

# 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.

## Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 2, 2024

“I have no objections to churches  
so long as they do not interfere with God’s work.”

- Brooks Atkinson

### PRELUDE

*Peaceful Prelude*  
Thomas Foster, organ

Alan Bullard

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry

### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Steve Evers

One: The world is full of unwritten rules.

**All: God breaks the rules!**

One: Rules that divide us against each other.

**All: God breaks the rules!**

One: Rules that hurt those at the margins.

**All: God breaks the rules!**

One: Rules that keep the powerful in power.

**All: God breaks the rules!**

One: Let’s try living God’s way, because –

**All: God breaks the rules!**

### \* 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\* AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS** \* by Beth Bondurant (adapted)

Our 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 participating from home!

One: God's peace be with you.

**All: And also with you!**

**\* SONG OF CELEBRATION** [Hymn 467: *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*, v. 1]

I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anytime, Lord, and anywhere.  
I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anytime, Lord, and anywhere.

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*Communion Meditation*

Jay Althouse

Senior Choir; Thomas Foster, director

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 2:23-28

**WORD FOR ALL AGES**

Commissioning West Virginia Workcamp Team

**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.

## **REFLECTION**

## **MUSICAL RESPONSE**

## **CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**INVITATION TO THE FEAST**

**TELLING THE STORY**

**COMMUNION PRAYER**

**SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

**THANKSGIVING 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 461** *We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky* How Can I Keep From Singing

We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wildflowers growing,  
For we are part of all that is within life's river flowing.  
With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation,  
That all may have abundant life in every earthly nation.

When bodies shiver in the night and, weary, wait for morning,  
When children have no bread but tears, and warhorns sound their warning,  
God calls humanity to wake, to join in common labor,  
That all may have abundant life in oneness with their neighbor.

God calls humanity to join as partners in creating  
A future free from want or fear, life's goodness celebrating.  
That new world beckons from afar, invites our shared endeavor,  
That all may have abundant life and peace endure forever.

## **BLESSING**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Festival Fanfare*

David Blackwell

### **West Virginia Workcamp Blessing and Offering**

Today we bless the participants of West Virginia Workcamp 2024. The intergenerational workcamp is a long-standing and life-changing tradition at FCC Natick. The group travels down to Cabell and Lincoln Counties in West Virginia, and works to make homes warm, safe, dry and accessible. We leave Saturday, June 15 and return the next Saturday – just in time to lead worship the next morning!

In support of the trip, we'll take a special collection for West Virginia Workcamp today (instead of the Communion Offering we usually take on the first Sunday of the month). Please use the Special Offering envelope for this purpose. All donations received by June 9 will be matched by the Rev. Alvin C. Bacon Memorial Fund, up to \$2,500. And if you include your mailing address (you can write it on the offering envelope), you'll receive a "dividend" on your investment!

# Calendar for June 2 - 9, 2024

- Sunday, June 2**  
**Communion**  
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  
*Coffee Hour Chat:* Nick Jennings on Community Resources  
~ NOON *Tai Chi* (w/Tom Foster) in Vestry
- Wed., June 5**  
NOON *Mid-Week Connection*, Zoom [ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek](http://ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek)  
7:00 PM *Porch Theology* at the Bergeron/Divinski ranch
- Thurs., June 6**  
7:00 PM *Prayer Circle* via Zoom ([ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle](http://ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle))
- Saturday, June 8**  
9:00 AM Carpooling to *Boston Pride*
- Sunday, June 9**  
**Celebration Sunday**  
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  
*End of Year BBQ.* (RSVP to Sarallyn)

## Events: Today

### Learning Tai Chi (with Tom Foster)

Today, 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.

### FCC Scholarship Applications

applications were due June 1

Church scholarships for undergraduate/graduate education. Get the form at [ucc.fccnatick.org/scholarship](http://ucc.fccnatick.org/scholarship) or from the office. Scholarships will be awarded on June 9.

