

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. 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.

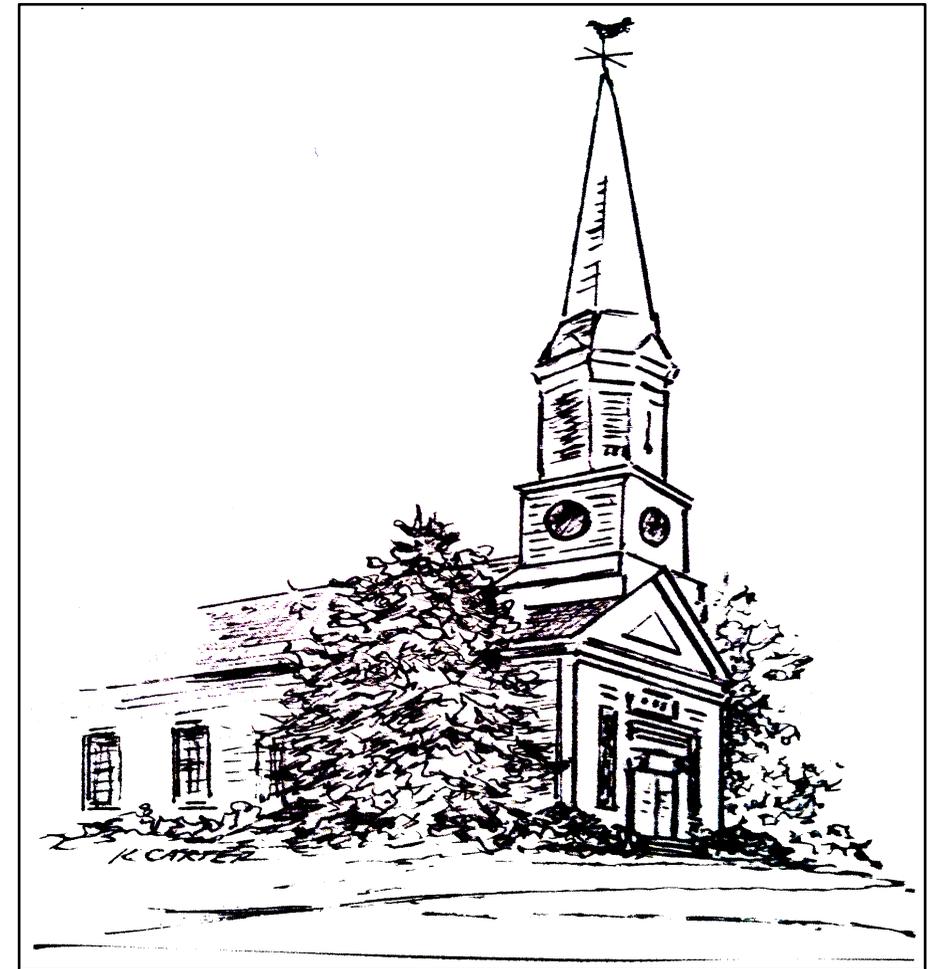
Photos: We regularly take photos for use in media. If you would prefer you or your child's image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

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**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023 ~ 10:00AM WORSHIP
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS/COMMUNION**

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

PRELUDE "THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM" Nicholas Lebègue (c. 1630-1702)
Hymn Prelude on "WHAT CHILD IS THIS" ("GREENSLEEVES")
Richard Purvis (1913-1994)

CALL TO WORSHIP *(together)* Phil Woodman
L: Through lush farmland and bleak alleys
P: sweeps good news of great joy!
L: Through pounding turmoil and dazing fear
P: sounds an angel chorus: Glory to God in the highest!
L: Receive the news! Follow the star! Heed the angels!
P: Through song and silence, word and wonder, let us make our way to Bethlehem.

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

GATHERING PRAYER *(together)*
God of all time, by a star in the East, you revealed to all peoples the one whose name is Emmanuel – God with us. Enable us to recognize your presence among us so that we might proclaim the rich love of Christ in ways that shed light upon all the world. Hear us, as we are bold to pray...

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.

