



First Parish Church
Congregational
United Church of Christ

THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, December 2nd 9:30am Worship/First Sunday of Advent/
Communion
11am Men's Ensemble Rehearsal
5pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
6:30pm Lessons and Carols Rehearsal

Monday, December 3rd 8:30am Zumba

Tuesday, December 4th 8:30am Yoga
5-7pm Table of Plenty
7:30pm Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 5th 8:30am Aerobics
9am Women's Bible Study
5pm Adult Bible Study

Thursday, December 6th 8:30am Aerobics
9am Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting
2pm YCSA Volunteer
5:30pm Thursday Evening Worship
5pm Sweet Spirit Rehearsal
6pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
8pm Lessons and Carols Rehearsal

Friday, December 7th 8:30am Aerobics

Saturday, December 8th 7pm Reid/Andersen Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 9th 9:15am Christmas Carol Sing
9:30am Worship/ Second Sunday of Advent
4pm Christmas in the Village Concert



Following the way of Jesus, we aspire to *authentically invite*,
courageously include, and *generously serve* all with
compassion and grace.

Following the way of Jesus, we celebrate *inspirational worship*;
create *life-changing experiences* for children, youth, families,
and individuals; and practice *meaningful congregational care*.

While *respecting our diversity*, we *courageously advocate* for
justice and mercy, and *intentionally respond* to the needs of
our *community and the world*.

Ministers

All the Members of the Congregation
Leading Worship Today:
Rev. Dan Hollis

Staff

Wendell S. Purrington, Director of Music Ministries
Terrie Ilaria, Music Associate
Janet Cassidy, Church School Coordinator
First Parish Church Lay Leaders
Jeff McConnell, Moderator
Jan Jonas, Vice Moderator
Ray Hamlin, Treasurer
Susan Mancinelli, Clerk



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**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018 ~9:30 AM WORSHIP
COMMUNION/FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (CANDLE OF HOPE)**

**Please stand if you are able. All people are invited to read bold face liturgy.*

PRELUDE

Trumpet Tune on "SLEEPERS, WAKE!" Martha Sobaje (b. 1948)
Ricercar pro Tempore Adventus Johann Kaspar Fischer (c.1670-1746)

THE INVITATION God's grace, mercy, and peace be with you. Pastor Dan Hollis
And also with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMES FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE Julie Alexander and Gus Alexander
Choir: We light the first candle of Advent, the candle of Hope. May the light of Christ illuminate every corner of the world.

As the days grow colder and the nights grow longer, we yearn for miracles. We seek the coming of a new light for our time, a brightness not for our eyes, but for our hearts.

A blinding sight from heaven, illuminating the darkness and sharpening our vision for this world.

Behold, One is coming to whom all love, power, and glory belong. No suffering and no injustice can cast a shadow in His presence!

We have gathered to prepare for the coming of Christ.

Christ is near! With new hope we light this candle, singing new songs of Christ's kingdom on earth as in heaven.

We gather to share songs of hope.

Today our Advent wreath begins to shine as we light the first candle, the candle of Hope. Because God knows us and loves us, we have confident hope for the future God is creating. We reflect the light of Christ to all we meet.

***OPENING HYMN** "COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS" No. 153

***HOSPITALITY MOMENT**

Pastor Dan Hollis

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."
(Please greet one another with a sign of God's peace.)

Christmas Calendar of Events

Saturday, December 8

Harvey Reid and Joyce Andersen
Christmas Concert
7pm First Parish Sanctuary

Sunday, December 9

Creche Sunday
after worship Fellowship Hall

Christmas in the Village Concert
4pm First Parish Sanctuary

Saturday, December 15

Drive Through Nativity
5pm-7pm First Parish Church

Sunday, December 16

A Service of Lessons and Carols
4pm Trinity Church

Sunday, December 23

Worship
9:30am First Parish Sanctuary

Monday, December 24

Family Worship – Christmas Story and Mitten Tree Offering

5:30pm First Parish Sanctuary

Sanctuary Choir and Candlelight Worship

8pm First Parish Sanctuary

Gina Connolly, soloist and Candlelight Worship

11pm First Parish Sanctuary



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FALL FAITH FEATURES



December 9, 2018

in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour

If you have a family creche you'd like to share, please email
 Gail Berneike by Thursday, December 6th.
berngail@gwi.net



Drive Through Nativity

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Saturday, December 15th, 2018

Our annual gift to the community

There will be Sign-Up at the Opportunity Table.

For more information contact Thom Kearns at tkearns@capecod.net

Coordinators: Judy Schriefer, George Parton and Chris Briley.

Book Stipend for 1st year, 2nd Semester College Students

Members of First Parish Church who are 1st year college students
 in their 2nd semester of study are eligible for
 a "one time" book stipend from the Diaconate.

The amount allotted will be determined by the Deacons
 after reviewing the applications.

