

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.

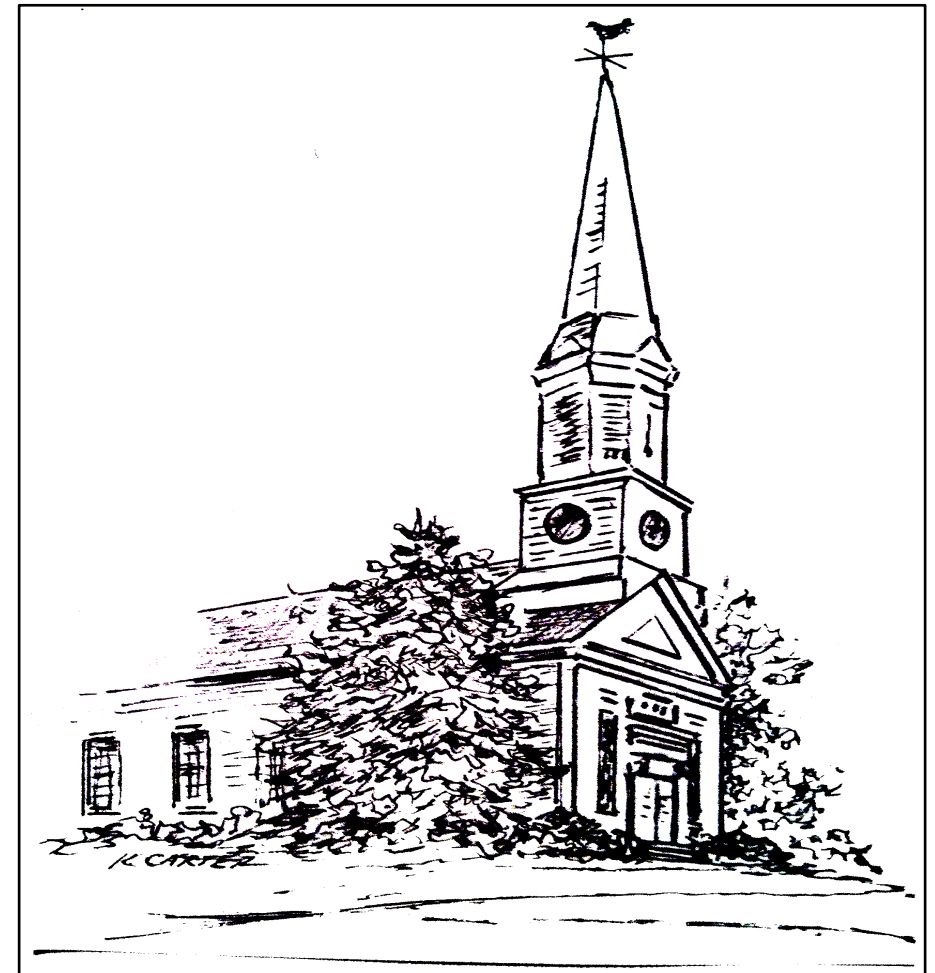
Photos: We regularly take photos for use in media. If you would prefer you or your child's image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

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 4, 2024 ~ 10:00AM WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE Two Pieces Lani Smith (1934-2015)
“THE LORD REIGNETH”
“EVER FAITHFUL, EVER NEAR”

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. Eric Dupee
Everlasting God, you give strength to the powerless and power to the faint; you raise up the sick and cast out demons. Make us agents of healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation...

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** “ARISE, YOUR LIGHT IS COME!” No. 231

(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 “ON EAGLE’S WINGS” Arr., Douglas E. Wagner (b. 1951)
*You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in God’s shadow for life,
say to the Lord: “My refuge, my Rock in whom I trust!”
The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear:
under God’s wings your refuge, God’s faithfulness your shield.
And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God’s hand.*
— based on Psalm 91
First Parish Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 40:21-31 O.T. 627 Phil Woodman

SERMON Rev. Dan Hollis

OFFERING OUR GIFTS “DECK THYSELF, MY SOUL, WITH GLADNESS”
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** “HOPE OF THE WORLD” *(verses 1, 2, and 5 only)* No. 404

CLOSING BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN Rev. Dan Hollis

POSTLUDE “ANCIENT OF DAYS!” Arr., Paul Taylor
(Recessional on *Italian Hymn*)

*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 loving memory of my husband Donald by Helen Stewart"



First Parish Church
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FAITH FEATURES

THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, February 4th

10am Worship/Communion
11am Personnel Committee Meeting
11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Monday, February 5th

8:30am Shake It Up
4:30pm Capital Campaign Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 6th

8am Interval Training
9am Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 7th

10am Beginner's Bible Study
8am Cardio/Strength
9:30am Wednesday Bible Study-Zoom
7pm Faith 101

Thursday, February 8th

8am Zumba
5pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 9th

8am Aerobics

Saturday, February 10th

8:30am Christian Education Meeting

Sunday, February 11th

9:45am Hymn Sing
10am Worship
11:15am Out to Lunch Bunch
11:30am Informational Meeting for Annual Meeting
11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Ministers

All the Members of the Congregation

Leading Worship Today:

Rev. 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

Kristin Schrimper, Vice Moderator

Ray Hamlin, Treasurer

Susan Mancinelli, Clerk



Dine with Nine Update: The sign up table is in Fellowship Hall. You may also email your requests to Linda Drew p.l.drew79@me.com. There are over 120 opportunities to join in the fun. To date about 60 people have signed up! Please FEEL FREE to sign up more than once!

First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive: Wednesday, February 7 from 10AM-11AM. Would love a couple of new volunteers! Have not received the "Wish List" yet; let's assume white tuna, Knorr Pasta and Sides, salad dressings and Progresso soups would be wonderful. Thank you for your continued participation. Questions? Linda Drew 207-351-8141 or p.l.drew79@icloud.com

Scripture Readers: If you are interested in reading Scripture at any Sunday service and would like to be added to the list, please contact Carolyn Dupre at cardup8@gmail.com. It can be very flexible and we would love to hear from you. On another note, if you are on the list of Scripture Readers presently and would like to be take off, contact Carolyn as well and you will be removed.

Beginner's Bible Study: You are welcome to join Beginner's Bible Study on February 6, from 10am -11:15am in Pastor Eric's office. Just come as you are. Bibles will be provided if you don't have one. Contact Pastor Eric with questions.

First Parish Church Visioning Forum: Why do you come to First Parish Church? 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 Fellowship Hall or email Pastor Eric at eric@firstparishyork.net

Faith 101 (Faith Formation for Adults): Wednesdays at 7PM, get to know your faith better with another one-month weekly class led by Pastor Dan. Whether you feel like you're a "beginner" Christian or your spirit could just use a refresher, these once-a-week group gatherings are accessible no matter where you are on life's journey. Learning, discussion, and even some fun activities, all in an hour and fifteen minutes. This unit, "Get to Know Christ," will take place, **February 7, February 14, and February 21**. Contact dan@firstparishyork.net if you are interested in attending or learning more!

Green News/Tips: COP28 NEWS this year's (2023) climate wins. This year, the cost of solar power decreased by around 90% and wind by 70%. Emissions fell in more than 30 countries, including the US and most of Europe. World leaders have established the first loss-and-damage fund to bring financial support from high-emitting countries to those that are more vulnerable to climate change. 2023 climate successes, and they inspire optimism that the biosphere will be given more space to breathe. "The incredible forgiveness of nature, its potent powers and ability to bounce back and fill the spaces that we allow it, is perhaps my greatest source of hope," says ecologist Vigdis Vandvik. www.atmost.earth



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