory One Design join us to take high quality images to help us convey through the website what makes FCC special. Here are some guidelines:

1. **Please come!**
2. **Dress normally.** It's Pentecost, but no red this year.
3. **Participate with flexibility.** Some things may be a little different.
4. **There will be a “photo free” zone** for those who need it.
5. **There will be additional opportunities to help after worship.** We will need to stage a few things that do not happen during worship. If you can stay, talk to staff.

May is Mental Health Month

The Town of Natick is sponsoring a variety of events, all free and open to everyone. Check out the calendar at bit.ly/mentalhealth_natick or scan the QR:



Events: On the Horizon

Meet “Nile”, the Inflatable Humpback Whale

Saturday, June 8, 1:00-3:00 pm in the Vestry

Join us for this unique experience as you are invited INSIDE the belly of the whale! During your half-hour visit inside Nile, you’ll learn about these majestic creatures, how to protect whales, and about the crucial role whales play in our ecosystem. Outside of the whale will be interactive exhibits and hands-on activities. This program is appropriate for ages 5+.



This is a timed-entry ticketed (\$4) event. Tickets can be purchased with venmo, EventBrite, or in-person after worship at FCC (starting 5/19). For full details: QR or ucc.fccnatick.org/whale.

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.

Irene & Walter	Char Hannon	Friends and Family of Tony Parkes
Joel	Charles	Friends and Family of Mary French
Debbie Collins	John Lilly	Friends and Family of Doug Duncan
Jeanna B.	Aunt Gwen	Melissa and Tiffany Wallace
Aunt Kathy	Robin and Laura	Ann and George Schmidt
The Lewis Family	Tom Hamm	Charles Gobron
Nathan Duarte	Mark Stunkel	Susan Eck and family
Eric	Noah & Jennie Lynch	Richard Conway
Deb Evers	Karin Garcia's fiance	Friends & Family of Michael Connolly
Sarah Kazim	Uncle A1 & Aunt Deb	Abigail Brewer
Joan Person	Jack Mulloy	Hillaree and family
Brian J.	Paul S.	Friends & Family of John Hartman
Beverly Newell	Don & Heather C.	Doug & Barbara Shirley
Anna Hayes	Mary Cerreto	Mary Connolly
John Sullivan	Connie Sullivan	Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey
Ronnie	Phil Jennings	Alice Bridinger
Jane Hall	Faye Bishop	Pat & Jane Conaway
Jenna Hayes	Tommy Hannon	
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

Pastor

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Director of Spiritual Vitality and Congregational Care

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Grace Seiche

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