

**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.

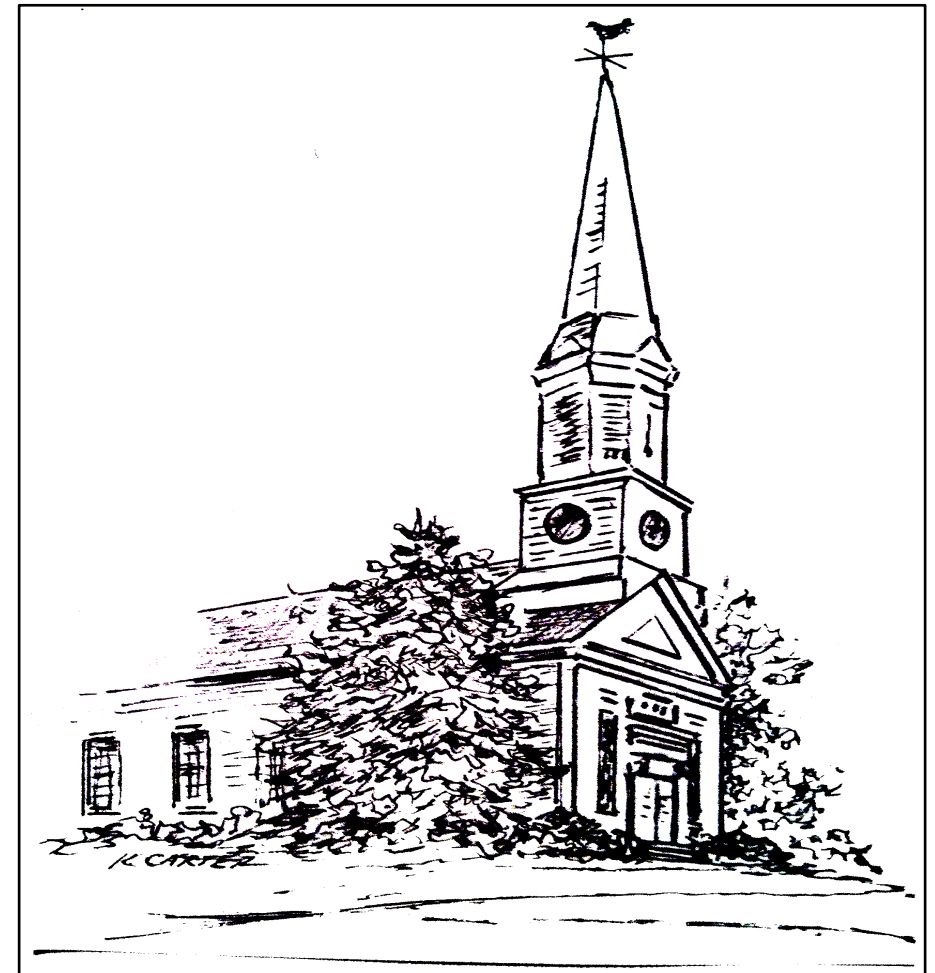
**Photos:** We regularly take photos for use in media. If you would prefer you or your child's image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

**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**

**"The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not overcome it."  
John 1:5**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023 ~ 10:00AM WORSHIP

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

**PRELUDE** **Two Carol Settings**  
“WHAT CHILD IS THIS?” George Lachenauer (b. 1933)  
“THE HOLY BOY” John Ireland (1879-1962)

**WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP** *(adapted from Psalm 148)* Rev. Eric Dupee  
L: Alleluia! Praise God from the heavens;  
**P: Praise God, sun and moon; praise God all you shining stars!**  
L: Let them praise the Name of Yahweh, by whose command they were created.  
**P: Praise God from the earth, you sea creatures and ocean depths, snow and mist.**  
L: Let them all praise the name of Yahweh whose name alone is exalted.  
**P: Sing praise in the assembly of the faithful.**

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

**GATHERING PRAYER** *(together)*  
**God, giver of every perfect gift, we gather here by habit or accident, from lives frantic or serene. We gather here, young, old, in middle age, all of us children whose names you know by heart. We gather here, hoping for a new word, a gentle touch, a sense of the presence of the one who taught this 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** “WHAT CHILD IS THIS” No. 184

**MISSION MOMENT** Linda Drew, Creation Care Committee

*(There is no Sunday School today. Should it become helpful, parents are welcome to utilize the unattended nursery school downstairs.)*

**ANTHEM** **Three English Carols**  
“I SAW THREE SHIPS,” “AWAY IN A MANGER” and "SUSSEX CAROL"  
**First Parish Vocal Ensemble**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 2:22-40 N.T. 51 Sue Wierzba

**SERMON** “The Presentation of Jesus” Rev. Eric Dupee

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS** “I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY”  
Words: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)  
Music: Henry Bishop (1787-1855)  
**First Parish Vocal Ensemble**

**\*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** “IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR” No. 191

**CLOSING BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN** Rev. Eric Dupee

**POSTLUDE** “NOËL”  
George Frederick McKay (1899-1970)

*We invite the congregation to remain seated in order to enjoy the postlude.*  
*However, you are welcome to exit the sanctuary at any time.*



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

## THIS WEEK

**Today, Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**

10am Worship

**No Coffee Hour Today**

11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**

No Shake It Up Class

**Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>**

8:30am Interval Training

9am Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting

11am Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

8am Cardio/Strength

9:30am Women's Bible Study

**10am First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive**

**Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup>**

8am Zumba

5:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>**

8am Aerobics

**Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**

8:30am Christian Education Meeting

**Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**

10am Worship/Communion/Epiphany

11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

### **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*



**Sunday School:** No Sunday School or Coffee Hour Today. Due to the vacation week, we will not dismiss the children for Church School today. Should your little one get antsy, there is a monitor for viewing the service downstairs and an unstaffed nursery available for your use. Sunday School and Coffee Hour will resume next week.

**Mission Moment:** Today we welcome First Parish Church member, Linda Drew, who will update us on the efforts of the Creation Care Committee here at the church.

**First Parish Church Visioning Forum:** If God were to identify a New Year's Resolution for First Parish Church, what would it be? This is the latest question we hope you will consider and submit a reply. You can write it on the newsprint in the entrance to the church or email Pastor Eric at [eric@firstparishyork.net](mailto:eric@firstparishyork.net).

**First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive:** January 3 from 10am-11am. The pantry's wish list includes baked beans, Knorr pasta and sides, white tuna, and Progresso soups. 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 volunteers to help. More info? Linda Drew [p.l.drew79@me.com](mailto:p.l.drew79@me.com) or 207-351-8141.

**Dine with Nine Update:** *(See Insert)* We will be signing up for the DINE with NINE program via email for the next two weeks. So take a look at the offerings (time/date/activity). Select one and then email Linda Drew [[p.l.drew79@me.com](mailto:p.l.drew79@me.com)] with your selection. She will make sure there are openings available for that activity and email a confirmation to you. If it is "sold out", she will, of course, email that info to you as well. Then you'll have to select another venue.

We are trying this method as there is NO coffee hour this Sunday, December 31 and the Drews are out of town during the first week of January and the first activity is January 13th! THANK YOU for your willingness to experiment!

**Green Tip/News:** "The mind once stretched by a new idea, never returns to its original dimensions." Ralph Waldo Emerson



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