

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.

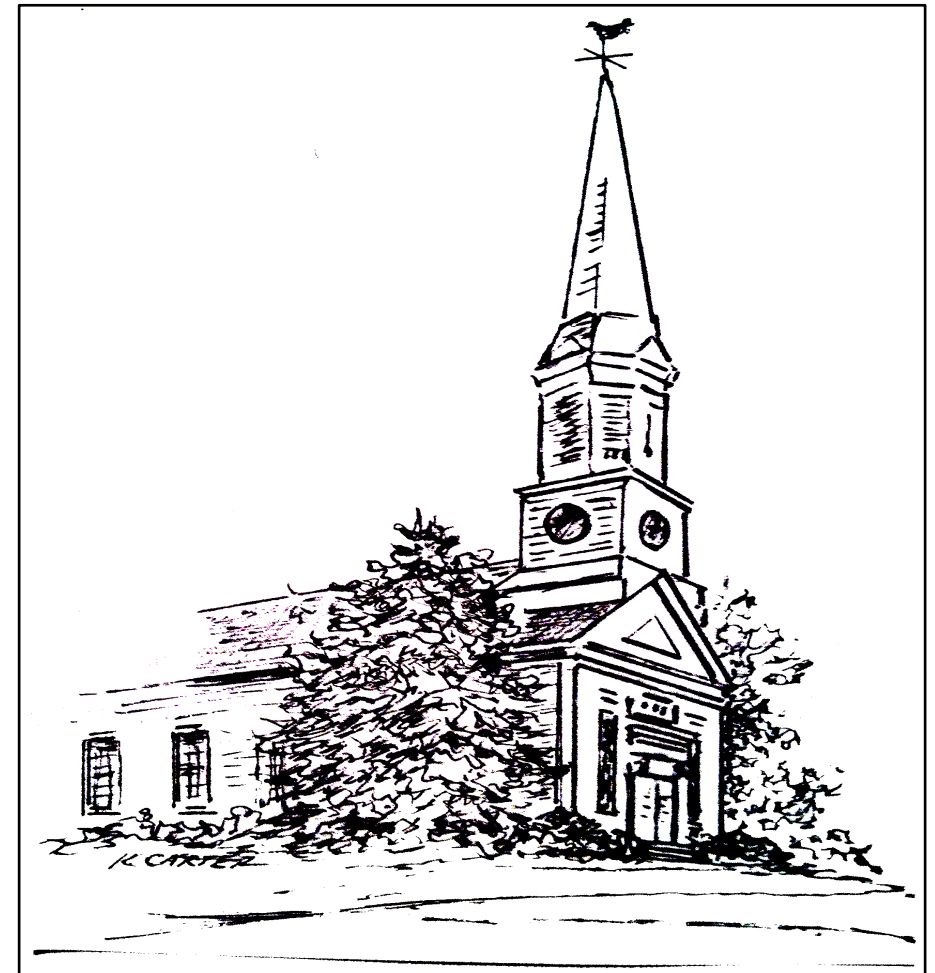
Photos: We regularly take photos for use in media. If you would prefer you or your child's image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

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 fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid,
for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help
you, I will uphold you with my victorious hand.”
Isaiah 41:10**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024 ~ 10:00AM WORSHIP
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

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

PRELUDE Processional in G Major Wilbur Held (1914-2015)
 “PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY” Arr., Hal H. Hopson (1933)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Eric Dupee

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

GATHERING PRAYER *(together)* Scott Stevens
Gracious God, our ancestors in faith went out, not knowing where they were headed, because they trusted in you. Jesus went forward to his death in Jerusalem, trusting in your purpose. Help us, like them, to take you at your word, and thus to move forward in faith. Be the lamp to our feet, and the light to our path, as we pray together...

