FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
DECEMBER 26, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Service of Story & Song

An Open and Affirming Congregation
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DECEMBER 26, 2021

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“I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.”
~ Ebenezer Scrooge in A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

“And it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well,
if any man alive possessed the knowledge.”
~ Conclusion of A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP!

In this church we focus on the things that matter. It doesn’t matter to us if you grew up in a
class 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.

We invite you to change any portion of today’s service to language in which you feel included.
Our purpose is to welcome all into God’s presence and worship God in wholeness.

We invite you to “check in” on the social media of your choice, let them know that you are
doing church, ask your networks for prayer requests, or otherwise bring online self into
God’s presence today.

PRELUDE

The Shepherd’s Farewell
Thomas Foster, organ
Hector Berlioz
arr. Robert Gower

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Jonathan New

(Following the Announcements, we invite you to have a candle available to light as your
worship leaders light the Christ Candle)
LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO CELEBRATION

Come, all that are faithful, and all that seek faith.

It is the season to sing and rejoice!
The symbol of new hope and spirit shines,
the Light dwells among us and goes before us.

We would follow to know Light and Life.
We now have a promise fulfilled by God,

That the Christ who is born will call us to a new life
of faith and action!

*HYMN NO. 134  Joy to the World! The Lord is Come  Antioch

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The savior reigns:
let earth her songs employ;
let fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Christ rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

OPENING PRAYER (TOGETHER)

Holy One, Giver of Gifts, amid the tall, tinseled trees your light breaks through to the world. We hear that you have come to us in love and in flesh. Speak to us anew of that eternal love which reaches out to us in the birth of Jesus. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR SUBSTANCE

OFFERTORY MUSIC  Improvisation  Thomas Foster
**SONG OF PRAISE**

Praise God whose dawn transfigures night,
Whose Daystar shines for us on high,
Whose Spirit brings into our sight
The Light which to our world draws nigh. Amen

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**SCRIPTURE READING**  
*Matthew 2:13-23*

A CHRISTMASTIDE STORY -
“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

By Katherine Paterson**

GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

**THE MORNING PRAYER**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER (TOGETHER)**

Our Father, 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.

**HYMN NO. 160**  
*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*  
Go Tell It on the Mountain

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!  
While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!  
The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our savior’s birth.

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!  
Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
**About Katherine Paterson**
Vermont author Katherine Paterson, author of more than 40 books, is a two-time recipient of both the Newbery Medal and National Book Award for her novels, and is a recipient of Hans Christian Anderson Award and the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. Among her several young adult novels are *The Bridge to Terabithia* (also released as a motion picture in 2007), *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, and *Lyddie*. “Watchman, Tell Us Of The Night” is one of many stories written for her husband, the Rev. John Paterson, to read at Christmas Eve services, and may be found in her volume, *A Midnight Clear*. Katherine is 89 and lives in Barre, Vermont.
Poinsettia Dedications

In memory of Edward "Ned" Seddon - beloved husband and father

Love, Barbara and Ned

Thank God for Shawn & Jean, Gregory & Gabriela

Jean and Bob Sniffin

In loving memory of Ron DeVincent & family members

Brightie and Family

Let there be peace on Earth –
Merry Christmas!

Sharon and Ric

Praying for healing and coming together in our country - Peace on Earth!

Fusaro - Shaughnessy Family

To family and loving friends

The Evers Family

Celebrating this joyous time and thinking of all who are with us in spirit

Mindy and Peter Hoge

In honor of friends and family past, present and future

The Seiche Family

Merry Christmas to all!

The Hanna Family

We are celebrating Arthur Joseph Williams who joined our family on June 29, 2021. Proud Grandmothers!

Gail Martin and Carolyn Cheever

In honor of so many fond memories of Pamela Brown Meehan

With deep appreciation and thanks to the awesome Capital Campaign Steering Team

Gail Martin and Doug Hanna

With love, joy, and Hope!

The Foley Family
Poinsettia Dedications

In loving memory of Richard Sr. and Richard Jr. Hayes

In memory of Dick Macfarlane, we miss you everyday, we love you forever

In loving memory of my dear husband, Lawrence, and my great son, John, you were both taken way too soon and I miss you both a whole lot.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

In celebration & gratitude for loves ones and friends, remembered and present always. Merry Christmas & Blessed New Year!

Remembering Barbara & Olin Hayes with love at Christmas time and always

For the lives of Dick, Ruth, and James whose generosity, humor and love lives on

Merry Christmas & Peace to all!
In-Person, Livestreamed & Recorded Worship

Worship is at the very center of our life together as a congregation, as well as being at the heart of our call to proclaim and embody the good news of Jesus in the world. Church leaders remain committed to ensuring that we can do that well.

