

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.

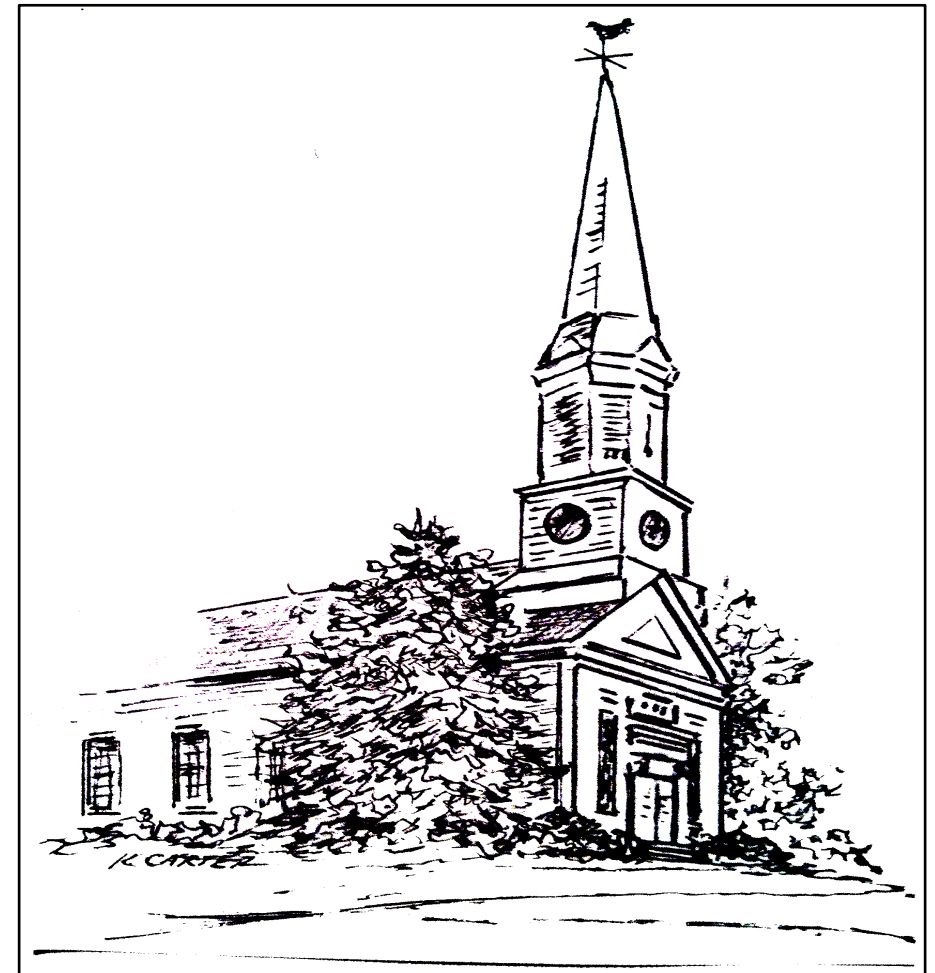
Photos: We regularly take photos for use in media. If you would prefer you or your child's image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

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**

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023 ~ 10:00AM WORSHIP
COMMUNION

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

PRELUDE Trumpet Procession Ricahrd E. Frey
 “THE CHURCH’S ONE FOUNDATION” Arr., Joyce Jones

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Eric Dupee

L: Come, seek refuge in the God of all creation. God’s ear is inclined to each of us.

P: The Lord is a rock of refuge for us.

L: Into the hands of our living God, commit your spirit.

P: May God’s face shine on us gathered here. May we taste and see that God is good.

CHIMES FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

(Candles will be lit as a sign of Christ’s light in the world.)

