

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.

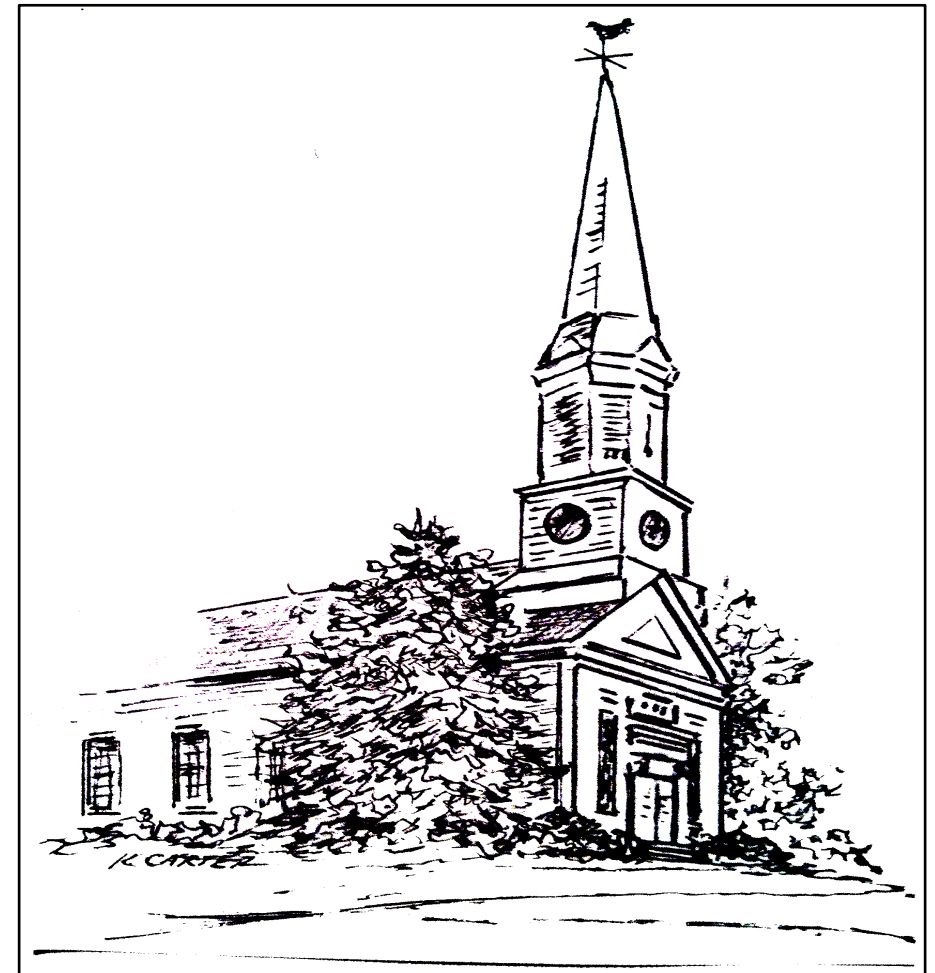
Photos: We regularly take photos for use in media. If you would prefer you or your child's image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

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**

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Romans 12:2

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023 ~ 10:00AM WORSHIP
THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

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

PRELUDE “NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD” George F. Kaufmann (1679-1735)
 “THANKS BE TO THEE” Siegfried Ochs (1858-1929)

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)* Rev. Pat Smith
God of covenant, even when we stumble, your Spirit invites us to remember that you chose us to be your servant people. Awaken us to the power and gifts you pour into us for the good of creation, and grant that we may be trustworthy in all things, producing abundantly as we work to build the world for which you 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 “A CHARGE TO KEEP I HAVE” No. 588

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Rev. Eric Dupee

(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 “GOD’S MERCY IS WIDE!” Pepper Choplin (b. 1957)
*There’s a wideness in God’s mercy like the wideness of the sea.
There’s a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner and more graces for the good.
There is mercy with the Savior, there is healing in his blood.
For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind.
And the heart of the Eternal is so wonderful and kind.*
 — Frederick W. Faber (1814-1863)

First Parish Sanctuary Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:14-30 N.T. 24 Rev. Pat Smith

SERMON Rev. Dan Hollis

OFFERING OUR GIFTS “LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST IN THY WORD”
 Johann G. Walther (1684-1748)

***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 “GOD BE WITH YOU” *(insert)

CLOSING BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN Rev. Dan Hollis

POSTLUDE “NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD” (from *Cantata* #79)
 JS Bach (1685-1750)

*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 Harvest Table arrangement on the Altar Table
has been given in honor of the Flower Committee.*



First Parish Church
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United Church of Christ
FAITH FEATURES

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 19th	10am Worship 11am Gratitude Luncheon
Monday, November 20th	8:30am Shake It Up 6:30pm Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 21st	8:30am Yoga
Wednesday, November 22nd	8am Strength Training 9:30am Wednesday Bible Study-Zoom
Thursday, November 23rd	Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 24th	8am Aerobics
Sunday, November 26th	10am Worship

Looking Ahead

Saturday, December 2 at 9am Wreaths, Greens & More
Sunday, December 10 Christmas in the Village
Sunday, December 17 Lessons and Carols at Trinity Church



Ministers

All the Members of the Congregation

Leading Worship Today:

Pastor Dan Hollis

Rev. Eric Dupee

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

Wreaths, Greens & More: First Parish Fellowship Hall on December 2 at 9am-12noon! The Wreath, Greens and More sale will have: baked goods, Christmas Decor, wreaths, swags, table centerpieces, outdoor pots, crafts and more. Please support the First Parish Church and its missions. This is a wonderful way to kick off the Advent Season.

Dine with Nine: Just a heads' up. We will have an opportunity to enjoy being with each other again January -March 2024. Those of you who would enjoy being hosts/hostesses this time will be asked to sign up in December for the winter months. So be thinking ahead how many people would you like to invite and what time and date would work best for you. **January 8 thru March 11.** Watch for official signup in December. You may recall that these get togethers can be potlucks, hors d'ourves and drinks, "puzzles in the afternoon", fancy dinner, outdoor hike and firepit, be creative. Try something new! Thoughts? Questions? Linda Drew p.l.drew79@me.com/207-351-8141

Livestream Camera Operators: With the new sound system in place, it is a very exciting time in the First Parish digital ministries. We are very proud of the worship experience we are providing folks far and wide every week, and we need more volunteers to help out on a rotating basis operating the cameras on Sunday mornings. If you are comfortable with computers (no need to be an expert!), we would love to show you what we're up to down in the streaming room and see if you'd be interested in learning how you can help. Please contact Pastor Dan (dan@firstparishyork.net) to learn more or ask questions! Many hands make light work and a far lighter schedule.

One Warm Coat: Cleaning out your closets before winter? From infants to adults, everyone deserves to feel the warmth that a coat provides. Please consider donating your clean, gently used or new coats to the 2023 *One Warm Coat Drive* which will be held **Sunday, December 3, 2023. Donations will be accepted on the church steps before the 10 a.m. service.** In addition, coats can be donated during the December *First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive* in front of First Parish Office on **Wednesday, December 6, 2023 from 10 - 11 a.m.**

Green Tip/News: "Our most important environmentalists are 4 year olds" Margaret Renkl/NYT. Books are so easy to wrap,too!, The City Tree/Shira Boss, Maple and Rosemary/Alison James, What's Wild Outside Your Door?/Peter Wohlleben, Children's Book of Birdwatching/ Dan Rouse, One World/Nicola Davies, Nature's Best Hope/Doug Tallamy.



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