Livestreamed and live local access cable broadcast of worship will continue.

Natick Local Access

CHANNELS
Comcast 99
Verizon 29
RCN 03

A recording of this service will also be posted to our church website by Sunday afternoon at 2pm.

Thanks in advance for your patience and understanding as we seek to do what is best for our worship leaders and right for our community while remaining a church that gives high priority to worship together as the Body of Christ. If you have feedback for our worship leaders please contact Jonathan at pastor@firstchurchnatick.org. We appreciate your input!
### DECEMBER 26, 2021 TO JANUARY 2, 2022 FCN CALENDAR

Zoom information is sent in the weekly LINKs on Tuesdays.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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</table>
| **Sunday, December 26** | 9:00 AM - We Make the Road by Walking via Zoom  
10:30 AM - Virtual Worship live streamed on Pegasus  
11:30 AM – Post Worship fellowship via Zoom            |
| **Tuesday, December 28** | Black Earth Compost Pick up!                                                 |
| **Wednesday, December 29** | 12:00 PM - Mid-week Connection via Zoom                                         |
| **Thursday, December 30** | 6:45 PM – Prayer Circle via Zoom                                              |
| **Friday, December 31** | FCN Office Closed                                                              |
| **Sunday, January 2** | 9:00 AM - We Make the Road by Walking via Zoom  
10:30 AM - Virtual Worship live streamed on Pegasus  
11:30 AM – Post Worship fellowship via Zoom  
5:00 PM – OWL - TBD  
7:00 PM – Sr. Youth Group - TBD                      |

### UPCOMING EVENTS!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, January 6</strong></td>
<td>Hayes Parlor Knitting Circle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, January 9 – February 6</strong></td>
<td>Polar Bears vs. Penguins!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Saturday, January 8** | Dinner with Chef Bob – Beef Stroganoff with mushrooms  
or just beef or just mushrooms!                        |
| **Tuesday, January 11** | Finance Team Meeting                                                       |
| **Thursday, January 13** | Prayer Circle                                                              |
| **Friday, January 15** | Knitting Meet Up                                                            |
| **Monday, January 17** | MLK Program – Kennedy Middle School                                         |
| **Wednesday, January 19** | Addressing Family Stress and Depression Program                             |
| **Thursday, January 20** | Lunch Bunch!                                                                |
|                      | Coordinating Council Meeting                                               |
| **Saturday, January 22** | Family Hike with Sarallyn (weather permitting)                             |
| **Wednesday, January 26** | Pub Theology                                                               |
| **Sunday, February 6** | FCN Annual Meeting                                                         |
Prayer Circle

**Thursdays @ 6:45PM with Linda Champion via Zoom**

These quiet, contemplative sessions will last around 40 minutes, beginning with an opening centering prayer, followed by a devotional reading, a sharing of prayer requests and about 15 minutes of silence and a closing centering prayer.

We Make the Road by Walking

**Sundays @ 9AM with Sarallyn Keller via Zoom**

We will use the book of this title by Brian McLaren in a year-long quest to seek a fresh way to experience and practice our faith. If you're a long-term Christian seeking new vitality, or if you feel out of place in traditional church circles, this group will inspire and activate you in your spiritual journey through rich study, interactive learning, and personal growth.

Souper Bowl 2022 ~ Penguins vs. Polar Bears

*Begins on Sunday, January 9 and concludes at the end of worship on Sunday, February 6*

The Polar Bears take on the Penguins in the *Souper Bowl of Caring* to restock the shelves of the Natick Food Pantry. Contributions of non-perishable food or cash or online donations are tallied at the end of the service on Super Bowl Sunday to see whether those living north or south of Route 135 will win the coveted Campbell-Progresso Trophy!

MLK Community Celebration

**Monday, January 17 @ 10AM - Kennedy Middle School Auditorium**

Gather with the wider Natick community to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and discover how his legacy continues to shape our community and empower our young people to practice justice and compassion for all people. The Johnson Peacemakers, guest speakers from the high school and youth winners of the MLK Essay competition will present. All are welcome to participate in a community gathering to follow where you can meet many of the great people and organizations committed to service and justice and social action who make Natick a great place to live.
Chef Bob
SATURDAY NIGHT DINNERS AT FCN

Come and enjoy one of Bobs famous dinners - for here or to go from 5-7pm!

January 8 - Beef /Mushroom Stroganoff (gf noodle option) and veg

All proceeds will support the mission and ministry of First Church Natick!

$10 per dinner

Please order through the weekly LINK by January 5
ADDRESSING FAMILY STRESS AND DEPRESSION

Does your family have the tools they need to address life’s stressors? By being knowledgeable about self-care and mental health, you can help your family get on the path to wellness.

