

THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, December 16th 9:30am Worship/Third Sunday of Advent
4pm A Service of Lessons & Carols-Trinity Church

Monday, December 17th 8:30am Zumba
3:30pm Stewardship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 18th 8:30am Yoga
9:45am Solstice Drum Circle
5-7pm Table of Plenty
7pm Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, December 19th 8:30am Zumba
9am Women's Bible Study

Thursday, December 20th 8:30am Aerobics
5:30pm Thursday Evening Worship
6pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (full)

Friday, December 21st 8:30am Aerobics

Sunday, December 23rd 9:30am Worship/ Fourth Sunday of Advent



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

Jeff McConnell, Moderator

Jan Jonas, 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 16TH, 2018 ~9:30 AM WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (CANDLE OF JOY)

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

PRELUDE **Two Pieces for Joy** **J.S. Bach (1685-1750)**
“BREAK FORTH INTO JOY” (*from the Christmas Oratorio*)
“IN DULCI JUBILO” (“IN SWEET JOY”)

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMES FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY The Waldrop Family
Choir: The light of Christ shines in the darkness. The darkness cannot overcome it.

Christ’s light shines in the hearts gathered here today.

We are the church, called to be a beacon of light to the world.

We are shepherds of the light,

Called to be ministers of Christ’s gospel of reconciliation.

We will carry Christ’s light forth into the world!

We will proclaim the Good News, rejoicing with joy!

Today we light the third candle, in celebration of the joy of Christ’s coming into the world, and the joy of discipleship. This candle calls us to “Rejoice!” Like the shepherds who rejoiced at the message of the angel, we rejoice today; and we are called to bear the message to the world that this tiny babe is God’s promise of hope, peace, and joy to us all. Thanks be to God!

***OPENING HYMN** “JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE” No. 59
(verses 1, 2 and 4 only)

***HOSPITALITY MOMENT** Pastor Dan Pastor
“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.)



Christmas Calendar of Events

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

From the Financial Secretary

For those that requested church envelopes for 2019, they are available for pick up in Moody Hall.
For those wanting envelopes, you can request them by checking the appropriate box on your Estimate of Giving card or by sending an email to finsec@firstparishyork.net



First Parish Church
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FALL FAITH FEATURES

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

MISSION OPPORTUNITY
TABLE OF PLENTY
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18
4pm-6pm

Our First Parish Table of Plenty team needs volunteers to help on Tuesday, Dec. 18 with our very special Christmas meal. There will be 100 guests to serve, and we need people to help set up, serve the meal and clean up. This is a community meal where all are welcome. Times are from 3:30-6:30. If you can do all or part of the work you will have a most wonderful time!

Thank you and a Blessed Christmas to all!
 please contact Janet Cassidy
 363-4237 or cassidywednesday@aol.com



The Family Service at 5:30pm on Christmas Eve will feature the Mitten Tree again this year. We will collect children's and teens' mittens, hats, scarves and socks. Additionally this year we will be collecting new and gently used coats and boots for children and teens. Monetary donations are also accepted. The clothing will be distributed to students at local schools and the York Community Services Association.

ADVENT PRAYER

Reverend Pat Smith
Creating and sustaining God, in your presence there is life. Living water springs up, and deserts blossom where you pass. Seeking the life that comes from you, we have gathered before you. Our hearts are ready, O God, our hearts are ready. Delight us with your presence, and prepare us for your service in the world; through the grace of Jesus Christ, who taught us to 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Dan Hollis

AN ADVENT STORY

Reverend Pat Smith

ANTHEM

"WE SHALL LIGHT A THOUSAND CANDLES"

Words and Music: David Rasbach

We shall light a thousand candles dispelling the night with a glorious morn.

We shall sing a thousand carols proclaiming our wonderful Savior is born.

Tell it far and tell it near, speak of the love He gave us.

Every nation needs to hear: "Jesus was born to save us."

Go into the blinding night, sing of this great salvation,

Take the glorious Gospel light to every tongue and nation.

First Parish Sanctuary Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Dan Hollis

HYMN "WHEN GOD IS A CHILD"

No. 165

SCRIPTURE Zephaniah 3:14-20 O.T. 830
 Luke 3:7-18 N.T. 52

Karen Peterson
 Reverend Pat Smith

SERMON "MIXED MESSAGES"

OFFERING OUR GIFTS "THERE'S STILL MY JOY" Chapman, Manchester, and Rollins
Gina Connolly, soloist

DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF COMMITMENT No. 34 Pastor Dan Hollis
O Generous God, remind us that we do not give to salve our consciences but to support your work of justice, mercy, and compassion. To that end we ask your blessing upon these gifts. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** “AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN” No. 160
(verses 1 and 4 only)

THE BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN Reverend Pat Smith

POSTLUDE Recessional on “JOY TO THE WORLD”
Setting: Gordon Young (1919-1998)

TODAY’S GREETERS: Greeting you this morning are Ray and Kay Hamlin.
COFFEE HOUR: Please join us for coffee in Fellowship Hall after worship.
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.
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.

**CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL POINSETTIA
ORDER FORM
DECEMBER 2018**



If you would like to order a Memorial Poinsettia Plant for Christmas Sunday, please fill in the order form below and return it with your payment of \$9 for each plant, no later than December 20th.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FIRST PARISH CHURCH

I would like to order _____ Poinsettia Plant(s)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

In memory/honor of:

Given by:

I would like to pick up my plant(s) ()

Please donate my plant(s) to our home-based members. ()

Please be specific about your plan to either take or donate your plant(s). Plants can be taken after the December 23rd service and will be delivered to home-based members after Christmas Eve. We need to know exactly how many plants we will have available for home-bound members. Sorry but no orders can be accepted after December 20th.

Your Name & Phone:

Please Sign:
