



First Parish Church
Congregational
United Church of Christ
THE MESSENGER

SHARING GOOD NEWS -MARCH 2024

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**.

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Join us for Holy Week services in which we relive Christ's last week.

March 24 Palm Sunday
10:00am Worship Service

Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey to the waving of palm branches. The Rev. Dr. Marisa Laviola will worship with us and preach on Palm Sunday. She was called as our UCC Maine Conference Minister on August 6th, 2022 and began her ministry on October 26

March 28 Holy Thursday

Jesus instituted the Last Supper. Join us in Fellowship Hall for a 7pm Worship Service in which we will witness a ritual hand washing and share Holy Communion.

March 29 Good Friday

Jesus died on the cross. Join us in the sanctuary for a 7pm Worship Service consisting of readings pertaining to Christ's passion and an array of musical offerings.

March 31 Easter

Christ rose from the dead! We will join Union Congregational Church at the Nubble for a Sunrise Service (time TBD).

All are invited to Union for breakfast following the Sunrise Service.

The 10am Worship Service at First Parish Church will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

Message from the Moderator

Friends,

In his sermon on February 11, Pastor Eric connected the glorious Transfiguration, the mundane obligations of religious life, and that evening's Super Bowl. Taking nothing away from either the Transfiguration or the Kansas City Chiefs, I was most struck by his words of gratitude for the humdrum tasks that you perform throughout the year. "There are countless little things people do around this church," he observed, "that nobody ever knows about."

Amen to that. At this time of change in the membership of boards and committees following the Annual Meeting, I join with Pastor Eric in deep gratitude to all of you who are stepping up to serve, who have served and are stepping down, and who are continuing in your posts. The Church would simply cease to exist without you.

Just consider, as Pastor Eric did, what takes place on Sunday alone. The sanctuary is clean and bright for the worship service. Candles are lit, decorations and flowers are in place, and bulletins are ready. Visitors are personally welcomed. The music is beautifully presented. Church School teachers offer meaningful lessons to the kids. The livestream crew allows a wider audience for the service. The offering is collected. Everything is set up for coffee hour. So much for Sunday as a day of rest!

And the other six days see lots more unsung efforts. Mechanical issues are addressed, finances are kept, cards are sent out, policy issues are discussed, missions and outreach are undertaken, songs are practiced, funds are sought and donated, grounds are maintained, and many, many meetings are held.

All the chores get done. Very quietly. Every week. All year. By volunteers. By YOU!

THANK YOU ALL!

John Covino

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

MARCH 2024

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent

Communion

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:45am Hymn Sing

"Amazing Grace"

"Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God"

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday in Lent

"Give Me Jesus"-Gina Connolly, soloist

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"-handbell choir

Sunday, March 24, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Lent

Palm Sunday

"The Holy City"-men's quartet

"Now Sing We All Hosanna!"

Thursday, March 29, 2024

Maundy Thursday

"Ubi Caritas

"Remember Me"

Friday, March 30, 2024

Good Friday

"Lamb of God"

Sunday, March 31, 2024

Easter

"Risen Indeed!"-Portsmouth Brass Quintet



A T T E N D A N C E

February 2024 Worship

2/4: 144

2/11: 149

2/18: 157

2/25: 155



A View from the Bench

I adore looking through our hymnal, Worship and Rejoice (2001), and finding songs that speak to me about the liturgical season in which we find ourselves. In the Lenten section of the hymnal, one such example is #250, “Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights” which we sang a couple of weeks ago. The melody (*Winchester New*) was written in 1690 and the lyrics were written — 300 years later in 1993 — by Maine-resident Rev. Dr. James Gertmenian (b. 1947).

