

THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, December 9th

9:30am Worship/Second Sunday of Advent
4pm Christmas in the Village Concert
7pm Messiah-Sing at Dover First Parish Church
7pm Lessons and Carols Rehearsal-St. George's
8:30am Zumba

Monday, December 10th

6pm Women on the Move Pot Luck & Yankee Swap-Sue Wierzba's Residence
8:30am Yoga

Tuesday, December 11th

4:45pm Christmas Caroling Durgin Pines
5-7pm Table of Plenty
6:30pm Assessors Meeting

Wednesday, December 12th

8:30am Zumba
9am Women's Bible Study
4:45pm Christmas Caroling Sentry Hill
5pm Adult Bible Study

Thursday, December 13th

8:30am Aerobics
5:30pm Thursday Evening Worship
6pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (full)
8pm Lessons and Carols Rehearsal

Friday, December 14th

8:30am Aerobics
5pm-7pm Drive Through Nativity

Saturday, December 15th

Ministers

All the Members of the Congregation
Leading Worship Today:

Rev. Pat Smith

Rev. Dan Hollis

Staff

Wendell S. Purrington, Director of Music Ministries
Terrie Ilaria, Music Associate

Janet Cassidy, Church School Coordinator

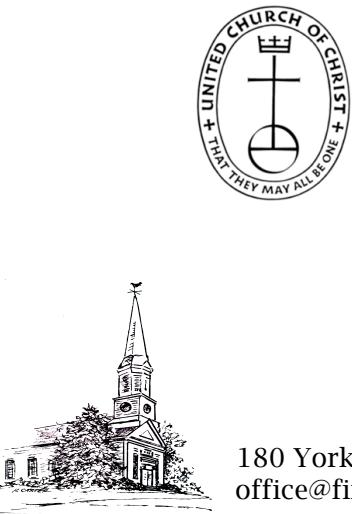
First Parish Church Lay Leaders

Jan Jonas, Moderator

Thom Kearns, Vice Moderator

Ray Hamlin, Treasurer

Susan Mancinelli, Clerk



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**First Parish Church
Congregational
United Church of Christ**



Following the way of Jesus, we aspire to *authentically invite, courageously include, and generously serve* all with compassion and grace.

Following the way of Jesus, we celebrate *inspirational worship*; create *life-changing experiences* for children, youth, families, and individuals; and practice *meaningful congregational care*.

While *respecting our diversity*, we *courageously advocate for justice and mercy*, and *intentionally respond to the needs of our community and the world*.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 2018 ~9:30 AM WORSHIP
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (CANDLE OF PEACE)
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

* Please stand if you are able. All people are invited to read bold face liturgy.

9:15AM CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

THE INVITATION God's grace, mercy, and peace be with you.
And also with you. Pastor Dan Hollis

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

"SWEET SONG OF PEACE" Setting: Robert J. Hughes

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

The Pawlendzio Family
A voice cries out, "In the wilderness prepare ye a way for the Lord." Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;

The uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Arise and Ascend! Let us go to the highest and most visible places, and let us proclaim good tidings of peace:

Christ is coming!

Do not be afraid, lift up our voices so that all may hear and find peace!

Christ is coming!

Here is our Peace! Although, as sheep, we have often gone astray, God has gathered us with arms of compassion. We are protected in God's bosom and led to quiet waters. Let us light this candle as we proclaim peace to all.

We have been gathered; let us share our song of peace with one another.

Today we light the second candle on our Advent wreath, the candle of Peace. We celebrate and remember that our God offers each and all of us a peace that passes all understanding, a peace that shines most fully in the One who is coming into the world once more.

***OPENING HYMN** "AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN" No. 160

***HOSPITALITY MOMENT**
"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."
(Please greet one another with a sign of God's peace.) Pastor Dan Hollis

Christmas Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 9
Creche Sunday
after worship Fellowship Hall

Christmas in the Village Concert
4pm First Parish Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 11
Christmas Caroling
4:45pm Durgin Pines

Wednesday, December 12
Christmas Caroling
4:45pm Sentry Hill

Saturday, December 15
Drive Through Nativity
5pm-7pm First Parish Church

Sunday, December 16
A Service of Lessons and Carols
4pm Trinity Church

Sunday, December 23
Worship
9:30am First Parish Sanctuary

Monday, December 24
Family Worship – Christmas Story and Mitten Tree Offering
5:30pm First Parish Sanctuary
Sanctuary Choir and Candlelight Worship
8pm First Parish Sanctuary
Gina Connolly, soloist and Candlelight Worship
11pm First Parish Sanctuary

Sunday, December 30
First Sunday After Christmas
Special Music

CALLING ALL WHO WANT TO GET INVOLVED

The Nominating Committee has a few more committees that need more members. Stewardship has only two members and we could use two more. We could use at least four more Deacons. We could also use one more person on Nominating Committee. Whether you have been here for a long time or are a new member, we would welcome you to join a committee that best suits your gifts and talents. Committees are places to learn more about our church and meet members of the church family. If you are not sure what these committees do and want to find out more or perhaps sign up, call or email one of the members of the Nominating Committee.

We will gladly give you more information.