GATHERING PRAYER *(together)* Rev. Pat Smith

O Risen Christ, we are grateful that you walk among us on this earth, bringing life and hope. Help us to be aware of your presence in our time of worship. Enable us to stand alongside you in your ministry of healing on the crowded roads of our world. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit we 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 “I LOVE YOUR KINGDOM, LORD” No. 549

(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 "HE IS THE ROCK" Michael Barrett (b. 1961))
*He is the Rock of Ages, the Chief and Cornerstone, the Sure Foundation.
I will put my trust in the strength of the Lord.
My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*
First Parish Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE 1 Peter 2:2-10 N.T. 206 Rev. Pat Smith

SERMON “The Importance of Alignment” Rev. Eric Dupee

OFFERING OUR GIFTS “LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER” Arr., Cindy Berry (b.1949)
Terrie Ilaria, piano

(Please sign and pass the maroon fellowship pads on the center aisle of each pew, look at the names as they are passed back and forth and greet one another after the service.)

*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 “THEY DID NOT BUILD IN VAIN” No. 542

CLOSING BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE “HYFRYDOL HAPPINESS” Arr., Phil Lehenbauer (b. 1960)

*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.



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FAITH FEATURES

Men's Gathering: The men's gathering last year was canceled due to illness, but we have rescheduled. Pastor Eric invites the men to gather at the parsonage at 9am on May 20, 2023. There will be food and coffee and an informal program involving biblical reflection and conversation. Please rsvp to the church office by May 15 so we can get a sense of numbers. There's no need to bring anything. Just come as you are!

Attic Treasures Sale: A Reuse and Recycle Event **Saturday, June 24.** Please save your treasures for June 24. Suggested donations include: household items, wall hangings, jewelry, glassware, lamps, china, collectables, and small furniture (20lbs. or less). Drop off dates will be announced in May. **Please stay tuned for more information will follow.**

Diaconate Scholarships: The Ronald A. Parsons Scholarship and the Diaconate Scholarship for high school seniors who will be attending college in the fall. Also, the Pilgrim Lodge Summer Camp Scholarship for any child who would like to attend. Deadline is Monday, May 15.

Go to the First Parish website www.firstparishyork.net or contact the Parish Office at 207-363-3758 or office@firstparishyork.net **Dead**

Mission Committee: The Mission Team would like to thank the following volunteers who spent a day or two at Pilgrim Lodge helping to open this gorgeous UCC camp in Gardiner, Maine for another year. Jackie and David Perry, Judy Goodwin, Mike St. Cyr, Carolyn Skinder, Eric Dupee, Philip Drew, Tom McElwain, Eric McCulley, Gary Goss and our intrepid foremen, Larry Richburg. See the Oasis for photos! Fond memories but the aches and pains linger a bit!! Maybe YOU can come next year!

Green Tip/News: "All that we have was gifted to all of us. There would be no benefactors if they were not first the recipients of grace. In other words, gift comes before givers. We do not really give gifts. We recognize gifts, receive them and we pass them on. We all rely on these gifts. We all share them.

This is not a fulfillment of duty or a single act of kindness, but an infinite process of awareness and responsive action. The gift structure of the universe is that of an interdependent community of nature and neighbor that extends through the ages in which we care for what was handed to us and give gifts to others as a response. This is not a closed circle of exchange; it is more like the circles that ripple across the pond when pebbles are tossed into the water."

Diana Butler Bass, Grateful: The Transformational Practice of Giving Thanks

THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 7th

10am Worship/Communion
11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
3pm Confirmation Class

Monday, May 8th

8:30am Shake It Up
6:30pm Fellowship in Action

Tuesday, May 9th

8:30am Yoga
6:30pm Assessors Meeting

Wednesday, May 10th

8am Strength Training
9:30am Wednesday Bible Study-Zoom
6:30pm Deacons Meeting

Thursday, May 11th

8am Zumba
5pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Friday, May 12th

8am Aerobics
6pm Youth Group-grades 5-8

Sunday, May 14th

9:45am Hymn Sing
10am Worship/Mother's Day
3pm Confirmation Class



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



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