

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.

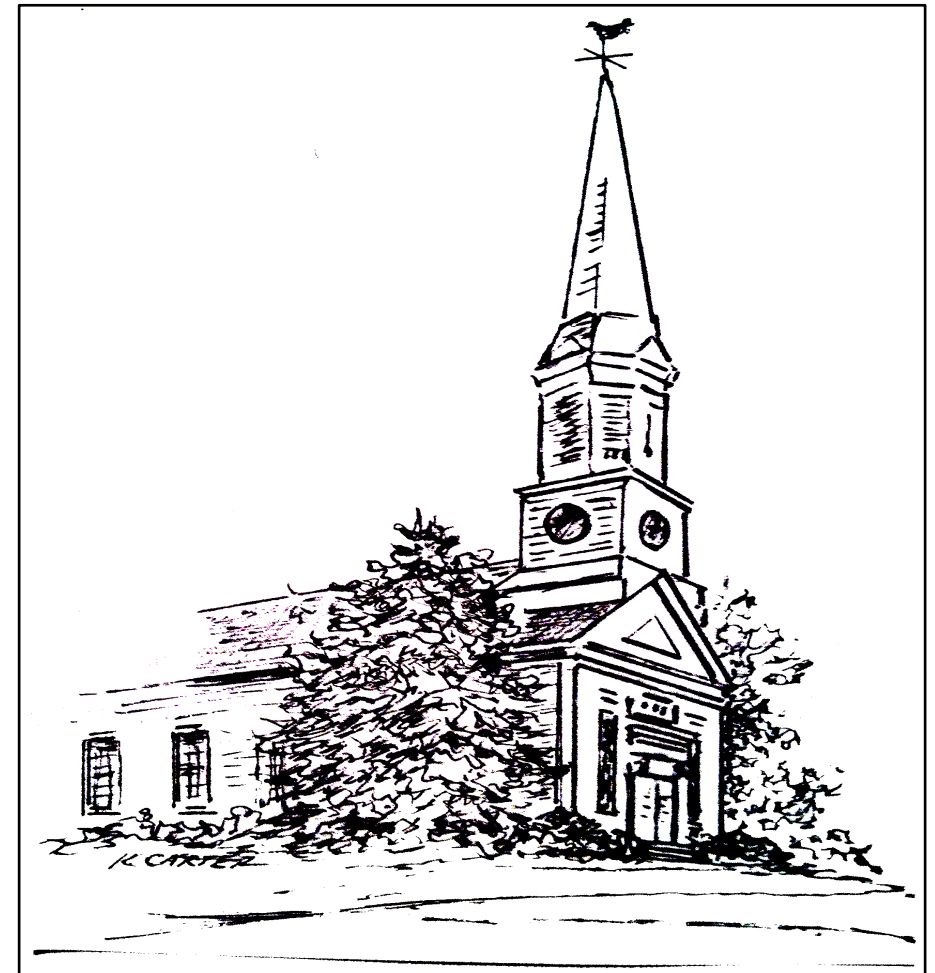
Photos: We regularly take photos for use in media. If you would prefer you or your child's image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

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 26, 2023 ~ 10:00AM WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE **Two Hymn Settings**
“COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING” (*Italian Hymn*) Gail Leven Pollock (b. 1947)
“THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS” (*St. Columbia*) Robert Cundick (1926-2016)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Eric Dupee

L: Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth!
P: Serve the Lord with celebration! Come before God with shouts of joy!
L: Enter God’s gates with thanks; enter the house of God with praise!
P: Because the Lord is good, God’s faithfulness lasts generation after generation.

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

GATHERING PRAYER *(together)* Rev. Dan Hollis
Send forth your Spirit, O God, and renew the face of the earth. Dwell among us, even though your presence will startle and unsettle us. Grant us your peace, we pray, as justice and love pour down upon the yearning earth. Lord, hear our prayer....

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** “O WORSHIP THE KING” No. 2

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 “SOON AND VERY SOON” Andraé Crouch (1942-2015)
*Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*
First Parish Sanctuary Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE Matthew 25:31-46 N.T. 25 Phyllis Giordano

SERMON “The Judgement of the Nations” Rev. Eric Dupee

OFFERING OUR GIFTS “HE SHALL FEED HIS FLOCK LIKE A SHEPHERD”
(from *Messiah*) G.F. Handel (1685-1759)
*He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,
and He shall gather the lambs with his arm,
and carry them in His bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.*

***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** “CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS” No. 317

CLOSING BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN Rev. Eric Dupee

POSTLUDE Recessional on “MAJESTY”
Arr., Douglas E. Wagner (b. 1952)

*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 in memory of my beloved husband Charles Furlong
by his wife Beth Furlong.*



First Parish Church
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FAITH FEATURES

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 26th	10am Worship
	11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Monday, November 27th	8:30am Shake It Up
	6:30pm Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 28th	8:30am Yoga
Wednesday, November 29th	8am Strength Training
	9:30am Wednesday Bible Study-Zoom
Thursday, November 30th	5pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
	6pm Sweet Spirit Rehearsal
	6:30pm Nominating Committee Meeting
Friday, December 1st	8am Aerobics
Saturday, December 2nd	9am Wreaths, Greens & More
	8:30am Christian Education Meeting
Sunday, December 3rd	8:30am Advent Devotional Discussion Group
	10am Worship/Advent 1/Communion

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:*

*Rev. Eric Dupee
Rev.r 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*

Advent Devotionals: A weekly Advent Devotional booklet is available for you at the church entrance. We hope you will take one per family. This devotional booklet was made with contributions from our church members. We hope it will enhance your experience of the Advent season. Please join Pastor Eric in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings at 8:30am for a discussion based on the devotional entry for the week: 12/3, 12/10, 12/17 and 12/24.

Wreaths, Greens & More: For many decades the First Parish Wreath and Greens Sale was a harbinger of Christmas, with people gathering to purchase a decorated wreath, cemetery pot or winter berries. The smell of balsam filled the Fellowship Hall and people said this sale truly was the start of the Advent Season. First Parish Church sits right in the heart of York Village and we are pleased to announce the return of our sale after a long hiatus!

Wreaths, Greens and More will be taking place on December 2 from 9AM – 12noon in the Fellowship Hall of the First Parish Church, 180 York Street, York. There will be many items to choose from: undecorated and decorated wreaths in various sizes, holiday table arrangements in unique vases and pots, beautiful cemetery containers, swags, bundles of red winter berries, bundles of balsam, tiny berry bowls and more. In the front room of Fellowship Hall The Christmas Decor table will have something for everyone to make the holidays festive and fun. There will be a craft table with hand knits and other special hand made items and cookies and other baked goods for sale.

Please come and help support First Parish Church and its missions. See you on December 2 at 9AM!

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: 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

Green Tip/News: New York City drivers will be charged for driving downtown. NYC is moving ahead with a landmark program to toll vehicles entering Lower Manhattan. Federal Highway Administration has signed off on the release of an environmental assessment. Steps to finalize are in the works.



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