Heidi Oliver – 860-617-9247 – holiver@maine.rr.com

Kay Hamlin – 207-646-1366 – hamlin_rk@yahoo.com

Richard Leigh – 207-337-2323 – rleigh4186@aol.com

Carolyn Dupre – 207-752-3247 – cdupre78@aol.com

THE CHRISTMAS FUND for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018



The holidays are in full swing and you may need help getting those ornaments from the basement, hanging a wreath on your door, or maybe just getting a ride to a doctor's appointment. Allow yourself to ask for help. PLEASE feel free to call the church office if there is something your church family can help you with! There are over FIFTY people who have offered to be of service. To date we have fulfilled 26 requests!

**TO ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST or REQUEST ASSISTANCE
CONTACT the PARISH OFFICE
207-363-3758
office@firstparishyork.net**



Thank you Barbara Elkhorn and your friend and neighbor, Colleen Furlong, for plugging in to First Parish's First Thursday of the Month at the Thrift Store schedule for

this coming Thursday, December 6. Our church has been sending volunteers there since April 2018. Of those volunteers, 2 have become regular volunteers and all of the others have had only positive comments about their experiences. We have promised to be there every first Thursday from 2-4PM. If this appeals to you OR you're ready to step out of your comfort zone and try something new and rewarding(!), please sign up at the Opportunity Table. Our next opening is in February. Further details? Linda Drew 207-351-8141

ADVENT PRAYER

Reverend Pat Smith
Merciful God, strip our hearts and minds of all that prevents our lives being firmly rooted in you. May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more, in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, for whose sake we pray...

THE LORDS' PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

BAPTISM Theodore Gerald Blasik – born May 15, 2018
Alexander Blasik, father
Cassandra Blasik, mother

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Pastor Dan Hollis

SPECIAL MUSIC "I WONDER AS I WANDER" Arr., Terrie Ilaria.
Camden Oberg, clarinet
Meredyth Goss, flute
Terrie Ilaria, piano

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Reverend Pat Smith

HYMN "ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY" No. 156

SCRIPTURE Luke 3:1-6 N.T. 52

SERMON "DUST BUNNIES FOREVER" Reverend Pat Smith

OFFERING OUR GIFTS Gymnopedie No. Eric Satie (1866-1925)
Camden Oberg, piano

DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF COMMITMENT No. 34
Gracious God, we would be awake and watchful for opportunities to make a difference and to help others value life in all its fullness. May our offering this morning be a symbol of our thankfulness for all we have to share. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** "BLESSED BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL" No. 158

THE BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE "LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH" Arr., Mark Hayer

WELCOME GUESTS! We are grateful you joined us in worship today at First Parish Church. Please fill in the "Invitation" card in your pew pocket, especially if you would like to receive our Pastors' regular email devotional messages. Just drop it in the collection plate. If you have any questions, please introduce yourselves to the pastors as you leave the sanctuary or to a member of our Hospitality Team (wearing yellow name tags). Please join us in Fellowship Hall after worship for coffee and refreshments and meet our friendly fellow parishioners.

CHURCH SCHOOL INFO: All children come into church with your family. After the Children's Message, children will meet their teachers in the narthex. PreK-4th grade will be in the lower level classrooms and grades 5-8 will be in the second floor classrooms of Fellowship Hall. After services, parents are asked to come to your child's classroom to meet their teacher and pick up your children.

NURSERY CARE: is available every Sunday for children under 4 years old in our nursery in the downstairs of the church. Sabrina, Bailey & Linda welcome you and your children.

COMMUNION SUNDAY: In the UCC we practice open Communion; all are welcome at Christ's table who wish to know Christ's presence and share in the community of God's people. If parents would like their children to take part in the Sacrament of Holy Communion (held on the first Sunday of every month), you will need to coordinate with their Sunday School teachers or Nursery attendants so that you can go and retrieve your children at the appropriate time.

TODAY'S GREETERS: Greeting you this morning are Don Bernier and Gail Berneike.

COFFEE HOUR: Please join us for coffee and Creche Sunday in Fellowship Hall after worship.

PASTORAL CARE: We want to provide care for you always, and in particular we hope you will let us know if you or a family member are or will be hospitalized, so we can give you our care. York Hospital, if a patient requests, will call us directly. Due to hospital confidentiality regulations, we will know of your hospitalization only if you ask your family member or hospital staff to call us and let us know.

EXITING THE SANCTUARY IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. The front half of the sanctuary will exit to the front of the church through the two side doors. The back half of the sanctuary will exit to the back of the sanctuary and either out the side ramp, or the front doors of the church. The Deacons will help anyone in the lower level of the church exit out the back doors of the lower level.



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FALL FAITH FEATURES




CRECHE SUNDAY
Join us at Coffee Hour today
for Creche Sunday –
a special display of shared
family traditions.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped with this year's Wreaths & Greens and More Sale. We worked hard and had fun too! Thank you to the set up, break down, church decorators, wire hanger folks and cleaner uppers as that work is especially tedious and physical. Thank you all for your support and thank you for purchasing your Christmas items at the W&G's Sale!

Book Stipend for 1st year, 2nd Semester College Students

Members of First Parish Church who are 1st year college students in their 2nd semester of study are eligible for a "one time" book stipend from the Diaconate.

The amount allotted will be determined by the Deacons after reviewing the applications.

Applications available in the Parish Office and Opportunity Table or email office@firstparishyork.net

Deadline December 14, 2018