

**Welcome Guests!** We're glad you're here. You can learn more about us via the brochure in your pew back or at [FirstParishYork.net](http://FirstParishYork.net). You're invited to enjoy refreshments at "coffee hour" in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship.

**Hearing Assistance:** Devices are available. Please ask a greeter to provide one.

**Nursery Care:** Nursery care provided downstairs for children 4 years old and under.

**Pastoral Care:** If you'd like to meet with a pastor, please call the office at 363-3758 Monday – Friday 9am-2pm. For emergency pastoral care after office hours and on weekends, you may reach one of the pastors by calling 207-358-9776. The pastors are available to make hospital visits and we invite you to let us know if you or a family member would like a visit. Due to hospital confidentiality regulations, the hospital will not inform us unless you ask them to do so.

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

**Restrooms:** Restrooms are located on the lower level of this building. Handicap accessible restrooms are across the way in Fellowship Hall. For access during the worship service, please see a Deacon.

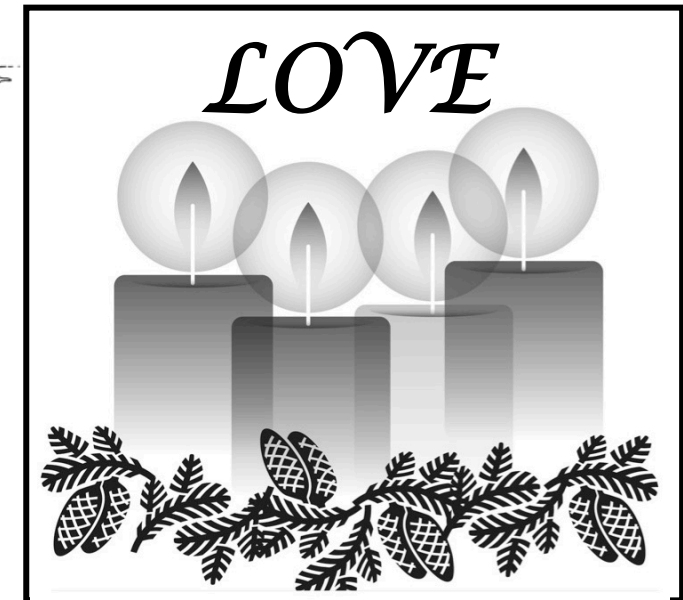
**Sunday School:** All youth ages 4 through 7<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to attend Sunday School. After the Children's Message, youth meet up with their teachers in the church foyer. Together, students and teachers make their way to the Fellowship Hall classrooms. After worship, parents are asked to sign out and pick up children in their classrooms. Guests are welcome to attend Sunday School and 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 youth make their way over.



180 York Street, York, Maine 03909 ♦ 207-363-3758  
office@firstparishyork.net ♦ www.firstparishyork.net



First Parish Church  
Congregational  
United Church of Christ



**Vision**

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

**Mission**

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*.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2019 ~ 9:30AM WORSHIP**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (CANDLE OF LOVE)**

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

**PRELUDE** Two Carol Settings Gordon Young (1919-1998)  
“JOY TO THE WORLD”  
“THE FIRST NOWELL”

**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**  
*(Candles will be lit as a sign of Christ's light in the world.)*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** *(responsive)* Rev. Estelle Margarones

We gather this day in a spirit of love!

**We come to share the love we have for God, and to celebrate the love God has for us.**

The child born to us on Christmas is a sign of how much God loves us.

**Christ shows us that nothing can separate us from the love of God.**

God’s love will never leave you.

**Love is from God, and whoever loves, knows God.**

**\*HOSPITALITY MOMENT**

“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.)*

**\*OPENING HYMN** “CAROL AT THE MANGER” No. 199

**GATHERING PRAYER** *(unison)* Pastor Dan Hollis

**God of promise, you have given us a sign of your love through the gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who was promised from ages past. May Jesus, God-With-Us and son of Mary, be more than just a dream in our hearts. Make our hearts leap with joy, and fill our mouths with songs of praise, that we may announce glad tidings of peace, and welcome the Christ who taught us to pray...**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** *(unison)*

**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.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE** The Scapicchio Family

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE** Rev. Estelle Margarones

**ANTHEM** “MY DANCING DAY” Setting: Mark Burrows (b. 1971)  
*Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;  
I would my true love did so chance to see the legend of my play,  
to call my true love to my dance.  
Sing O my love. This have I done for my true love.*  
**First Parish Sanctuary Choir**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 7:10-15 O.T. page 596 Phil Woodman

**SERMON** Pastor Dan Hollis

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS** “OF THE FATHER’S LOVE BEGOTTEN”  
Setting: Ludwig Lenel (1914-2002)

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF COMMITMENT** No. 34  
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** “LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS” No. 210

**THE BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN**

**POSTLUDE** “HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING” Setting: Gordon Young



**THIS WEEK**

**Today, Sunday, December 22<sup>th</sup>** 9:30am Worship/Advent IV  
 4pm A Service of Lessons and Carols-Trinity Church

**Monday, December 23<sup>th</sup>** 8am Zumba

**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** 8:30am Yoga  
 5:30pm Family Worship-Christmas Story and Mitten Tree Offering  
 8pm Candlelight Worship  
 11pm Candlelight Worship

**Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>** **Christmas-Parish Office Closed**

**Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>** **Parish Office Closed**  
 8:30am Aerobics

**Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup>** **Parish Office Closes at 11:30am**  
 8:30am Aerobics

**Sunday, December 29<sup>nd</sup>** 9:30am Worship/Creche Sunday



**Ministers**  
*All the Members of the Congregation*  
*Leading Worship Today:*  
*Rev. Estelle Margarones*  
*Pastor Dan Hollis*

**Staff**  
*Wendell S. Purrington, Director of Music Ministries*  
*Terrie Ilaria, Music Associate*  
*Janet Cassidy, Church School Coordinator*

**First Parish Church Lay Leaders**  
*Jan Jonas, Moderator*  
*Thom Kearns, Vice Moderator*  
*Ray Hamlin, Treasurer*  
*Susan Mancinelli, Clerk*

**Creche Sunday with Brunch Worship:** December 29 at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall: Guests are welcome! We'll have activities for children & nursery care available. Please RSVP by 12/23 on facebook or by calling the office at 363-3758.

