

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.

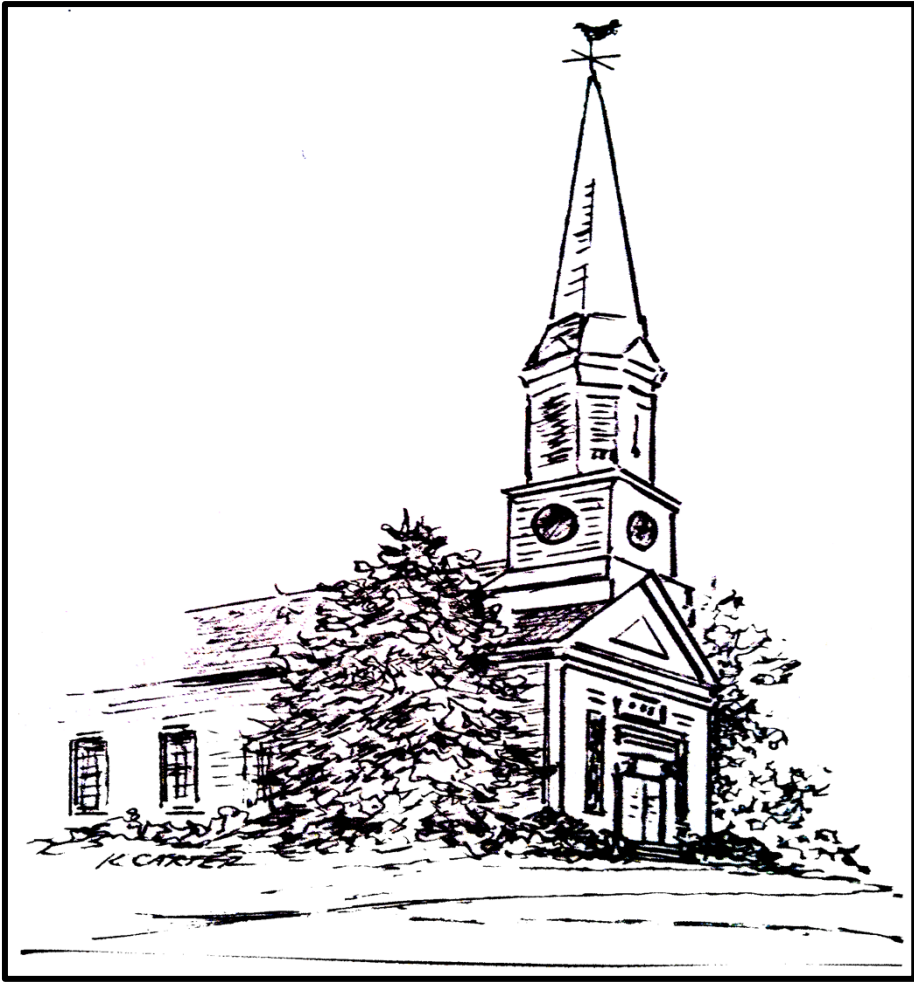
Photos: We regularly take photos for use in media. If you would prefer you or your child’s image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

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

“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, FEBRUARY 23, 2025 ~ 10:00AM WORSHIP
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

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

PRELUDE Festive Trumpet Tune David German (b. 1954)
 “SIMPLE GIFTS” (“I DANCED IN THE MORNING”)
 Arr., J. Wayne Kerr (b. 1958)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Eric Dupee

CHIMES FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION
“WESTMINSTER CHIMES” Arr., Douglas E. Wagner (b. 1952)
First Parish Handbell Choir

GATHERING PRAYER *(together)* Phyllis Giordano

Steadfast Lover of humanity, we come to you, as those who search for ways to love more wisely, more genuinely, more steadily. We seek to base our lives on the love of Christ. Through your spirit, build your church into a living temple, a sign of your presence on earth; through 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** “GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY” No. 569

A MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Rev. Rev. Eric Dupee

(Children ages 4 and up are invited to go to the church foyer to meet with their Sunday School teachers immediately following the Message for All Ages.)

ANTHEM

"UBI CARITAS" Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)
(translation of Latin text)
*Where charity and love are, God is there.
The love of Christ has gathered us together.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Let us revere and love the living God.
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.*

First Parish Sanctuary Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS

SCRIPTURE Luke 6:27-38 N.T. 56 Phyllis Giordano

SERMON “The Golden Rule Revisited” Rev. Eric Dupee

CHOIR RESPONSE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS “HOPE IS THE BREATH OF MUSIC”
 Words: Herb Frombach/Music: Victor C. Johnson
*Hope is the breath of music that lives within the soul;
 a melody that flows along and never stops at all.*
Sweet Spirit

***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.

***CLOSING HYMN** “FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS” No. 621

CLOSING BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE Festival Postlude Clarence Kohlmann (1891-1944)

*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 our daughter, Emily Elizabeth
by Robert and Kris White and our grandfather, David Miller, Jr.
by Matthew and Gregory White.*



First Parish Church
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FAITH FEATURES

THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, February 23rd

10am Worship
Annual Meeting

Monday, February 24th

8am Cardio & Tone
6:30pm Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 25th

8:30am Yoga

Wednesday, February 26th

8am Cardio/Strength
9:30 Wednesday Bible Study

Thursday, February 27th

8am Zumba
5pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
6pm Sweet Spirit Rehearsal

Friday, February 28th

8am Aerobics

Saturday, March 1st

8:30am Christian Education Meeting

Sunday, March 2nd

10am Worship/Communion
11:15am Welcome Trey Selenga
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

Trey Selenga, Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator

First Parish Church Lay Leaders

John Covino, Moderator

Kristin Schrimper, Vice Moderator

Ray Hamlin, Treasurer

Susan Mancinelli, Clerk

Annual Meeting Today: The 2025 Annual Meeting of First Parish Church will take place in the sanctuary this morning. Following the worship service, there will be a five or ten-minute break before the start of the meeting. Feel free to move around and use the restrooms in the basement.

Experience Kirtan: Join us in Fellowship Hall for a chance to experience Kirtan. On March 8 from 4:30pm-6pm. A very special guest will perform for us an ancient form of “Bhatki” which is a devotional worship practiced for centuries in India. Our guest, Shubalananda will lead us in worship along with his band that is sure to be enjoyable. This practice is offered to the community. There is no fee, but donations are welcome. Contact John Moses with questions at 207-752-2199

Dine with Nine: Sign ups for hosts and diners 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.

Pilgrim Lodge: HEADS’ UP! Clean Up Weekend April 25 and 26.

We are planning to go to the Spring Cleanup Weekend. Friday morning through Saturday evening. Looking for skilled and “skill-challenged” volunteers! Always rewarding and fun! Interested? Philip Drew at p.l.drew79@me.com or 207-351-8141 **Details in March!**

First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive: Wednesday, March 5 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 at p.l.drew79@me.com or 207-351-8141

Green News/Tips: A landfill is a place of perpetual motion, where mountains of garbage rise in days and crews race to contain the influx of ever more trash. Carbon Mapper published a study in Science that shows that U.S. landfills emit methane levels 40% higher than previously reported by the EPA. The EPA is due to update landfill management policies as a part of a required 8-year review cycle. www.carbonmapper.org