

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord God, through this meal, we recognize and celebrate our union with you, our union with each other, and our union with Christians all over the world. We are grateful that we are always invited to your table. May this ceremonial meal renew us in spirit. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN "THE FIRST NOEL" (*verses 1, 2 and 3*) No. 229

THE BLESSING AND THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE Recessional on "We Three Kings" Gordon Young (1919-1998)

Flowers are given by the Ronald Parsons Fund.

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. 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 7th 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.



First Parish Church
Congregational
United Church of Christ

Welcome

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, JANUARY 5, 2020 ~ 9:30AM WORSHIP
COMMUNION/EPIPHANY**

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

PRELUDE Three Meditations for Christmastide

“UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN” Nicholas Lebeque (1631-1702)

“THE STAR PROCLAIMS THE KING IS HERE” Johann Pacelbel (1653-1705)

“THE COVENTRY CAROL” David Lasky (b. 1957)

THE INVITATION God’s grace, mercy, and peace be with you. Rev. Estelle Margarones
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)

Pastor Dan Hollis

Let us gather in the spirit of worship.

We gather in the spirit of peace.

Let us be together in the spirit of hope.

We are together in the spirit of love.

Let us all feel the joy!

The world now knows about Jesus!

***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** “WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE” (*verses 1, 2 and 5*) No. 233

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Rev. Estelle Margarones

Loving God, you have shown yourself to the world! Like shepherds and kings before us, we offer our thanks and praise! Lord, we have forever been in your tender care and you have never left our side. In this blessed season, we feel your presence more than ever. We confess that at other times, we have taken you for granted. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to keep you in the forefront of our minds and our lives all year long. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who taught his disciples this prayer...

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.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pastor Dan Hollis

ANTHEM

“THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS” Dan Forrest (b. 1957)

*When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock,
the work of Christmas begins: To bring peace among brothers,
to make music from the heart. — Howard Thurman (1899-1981)*

First Parish Sanctuary Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12 N.T. page 1 Larry Cassidy

SERMON

Rev. Estelle Margarones

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

“WHAT SONGS WERE SUNG”

Words and Music: John Jacob Niles (1892-1980)

*We cannot tell, we do not know what songs were sung so long ago
When Mary birthed her own sweet Son, and peace and love became as one.*

*The Son of God, the scripture said, was virgin-born in a tiny shed
While lowly shepherds stood hard by and heavenly sound filled up the sky.*

*Now let us then, uncovered all, before this creche and lowly stall
Where kings and angels dignify God’s gift, His Son, in humility.*

***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!

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

All are welcome to take Communion. The trays will be passed throughout the congregation. We eat the bread at the same time to symbolize our unity. We drink from the cup individually as a symbol of our uniqueness. *(We serve grape juice, not wine and have gluten free crackers available in the middle of each tray.)*

THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, January 5th

9:30am Worship/Communion
11am Men's Ensemble Rehearsal
5pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Monday, January 6th

8am Zumba
5:30pm Mission Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 7th

8:30am Yoga
5-7pm Table of Plenty
7pm Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 8th

8:30am Zumba
9:30am Women's Bible Study
5pm Conversations on the Bible

Thursday, January 9th

8:30am Aerobics
6pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal
7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 10th

8:30am Aerobics

Saturday, January 11th

11am Celebration of Life-Sam Vaught

Sunday, January 12th

9:15am Hymn Sing
9:30am Worship
5pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal



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



First Parish Church
Congregational
United Church of Christ
FAITH FEATURES

Conversations on the Bible: Wednesdays at 5pm in the Fellowship Hall Parlor. All are welcome. No Bible or experience with the Bible is necessary. (Resumes January 8th)

Birthday Brunch: Please save the date of January 26th for a Pot Luck Birthday Brunch. Contact Sue Wierzba at 207-361-4541 or susanwierzba@gmail.com.

Train Night: Open House Saturday, January 11, 2020 from 2pm – 5pm. The Parton's at 17 Wavecrest Drive in York. An event for all ages.

DINE with NINE: We have EIGHTY SEVEN opportunities for you to dine with your church family in January and February alone! The DINE slips and the color-coded calendars are currently in Fellowship Hall at the Opportunity Table to sign-up. Questions contact Linda Drew at 207-351-8141 or p.l.drew79@me.com.

Fellowship in Action: Visit the Portland Museum of Art for NC Wyeth Exhibit on Saturday, January 11. Carpool from the church parking lot on January 11, at 10:00 am Entrance fees \$18 adults, \$15 Seniors, \$15 Students, Free for those under 21. Please contact Nanette Roberts if interested and for more information at spicedtea@twc.com, 978.877.6759 or 207.361.4154.

Creation Care Committee: will meet January 12 at 10:45AM in Fellowship Hall. Come join us Sunday to learn how you can also be a part of our committee. Info contact Linda Drew p.l.drew79@me.com

Weekly Creation Care Tip: Take an eco-Sabbath. For 2020 make a resolution that for one day or afternoon or even one hr. each week, you won't buy anything, use machines or anything electric, cook, answer your phone or use resources in any way. In other words, for this regular interval, give yourself and the planet a break! Every hour per week you live with no impact cuts your carbon emission by 0.6% annually. Commit to 4hr/week, that's 2.4%! Do it for a whole day each week to cut your impact by 14.4%/yr. (Source: YesMagazine.org (<http://bit.ly/2FcqH1u>))