



First Parish Church  
Congregational  
United Church of Christ

# THE MESSENGER

## 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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## SHARING GOOD NEWS – MAY 2019

Dear friends,

As humans, we get used to the way things have been, so when there is an outcome that differs from our expectation, we can feel some discomfort. Remember what the angel told the women at the tomb? “Do not be afraid.” That’s part of the Easter message. By letting go of our expectations about ‘the way things will be’, we are able to be present to ‘the way things are’. In the church, Easter isn’t only one day; it’s an entire season. We’re now in Eastertide and I invite you to embrace this season and all that it brings.

In a previous pastor’s message, I shared with you that part of my call as your Interim is to help you live into the Church Council structure that was adopted only a few years ago. We are very blessed to have so many boards and committees responsible for sharing the work and ministries of the church! I encourage you to take out (or pick up) your copy of the Annual Report and read about the work of the various teams. It’s wonderful to have so many dedicated souls doing such good work!

When I first got into ministry about 20 years ago, it used to be that people would go to the pastor to sanction things. Consequently, I observed a lot of good-hearted people either doing similar work or (yikes!) competing with each other for the congregation’s attention to a particular project.

First Parish’s structure allows for you to go directly to the committee responsible for a particular domain. I appreciate the structure of the Council with connected boards and committees because it helps us all to see who is responsible for what aspects of the overall organizational flow of the church.

I believe in the power of group wisdom and appreciate hearing many perspectives about any given subject on the table. Please know that it is my style (and also, best-practice) to discuss the life of the church with the appropriate boards and committees.

*(continued on page 2)*

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In a related subject, given that we have such a vibrant church with so many boards and committees, communication is key. I'm hopeful that we'll all be making concerted efforts to communicate about church sponsored events and happenings. In order to take a first step toward seeing where we, as a larger body, will be focusing our efforts, I invite you to a Calendaring Event on Sunday June 9, after worship, in Fellowship Hall.

We'll be filling in our overall church calendar for the summer and into the fall. We'll talk about ways to coordinate and amplify our efforts for events that are already scheduled and we'll brainstorm about other events and collaborations that can help us to both serve those in York and, at the same time, broaden the awareness of all that First Parish offers within the wider community. If you chair a board or committee, it will be most helpful if you or a representative from your team can be present. Anyone with an interest is invited!

Blessings,

Rev. Estelle

## Message from the Moderator

I've been reflecting on Holy Week at First Parish culminating with Easter Sunday. To us as Christians, Easter anchors our faith as we celebrate with hope and joy the risen Christ. Representing the congregation, it is with deep gratitude I would like to say "thank you" to those who made this Easter season so meaningful. Gratitude is the quality or feeling of being grateful. However, saying "thank you" is an *outward* expression of being grateful. For Palm Sunday, the Maundy Thursday service and the Good Friday services, thank you to our pastors and musicians for helping us understand and feel the sorrow and pathos of the crucifixion of Jesus. The words of Scripture were so meaningful and the hauntingly beautiful music glorious. On Easter Sunday, thank you to those who made our sanctuary beautiful with the flowers of spring. Thank you to the Deacons who helped facilitate our worship. Thank you to the musicians, choirs, and soloists whose music brought us to soaring heights. Thank you to the children, and those who guide them, for their unbridled enthusiasm. Rev. Estelle and Pastor Dan, thank you for your messages of faith, which guide us and teach us at this most holy time. May the message of Easter carry us forward as we "Follow the way of Jesus".

Jan Jonas, Moderator

Fill the Van for the  
York Food Pantry



We have learned of an **urgent need** to restock the shelves at the YSCA Food Pantry.

Responding to this emergency, please bring food items on Sunday, April 28 and Sunday, May 5 to "Fill the Van" parked outside the Sanctuary before and after worship. You may also drop items off at the YSCA on Route 1 Thursdays. Those items needed in particular are: Pasta sauce, Salad Dressing, Jam/Jelly, Canned Tuna, Canned Meat, Rice Sides ( not white rice), Progresso Type Soups, Gluten Free Items, Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Toilet Paper.



## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC MAY 2019**

**Thursday, May 2, 2019**

**Thursday Evening Worship**

5:30pm – 6:50pm Dinner Included

**Sunday, May 5, 2019**

**Communion**

“Just A Closer Walk with Thee”

Sanctuary Choir

**Thursday, May 9, 2019**

**Thursday Evening Worship**

5:30pm – 6:50pm Dinner Included

**Sunday, May 12, 2019**

**9:15am Hymn Sing**

**Mother’s Day**

“23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm” (McFerrin)

Handbell and Sweet Spirit

**Thursday, May 16, 2019**

**Thursday Evening Worship**

5:30pm – 6:50pm Dinner Included

**Sunday, May 19, 2019**

“We Walk By Faith”

Sanctuary Choir

**Seacoast Community Chorus Concert**

**3pm**

**Thursday, May 23, 2019**

**Thursday Evening Worship**

5:30pm – 6:50pm Dinner Included

**Sunday, May 26, 2019**

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Sanctuary Choir

**Thursday, May 30, 2019**

**Thursday Evening Worship**

5:30pm – 6:50pm Dinner Included

## Thursday Worship Congregational Feedback

About two years ago, the members of First Parish participated in a discussion on five big ideas that had the potential of becoming all-church initiatives, to the end of living into the new Vision and Mission statements we adopted. As a result of that input, two of those initiatives rose to the top as undertakings the congregation wanted First Parish to dedicate time, effort, and resources to explore as church ministries. These were the possibility of becoming an Open & Affirming church, and the development of an alternative worship service.

Many of you were involved in the conversations and activities that led to the congregation voting on and adopting an Open & Affirming Covenant this Spring, and we continue to explore ways to live into that covenant to this day. You should also be aware that since Fall 2017 we have been offering “Thursday Worship” in Fellowship Hall—a different kind of worship experience that feeds the spirit in different ways than Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary.

As we approach the end of the Spring 2019 season at Thursday Worship, First Parish is going through the process of evaluating this undertaking, and we are seeking feedback from the whole congregation. We are gathering focused feedback from the participants in Thursday Worship directly and in a different format than this, but what we present here is a means of gathering feedback from the congregation as a whole.

This alternative worship service was prompted by desires of the congregation, and through this evaluative process we seek to involve the congregation in shaping the future, as it has from the beginning.

What follows are several questions relating to Thursday Worship, and if you feel so moved, we encourage you to either deliver or mail your answers to these questions to the church office, or Email them to Pastor Dan ([dan@firstparishyork.net](mailto:dan@firstparishyork.net)). Please include your name to help us process all the feedback.





### A View from the Bench

Life is good...and God is great! The power of prayer is well beyond our understanding.

May I take this opportunity to offer a sincere and heartfelt “Thank you” to all the members of my church family for your fervent prayers, kind thoughts, well-wishes, cards, calls, and visits during my recent visit to York Hospital. My emergency abdominal surgery was no walk on York Beach, but the professional medical, nursing, and support staff there was tremendous...ensuring that my recovery was speedy and expeditious.

I would like to personally and publicly thank Pastor Estelle and Pastor Dan for their support, visits, and prayers during my stay. Finally, I give immeasurable credit to our music associate Terrie Ilaria, and to the sanctuary choir for continuing on—and not skipping a beat—in my absence. I’m so grateful to the choir for their dedication, and to Rob Finch for guest conducting the choir while I was recovering.

So, come to church and give thanks to God for God’s many miracles—large and small. Gather to celebrate the Risen Christ, and to let the Holy Spirit envelope you and those you love--both now and forevermore.

As the earth changes from a somewhat chilly early spring to a delightful late May...stay warm and loving...because love always wins!