OPENING HYMN "ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY" No. 183

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

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM "WISE MEN, THEY CAME TO LOOK FOR WISDOM"
Music: Georg Neumark/Words: Christopher Idle
*Wise men, they came to look for wisdom, finding one wiser than they knew;
Rich men, they met with one yet richer -- King of the kings, they knelt to you.
Jesus, our wisdom from above, wealth and redemption, life and love.
Pilgrims they were, from unknown countries, searching for one who knows the world.
Lost are their names and strange their journeys, famed is their zeal to find the child.
Joy of each day, our song by night, shine on our path your holy light.*
First Parish Vocal Ensemble

SCRIPTURE Psalm 148 O.T. 546 Phil Woodman

SERMON "Praise Matters" Rev. Eric Dupee

OFFERING OUR GIFTS Hymn Prelude on "LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING"
Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
(Please sign and pass the maroon fellowship pads on the center aisle of each pew, look at the names as they are passed back and forth and greet one another after the service.)

***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.**

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** "GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE" No. 198

CLOSING BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE "THE STAR PROCLAIMS THE KING IS HERE"
Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)
*We invite the congregation to remain seated in order to enjoy the postlude.
However, you are welcome to exit the sanctuary at any time.*

*The flowers today honor the memory of three talented and dedicated teachers:
Judi March, Marcia Ryder and Gene Cerwonka. These women inspired creativity and the quest for excellence in thousands of high school students!*



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FAITH FEATURES

First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive: Wednesday, January 4, 2023. We collect from 10AM-11AM in front of the First Parish Church Office. Suggested items might include: Knorr sides, Progresso soups, 16oz. kidney beans, 2# sugar, 16oz. canola oil, baked beans, Hamburger Helper, Spaghetti's, Ramen noodles, 16oz. peanut butter, and tuna (solid white). We are always happy and most grateful to accept monetary donations, cash or check made out to YCSA Food Pantry. Hope to see you then! Thank you, in advance, for your amazing response!

Train Night 2023: Open House **Saturday, January 7** from 2pm-5pm at the Parton's, 17 Wavecrest Drive. An event for young hearts of all ages. Watch the trains, run the train. See the new scenery! Have some refreshments.

Dine With Nine: You are invited to participate in these social gatherings of NINE, or less, random folks sharing dinner or breakfast/brunch in someone's home or at a restaurant or firepit! This is open to all who want to meet or make new friends within First Parish Church. We need hosts. People who sign up to be the host/hostess of the meal will pick the date, the time and the venue. So we will be looking for people interested in hosting either at your home or restaurant. You can SIGN UP TO HOST THROUGH JANUARY 12. We will be offering these events in late January, February to mid-March. Please contact Linda Drew with questions at 207-351-8141 or p.l.drew79@me.com

Inquirer's Classes: Are you considering membership at First Parish Church? You are Invited to either of **two Inquirers Coffee and Conversations Sunday, January 8th or Sunday January 22.** Pastors Eric Dupee and Dan Hollis and First Parish Church invite you to one or both Inquirer meetings for those who have been visiting First Parish. We would love to learn more about you and introduce you to our church. Please contact Pastor Eric eric@firstparishyork.net or Susan Wierzba susanwierzba@gmail.com with any questions.

The Information Sessions will be held on
Sunday, January 8 from 11am – 12:00pm in the Sanctuary Lounge or
Sunday, January 22 from 8:30am – 9:30am in Fellowship Hall

Green Tip/News: Quit one environmentally harmful habit in the coming year.

THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, January 1st

Monday, January 2nd

Tuesday, January 3rd

Wednesday, January 4th

Thursday, January 5th

Friday, January 6th

Saturday, January 7th

Sunday, January 8th

10am Worship/Communion

8:30am Shake It Up

8:30am Yoga

9am Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting

8am Strength Training

9:30am Wednesday Bible Study-Zoom

10am First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive

8am Zumba

3pm Stewardship Committee Meeting

5pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

6pm Sweet Spirit Rehearsal

7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (all voices)

8am Aerobics

2pm-5pm Train Night

9:45am Hymn Sing

10am Worship

11am Inquirer's Class



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

Amy Burke, Vice Moderator

Ray Hamlin, Treasurer

Susan Mancinelli, Clerk



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