

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.

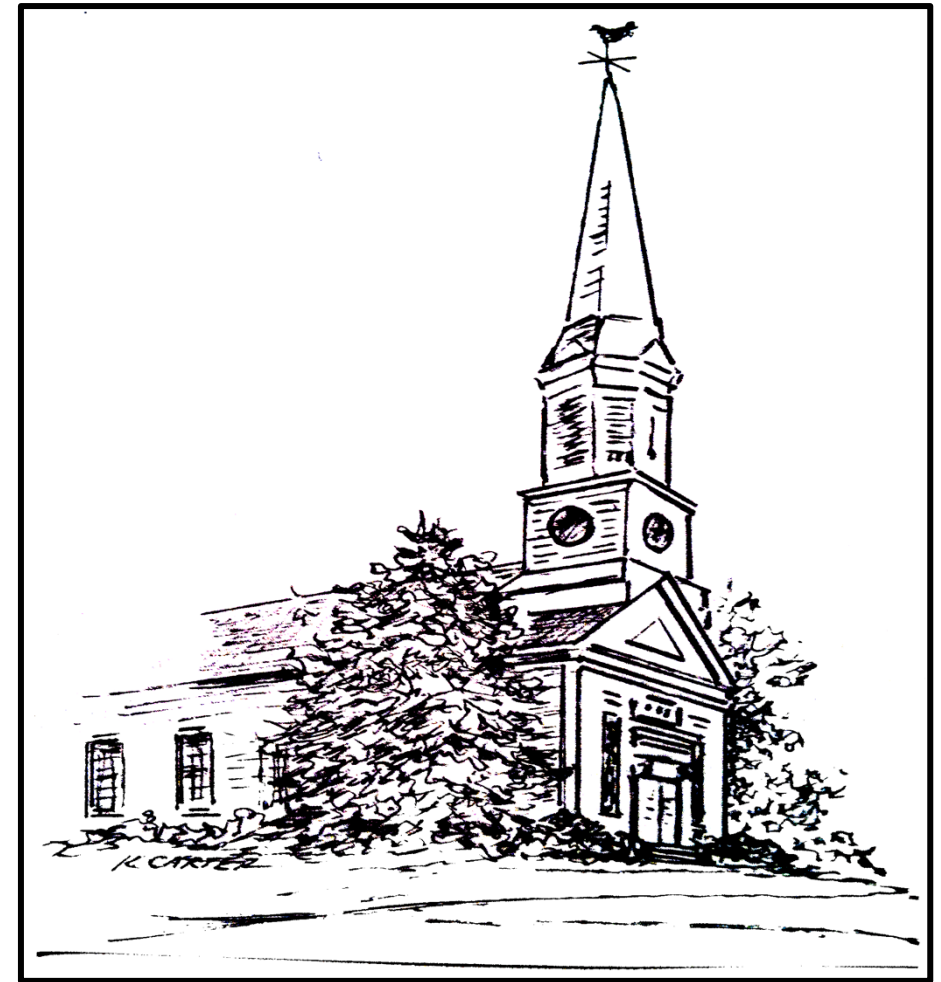
Photos: We regularly take photos for use in media. If you would prefer you or your child's image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

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**

“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025 ~ 10:00AM WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

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

PRELUDE Rondo in D Major Marin Marais (1656-1728)
“IF WITH ALL YOUR HEARTS YE TRULY SEEK ME” (from *Elijah*)
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Eric Dupee

CHIMES FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

GATHERING PRAYER *(together)* Scott Stevens
God of grace, Righteous Judge of all people, we thank you that in love you sent Jesus Christ into the world not to condemn, but to save. May your mercy cause us to respond to you in loving commitment, that we may discover the true life you offer us. Hear us as we pray in the way Jesus taught, saying....

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** “AMAZING GRACE!” No. 422

A MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES 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 "GRACE ALONE" Arr., Molly Ijames (b. 1978)
*Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith,
every difference we can make is only by his grace.
Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine,
every blessing left behind is only by his grace.
Grace alone which God supplies, strength unknown he will provide.
Christ in us, our Cornerstone. We will go forth in grace alone.
— Scott Wesley Brown and Jeff Nelson*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS

SCRIPTURE Luke 13:1-9 N.T. 66 Scott Stevens
SERMON “So That” Rev. Eric Dupee
CHOIR RESPONSE “SANCTUARY” No. 482

OFFERING OUR GIFTS “LOOK TO THE THINGS THAT ARE ABOVE”
Music: Robert J. Powell/Words: Julie Taylor Green
*Look to the things that are above, and set you mind in holy love;
tend to graciousness in thought, whate’er is noble, pure, and just.
Seek first that which is true, and all that is lovely and good.
The peace of God will guard your heart,
and hold your mind safe in Christ Jesus.
— based on Col. 3:1-3 and Phil. 4:7-8*

***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** “WE’VE A STORY TO TELL THE NATIONS” *(verses 1-3)* No. 562

CLOSING BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE Recessional on “GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY” (*Cwm Rhondda*)
Arr., Paul Manz (1919-2009)

*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 parents by Sherry and Jeffery McConnell.



First Parish Church
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FAITH FEATURES

THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, March 23rd

10am Worship/Lent III
11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Monday, March 24th

8am Cardio & Tone

Tuesday, March 25th

6:30pm Church Council Meeting
8:30am Yoga
9am Buildings & Grounds Meeting
10am Pastor's Class

Wednesday, March 26th

6:30pm Pastor's Class-Zoom

Thursday, March 27th

8am Cardio/Strength
9:30 Wednesday Bible Study

Friday, March 28th

8am Aerobics
5pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, March 30th

8am Zumba
10am Worship-music provided by First Parish
Handbell Choir
11:15am First Parish Forum-Parent Cafe
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 Coordinator

First Parish Church Lay Leaders

Nancy Stevens, Moderator

Jonn 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.

First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive: Wednesday, April 2 from 10AM-11AM. Would LOVE a helper or two! A great opportunity to meet other folks from our wonderful community. Nonperishable food items and donations, cash or check (made out to YCSA Food Pantry) Linda Drew at p.l.drew79@me.com or 207-351-8141

Pastor's Class: All our welcome to be part of the conversation on "spiritual resilience." Spiritual resilience can be defined as the ability to maintain a positive sense of self and purpose, even during challenging times, by drawing strength from one's beliefs, values, and spiritual practices. Come in-person from 10-11am to the Hamlin Room in the Parish House. There will also be a Zoom option at 6:30pm. Please contact Pastor Eric for the Zoom link eric@firstparishyork.net.

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!**

Mark your Calendars for the Fourth Annual Birthday Bash! The date will be Sunday, April 27 in Fellowship Hall after the church service. This is a fun time for a brunch (and cake!) and a chance to celebrate your birthday month with others in our church family. Look for more details to come! All are welcome. If you have questions in the meantime, contact Nan Roberts of Judy Goodwin.

Green Tips/News: With the 2023 Clean School Bus Program rebates, the EPA chose roughly 530 school districts, in nearly all states, several Tribes, DC and territories for nearly \$900 million in funds to replace older, diesel-fueled school buses that harm the health of students and surrounding communities. (not to mention carbon emissions). America Research&Policy Ctr. www.environmentamerica.org.