Gratefully,  
WSP



**A T T E N D A N C E**  
 April 2019 Worship  
 4/7/19: 172  
 4/14/19: 191  
 4/21/19: 600



# CHURCH SCHOOL

8

## HAPPENINGS

### May 2019

Thank you to the Sunday School teachers and Christian Ed Committee members for providing a great Easter Egg Hunt last month! Due to the weather, it had to be held inside in Fellowship Hall. With lots of creativity and imagination the space was transformed into a fun and happy place!

This month we will be finishing our "Life of Jesus" curriculum. The lessons will be:

April 28 - The Road to Emmaus

May 5 - Jesus Appears to his Disciples

May 12 - Mother's Day story

May 19 - Jesus Talks to Peter

May 26 - The Great Commandment

Each lesson includes the bible story, a craft project, and several kinds of games.

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### *LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE*



**Two big things happen in June:**

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY** - Sunday, June 23- children take part in the worship service.

**KIDS CAMP** - Tuesday, June 26 through Thursday, June 27

9am-12noon

**Theme** - "Caring for God's Creation"

***THERE IS NO FEE FOR THIS CAMP***

**KIDS CAMP IS OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF OUR CHURCH AND THE COMMUNITY**

CAMPERS - grades K-5 as of September

CREW - grades 6-12 as of September

PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE - Caring for our environment, animals, and each other. Many hands-on activities and featuring a visit from the CENTER FOR WILDLIFE in Cape Neddick. Also Music, Bible Adventures, Imagination Station, Outdoor Games, A Special Art Project and KidVid. AND our fabulous snacks.

**CALL or EMAIL the PARISH OFFICE to REGISTER**

363-3758

office@firstparishyork.net



## Become Part of Our Church Family

### Hospitality Brunch Invitation Sunday, May 19

We invite you to a Visitor Brunch and Information Session for those who have been visiting First Parish and would like to know more about our church. The Brunch will be held on Sunday, May 19th after the worship service until noon, downstairs in the Sanctuary Lounge. We will enjoy getting to know each other better and discussing the United Church of Christ teachings, history, and traditions. We'll share about our First Parish Church; let you know a little about our Committees and Ministries. Childcare will be available if needed (please let us know.)

**New members will join on June 9th during the Worship Service.**

RSVP

Parish Office

[office@firstparishyork.net](mailto:office@firstparishyork.net)

207-363-3758

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Estelle Margarones and Pastor Dan Hollis



## Pilgrim Lodge

Maine Conference, United Church of Christ

### SUMMER CAMP AT PILGRIM LODGE

Week-long and weekend programs available for everyone - includes families, grandparents & grandkids, adults of all ages. Weekly programs begin with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders (as of September). Pilgrim Lodge is owned and operated by the Maine Conference of the UCC in West Gardner, Maine, just 2 hours north of Kittery.

**NEW PROGRAM THIS YEAR - "FIX'IN TO FISH"** May 6-10. Adults ages 19+ Bring your pole (and boat if you have one). Fish in the early morning and evening. Do light maintenance projects midday. Meals provided (as well as worms). Come for the whole week or a day or two. FREE!

Scholarships Available

[www.pilgrimlodge.org](http://www.pilgrimlodge.org)

Information at Opportunity Table and the Parish Office.



## Creation Care Committee

The CCC met for an informational meeting on April 7. There were 15 in attendance with another 7-8 that were not around that Sunday. There was a lot of enthusiasm for the list of possibilities presented. The first official meeting was held Sunday, April 28 after coffee hour.

We hope to add to the initial list of ideas; prioritize the list and then set up an action plan.

We are excited about the prospect of becoming the first church in town to become a “Zero Waste Church” and hope that the momentum continues throughout our village.

A side note, there were over 50 people from our community taking part in the Earth Day Beach Cleanup effort. A number from the CCC represented First Parish and York as well.

