

Welcome Guests! We're glad you're here. You can learn more about us via the brochure in the back of the seat in front of you, or at www.firstparishyork.net.

Restrooms: Restrooms are located on the lower level of this building, which is accessed by stairs in the foyer. Wheelchair accessible restrooms can be found across the drive in Fellowship Hall. For access during the worship service, please see a Deacon.

Nursery Care: *Our downstairs nursery is not currently staffed*, but you are welcome to accompany your child to the nursery at any point during the worship and spend time there as a family if you feel that you need to.

Video and Streaming: We stream our worship services live and archive them on www.youtube.com/@firstparishyork. If for privacy reasons you do not wish to have you or your children's faces appear on video, you can sit in pews that are marked on the ends with blue tape. Feel free to ask a deacon to show you what those markings look like.

Photos: We regularly take photos for use in media. If you would prefer you or your child's image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

Sunday School: During the school year, anyone age 4 through 8th grade is welcome to attend Sunday School. We ask that parents/guardians fill out a registration form on the first visit; our Deacons will be happy to connect you with someone from Sunday School before the children make their way outside. Partway through Sunday services, children are invited to meet with their teachers in the church foyer. Together, students and teachers will make their way to the Fellowship Hall to take part in fun and faith-based activities centered around a theme from the Bible. (Family members are always welcome to attend Sunday School if you wish!) After worship is over, families can go across the drive to sign out their children with the teachers. Sunday School is free of charge.

**No Matter Who You Are or Where You Are On Life's Journey,
You Are Welcome Here!**

We covenant with God and with one another as members of First Parish Church to be an Open and Affirming Church. We affirm the dignity and worth of every person created in the image of God. We are one body with many members: people of every age, marital status, family structure, faith background, physical and mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, racial and cultural identity, and socio-economic status. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we invite all into the full life, ministry, and sacraments of the church. We honor the guiding principle that discrimination is incompatible with Christ's message of unconditional love.

180 York Street, York, Maine 03909 ♦ 207-363-3758
office@firstparishyork.net ♦ www.firstparishyork.net



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

First Parish Church
Congregational
United Church of Christ

"The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it."
John 1:5

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023~ 10AM WORSHIP
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (CANDLE OF HOPE)

**Indicates a time when you are invited to stand if you choose.*

PRELUDE Advent (from *Two Short Pieces for Organ*)
 Everett Titcomb (1884-1968)
 Meditation on "GREENSLEEVES" (from *Four Carol Preludes*)
 Arr., Richard Purvis (1913-1994)

WELCOME AND THE CANDLE OF HOPE The Burke Family
Leader: As the days grow colder and the nights grow longer, we look for miracles... for a new light that shines not in our eyes, but in our hearts.
People: For a brightness from heaven to fill the darkness and light our way.
Leader: Light is coming. As Christmas approaches, we prepare ourselves so that Jesus Christ may enter our lives anew, as he did on the day of his birth.
People: No pain and no evil can cast a shadow in his presence!
Leader: Christ is near! With new hope we light this candle to prepare the way for Christ on earth.

CHIMES FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION
(Candles will be lit as a sign of Christ's light in the world.)

GATHERING PRAYER (*unison*) Rev. Eric Dupee
Eternal God, Prince of Peace, we pray for compassion, justice, and peace in our world.
We pray for compassion, justice, and peace in our country. We pray for compassion, justice, and peace in our community. We pray for compassion, justice, and peace in our homes. We pray for compassion, justice, and peace between all people, and in all relationships, now and always...

LORD’S PRAYER (*unison*)
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.

*OPENING HYMN “WE LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLES ” No. 175

(Children ages 4 and up will be invited to go to the church foyer to meet with our Sunday School teachers immediately following the Opening Hymn.)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM “I WAITED FOR THE LORD” (from *Hymn of Praise*)
 Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
 I waited for the Lord, he inclined unto me. He heard my complaint.
 O blessed are they that hope and trust in the Lord.
 Gina Connolly and Terrie Ilaria, sopranos
 First Parish Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE Psalm 80:1-7 O.T. 503 Kathy McQueeney

SERMON Rev. Dan Hollis

OFFERING OUR GIFTS Fuga a la Pastorale C.F. Pitsch (1786-1858)

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF COMMITMENT** (*unison*) No. 34
You are free to sing inclusive lyrics (below) or traditional lyrics (from the hymnal).
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION
All are welcome to take Communion. The trays will be passed throughout the congregation. We eat the bread at the same time to symbolize our unity, then we drink from our cups individually as a symbol of our individual relationships with Christ. (We serve grape juice, not wine, and have a pre-sealed option as well as gluten free crackers available in the center of the bread trays.)

