

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.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 16, 2024

Each life converges to some centre
Expressed or still;
Exists in every human nature
A goal...

~ *Emily Dickinson, "The Centre"*

PRELUDE

Andante, Op.7, No. 6
Thomas Foster, organ

John Stanley

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. John Weagraff

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Heather Seiche

One: Come, lift up your hearts to the Lord!

All: To You, O Lord, we lift up our hearts!

In You we trust!

Do not let us be put to shame.

One: Our God is full of compassionate love.

He brings sinners back to His way,
and teaches the humble the way they should go.

**All: Show us the right path, O Lord;
point out the way for us to follow.**

**Lead us by Your truth, and teach us,
for You are the God who saves.**

We put our hope in You!

* OPENING HYMN 2

The God of Abraham Praise

Leoni

The God of Abraham praise, all praise the eternal name,
who was and is, and is to be, for aye the same!

Our God, the great I AM, ere aught that now appears;

The First, the Last: beyond all thought, through timeless years!

God's spirit floweth free, high surging where it will;
in prophet's word God spoke of old and speaketh still.
Established is God's law, and changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart, on sea or land.

We have eternal life implanted in our soul;
God's love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
Praise to the living God! All praise the eternal name,
Who was, and is, and is to be, for aye the same!

CENTERING PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF JESUS

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

Cantate Domino

Jay Althouse

Senior Choir; Thomas Foster, director

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 121

WORD FOR ALL AGES

MUSICAL RESPONSE

After the Word For All Ages, children (age 3 - grade 6) depart for *Summer Godly Play*. A parent may go with a child and return to worship once they have settled. Parents may pick up children at 11:45 after enjoying a cup of coffee and conversation in the Vestry.

READING "The Centre" by Emily Dickinson

REFLECTION "On the Road" Rev. Dr. John Weagraff

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 448**

Lead on, O Cloud of Presence

Lancashire

Lead on, O cloud of Presence; the exodus is come;
in wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.
Our bondage left behind us, new hopes within us grow.
We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.

Lead on, O fiery Pillar; we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing, though joy be born of tears.
We are not lost, though wandering, for by your light we come,
and we are still God's people. The journey is our home.

Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.
We pray our sons and daughters may journey to that land
where justice dwells with mercy and love is law's demand.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Gavotte

Samuel Wesley

Calendar for June 16 - 23, 2024

- Sunday, June 16** 9:00 AM *Adult Faith Group* – Contemplation and Action
10:30 AM *Worship* led by Rev. Dr. John Weagraff
10:45 AM *Summer Godly Play*
11:30 AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour* in Vestry
- Wed., June 19** NOON *Mid-Week Connection*, Zoom ucc.fccnatick.org/midweek
- Thurs., June 20** 7:00 PM *Prayer Circle* via Zoom (ucc.fccnatick.org/prayercircle)
- Saturday, June 22** 11:30 AM *Scoopapaloosa* on the Common
- Sunday, June 23** 9:00 AM *Adult Faith Group* – Contemplation and Action
WWWC Sunday 10:30 AM *Worship* led by WV Workcampers
10:45 AM *Summer Godly Play*
11:30 AM *Post-Worship Fellowship: Coffee Hour* in Vestry
Preview of the New Website (Vestry monitor)
Mini-Pantry Parade

Today

Please thank today's Coffee Hour hosts, Robin and Jeff Clausen!

Pride, Trans, and Mental Health Flags “upcycled” into bags!

On sale after worship, while limited supply lasts

These flags flown at FCCN have been transformed – by stitchers, pinners, and ironers – into bags. Two styles: market tote (\$25) and smaller zippered bag (\$15). Proceeds support FCCN and ONA justice work. Supply is limited! Cash, check or Venmo. Questions? See Carolyn Williams.

Rev. Dr. John Weagraff covering June 15 – 22

Rev. Cindy and Sarallyn will both be on this year's WV workcamp. Rev. Dr. John Weagraff will lead worship on June 16 and provide coverage for emergency pastoral care in their absence.

Upcoming

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).

New Website Sneak Peak

Sunday, June 23 during coffee hour in the Vestry

The Communications Team is excited to share a sneak peak of the new FCC Natick website, scheduled to launch in early July. We will display the not-quite-final site on the Vestry monitor and provide a link for viewing on smart phones. *This is not a formal presentation, just drop by.*

Summer Worship

Sunday, June 30, shifts to 9:30 and Vestry

Starting Sunday, June 30, our worship service will move to 9:30 am and be held in the Vestry. This will help keep us all cool in the summer heat! We will continue to stream via Pegasus when possible, depending on availability of our tech team. *Summer Godly Play* continues thru July 28, after the Word for All Ages. Worship returns to 10:30 am in the sanctuary on Sunday, Sept. 8 **aka** Backpack Sunday! Also, Rev. Cindy and Sarallyn will both take vacation during the summer, and the church office will move to a summer schedule. Stay tuned for those details.

On The Horizon

Porch Theology

Wednesday, July 3rd 7 pm at the home of Sarallyn Keller.

Fun, conversation, munchies (BYOB) on Sarallyn's porch. Contact Sarallyn to RSVP.

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.

UCC WooSox Outing

Saturday, August 3rd, 4 PM in Worcester

Central MA Association of UCC has invited member-churches to a WooSox Game on Saturday Aug. 3rd at 4:05 PM at Polar Park in Worcester. Tickets (subsidized) are \$23 ticket, which included admission, group space on the Triple Decker Garden, a 2-hour buffet and more. We have already heard from some FCC folks who want to go. If you are also interested, please contact the church office (or see the LINK to order tickets directly).

Summer Pantry Parades!

In the summer, temperatures spike, and so does food insecurity. For kids who rely on school to give them two good meals a day, summer vacation means hunger. And that means the Common Good Mini Pantry is more important than ever.

Your Outreach team sees this as an opportunity to care for our neighbors in concrete ways. We will be celebrating the pantry's presence and gathering donations all summer long. And once a month, after worship, we'll parade over to the pantry to stock the shelves!

Check out the list at right, and if you are able add a few extra items to your grocery trip. Bring the donations to worship (or drop them off anytime the church office is open) and join us for the pantry parade on June 23, July 14, and Aug. 25.

And if you yourself need food, the Common Good Mini Pantry is near the corner of School and Common Street in Natick Center. Rev. Cindy has other resources as well, so please talk with her.

Pantry favorites:

peanut butter
canned meats
 chicken
 tuna
 spam
jelly
cereal
granola bars
pasta

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	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 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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