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 “THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE” No. 16

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 “WE WALK BY FAITH” Jan Sanborn
*We walk by faith and not by sight. We trust in God and not in might.
For in our darkness he is light. We walk by faith and not by sight.
Sometimes trials come our way. We don’t know what to do or say.
But we know God will make a way if we will trust and obey.
We may not fully understand, but we are guided by his hand.
And as we follow faith’s command, God leads us to the promised land.*
 — J. Paul Williams
Rob Finch, guest conductor
First Parish Sanctuary Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE Genesis 17:1-7, 15-17 O.T. 12 Scott Stevens

SERMON “Covenant People” Rev. Eric Dupee

OFFERING OUR GIFTS “DEO DICAMUS GRATIAS” Victor C. Johnson (b. 1978)
 Translation of Latin text:
 We say thanks to God. We bless the Lord.
 Sweet Spirit

***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 “BE THOU MY VISION” No. 502

CLOSING BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN Rev. Eric Dupee

POSTLUDE Toccata on “PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY”
 Arr., J, Wayne Kerr (b. 1958)

*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 donated with gratitude by Surie Hazel Udeshi who was baptized
at First Parish Church on May 28, 2023.*



First Parish Church
Congregational
United Church of Christ
FAITH FEATURES

THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, February 25th

10am Worship/Lent II/Sweet Spirit will provide special music

11am FPC Annual Meeting

5pm Eat, Fast, Feast-Book Study Group

Monday, February 26th

8:30am Shake It Up

6:30pm Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 27th

8:30am Yoga

Wednesday, February 28th

8am Interval Training

9:30am Wednesday Bible Study-Zoom

7pm Winter Wednesday Music Hour

Thursday, February 29th

8am Zumba

5pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 1st

8am Aerobics

Saturday, March 2nd

8:30am Christian Education Meeting

Sunday, March 3rd

10am Worship/Communion/Lent III

5pm Eat, Fast, Feast-Book Study Group



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

Kristin Schrimper, Vice Moderator

Ray Hamlin, Treasurer

Susan Mancinelli, Clerk

The First Parish Church Annual Meeting will take place in the sanctuary after the service today following a 5-10 minute period to set up and gather ourselves.

Lent Fasting and Feasting Meal and Book Discussion: Join us in Fellowship Hall at 5pm today for a bring your own supper (and something to share if you so choose) and book discussion. We may still have some books if you have not received it yet. See Pastor Eric with questions.

Fellowship In Action: Recycle, Replenish, Reveal, our FPC Kitchen

Recycle - In keeping with our pledge to care for our planet, if you have any multiples or underused kitchen items, (silverware, pots and pans, serving pieces) we welcome them.

Replenish - Our kitchen needs multiples of utensils, cook and bakeware, for events like Gratitude Luncheon

Receptacle - A large bin is located in the Pilgrim Room for donated items. Another small bin is located in the Parish office.

Reveal - Soon we will have a tour of our renewed, restocked, refreshed, revived kitchen in the Spring. Collecting donations for February and March.

For questions and ideas call Holly Hayes at 603-767-4217 hollyhayesnh@yahoo.com

Winter Wednesday Music Hour: Come warm your hands and hearts with Joyce Andersen & Harvey Reid in a Winter Wednesday Music Hour at First Parish Church 180 York Street, York, Maine. This acoustic musical offering will take place in the historic First Parish Church in the heart of the village on February 28 and March 6 at 7pm-8pm. Donations graciously welcomed.

Instate Mission Opportunity: Calling all springtime campers, join the FPC team of supporters of Pilgrim Lodge in the Spring clean up days Friday and Saturday April 26 and 27. I'm not sure what special tasks they may have for us this spring but I have a call into the staff for details. Gary Goss told he was loving that belt sander and wondered if they had another 15 or 20 benches to clean up! Check out the pictures on the Pilgrim Lodge web site under Work Day Schedule.

Green News/Tips: Curious about the months-long work effort of some York High School students to develop an ordinance affecting single-use plastic food ware in York?

Then plan to tune in to the Selectboard meeting scheduled for next Monday, February 26 evening. Or better yet, show up in person to support our local youth as they engage in the process of local government.

If your schedule permits, you might also want to register for a webinar hosted by the York Public Library on Wednesday, February 28, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The webinar features a presentation by Bill McKibben, an accomplished environmentalist with interesting and strong perspectives on climate change solutions.



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