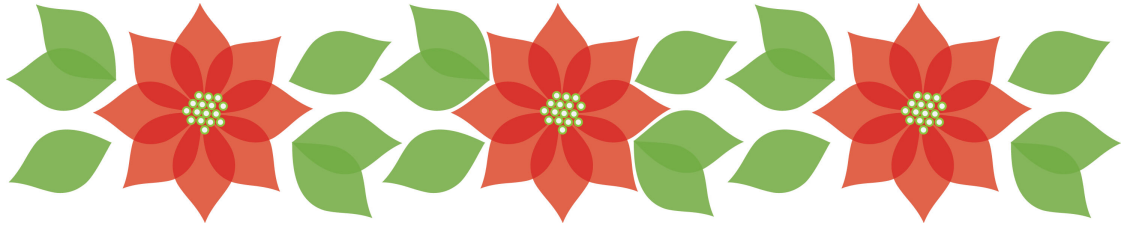
**Do you have one or more family creches you'd like to share & display during our "Creche Sunday and Brunch"?** Please email Gail Berneike directly, [berngail@gwi.net](mailto:berngail@gwi.net) to let her know. She will follow-up directly with you, with more helpful information.

**The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund:** The Christmas Fund, administered by the Pension Boards of the United Church of Christ, helps provide pension and health premium supplementation to lower-income retired church workers, emergency assistance to clergy or lay church employees in need, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to hundreds of annuitants. "Christmas Fund" envelopes are included today in our bulletin, and we invite you to use them to enclose either cash or a check, made out to First Parish Church, with "Christmas Fund" entered on the memo line of your check. Envelopes are also available in the church office.

**Helping Through Loose Change:** York Community Services Association will be the recipient of your loose change collected during the month of December. The collection boxes are located in the narthex.

**Dine with Nine:** Get to know each other better. Sign up to be a host of 9, 7 or 5 guests at your home or restaurant on a date of your choosing. Those wishing to be a "DINER" should fill out a Diner form according to a date that suits you after December 26. Dinners will run January thru March 2020. Sign up at the Opportunity table or in the church office Monday-Friday 9am-2pm.

**From the Financial Secretary:** For those that requested church envelopes for 2020, they are available for pick up in Moody Hall.



**The Poinsettias are given in loving remembrance/honor of:**

My husband, Dick Nelson and my parents, Wayne and Aili Kangas, from Sandy Nelson  
Martha and Gordon Annett from Janet and Larry Cassidy  
Charles and Marian Copenhaver, Erwin and Kitty Jonas, from Jan and Per Jonas  
Dr. Kenneth and Nancy Leigh, from their children  
Neil and Nancy Bowser and their daughter Linda; Norman Macdonald from Carol  
Macdonald  
Ruth and Willis Parsons and Sophie and Duncan Carson, from Duncan and Linda Carson  
and family  
Tenny Donnelly from her family  
Jerry Ilaria from Terrie and Cory Ilaria  
Mom and Dan from Terrie and Bonnie Meier  
Our son, David from Joann and Al Bibb  
Our parents from Chuck and Karen Landry  
Janet Baldwin, Dorothy Claudy, Keith Paulison and Judy Claudy from Barbara and Phil  
Claudy  
Lucille and Milton Piepul, Doris and Fred Stevens from Scott and Nancy Stevens  
Our loved ones from Priscilla and Tom Pike  
Loved ones from Diana and George Parton  
My husband Donald Stewart and my son John R. Stewart from Helen Stewart  
Our loved ones from Ray and Kay Hamlin  
Norman and Nancy Fording, our parents, who died this year from their children  
Our parents from Windol and Sondra Weaver  
Tom, Jane and Al from Martha Fenn King

**The Poinsettias are given in loving remembrance/honor of:**

Don and Sue Lippoth from Ray and Kay Hamlin  
Felix and Irene Wierzba and John and Mary Josephine Donlan from Sue and Dennis  
Wierzaba  
Edward and Noella Nowak; Olga and Al Finkowski; Michael O'Connor from Elaine and Al  
Finkowski  
My parents, Kim and Sis Stanwood from Hal Stanwood  
My Dad, David Lee Gazaway from his daughter Polly  
Phyllis and Stanley Mugridge and Florence Gough from Susan and Don Gough  
Roberta Willing from Chick Willing  
Gilbert S. Ross from Mary Ross, Kirsten Ross and Kimberley Ross  
Joyce and John, Betty and Jimmy from Chris and Laura Lindop  
Fifty Merry Christmases together from Phyllis and Nelson Giordano  
Becky Woodman and Stella Barnett from Pamela Sawin  
Jacob and Eleanor Brown from Judy Brown  
William and Jane Golkowski from Donna and Ron Moussette  
Charles Furlong from his wife  
Margaret E. Cooper from George W. Cooper  
Richard G. Farnsworth from his family  
Dr. Robert W. Smith from Rev. Pat Smith  
Bill Thomson Family from Bill Thomson  
Our parents and grandparents; our children and grandchildren from Cheryl and Tony Pinder

