

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.

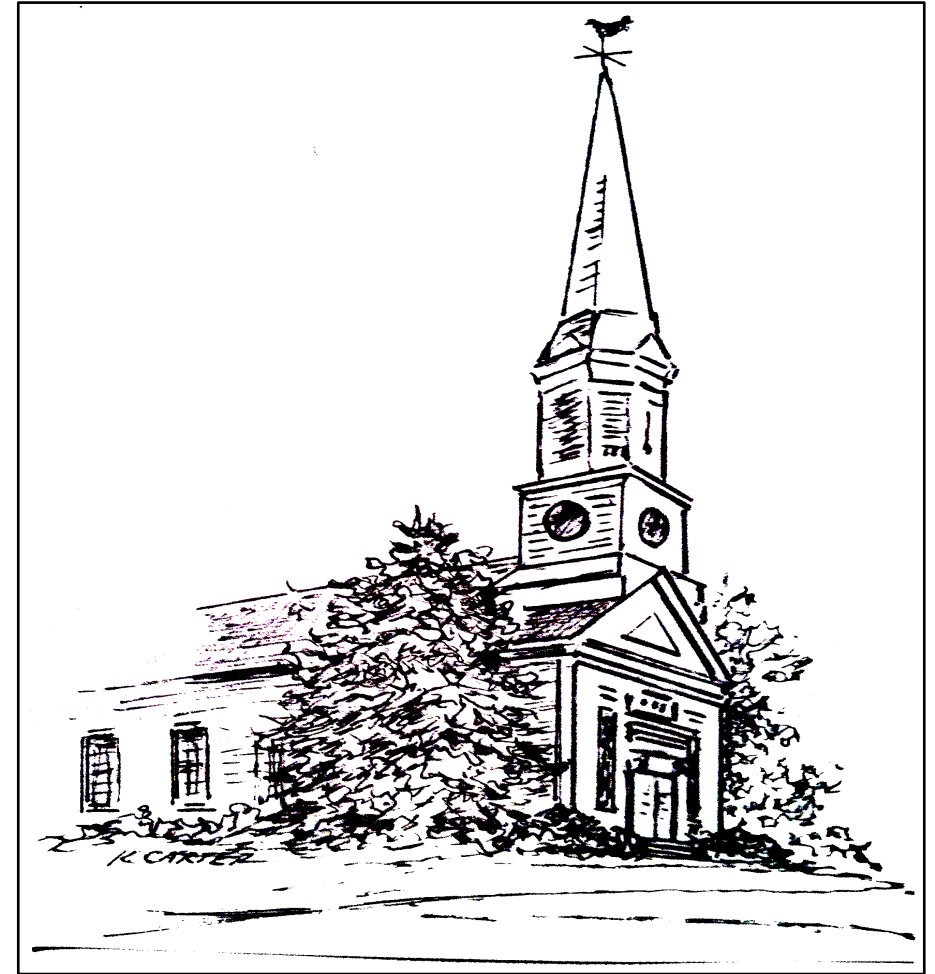
Photos: We regularly take photos for use in media. If you would prefer you or your child's image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

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**

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1Thessalonians 5:16-18

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025 ~ 10:00AM WORSHIP
COMMUNION/EPIPHANY

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

PRELUDE Two Carol Settings
“WE THREE KINGS” Gordon Young (1919-1998)
"GREENSLEEVES” Richard Purvis (1913-1994)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Eric Dupee

CHIMES FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

GATHERING PRAYER *(together)* Cindy Bufithis
Everlasting God, our radiance, you brought the nations to your light. Fill the world with your glory. Show yourself to people everywhere. Allow us to reflect your light into the dark places of this world. We pray this through the one who is our true light, Jesus Christ, 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 “ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY” No. 189