Free virtual workshop for parents and caring adults!

Wednesday, January 19, 2022
7:00 pm to 8:15 pm ET

Register today!

Families for Depression Awareness helps families recognize and cope with depression and bipolar disorder to get people well and prevent suicides. Visit www.familyaware.org to learn more.
# Prayer List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deb P.</td>
<td>Alice Bridinger</td>
<td>Friends &amp; Family of Ashish Patel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eileen</td>
<td>Barbara Dickson</td>
<td>Friends &amp; Family of Alva Chapin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma</td>
<td>Beverly Newell</td>
<td>Friends &amp; Family of Marcel Nadeau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liz</td>
<td>Carolyn Sarbello</td>
<td>Friends &amp; Family of Lincoln Ladd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andi</td>
<td>Chris Starks</td>
<td>Friends &amp; Family of Dick Ladd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe</td>
<td>David McKinney</td>
<td>Friends &amp; Family of Jack Dowd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>Grace Osgood</td>
<td>Recipients of Ashish Patel’s donated organs &amp; their families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorna</td>
<td>Gerry Granfors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas</td>
<td>Heidi Burger</td>
<td>Elizabeth, Patrick and their unborn son</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oliver</td>
<td>Jackie Snizek</td>
<td>The Bennati/Snizek Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randall D.</td>
<td>Jayne Hayes</td>
<td>The Pomfret Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard</td>
<td>Jim Leece</td>
<td>The Carelli Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronnie</td>
<td>Joan Hayes</td>
<td>Michelle, Catherine &amp; Noah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Hall</td>
<td>Josh Stackhouse</td>
<td>Jen M. &amp; family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denise Palmer</td>
<td>Keith Jennings</td>
<td>Evelyn &amp; her family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandma Pat</td>
<td>Lynne Parker</td>
<td>Jean &amp; Paul Joyce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenna Hayes</td>
<td>Mary Cerreto</td>
<td>Audra, Nate &amp; Rowan Mackey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Sullivan</td>
<td>Natalie Friend</td>
<td>Marcy Bailey Adams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judy Hamdi</td>
<td>Pam Dotter</td>
<td>John &amp; Kay Hartman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liam Schmitt</td>
<td>Palma Casadio</td>
<td>Char &amp; Tommy Hannon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Crouch</td>
<td>Pat Conaway</td>
<td>Brian &amp; Silvia Blackman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark &amp; Patty</td>
<td>Paul Ladd</td>
<td>Donna Shermerhorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abby Robbins</td>
<td>Roger Hanson</td>
<td>Audra Teague Mackey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Hayes</td>
<td>Susan Hassett</td>
<td>Malfrid Abrahamsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barry Myers</td>
<td>Janet and Don</td>
<td>The People of Haiti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Ladd</td>
<td>Peterson</td>
<td>The people of Santa Maria Tzeja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catie Siggins</td>
<td>Tiffany Spigarolo</td>
<td>Health care and frontline service workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Gobron</td>
<td>Chuck Roberson</td>
<td>Educators and students of all ages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Kinley</td>
<td>Connie Sullivan</td>
<td>Those seeking asylum and safe places to live</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faye Bishop</td>
<td>Aphrodite Hoge</td>
<td>Alzheimer's patients, families, &amp; caregivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Ferrell</td>
<td>Becky Sherman</td>
<td>All who struggle with physical &amp; emotional challenges</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miriam's Mom</td>
<td>Those experiencing grief, isolation, &amp; other losses</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tim &amp; his family</td>
<td>Prayers support and encouragement for estranged families to find peace and reunification especially during the holidays and to start rebuilding relationships.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The prayer list is updated periodically. If you find that a name has been rotated off the list for whom you would like the continuing prayers of the community, please contact the office at admin@firstchurchnatick.org or Prayer List Coordinator Linda Champion at lchampion17@gmail.com. Also, if a known issue has been resolved, thank you for communicating the news to us so that the prayer list can be a current reflection of this vital ministry. Thank you to all for your care and prayers.
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK**
**(FIRST CHURCH NATICK)**
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

The Reverend Dr. Jonathan New  
Interim Minister  
802-498-4713  
pastor@FirstChurchNatick.org

The Reverend Dr. John Weagraff  
Outreach Minister

**Sarallyn Keller**  
Director of Spiritual Vitality & Congregational Care  
508-740-3134  
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**Peg Waters**  
Office Administrator  
peg@FirstChurchNatick.org

**Thomas Foster**  
Minister of Music

**Alex Villarejo**  
Custodian  
alex@FirstChurchNatick.org

**Grace Seiche**  
Sunday Nursery Staff

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fccfinance@FirstChurchNatick.org