“In the modern world, it behooves us to take a broader and more practical view of God’s commandment to keep the garden. When humankind inherited the garden, the soil was “good” and furthermore, there was a natural process for maintaining fertility. Now, about 40% of the soil around the world is seriously degraded, and scientists predict we will need to feed 9+ billion people by 2050. So as not to perish, humankind must not only care for the garden but also beyond the garden. We must marshal our resources and develop them effectively with sustainability and resilience in mind.” Dr. Carl Sigel ( [Zerowastechurch.org](http://Zerowastechurch.org))

Please join us for any of the meetings; we need YOU!

Linda Drew

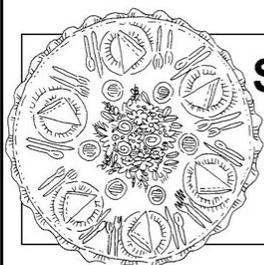
## “Tire Pressure/Carbon Footprint Day”

Sunday, May 26

9:30 – 11:30am

You are invited to put a card on your windshield designating the manufacturers’ tire pressure recommendation. Allen Norris’ (a member of FPC) son, Greg and a couple of willing volunteers will be pumping up your tires while you worship, thus reducing your carbon footprint. They will leave a note on your car with the details of what they did and how much money you will have saved in gas and how much carbon you kept from going into the atmosphere.

Greg Norris’ initiatives have been written up in recent York Weekly and Seacoast/Portsmouth newspapers. He has also donated two portable compressors to the York Public Library for public use. Similar “Tire Pressure Days” have already occurred at Eldredge Lumber, York Hospital, Bangor Savings Bank, and Brixham Monstessori Friends School. Thank you, Greg, for offering this opportunity.



**Supper  
Club**

**KICK OFF SUMMER WITH SUPPER CLUB  
AT FOX'S LOBSTER HOUSE**

**Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**

**6PM-8PM**

**\$30 per person plus \$5 (*suggested gratuity*)**

**Complimentary Appetizers and Cocktails!**

**Magnificent Dinner and Home Made Dessert**

**Dinner Selections are:**

Fresh Maine Lobster, Maple Glazed Salmon, Baked Fresh Haddock, Lobster Mac & Cheese, Golden Fried Shrimp, or Petite Filet Mignon.

Please pay with cash or personal check at Fox’s

**For Reservations and Dinner Selection**

contact the Parish Office

207-363-3758

office@firstparishyork.net



***“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” 1 Peter 4:10***

Stewards Gifted by God:

### ***Sharing our Time and Talents***

All are gifted by God and all are called. God grants persons varied talents and abilities and calls us all to serve in many ways. Reflecting on life’s journeys can open us to hearing God’s voice urging us in a certain direction.

The church exists because God’s Holy Spirit has called us together and bound us in covenant for the purpose of a particular mission: “God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.” ([UCC.org](http://UCC.org), Year Round Stewardship)

At First Parish Church many people share their God given talents within the church, some giving many hours and some not as many. There is always a need for more people to carry the load. If you are looking for ways to share your time and talents you can fill out the Time and Talents card on our website, [www.firstparishyork.net](http://www.firstparishyork.net) under Generosity, Time and Talents. You can also pick up a Time and Talent card at the office or the Hospitality Table. If you need to speak with someone you can talk with one of us on the Stewardship Team, a Council member or one of our pastors.

**“As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” 1 Corinthians 12:20-21**

Stewardship Committee: Jalmar Dijkstra, Bob Myers, Sandy Nelson



## **A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND PILGRIM LODGE**

A generous, anonymous donation has been given to the Deacons to be used for camperships to Pilgrim Lodge. The Deacons have decided that the best use would be to pay or heavily defray the cost for children and adults who would not otherwise be able to attend. We would especially like to encourage grandparents or parents and children to attend programs designed for them. However, anyone who would be helped by this offer is strongly encouraged to speak to one of the pastors for the details.

Pilgrim Lodge is UCC camp located in West Gardiner, Maine, on Cobbosseecontee Lake. Programs for various age groups and interests run all summer. Some are long weekends and others are a week in length. Copies of the Pilgrim Lodge brochure are located in the office and on the Opportunity Table in Fellowship. You can also see the schedule on line at [www.pilgrimlodge.org](http://www.pilgrimlodge.org) or by calling (207) 724-3200.