Applications available in the Parish Office and Opportunity Table
 or email office@firstparishyork.net

Deadline December 14, 2018

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Betsy Carruthers

Faithful God, in our doubts we lash out. We blame others... we blame you for the difficulties we face. We harden our hearts, we lose trust in you, and we wield our pain and fear like weapons. Be present in our distress, and show us how to be faithful to you in the midst of suffering. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, the One who is to come, who taught us to pray...

THE LORDS' PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Dan Hollis

ANTHEM "SONG OF THE BAPTIST" Words and Music: Francis Patrick O'Brien

At the banks along the Jordan, crying out "Prepare the way."

Washing sinner with the waters, calling all to God's new day.

Who is this in beggar's clothing feasting on the desert's fare?

Is creation's plan unfolding in the prophet's haunting stare?

Now we join with John the Baptist, we the heralds of this place.

Now we speak for all the ages, every tongue, each class and race:

"Lift your hearts and sing God's praises; Jesus Christ will come again.

Maranatha, he is with us. Faithful God until the end."

First Parish Sanctuary Choir

COMMISSIONING OF THE SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Jan Jonas

Pastor Dan Hollis

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in faithful service to God. We place our trust in you, and promise to support you through prayer, and to respect your duty of confidentiality. We honor this commitment you have made, that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

Committee Members: John Covino, Per Jonas, Jerri LeConte, Sherry McConnell, Cheryl Pinder, Jonn Schrimper, Scott Stevens, Wendell Purrington, and Nelson Walter.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN "O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"

No. 154

SCRIPTURE Habakkuk 1:1-5, 2:1-4 O.T. 824 Betsy Carruthers

SERMON Pastor Dan Hollis

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS “IN DULCI JUBILO” Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau (1663-1712)

DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF COMMITMENT No. 34

Creator God, you call us to love and serve you with body, mind, and spirit through loving your creation and our human siblings. Open our hearts in compassion and receive these gifts on behalf of the needs of the church and the world. Amen.

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

This communion table is open to all who seek the presence of the Risen Christ. We eat the bread together, as a symbol of our divinely intended unity. We drink the cup individually as a symbol of our divinely intended uniqueness.
(Gluten free crackers are in the middle of the tray)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy Creator, Bread of Life, Everlasting Salvation, a light shines in the night and the night will not overcome it. In this meal we have been replenished and strengthened, the light of your love rekindled within. We will be bold to carry this light into the world. Your power transforms, heals, and sustains us and all creation. For your eternal nourishment of our deepest hungers, we thank you. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** “HOPE OF THE WORLD” No. 404

THE BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE Fanfare on “SLEEPERS, WAKE” Paul Manz (1919-2009)

*Flowers are given in memory of Grace and Chet Trafton, Marian and John Beals,
Earl and Alice Smith and the Albion K. Plaisted Family
by Earl B. Smith, Jr. and Families.*

Flowers are given in loving memory of Charles Furlong by his wife.

WELCOME GUESTS! We are grateful you joined us in worship today at First Parish Church. Please fill in the “Invitation” card in your pew pocket, especially if you would like to receive our Pastors’ regular email devotional messages. Just drop it in the collection plate. If you have any questions, please introduce yourselves to the pastors as you leave the sanctuary or to a member of our Hospitality Team (wearing yellow name tags). Please join us in Fellowship Hall after worship for coffee and refreshments and meet our friendly fellow parishioners.

CHURCH SCHOOL INFO: All children come into church with your family. After the Children’s Message, children will meet their teachers in the narthex. PreK-4th grade will be in the lower level classrooms and grades 5-8 will be in the second floor classrooms of Fellowship Hall. After services, parents are asked to come to your child’s classroom to meet their teacher and pick up your children.

NURSERY CARE: is available every Sunday for children under 4 years old in our nursery in the downstairs of the church. Sabrina, Bailey & Linda welcome you and your children.

COMMUNION SUNDAY: In the UCC we practice open Communion; all are welcome at Christ’s table who wish to know Christ’s presence and share in the community of God’s people. If parents would like their children to take part in the Sacrament of Holy Communion (held on the first Sunday of every month), you will need to coordinate with their Sunday School teachers or Nursery attendants so that you can go and retrieve your children at the appropriate time.

TODAY’S GREETERS: Greeting you this morning is Diaconate.

COFFEE HOUR: Please join us for coffee in Fellowship Hall after worship.

PASTORAL CARE: We want to provide care for you always, and in particular we hope you will let us know if you or a family member are or will be hospitalized, so we can give you our care. York Hospital, if a patient requests, will call us directly. Due to hospital confidentiality regulations, we will know of your hospitalization only if you ask your family member or hospital staff to call us and let us know.

EXITING THE SANCTUARY IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. The front half of the sanctuary will exit to the front of the church through the two side doors. The back half of the sanctuary will exit to the back of the sanctuary and either out the side ramp, or the front doors of the church. The Deacons will help anyone in the lower level of the church exit out the back doors of the lower level.