

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.

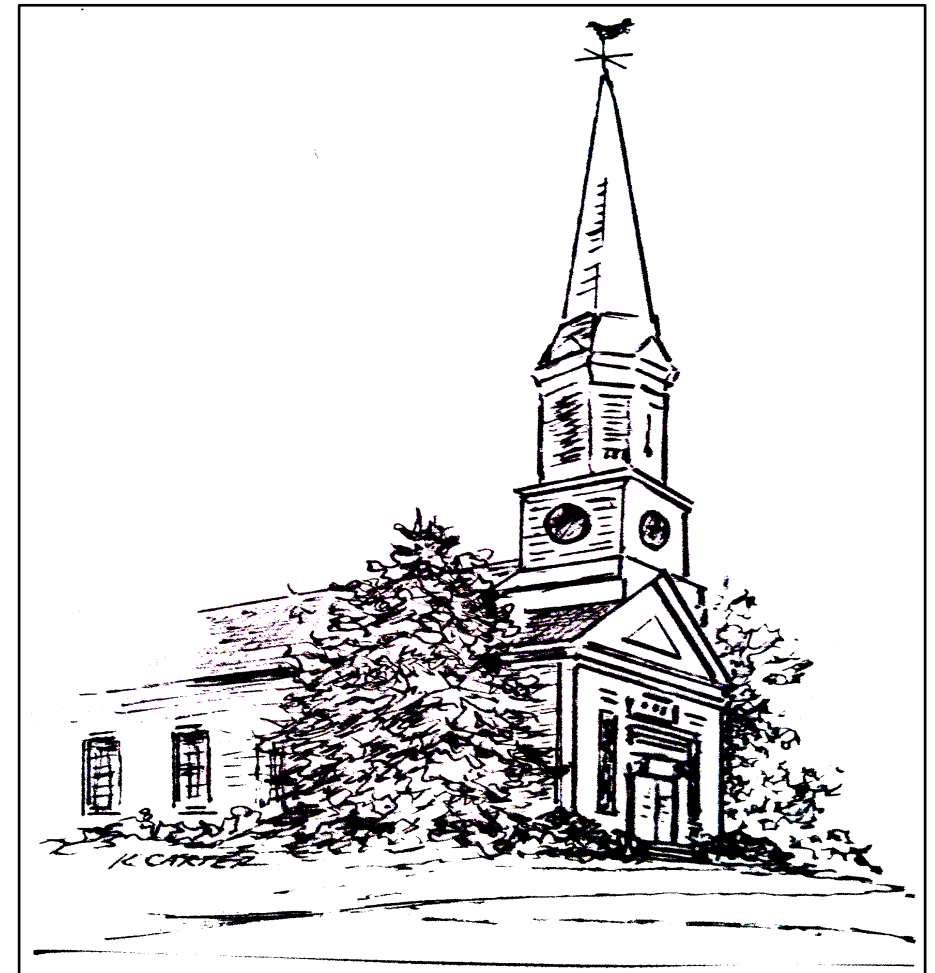
Photos: We regularly take photos for use in media. If you would prefer you or your child's image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

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**

**"In the world you face persecution. But take
courage; I have conquered the world!"
John 16:33**

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024 ~ 10:00AM WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT/COMMUNION

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

PRELUDE “CHRIST IS MADE THE SURE FOUNDATION” *(Westminster Abbey)*
Arr., Robert Wetzler (b.1932)
“THE CROSS OF CHRIST” Arr., Joyce Jones (1933-2022)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Eric Dupee
L: We come not because we are deserving or better than others.
P: We come because Christ bids us come. Christ invites us to his table.
L: We come to remember Christ’s suffering and his resurrection.
P: We come to acknowledge our shortcomings and make a new start.
L: We come to find comfort, peace, and hope.
P: We come, because we rise from this place with new strength and courage.

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

GATHERING PRAYER *(together)*
We thank you, God, that you provide for the world in love. If we go to the heights of the mountains, or we make the grave our bed, you are with us. If we go to the depths of the sea, your right hand holds us fast. Make your presence known to us in this hour as we remember Jesus, your Word, who lived among us, and who 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** “THE OLD RUGGED CROSS” *(verses 1, 2, 4)* No. 260

(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 “WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS” Arr.. Gilbert M. Martin (b. 1941)
*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.
Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love, so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!*
— Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

First Parish Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 N.T. 145 Mary Nicol

SERMON “What A Fool Believes” Rev. Eric Dupee

OFFERING OUR GIFTS “IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY” and
“JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS” Arr., Cindy Berry (b. 1949)
Terrie Ilaria, Music Associate

***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** “LIFT HIGH THE CROSS” *(verses 1-3)* No. 287

CLOSING BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN Rev. Eric Dupee

POSTLUDE Psalm 19 (“THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD”)
Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)
*We invite the congregation to remain seated in order to enjoy the postlude.
However, you are welcome to exit the sanctuary at any time.*

Communion flowers are provided by the Esther W. Hungerford fund.



First Parish Church
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FAITH FEATURES

THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, March 3rd

10am Worship/Communion/Lent III
11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
5pm Eat, Fast, Feast-Book Study Group

Monday, March 4th

Tuesday, March 5^h

8:30am Shake It Up
8:30am Yoga
9am Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 6th

8am Interval Training
9:30am Wednesday Bible Study-Zoom
10am First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive
7pm Winter Wednesday Music Hour

Thursday, March 7th

8am Zumba
5pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 8th

Sunday, March 10th

8am Aerobics
9:45am Hymn Sing
10am Worship/Lent IV
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

First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive: Wednesday, March 6 from 10AM-11AM. Wish List: 1-2lb sugar, 16 oz. vegetable oil, Knorr Pasta sides, rice pilaf, raspberry or strawberry jam, Hamburger Helper. Other non-perishable food items are wonderful as well! Monetary donations cash or checks made out to YCSA Food Pantry are always welcome. Would love a volunteer or two to join us. Linda/Phil Drew p.l.drew79@me.com

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 still have some books if you have not received it yet. See Pastor Eric with questions.

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 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 cleanup 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: "Green Energy Times" advances the opportunities at the intersection of business, technology and sustainability. Since 2009, GET has chronicled and been a catalyst for educational leadership in aligning environmental responsibility with profitable business practices. Bimonthly distribution to over 50,000 people in VT, NH, ME, MA, NY, it engages professionals and everyday people like you and me for sustainability, Renewable Energy, Building and Energy Efficiencies, Supply Chain, Water, Transportation, Communities, Educational Institutions and Agriculture. Well worth taking a look. Paper copies available locally. www.greenenergytimes.org



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