*Throughout these Lenten days and nights, we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light, we live in hope till Easter Day.*

*The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God, who found in weakness greater power,
embraces us, though lost and flawed, and leads us to his Rising Hour.*

*We bear the silence, cross, and pain of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain our courage till the Feast of Life.*

*And though the road is hard and steep, the Spirit ever calls us on
through Calvary’s dying, dark and deep, until we see the coming Dawn.*

*So let us choose the path of One who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,
and slept in death that we might wake to life on Resurrection Morn!*

*Rejoice, O sons and daughters! Sing and shout hosannas! Raise the strain!
For Christ, whose death Good Friday brings on Easter Day will rise again!*

The liturgical season of Lent is a journey for each of us. And the great hymns of the faith that we sing, and the anthems and solos that we offer during worship help us navigate these dark days and nights — as we walk toward the light. Notice the last words in most of the verses of the hymn: “Easter **Day**,” “**Rising Hour**,” “**Dawn**,” and “Resurrection **Morn**.” They suggest new beginnings: light, dawn, and the possibilities of new life in the Risen Christ. Let’s make each Sunday a mini-Easter! And let’s sing the hymns with conviction, and pay close attention to the lyrics of the anthems which are printed in your bulletin.

From Palm Sunday, we walk with enormous faith to Maundy Thursday and Good Friday...toward the joy of the Easter celebration.

Be well, stay healthy and hydrated, keep hope in your hearts, and pray for God’s peace in our troubled world.

WSP



FELLOWSHIP IN ACTION

Third Annual BIRTHDAY BRUNCH POT LUCK March 17, 2024 after worship in Fellowship Hall

We had our first one in January 2019. Everybody's birthday is celebrated as we sit at 12 decorated tables based on each person's birthday month. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Prior to Worship Members bring their Brunch Items (i.e. breakfast casseroles, fruit plates, muffins, breads, egg dishes, cheese platters, salads, quiches, etc.) to the Fellowship Hall Kitchen prior to worship. Make sure your platters, bowls, etc. have your name on it. Also, if it needs a serving spoon or fork, please bring it with you. After worship everyone comes over as if they are coming to Coffee Hour, only it will be a brunch.

The front room, Pilgrim Room, will be set up with all the food so that people can come right in, get their plate of food and go directly into Moody Hall, the larger room, to choose a seat at their birthday month table.

Coffee, tea and juice will be available through the Kitchen window. Sue will order a cake, plates, napkins and cups. the tables and chairs will be set up on Friday.

Table decorators should decorate their tables on Saturday afternoon between 3pm and 5pm. Tables will be set up with a "Month" sign on each of them.

We have our 12 table decorators ready to turn our Fellowship Hall into a Birthday Bash. Those whose birthdays are on March 17 will get to cut the cake.

So much Fun.!!!

Sue Wierzba at susanwierzba@gmail.com or 207-361-4541

2024 EASTER PLANT ORDER FORM

Please fill out and along with your check return it to the Parish Office, no later than Monday, March 18, 2024. Thank you.

Please make your check payable to: **First Parish Church**

I would like to order _____ Easter Lilies (\$15.00)

_____ Tulips (\$11.00)

_____ Daffodils (\$11.00)

_____ Total Enclosed

In Loving Memory/Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Please indicate whether you will pick up or leave your plant.
(No orders can be accepted after Monday, March 18, 2024. Thank you.)

I will pick up my plant (☐)

I will leave my plant for delivery to a home-bound member. (☐)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Plants may be picked up after the 10 a.m. service on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024 to either take home or deliver.





**Visitors and Guests
of
First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ**

**You are Invited to
Our Spring
Inquirers Coffee and Conversation
Sunday, May 5th, 2024**

Pastors Eric Dupee and Dan Hollis and First Parish Church invite you to an informational meeting for those who have been visiting First Parish. We would love to learn more about you and introduce you to our church and denomination.

**The Inquirer's Information Session will be held on
Sunday, May 5 from 11:15- 12:30**

- We will enjoy getting to know each other better and discussing the United Church of Christ teachings, history, and traditions. You will learn about our First Parish Church in York, reviewing our mission and how we serve our community. Childcare will be available if needed.
- **Gathering with Council members on Saturday, May 18th, 4:00 – 6:00** Enjoy Drinks and Eats with our governing body, and get to know each other.
- **New members will join on May 19th, Pentecost Sunday, during the Worship Service.**

Please contact the Parish Office at office@firstparishyork.net or 207-363-3758 to let us know you can attend. Sue Wierzba, Welcoming Team Coordinator, in church or at susanwierzba@gmail.com or 207-361-4541.



WOULD YOU LIKE A NAME TAG?