## Events: This Week

### Porch Theology

Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> 7 pm at the Bergeron/Divinski ranch.

Fun, conversation, munchies (BYOB) in Deede & Randy’s back yard. Contact Sarallyn to RSVP.

## **FCC at Natick Nights**

**Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> 5-8 pm**

Welcome Team has organized an activity – Big Bubbles and Sidewalk Chalk on our lawn. They will also offer a tour of our sanctuary. To help with this fun event, please contact Sharon Kirby.

## **Boston Pride Parade, FCC Delegation**

**Saturday, June 8, leave Natick around 9 am. Details TBD**

Join us to express your pride and/or solidarity. Carpooling, leaving Natick ~9 am and returning around 1 pm. Contact Carolyn Williams for more info.

## **Charity Dinner Theater benefitting Mass. Debt Relief Fdn.**

**Saturday, June 8 · 7 – 9 pm at the Natick Community/Senior Center**

Pop-Up Dinner Theater with four original ten minute plays, amazing food catered by L'Avvocato Italian Catering, and a silent auction. All to benefit local legal aid charity Massachusetts Debt Relief Foundation (MDRF), which helps low income families recover from financial hardship with free expert legal representation. \$75 Dinner & Plays, \$35 for Plays only. Questions: richardravosa@gmail.com or 617-308-5744.



## **Celebration Sunday Barbeque**

**Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> after coffee hour in the Tent (and/or Vestry)**

Join us on Celebration Sunday for a festive cook out after worship. Chef Bob will work his magic once again. To volunteer to be part of the cooking crew, please contact the church office.

## **Events: On the Horizon**

### **Dinner Benefitting World Central Kitchen**

**Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 5-8 pm at Plymouth Church in Framingham**

Edwards and Plymouth Churches invite you to a community meal to highlight the good work of World Central Kitchen. Sign up ASAP.



### **Scoopapaloosa Ice Cream Festival**

**June 22, 11:30 am - 3 pm on the Common**

All Proceeds benefit Charles River Rotary Club's important Youth Scholarship Programs as well as local and international non-profits! *Volunteers are needed* to help with setup and breakdown and scooping ice cream. Please contact Hank or June Szretter ([hank@crrclub.org](mailto:hank@crrclub.org)).



## **FCC Book Group**

**Sunday, July 21 after worship**

Chat about the book *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Van Pelt over lunch (provided!) This is still only available as hardcover so please go to the library and look for it in the 'Quick Reads' section or get on the waitlist; or purchase it for your kindle or hard copy. Sharon Kirby has one copy to lend. Please RSVP to [sharonkirby3@gmail.com](mailto:sharonkirby3@gmail.com).

# 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](mailto:prayers@fccnatick.org).

Irene & Walter	Char Hannon	Steve Perry
Joel	Charles	Frankie Notarbartolo
Debbie Collins	John Lilly	Friends and Family of Tony Parkes
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.	Doug & Barbara Shirley
Beverly Newell	Don & Heather C.	Mary Connolly
Anna Hayes	Mary Cerreto	Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey
John Sullivan	Connie Sullivan	Alice Bridinger
Ronnie	Phil Jennings	Pat & Jane Conaway
Jane Hall	Faye Bishop	
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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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**

Rev. Cindy Worthington-Berry  
revcindyfccn@gmail.com  
508-653-0971

### **Director of Spiritual Vitality and Congregational Care**

Sarallyn Keller  
sarallyn@fccnatick.org  
508-740-3134

### **Church Office**

Randal Divinski, Office Administrator  
admin@fccnatick.org  
508-653-0971

### **Minister of Music**

Thomas Foster

### **Sunday Nursery Staff**

Grace Seiche

### **Outreach Minister**

Rev. Dr. John Weagraff

### **Financial Assistant**

Cynthia Hamwey

### **Custodians**

Galba & Marlene Carvalho