**Scholarships  
Available**

**Ronald A. Parsons Scholarship and Diaconate Scholarship  
High School Seniors  
who will be attending college in the fall.  
and  
Pilgrim Lodge Summer Camp Scholarship**

**Contact the Church Office  
207-363-3758**

**office@firstparishyork.net  
www.firstparishyork.net**

**DEADLINE FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2019**



**Fun, Fabulous and a Great Workout!**

***Friendly Exercise for All in our  
Community***

Fitness Classes – Zumba, Yoga and Aerobics  
Fellowship Hall – First Parish Church, York, Maine  
Monday through Friday One-Hour Classes

All of our instructors are certified and experienced. Cost is \$5 for a drop in class, or sign up for unlimited classes for \$30 per month (over 65) or \$35 per month (ages under 65). Monthly rates can be prorated.

**CURRENT CLASS SCHEDULE**

MONDAY at 8am Zumba  
TUESDAY at 8:30am Yoga  
WEDNESDAY at 8:30 am Zumba  
THURSDAY and FRIDAY at 8:30 a.m. Aerobics

***JUST DROP IN***  
For information contact  
First Parish Church 207-363-3758

## COMMUNITY EVENTS & INFORMATION



From the Creation Care Committee,  
committed to becoming a “Zero Waste Church”

You may wonder: What is the town of York doing to take care of our precious and fragile earth? Answer: A lot.

York not only has a town-sponsored Energy Steering Committee advising the town Selectboard on energy issues, but also a committed citizens’ group called YRF100% (short for “York Ready for 100%”). Their vision for York is “a healthy, thriving community powered by affordable 100% clean, renewable sources of energy, a community where our children and grandchildren are free to follow their dreams.” YRF100%’s mission is “to create awareness locally on how to move toward a more sustainable town and planet.”

In addition to working closely with York’s Energy Steering Committee, YRF100% offers informative monthly gatherings at the York Public Library. They also have a twice-monthly column called “Getting Ready” in The York Weekly. The column offers guidance on transitioning to a 100% clean and renewable energy community.

If you attended YRF100%’s April gathering “Youth Speak Out on Climate Change” at the library, you heard from talented and dedicated high school students committed to working toward clean energy and eliminating the use of polystyrene, which is a serious threat to marine life. You also watched an inspiring Tedx Talk delivered by Greta Thunberg, “The Disarming Case to Act Right Now on Climate Change.” Search for it on the internet if you weren’t there. It’s worth it!

We invite you to watch for future meetings sponsored by YRF100%, scheduled for May 10 and June 14 at 7 pm in the Community Room of the York Public Library, and their “Getting Ready” column in the York Weekly. On May 10th, the documentary “Paris to Pittsburgh” will be viewed and discussed. The film captures what’s at stake for communities around the country and celebrates how Americans are developing real solutions in the face of climate change. All YRF100% programs are free, open to the public and offer refreshments.

Submitted by Gail Berneike

## **THE 10TH YORK COMMUNITY DIALOGUE**

will be held on Saturday, May 4 from 9am to 11am at our church in Fellowship Hall. The topic is Sea Level Rise. Doors will open at 8:30am and refreshments will be available (courtesy of York Hospital).

There will be a short presentation followed by plenty of opportunity to talk with your neighbors in small groups about this important subject. We'll talk about what communities like York are doing to adapt to rising seas and increasing storm severity. We will discuss how York can respond to potential impacts on: private property valuations and York's tax base; infrastructure (municipal buildings, roads, utilities); emergency preparedness (power, public safety); business and tourism.

