

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.

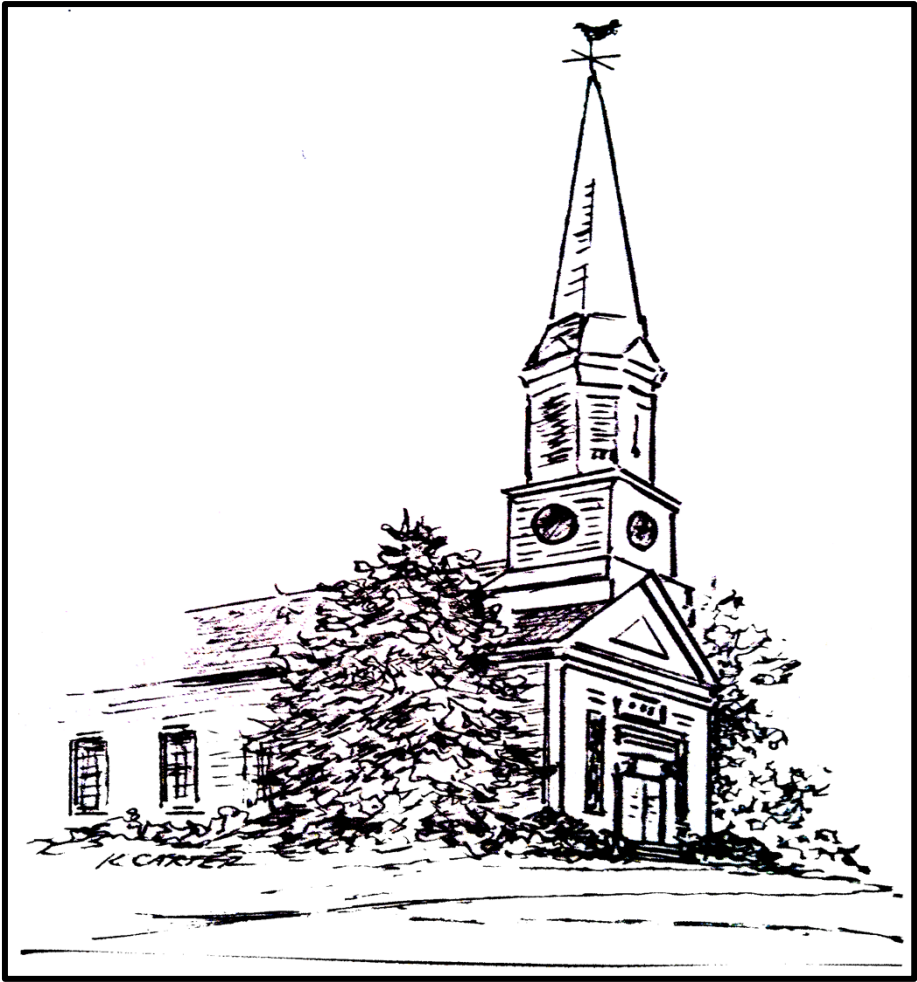
Photos: We regularly take photos for use in media. If you would prefer you or your child’s image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

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 30, 2025 ~ 10:00AM WORSHIP
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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

PRELUDE Fugue and Harmonization on “ST. ANNE” JS Bach (1685-1750)
“HOLY GOD, WE PRAISE YOUR NAME” Arr., Paul Manz (1919-2009)

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP *Adapted from Psalm 63* Rev. Eric Dupee
L: We come to seek the Lord, the one for whom our souls thirst.
P: We come into the sanctuary beholding God’s power and glory.
L: Give praise because God’s faithful love is better than life itself!
P: We will lift up our hands and our hearts and call on God’s name.

CHIMES FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION
“JESUS PAID IT ALL” Arr., Alan Lohr (b. 1952)
First Parish Handbell Choir

GATHERING PRAYER *(together)* Betty Kehoe
Nourish us, O God, with your word of life. Bring us to our senses so your purposes may be
apparent to us. Take away both the uncertainty and the arrogance in our views of ourselves. As
we worship, we rejoice with all those who are finding new life. In Christ’s name, we 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** “SOFTLY AND TENDERLY” No. 348

A MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES
*(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 “A GOOD THING IT IS TO GIVE THANKS” Roberta Bitgood (1908-2007)
*A good thing it is to give thanks unto the Lord,
and to sing praises unto thy name most high;
to show loving kindness in the morning,
and thy faithfulness every night.
On an instrument will I praise thee,
with a solemn sound will I praise thee.
Thou, O Lord, hast made me glad through thy work;
I will triumph in the work of thy hands.*
— from Psalm 92
First Parish Sanctuary Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS

SCRIPTURE Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 N.T. 67 Betty Kehoe

SERMON “Instead of Hate, Celebrate” Rev. Eric Dupee

CHOIR RESPONSE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS Hymn Prelude on “HOLY MANNA”
Arr., Sam Batt Owens (1928-1998)

***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** “LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING” *(verses 1-3)* No. 358

CLOSING BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE Recessional on “I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD”
Roger C. Wilson (1912-1988)

*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 beloved husband, Richard. Love is eternal. Love, Bev

Flowers are given in loving memory of my wife, Roberta from Chick Willing



First Parish Church
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FAITH FEATURES

THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, March 30th

Monday, March 31th

Tuesday, April 1st

Wednesday, April 2nd

Thursday, April 3rd

Friday, April 4th

Saturday, April 5th

Sunday, April 6th

10am Worship
11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
8am Cardio & Tone
8:30am Yoga
9am Buildings & Grounds Meeting
10am Pastor's Class
6:30pm Pastor's Class-Zoom
8am Cardio/Strength
9:30 Wednesday Bible Study
10am First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive
8am Zumba
3pm Stewardship Committee Meeting
5pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
6pm Sweet Spirit Rehearsal
8am Aerobics
8:30am Christian Education Meeting
10am Worship/Communion-Special music by Sweet Spirit
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

Trey Selenga, Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator

Terrie Ilaria, Music Associate

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

Out to Lunch Bunch: We'll be going out to lunch after the service April 13. Join us in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall to gather and find out our destination. All are invited. Always fun.

Pastor's Class: All are 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 or Judy Goodwin.

Green Tips/News: Dutch trains (electric) run entirely on wind energy. One windmill running for an hour can power a train for 120 miles and around 5500 trips are facilitated every day. The system allows around 600,000 passengers to commute daily without any emissions. Nederlands Spoorwegen (NS) is the first rail company in the world to power its entire fleet with renewable energy.