We have rolled them out to our Pastors, the new members, the Deacons and Welcoming Committee. Now it's your chance to request a nametag. Anyone can have a nametag. The sign-up sheets will be in the narthex (before or after church) and in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

1. Just put your name down on the sign-up sheet how you would like it printed on the nametag. If you are on a committee, please add that.
2. Decide whether you would like a magnetic one or one with a pin on the back.
3. Pick your new nametag up on the magnetic board in the narthex the next week.

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Wierzba at 207-361-4545 or susanwierzba@gmail.com



COFFEE HOUR

We're looking for people to sign up to bring goodies to share during our Coffee Hour. These can be store bought or homemade. The signup poster is available each Sunday near the coffee table. Please contact Linda Hart with your questions 207- 363-4493.



Pilgrim Lodge

Maine Conference, United Church of Christ

Friday, April 28-29 VOLUNTEER WORKDAY

We have a Mission opportunity to help open UCC Camp-Pilgrim Lodge in Gardiner, Maine for the upcoming camping season. We will be going up Friday, April 26 and returning Saturday, April 27.

There are jobs for all ages (over 15) and skill levels. Cleaning, sweeping, and generally opening the cabins. Repair of winter damage and general ground cleanup, etc. Some indoor work may be needed in the large old Lodge.

Bring your sleeping bag; stay in one of the cabin units with bath and shower; breakfast and lunch on Saturday provided.

Gary Goss, Eric McCulley, David Perry, Jackie Perry, Judy Goodwin, Eric Dupee, Larry Richburg, Mike St. Cyr all went last year, as did I. Any of us would be happy to discuss our experience. Gary, Eric M. and myself plan to go this year. Join us! Philip Drew at p.l.drew79@me.com/518-391-9753

KITCHEN RENEWAL

We are looking for your help to refresh and restock the First Parish House Kitchen with unused or duplicate items you may have in your own kitchen at home. As you "Spring Clean", please consider donating such items that are in reasonably good condition to this effort. First Parish is blessed to have such a large kitchen to use for general and special events, but over time, the cookware, bakeware, appliances, and utensils have declined, making the kitchen less efficient.

A team of volunteers plans to clean, re-organize, label and equip the kitchen with your donated items, beginning in February. Items that we cannot use will be donated to local organizations for families in need.

The items that are greatly needed include household-sized sauce pans, saute' pans, silverware, storage organizing racks, utensils. Labeled bins will be located in the Fellowship Hall Pilgrim Room to collect your donations.

For questions regarding this effort, please contact: Holly Hayes at 603-767-4217 and/or hollyhayesnh@yahoo.com or Dianne Goodwin at 207-361-7231 or ammygood57@gmail.com.

Thank you!





Food Pantry Drive

First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive

March 6

10am – 11am

Wish List: 1-2lb sugar, 16 oz. vegetable oil, Knorr Pasta sides, rice pilaf, raspberry or strawberry jam, Hamburger Helper.

Other non-perishable food items are wonderful as well! Monetary donations cash or checks made out to YCSA Food Pantry are always welcome.

Would love a volunteer or two to join us.

Linda/Phil Drew p.l.drew79@me.com

March Birthdays

- 2 Bob Myers
- 3 James White
- 4 Susan Covino
- 9 Nancy Purinton
- 10 Fran Lalley
- 16 Jeff McConnell
- 17 Eric McCulley
- 19 Jackie Perry
- 25 Janet Cassidy
- 28 Logan Shrimper
- 30 James Kences and David Perry

*Happy Birthday
to You!*



Wishing you all a happy birthday and healthy year ahead.



Creation Care to Meet Monday, March 18

In preparation for EARTH DAY (month), hope that YOU will join us to catch up with what we have been doing as a church with regard to caring for our planet.

We will meet **MONDAY MARCH 18 at 4PM.** Hope to brainstorm, consider ongoing activities and forge ahead!

Would love new voices and thoughts.

Linda Drew p.l.drew79@me.com/questions?