## **TABLE OF PLENTY**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ON A WINNING TEAM?  
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO TRY OUT FOR IT.**

**THEN COME AND JOIN "THE TABLE OF PLENTY" TEAM  
HERE AT FIRST PARISH CHURCH**

The Table of Plenty is a community organization that hosts a free meal to everyone every Tuesday evening at 5pm. It is under the very able direction of the York Community Services Association. Our church is the site of the meal each week and there are 8 teams throughout our town that prepare, serve, and clean up. Hours are from 4pm-6pm. Come for all or part of the time when it is our turn. Each team serves on a rotating basis, once every 8 weeks. They include churches, businesses, and civic organizations. It began over 20 years ago and is still going strong. First Parish team is only one of the 8, even though the meal is always served at our church.

**We always need new members on our team, so please contact  
Janet Cassidy at 363-4237  
cassidywednesday@aol.com**

**No experience necessary - you'll find it's great fellowship to work together.**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 8:30am Zumba 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Crafters Meeting 5pm Adult Bible Study	<b>2</b> 8:30am Aerobics 9am Building & Grounds Committee Meeting 2pm YCSA Volunteer 5:30pm Thursday Evening Worship 6pm Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 8:30am Aerobics	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:30am Worship/Communion 11am Men's Ensemble Rehearsal 5pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 8am Zumba 6pm Congregational Care Committee Meeting	<b>7</b> 8:30am Yoga 5pm Table of Plenty 7pm Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting	<b>8</b> 8:30am Aerobics 9am Women's Bible Study 5pm Adult Bible Study 7pm Search Committee Meeting	<b>9</b> 8:30am Aerobics 5:30pm Thursday Evening Worship 6pm Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 8:30am Aerobics	<b>11</b> 8:30am Christian Education Committee Meeting
<b>12</b> 9:15am Hymn Sing 9:30am Worship 11am Men's Ensemble Rehearsal 5pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 8am Zumba 6:30pm Women on the Move	<b>14</b> 8:30am Yoga 5pm Table of Plenty 6:30pm Assessors Meeting	<b>15</b> 8:30am Aerobics 9am Women's Bible Study 5pm Adult Bible Study 6pm Fox's Supper Club	<b>16</b> 8:30am Aerobics 5:30pm Thursday Evening Worship	<b>17</b> 8:30am Aerobics	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:30am Worship 10:45am New Member Brunch 3pm Seacoast Community Chorus Concert	<b>20</b> 8am Zumba	<b>21</b> 8:30am Yoga 3:30pm Stewardship Committee Meeting 5pm Table of Plenty 7pm Deacons Meeting	<b>22</b> 8:30am Aerobics 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Crafters Meeting 5pm Adult Bible Study 7pm Search Committee Meeting	<b>23</b> 8:30am Aerobics 5:30pm Thursday Evening Worship 6pm Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 8:30am Aerobics	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:30am Worship 9:30am Tire Pressure Day 11am Men's Ensemble Rehearsal 5pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 8am Zumba	<b>28</b> 8:30am Yoga 5pm Table of Plenty 7pm Church Council Meeting	<b>29</b> 8:30am Aerobics 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Crafters Meeting 5pm Adult Bible Study	<b>30</b> 8:30am Aerobics 5:30pm Thursday Evening Worship 6pm Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>31</b> 8:30am Aerobics	

## **Ministers**

### **All the Members of the Congregation**

**Rev. Estelle Margarones**, *Senior Pastor*

*estelle@firstparishyork.net*

**Rev. Dan Hollis**, *Associate Pastor*

*dan@firstparishyork.net*

## **Staff**

**Wendell S. Purrington**, *Director of Music Ministries*

**Terrie Ilaria**, *Music Associate*

**Janet Cassidy**, *Church School Coordinator*

**Betty Roker**, *Office Manager*

**Stacey Crowell**, *Buildings and Grounds Supervisor*

**Todd Frederick**, *Cemetery Superintendent*

## **First Parish Church Lay Leaders**

**Jan Jonas**, *Moderator*

**Thom Kearns**, *Vice Moderator*

**Ray Hamlin**, *Treasurer*

**Susan Mancinelli**, *Clerk*

207-363-3758

*office@firstparishyork.net*

***www.firstparishyork.net***

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York, ME 03909**