

**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](http://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](https://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.

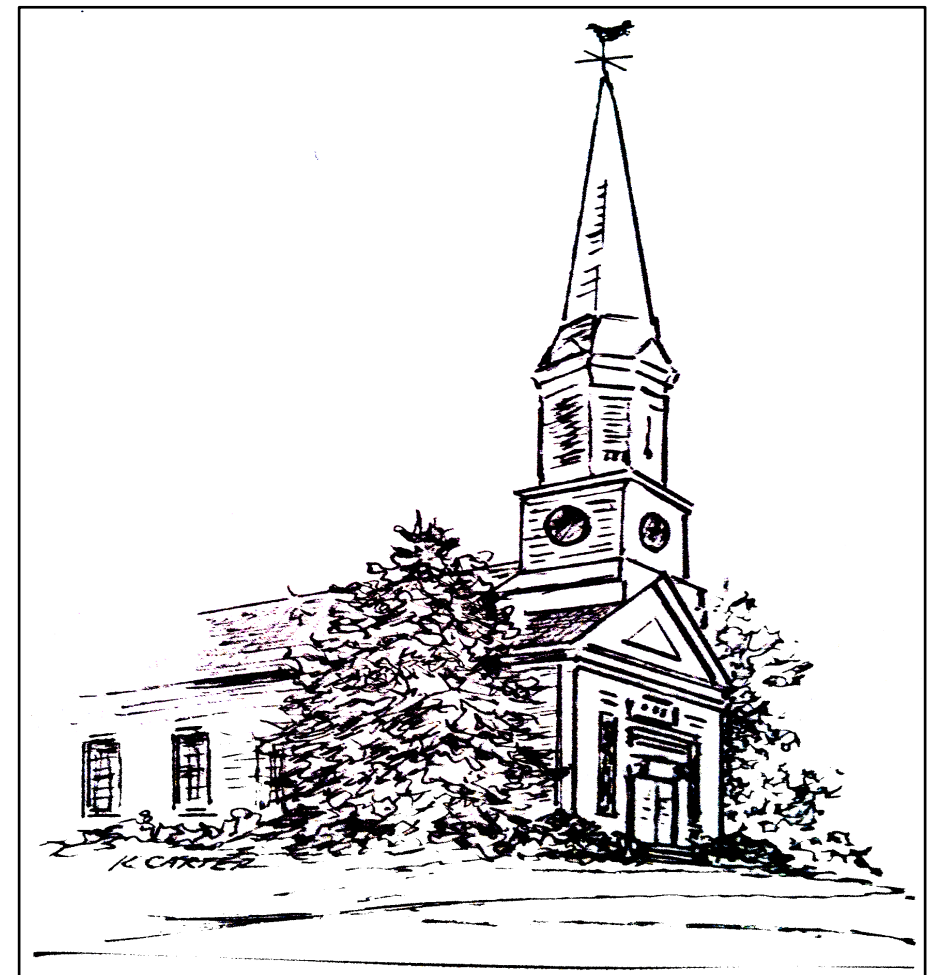
**Photos:** We regularly take photos for use in media. If you would prefer you or your child's image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

**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](mailto:office@firstparishyork.net) ♦ [www.firstparishyork.net](http://www.firstparishyork.net)



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

“This is the day that the lord made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:24

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023 ~ 10AM WORSHIP  
COMMUNION**

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

**PRELUDE**      Trumpet Dialogue      Jean-Baptiste Lully  
                 Communion Meditation      George Blake

**WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP**      Rev. Dan Hollis

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

**GATHERING PRAYER** *(together)*  
**God of our salvation, we falter before the demands of your word and turn away from your call to life. Pour out your mercy on us as you showed mercy to your people of old, that caring for one another we may honor Jesus, who taught us 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**      “AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE”      No. 695

*(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**      “JESUS, DRAW ME CLOSE”      Arr., Jane Holstein (b. 1958)  
*Thou, my everlasting portion, more than friend or life to me,  
All along my pilgrim journey, Savior, let me walk with thee.  
Jesus, draw me closer, Lord, to you.  
Let the world around me fade a way,  
for I desire to worship and obey.  
Trust and obey, for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus,  
but to trust and obey. Savior, let me walk with thee.*  
**First Parish Sanctuary Choir**