YORK READY FOR CLIMATE ACTION (YRCA) 2nd ANNUAL CLIMATE FAIR SATURDAY MARCH 23, 2024 10AM-2PM YORK HIGH SCHOOL

Hope that you and your friends/family will spend some time at the Climate Fair at York High School

Over 40 vendors - heat pumps, solar, EV's, Ebikes, native plants growers, Efficiency Maine, Windowdressers, green gardeners, Creation Care, sustainable house realtors, Mr. Fox composters, We Fill Good, Habitat. Doorprizes, kids' activities, and energy coaches! FUN for the whole family!

First Parish has donated substantial funding to this effort. YRCA is most grateful for your generosity and support. Creation Care will be tabling there thanks to volunteers Dianne Goodwin, Tricia Gosselin, Pat Smith, Nancy Stevens, George Parton, John Moses and Gary Goss.

We HOPE you will also be there!!



MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

We will be traveling to Salem TWP, Maine from June 23-28 to do mission work. Our work will include home repair, painting, etc. for those in need in this rural area of our state. We will live and eat together and sleep in 2 bunk houses. The property sleeps 22 with RV and tenting sites available.

We are looking for folks high school age and older to join us for this week of sharing our hands and hearts with those in need. We are hoping for some people with some experience with tools, painting, and small construction projects but we have jobs for all skill levels. We are also looking for 2 people to commit to purchasing and preparing the meals for the group and staying the week with us.

The cost is \$300/person which goes directly for materials for the home improvements. There will be an additional nominal cost for food and transportation. We hope to fundraise and seek donations to offset some of this cost.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact
Carolyn Dupre

cardup8@gmail.com or call 207 752-3247

Here is a link to the website:

<https://www.umeconomicministry.com/bring-a-mission-team>



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 8:30am Aerobics | 2 8:30am Christian Education Committee Meeting |
| 3 10am Worship/Communion/Lent III 11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 5pm Eat, Fast, Feast-Book Group | 4 8am Shake It Up | 5 8:30am Yoga 9am Builds & Grounds Committee Meeting | 6 8am Cardio/Strength 9:30am Wednesday Bible Study-Zoom 10am-11am First Wednesday Food Pantry Drive 7pm Winter Concert Series | 7 8am Zumba 5pm Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal | 8 8:30am Aerobics | 9 |
| 10 9:45am Hymn Sing 10am Worship/Lent IV 11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 5pm Eat, Fast, Feast-Book Group | 11 8am Shake It Up 6pm Fellowship in Action | 12 8:30am Yoga 6:30pm Assessors Meeting | 13 8am Cardio/Strength 9:30am Wednesday Bible Study-Zoom 6:30pm Deacons Meeting | 14 8am Zumba 5pm Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal | 15 8:30am Aerobics | 16 |
| 17 10amWorship/Lent V 11am Birthday Brunch Pot Luck 11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 5pm Eat, Fast, Feast-Book Group | 18 8am Shake It Up | 19 8:30am Yoga | 20 8am Cardio/Strength 9:30am Wednesday Bible Study-Zoom | 21 8am Zumba 5pm Handbells Rehearsal 6:30pm Stewardship Committee Meeting 7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal | 22 8:30am Aerobics | 23 |
| 24 10amWorship/Lent VI/Palm Sunday 11:30am Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal | 25 8am Shake It Up 6:30pm Church Council Meeting | 26 8:30am Yoga | 27 8am Cardio/Strength 9:30am Wednesday Bible Study-Zoom 4pm Mission Committee Meeting | 28 8am Zumba 5pm Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Maundy Thursday | 29 8:30am Aerobics 7pm Good Friday | 30 |
| 31 Sunrise Service 10am Worship/Easter 11:30am Easter Egg Hunt | | | | | | |

Ministers

All the Members of the Congregation

Rev. Eric Dupee, Senior Pastor

eric@firstparishyork.net

Rev. Dan Hollis, Associate Pastor

dan@firstparishyork.net

Staff

Wendell S. Purrington, Director of Music Ministries

Terrie Ilaria, Music Associate

Betty Roker, Office Manager

Stacey Crowell, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor

Todd Frederick, Cemetery Superintendent

First Parish Church Lay Leaders

John Covino, Moderator

Kristin Schrimper, Vice Moderator

Ray Hamlin, Treasurer

Susan Mancinelli, Clerk

207-363-3758

office@firstparishyork.net

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