

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.

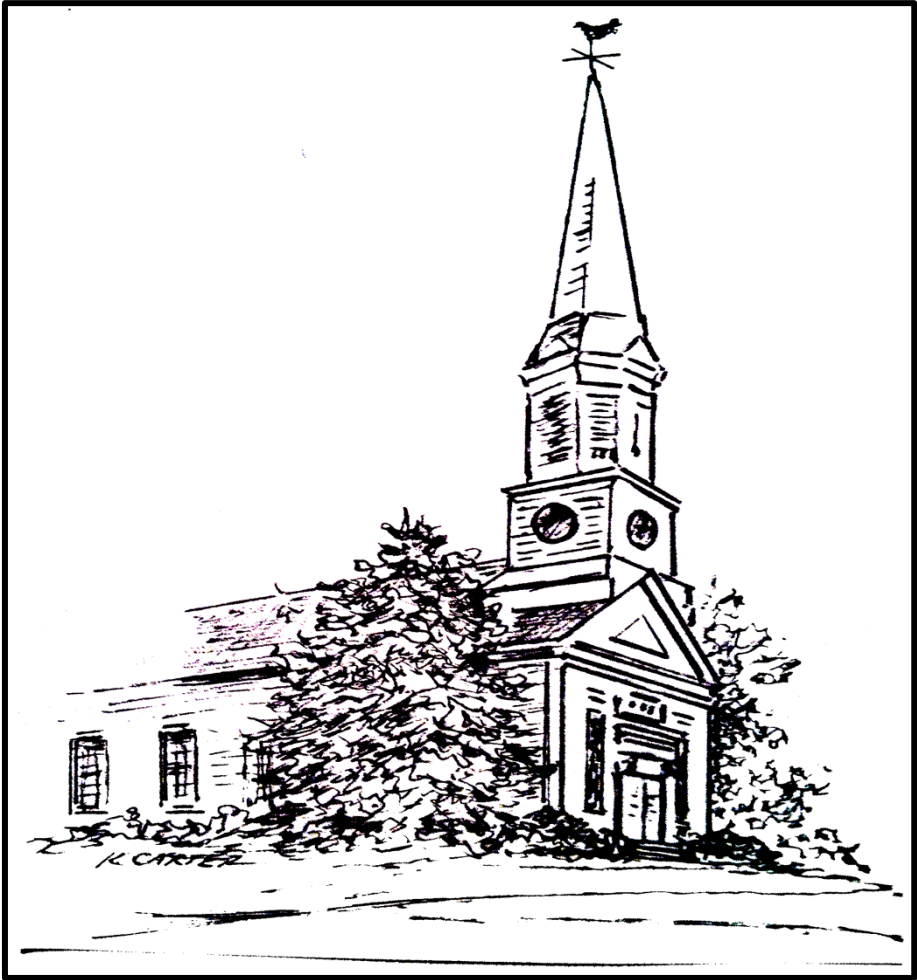
Photos: We regularly take photos for use in media. If you would prefer you or your child’s image not be used, please inform a pastor after worship.

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**

“We know that all things work together for
good for those who love God,
who are called according to God’s purpose.” Romans 8:28

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

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Eric Dupee

GATHERING PRAYER *(together)* Rev. Pat Smith

LORD'S PRAYER *(together)*

***OPENING HYMN** “OPEN MY EYES, THAT I MAY SEE” No. 480

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

“GRACE”

Early American melody, Arr., Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me,

I once was lost, but now am found; was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and that same grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear the hour when I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come.

This grace hath brought me safe this far, and surely grace will lead me home.

— John Newton (1725-1807)

First Parish Sanctuary Choir

SERMON “The Conversion of Saul” Rev. Eric Dupee

OFFERING OUR GIFTS “AVE MARIA” Bach-Gounod

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF COMMITMENT *(together)* No. 34

You are free to sing inclusive lyrics (below) or traditional lyrics (from the hymnal).

HOLY COMMUNION

***CLOSING HYMN** “BLESSED ASSURANCE” No. 426

POSTLUDE “PRELUDE” David Schack (b. 1947)

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 provided by the Esther Hungerford fund.



First Parish Church
Congregational
United Church of Christ
FAITH FEATURES

THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, May 4th

10am Worship/Communion
11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Monday, May 5th

2pm Confirmation Class

Tuesday, May 6th

8am Cardio & Tone

8:30am Yoga

Wednesday, May 7th

9am Buildings & Grounds Meeting

8am Cardio/Strength

9:30 Wednesday Bible Study

Thursday, May 8th

8am Zumba

5pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Friday, May 9th

8am Aerobics

Sunday, May 11th

9:45am Hymn Sing

10am Worship



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.

Sunday School: Today's lesson will be "Hidden in Plain Sight." We will continue our study of "Knowing Jesus in a New Way." Your child can meet the Sunday School teachers at the church entrance following today's opening hymn.

Youth Group: We are excited to have our new Youth Group space where we will be meeting regularly. Stay tuned for the dates and times we will meet. Contact Trey Selenga at tre@firstparishyork.net if you would like to join the group.

Out to Lunch Bunch: On the second Sunday of the month, anyone that would like to go out for lunch meets after the worship service. However, we will not be going out to lunch after worship May 11. It's Mother's Day. Join us on June 8 after worship.

Pilgrim Lodge: A team of volunteers from First Parish recently had a wonderful time at Pilgrim Lodge (a camp operated by the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ) despite poor wet weather on Saturday! We found plenty to do! Thank you: Carol and Eric Walerysak, Rick LeBonte, Jim and Kathie White and granddaughter, Wren, Dave Perry, Gary Goss, Mike St. Cyr, Larry Richburg and Linda and Philip Drew. Grateful for the opportunity to help others and to work alongside friends! Win! Win!

First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive: On the first Wednesday of each month, there is a food collection in which people pull up to the curb in front of the Parish House. May 7 is coming right up! This month's "wish list" includes white tuna and canned chicken. Maureen Monsen, director of the food pantry, tells us that "we have been very busy and are getting cleaned out weekly." She could use one more volunteer at the pantry this month, too! Linda Drew. p.l.drew79@me.com/207-351-8141. THANK YOU!

Green Tips/News: If half the American lawns were replaced with native plants, we would create the equivalent of a 20 million acre national park, nine times bigger than Yellowstone. Nature's Best Hope by Doug Tallamy

Bylaws Review Committee: Every 5 years, it is recommended that church bylaws be reviewed in their entirety to ensure that our practices are consistent with them and to make any amendments deemed necessary. The Church Council is forming a committee to oversee this work. Please consider joining the Bylaws Review Committee. The positives for you:

- You will gain a deep understanding of how the church functions.
- You will get to know more remarkable people in the church and learn about their responsibilities.
- You might even find it fun, especially if you are a detail oriented individual,

If interested in learning more about the Bylaws Review Committee, please contact Moderator Nancy Stevens, nancy.stevens.maine@gmail.com