**SCRIPTURE**      Matthew 21:23-32      N.T. 20

**SERMON**      Rev. Dan Hollis

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS**      Hymn Setting on “LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE”  
                 Arr., Austin C. Lovelace (1919-2010)

**\*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**      “HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD!” *(verses 1, 3, and 4 only)*      No. 486

**CLOSING BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN**

**POSTLUDE**      “LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH”      Arr., Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

*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 by Christopher Briley in loving memory of grandparents,  
Ruth and Abbott Truman.*

THIS WEEK



First Parish Church  
Congregational  
United Church of Christ

FAITH FEATURES

Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>

10am Worship/Communion  
11am York Ready for Climate Action Presentation  
11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
3pm Youth Group-High School

Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>

8:30am Shake It Up

Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>

8:30am Yoga  
9am Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

8am Strength Training  
9:30am Wednesday Bible Study-Zoom  
7pm Faith 101

Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>

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

Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

7pm Sanctuary Choir

Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

8am Aerobics  
8:30am Christian Education Committee Meeting

Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>

9:45am Hymn Sing  
10am Worship  
11am Inquirers Coffee and Conversation  
11am Out to Lunch Bunch  
11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
2pm Family Fun and Chili Fest

**Ministers**

*All the Members of the Congregation*

*Leading Worship Today:*

*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*



**The Pumpkin Patch:** *Pumpkins are here!* Volunteers needed in the Pumpkin Patch. Any and all volunteers will be gratefully accepted. No experience necessary. Check your calendars now!

Chris Briley, Richard Leigh, Bob and Joanne Myers

**Sign Up** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49ACAF23A6F85-2023#/>

Have you noticed?? No complimentary plastic water bottles offered at our pumpkin patch?

Thanks to Richard Leigh and his wonderful team for offering water coolers and non-plastic cups! Every step counts!

**Family Fun & Chili Fest:** Come one come all. Sunday, October 8 at 2pm in the Pumpkin Patch.

**Out to Lunch Bunch:** We will gather next Sunday, October 8 after worship. Join us as we, anyone interested in enjoying lunch and conversation, have lunch together. No sign up require just come along!

**Coffee Hour:** Java Mamas and Papas are looking for more team members. Have you wondered how much fun it is to serve coffee after church? We get to enjoy welcoming those visiting First Parish, have chats with members as they come through the line. Please sign up to bring goodies for a Sunday in October. Questions? Linda Hart 207 337 0782

**Inquirers Series:** Visitors and guest are invited to two Inquirers Coffee and Conversations information sessions on October 8 from 11am-12noon or October 15 from 8:30am-9:30am. Contact the Parish office at [office@firstparishyork.net](mailto:office@firstparishyork.net) or 207-363-3758 to RSVP.

**First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive:** October 4 from 10am-11am. The pantry's wish list includes salad dressings, Progresso soups, ketchup (24 oz or less), mayo, 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 October 4, maybe that's YOU!

More info? Linda Drew [p.l.drew79@me.com](mailto:p.l.drew79@me.com) or 207-351-8141.

**Green Tip/News:** Toby Kiers, professor of evolutionary biology at Amsterdam's Vrije Universiteit whose research on fungi has led her to revelations about how nature itself can help solve the climate crisis. She is looking beyond the astonishing diversity of mushrooms we see growing above ground to the hidden systems we overlook: fungal webs that spread throughout the soil and nourish the roots of trees and plants. An article in Current Biology reveals that a group of fungi known as mycorrhizae draw down and store more than 13 million tons of CO2 annually. That's nearly the annual greenhouse gas output of China AND the US combined. Current Biology/CellPress/Kiers

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FAITH FEATURES

**The Pumpkin Patch:** *Pumpkins are here!.* Volunteers needed in the Pumpkin Patch. The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Pumpkin Patch will be open 7 days a week, for four weeks or until the pumpkins are sold. Any and all volunteers will be gratefully accepted. No experience necessary. Check your calendars now! Chris Briley, Richard Leigh, Bob and Joanne Myers  
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