*CLOSING HYMN “LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS” No. 469

CLOSING BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE Recessional on “COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING”
 Arr., Gail Leven Pollock (b. 1947)
 We invite the congregation to remain seated in order to enjoy the postlude.
 However, you are welcome to exit the sanctuary at any time.

 Flowers are given in loving memory of my husband, Dick Nelson
 from his wife, Sandy Nelson

Flowers are given in memory of Grace and Chet Trafton, Marion and John Beals, Earl and Alice Smith and the Albion K. Plaisted Family by Earl B. Smith, Jr. and Families.



First Parish Church
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United Church of Christ
FAITH FEATURES

THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, December 3rd

8:30am Advent Devotional
10am Worship/Advent I/Communion
11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Monday, December 4th

Tuesday, December 5th

8:30am Shake It Up
8:30am Yoga
9am Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 6th

8am Strength Training
9:30am Women's Bible Study
10am First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive
6pm Combined Choir Rehearsal
7pm Ecumenical Service of Hope

Thursday, December 7th

8am Zumba
5pm Handbell Rehearsal
6pm Sweet Spirit Rehearsal
6:30pm Stewardship Committee Meeting

Friday, December 8th

Sunday, December 10th

8am Aerobics
8:30am Advent Devotional
9:45am Christmas Carol Sing
10am Worship/Advent II
11am Train Sunday
4pm Christmas in the Village



Ministers

All the Members of the Congregation

Leading Worship Today:

Rev. Dan Hollis

Rev. Eric Dupee

Staff

Wendell S. Purrington, Director of Music Ministries

Terrie Ilaria, Music Associate

First Parish Church Lay Leaders

John Covino, Moderator

Kristin Schrimper, Vice Moderator

Ray Hamlin, Treasurer

Susan Mancinelli, Clerk

Advent Devotionals: A weekly Advent Devotional booklet is available for you at the church entrance. We hope you will take one per family. This devotional booklet was made with contributions from our church members. We hope it will enhance your experience of the Advent season. Please join Pastor Eric in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings at 8:30am for a discussion based on the devotional entry for the week: 12/3, 12/10, 12/17 and 12/24.

First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive: December 6 from 10am-11am. The pantry's wish list includes salad dressings, Progresso soups, white tuna, Knorr pasta and sides. The pantry will be happy with other nonperishable food items and is always grateful for monetary contributions. Please make checks payable to YCSA Food Pantry. We will need a couple of folks to help on December, maybe that's YOU! More info? Linda Drew p.l.drew79@me.com or 207-351-8141.

First Parish Church Visioning Forum: What is the greatest spiritual need in York and surrounding communities? That is the question we invite you to answer on the newsprint in the church entrance or in Fellowship Hall during Coffee hour.

Dine with Nine: Update! You already have ELEVEN opportunities to be with others in our church family! An incredible response in the first week! Dinners, hors d'oeuvres, games/and firepit, lunch/brunch! Sign up to host will continue through December 10. From December 17 on you can begin to sign up for the activity. Master list of dates, activities on calendar in Fellowship Hall. SIGN UP one person per signup sheet! Linda Drew p.l.drew79@me.com or 207-351-8141

Green Tip/News: First it was a trickle, now it's a flood. US energy planners are starting to catch up with the floating solar trend, in which solar panels rest on lakes, reservoirs and other bodies of water. The technology could provide solar developers with another pathway for solar energy in rural areas. floatovoltaics [FPV]) Floating solar has predominantly been installed in countries such as China, Japan and the UK. It is also quickly gaining popularity in the US, especially California and New Jersey.

www.energysage.com



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