

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 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 10, 2023 ~ 10AM WORSHIP
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

9:45AM CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

WELCOME AND THE CANDLE OF PEACE The Cabanilla Family
Leader: Rise and shine; arise and climb! Let’s go to the highest and most visible places, and let us shout good tidings of peace...
People: Christ is on his way!
Leader: Do not be afraid; lift up your voices so that all may hear and find peace!
People: Christ is on his way!
Leader: Here is our Peace. Even though, as sheep, we have at times gone astray, God has gathered us in with kind arms and led us to quiet waters. Let us light this candle as we proclaim that peace to all.

CHIMES FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION
(Candles will be lit as a sign of Christ’s light in the world.)
“GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE” Arr., Kevin McChesney (b.1963)
First Parish Handbell Choir

GATHERING PRAYER *(unison)* Rev. Dan Hollis
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** “O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL ” No. 154

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Rev. Dan Hollis
(Children ages 4 and up are invited to go to the church foyer to meet with their Sunday School teachers immediately following the Message for All Ages.)

ANTHEM “A VOICE CRIES OUT” Lloyd Larson. (b. 1954)
*A voice cries out, “Prepare the way of the Lord.
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain made low.”
The glory of the Lord shall be revealed. All people shall see it together.
The mouth of the Lord has spoken it. Comfort my people.
Proclaim the promise of the Lord. His name shall be called Emmanuel!*
— Isaiah 40:1, 3-5; 7:14

First Parish Vocal Ensemble

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE Mark 1:1-8 N.T. 30 Shawn McCartee

SERMON “Where the Good News Begins” Rev. Eric Dupee

OFFERING OUR GIFTS “HYMN FOR PEACE” (from *Advent Suite*)
Pietro A. Yon (1886-1943) (1837-1871)

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF COMMITMENT** *(together)* 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.**

***CLOSING HYMN** “ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY” No. 189

CLOSING BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN Rev. Eric Dupee

POSTLUDE Recessional on “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”
Setting: Paul Manz (1919-2009)

*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 given in loving memory of Thi Nicole Sanabia Wilson,
daughter of Nancy and Joe Wilson.”*

“Flowers given in loving memory of family from Norman and Anne Monks.”

THIS WEEK

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| Today, Sunday, December 10 th | 8:30am Advent Devotional 9:45am Christmas Carol Sing 10am Worship/Advent II 11am Train Sunday 3:30pm Portsmouth Brassworks Quintet prelude begins 4pm Christmas in the Village Concert |
| Monday, December 11 th | 8:30am Shake It Up 5:30pm Fellowship in Action Christmas Potluck |
| Tuesday, December 12 th | 8:30am Yoga 6:30pm Assessors Meeting |
| Wednesday, December 13 th | 8am Strength Training 9:30am Wednesday Bible Study 4pm Mission Committee Meeting 6pm Combined Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Deacons Meeting |
| Thursday, December 14 th | 8am Zumba 5pm Handbell Rehearsal 6pm Sweet Spirit Rehearsal 6:30pm Stewardship Committee Meeting |
| Friday, December 15 th | 8am Aerobics |
| Sunday, December 17 th | 8:30am Advent Devotional 10am Worship/Advent III Sanctuary Choir and Sweet Spirit present special music |



Ministers
All the Members of the Congregation
Leading Worship Today:
Rev. Eric Dupee
Rev. Dan Hollis
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



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FAITH FEATURES

2024 Pledge Update: John Covino, the First Parish Church Moderator, will provide a brief update on the financial state of the church during the service today.

2024 Pledge Envelopes: envelopes are available for pick up in the narthex. If you did not request envelopes, but wish to have them, please contact Per Jonas at finsec@firstparishyork.net. Please discard any remaining 2023 envelopes at the start of the New Year.

Advent Devotionals: A weekly Advent Devotional booklet is available for you at the church entrance. This devotional booklet was made with contributions from our church members. Please join Pastor Eric in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings at 8:30am for a discussion based on the devotional entry for the week. If you have not attended the discussions, it is not too late. Please join us 12/10, 12/17 and 12/24.
Thank you to new member, Bonnie Periale, for beautifully creating the Advent Devotional and New Member poster.

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, hor 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: A new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine provides a broad set of recommendations that form a comprehensive plan to put the U.S. on a pathway to realize its net-zero carbon emissions goals by 2050 and ensure that all Americans can benefit from a fair and equitable transition. See Accelerating Decarbonization in the United States: Technology, Policy and Societal Dimensions www.nationalacademies.org

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