

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.

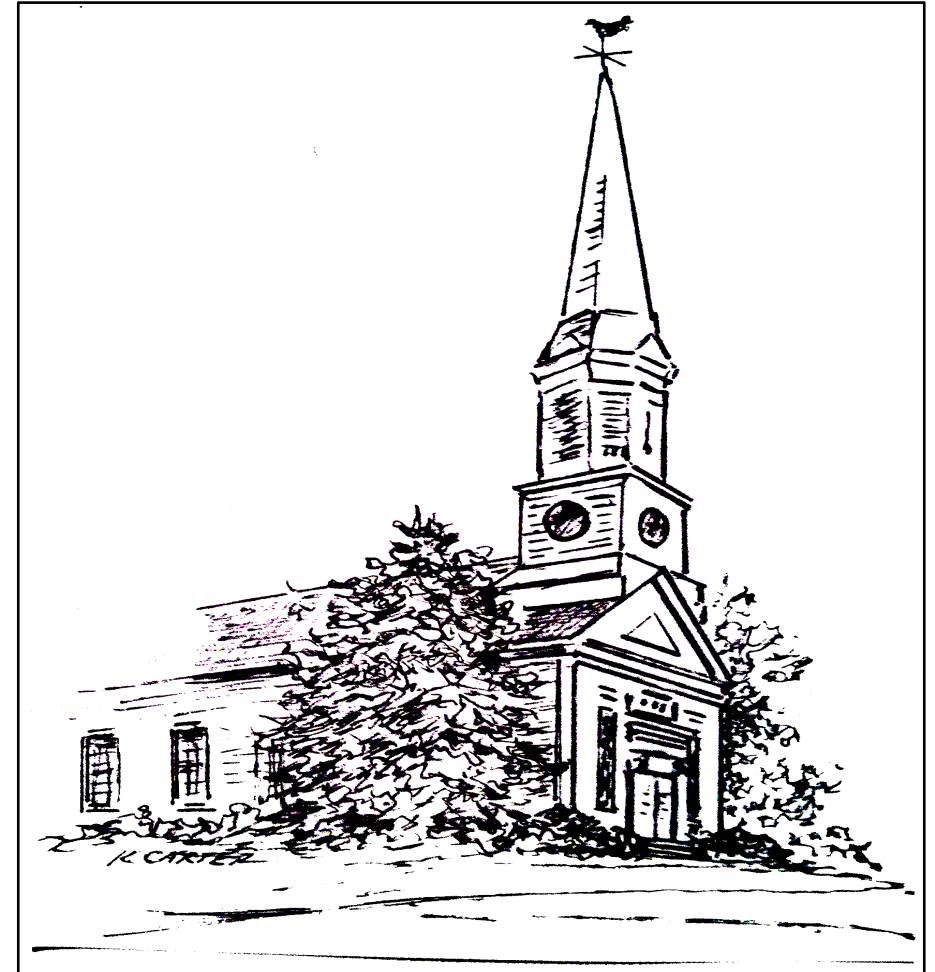
Photos: We regularly take photos for use in media. If you would prefer you or your child's image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

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.

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**First Parish Church
Congregational
United Church of Christ**

**“Be still and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46:10**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025 ~10:00AM WORSHIP
COMMUNION/THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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

PRELUDE Fugue (or Voluntary) William Selby (1738-1798)
Voluntary VI John Stanley (1713-1786)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Adapted from Psalm 71 Rev. Eric Dupee
L: In the Lord, we take refuge; may God never let us be put to shame.
P: The Lord is our rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save us.
L: For God is our hope, our trust from our youth.
P: Today, let us worship and continually praise our Maker.

CHIMES FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

GATHERING PRAYER *(together)* Rev. Pat Smith
God of infinite love, who through Jesus Christ shared our life, and communed with sinners and tax collectors. We rejoice that you come to us and seek us where we are and as we are. We celebrate Christ’s presence with us now, working in us your new creation. Hear us as we pray as Christ 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** “GOD OF THE AGES, WHOSE ALMIGHTY HAND” No. 728

(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 “LOVE NEVER ENDS” James Biery (b. 1956)
*What can separate us from the love of God?
Neither death nor life, nor angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future,
nor any powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation
will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
— Romans 8:35, 38-39

SCRIPTURE Corinthians 13:1-13 N.T. 153 Rev. Pat Smith

SERMON “The Gift of Love” Rev. Eric Dupee

CHOIR RESPONSE “THE GIFT OF LOVE” *(verse 1)* No. 397

OFFERING OUR GIFTS “OMNIA VINCIT AMOR” Michael John Trotta (b. 1978)
translation of Latin text:
Love conquers all; therefore let us surrender to love.
— Virgil, *Eclogues* (37 BC).

***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** “BE STILL, MY SOUL” No. 451

CLOSING BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE "A LITANY OF JOY" Alfred V. Fedak (b. 1953)
*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.



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FAITH FEATURES

THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, February 2nd	10am Worship/Communion 11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Monday, February 3th	8am Cardio & Tone 6:30pm Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 4th	8:30am Yoga 9am Buildings & Grounds Meeting
Wednesday, February 5th	8am Cardio/Strength 9:30 Wednesday Bible Study
Thursday, February 4th	8am Zumba 5pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Friday, February 6th	8am Aerobics
Saturday, February 7th	8:30am Christian Education Meeting
Sunday, February 8th	9:45am Hymn Sing 10am Worship 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 Ministries

Terrie Ilaria, Music Associate

First Parish Church Lay Leaders

John Covino, Moderator

Kristin Schrimper, Vice Moderator

Ray Hamlin, Treasurer

Susan Mancinelli, Clerk

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

Welcome to Trey Selenga: Join us during coffee hour next Sunday, February 9 for a formal welcome to our Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator.

Confirmation 2025: Pastor Eric is in the process of planning Confirmation for 2025 at First Parish. Confirmation is the process by which youth are prepared for church membership. It will be open to youth from 8th – 12th grades. If you are interested in learning about Confirmation and what the requirements will be, please contact Pastor Eric (eric@firstparishyork.net).

First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive: for (YCSA) will be Wednesday, February 5 from 10-11AM. We need a bit of help. One or two folks from 9:55am to about 11:30am. Call or email Linda Drew 204-351-8141 p.l.drew79@me.com
WISH LIST-canned chicken, white tuna, mayo, sugar (1-2lb), chili pasta, rice sides and Progresso soups. Always grateful for nonperishable items and monetary donations. THANK YOU

Green News/Tips: Maine companies are embracing the B Corp movement. Like the Fair Trade label for food, B Corp certification shows that companies have met certain standards of social and environmental responsibility. Globally more than 4000 companies from more than 153 different industries have become B Corps since 2007. Sales growth outperformed other companies by a factor of 2.6. Maine B Corps include: Allagash Brewing, ReVision Energy, Tom's of Maine, Wicked Joe Coffee, Androscoggin Bank