

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, DECEMBER 25, 2022~ 10AM WORSHIP
CHRISTMAS DAY**

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

PRELUDE “THE FIRST NOWELL” Gordon Young (1919-1998)
 “THERE’S A SONG IN THE AIR” Wilbur Held (1914-2015)
 “GLORY BE TO THE LORD” Godwin Sadoh (b. 1965)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 52: 7-10 O.T 642

CHIMES FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE Rev. Pat Smith

GATHERING PRAYER *(together)*

Source of all Illumination, we celebrate today the coming of your Word made flesh. Bless these holy flames that in their glow we may be blessed by your grace and abiding love. May the candles we light remind us of your steadfast presence. May they give us hope in times of darkness. Bless us, that we might reflect the Light of Christ in our daily lives and take to heart the prayer he taught...

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

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM "I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY"
Music: Henry Bishop/Words: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
First Parish Vocal Ensemble

SCRIPTURE John 1:1-14 N.T. 79 Rev. Pat Smith

SERMON “Christmas Gifts” Rev. Eric Dupee

OFFERING OUR GIFTS Three Traditional English Carols:
 "I SAW THREE SHIPS," "AWAY IN A MANGER," "THE SUSSEX CAROL"
First Parish Vocal Ensemble

(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** 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 Recessional on “HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING”
 Arr., Gordon Young

*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 parents Beverly and Albert Fenn,
on his Christmas birthday from Martha, Steve, Emily and Jon.*



THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, December 25th	10am Worship/Christmas Day
Monday, December 26th	8:30am Shake It Up
Tuesday, December 27th	8:30am Yoga
Wednesday, December 28th	8am Cardio/Strength
	9:30am Women's Bible Study
Thursday, December 29th	8am Zumba
Friday, December 30th	8am Aerobics
Sunday, January 1st	10am Worship/Epiphany Sunday/Communion



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
 Amy Burke, Vice Moderator
 Ray Hamlin, Treasurer
 Susan Mancinelli, Clerk

Coffee Hour: There will not be a Coffee Hour today.

Financial Secretary: Pledge envelopes are available to be picked up in the Narthex starting December 18. If you don't find a box with your name on it and would like to have envelopes, please contact our Financial Secretary, Per Jonas at finsec@firstparishyork.net. Please discard any remaining 2022 envelopes at the end of the year as your 2023 envelope number may have changed.

Sunday School Christmas Break: There will be no Sunday School on December 25 or January 1. Children are still very welcome in church, and our nursery room downstairs will be open for families to take advantage of as needed.

First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive: Wednesday, January 4, 2023. We collect from 10AM-11AM in front of the First Parish Church Office. Suggested items might include: Knorr sides, Progresso soups, 16oz. kidney beans, 2# sugar, 16oz. canola oil, baked beans, Hamburger Helper, Spaghetti's, Ramen noodles, 16oz. peanut butter, and tuna (solid white). We are always happy and most grateful to accept monetary donations, cash or check made out to YCSA Food Pantry. Hope to see you then! Thank you, in advance, for your amazing response!

Train Night 2023: Open House **Saturday, January 7** from 2pm-5pm at the Parton's, 17 Wavecrest Drive. An event for young hearts of all ages. Watch the trains, run the train. See the new scenery! Have some refreshments.

Green Tip/News: Instead of mapping our carbon footprint, we encourage you to map your unique place in the growing web of solutions, a place that reflects your skills, priorities and interest and importantly brings you joy. Climate solutions need all of us participating exactly as we already are, with all we already have to give to the larger evolving picture. Thank you for your gift to our planet, just as we are grateful to have been given a most incredible gift. Pass it on! (Ayana Elizabeth Johnson)



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