(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 “BETHLEHEM’S GIFTS” Don Besig and Nancy Price
*A child was born in Bethlehem many years ago.
A gift of **love** came down to earth to set our hearts a-glow.
A star shone down on Bethlehem through the wintery night,
a gift of **hope** to all who saw and followed its light.
A tiny child so meek and mild, God’s gift of **peace and love.***
First Parish Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-12 N.T. 1 Cindy Bufithis

SERMON “Holy Disobedience” Rev. Eric Dupee

CHOIR RESPONSE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS Meditation on “THE COVENTRY CAROL”
Arr., David Lasky (b. 1957)

*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 “WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE” No. 233

CLOSING BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE “THE STAR PROCLAIMS THE KING IS HERE”
Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)
*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.

THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, January 5th	10am Worship/Communion 11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Monday, January 6th	8am Cardio & Tone 6:30pm Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 7th	8:30am Yoga 9am Buildings & Grounds Meeting
Wednesday, January 8th	8am Cardio/Strength 9:30 Wednesday Bible Study 10am First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive 6:30pm Deacons Meeting
Thursday, January 9th	8am Zumba 5pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Grow the Church Committee
Friday, January 10th	8am Aerobics
Saturday, January 11th	8:30am Christian Education Meeting
Sunday, January 12th	9:45am Hymn Sing 10am Worship 11:15am Out to Lunch Bunch 11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal



Ministers

All the Members of the Congregation
Leading Worship Today: Rev. Eric Dupee

Staff

Wendell S. Purrington, Director of Music Ministry

Terrie Ilaria, Music Associate

First Parish Church Lay Leaders

John Covino, Moderator

Kristin Schrimper, Vice Moderator

Ray Hamlin, Treasurer

Susan Mancinelli, Clerk



First Parish Church Congregational United Church of Christ FAITH FEATURES

Coffee Hour: Please come to Fellowship Hall, directly across the one-way road, for refreshments and conversation. All are welcome!

Church Building Closure: The sanctuary will be closed for all activities between January 6 – January 10. There will be work done to examine the building's tower box pillars in preparation for maintenance on the steeple.

Wreaths & Greens: THANK YOU to each and every person who helped make Wreath, Greens & More! a successful event for church members and townspeople. Many, many thanks from the W,G & More Committee..

FIRST Wednesday YCSA Food Pantry Drive: will be the “ SECOND WEDNESDAY” Food Pantry drive in January! **Wednesday, January 8 from 10- 11AM.** Wish List soon! Would LOVE a helper or two! A great opportunity to meet other folks from our wonderful community. Want to help?? Linda Drew [207-351-8141/p.l.drew79@me.com](mailto:p.l.drew79@me.com)

Dine with Nine: Sign ups for hosts for Dine with Nine has begun. Contact Judy Goodwin at 978-771-3455 or ink0711@gmail.com. if you would like to host a dinner or lunch/brunch.

Fellowship in Action: Silk Art and Rug Hooking Exhibits in Portsmouth

Friday, January 17th. Please join us to see:

1. “Paintings on Silk” exhibit – at **100 Market Street** Gallery, Portsmouth

See varied artwork of 5 York artists, especially the 23 colorful silk paintings by our very own, Sue Wierzba, Faith Webster and Susan Mancinelli.

2. “Seacoast Rughookers” exhibit – at Portsmouth Public Library

See delicate wall hangings and decorative rugs made with tiny strips of wool. Courtesy of the Seacoast Ruggers members, including our very own Faith Webster.

Carpooling from Fellowship Hall at 10:30am. To sign up, contact Kathy McQueeney at 603-380-0598 or kathymcqueeney@hotmail.com by Monday, January 13.

Green Tips/News: A report from “We Fill Good” Kittery, ME “Liquid Dish Soap/Laundry Soap”/2023 report: 28- # of 30 gallon drums (3840 Oz.per drum) sold 107,520 ounces refilled! 6720- # of 16oz. bottles diverted from landfills. You can make a difference! www.wefillgoodseacoast.com