



First Presbyterian Church of
NORTHPORT

4th Sunday of Advent
December 18th, 2022



Our Mission Statement

First Presbyterian Church of Northport is a welcoming community that invites all people to learn about and respond to the Word of God as found in the Old and New Testaments. Our mission is to be shaped by, proclaim, and live out the good news of Jesus Christ. We are committed to supporting the spiritual development of our congregation by feeding the spiritually and physically hungry, caring for the sick and lonely, nurturing children, and reaching out to those in need in our local and global communities.

FOUNDED 1785

WELCOME TO THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHPORT

Whether you are visiting for the first time, or are a longtime member, we are blessed to have you with us. We bring different questions, and we carry different burdens. But every Sunday, we worship together as one. In our preaching and our prayers, we wrestle with the challenges of the modern world. We hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning -- a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper relationship with God. We hope you will experience some of the love and warmth of this caring community of faith. Welcome! We're glad you're here!

Rachel Vione, Pastor

- Please let us know of your presence by joining our members in signing our Friendship Pad (blue folder in pew).
- If you have any questions about our church, please ask our greeters and ushers (the folks who handed you a bulletin) or visit our website www.fpcnorthport.org.
- Nursery care is provided each Sunday at our 10:00 am worship service, if you need help please ask an usher.
- Parents of young children are invited to pick up a children's worship bag hanging on the wall in the narthex (entryway).
- Everyone is invited to gather immediately after worship for conversation in the Hartt Room.

HOW TO CONNECT

- Come to worship—we're here every week!
- Watch our LiveStream on our YouTube Channel www.youtube.com/@fpcnorthport
- Join the church!
- Find the most current information on our website (www.fpcnorthport.org).



Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the church.

The network name is FPCN_Guest

The password for the guest network is Hartt330

Today in Worship

In order that we might give our full attention to God during worship, we request that you turn off, or turn to silent mode, all cell phones and pagers and that no flash photography be taken.

The four Sundays before Christmas Day comprise the season of Advent, days which point toward the coming of Christmas in much the same way Lent points toward Easter. In these ever shorter and ever darker days, the progressive lighting of candles on an Advent wreath becomes an enactment of our trust that “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:5) The passages read as the candles are lit are the prescribed Old Testament lectionary passages for the day.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH, 2022

4th Sunday of Advent/Service of Lessons & Carols 10:00 AM

~We Gather in God's Name~

PRELUDE "The Shepherds at the Manger" F. LISZT
Dr. Brenda Clark

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH Rev. Rachel Vione

CHORAL INTROIT "As With Gladness Men of Old" W. C. DIX

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE OF ADVENT AND CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

David & Linda Dickman

On the first three Sundays of Advent, we lit the candles for hope, peace, and joy. On this last Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of love.

"God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but shall have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

As we prepare to make our way to the manger, let us make room in our hearts for the love that Jesus brings to us and to the world.

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

With Mary, our spirits rejoice, and we sing God's praise.

Let us honor God with our worship this fourth Sunday of Advent.

*HYMN NO. 104 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Most Gracious God, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiveness but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our hunger for your providential care but also our resistance to following you without question. In this season of Advent preparation may your Spirit lead us into lives of joyful obedience to your wise counsel.

SILENT PRAYERS

(Moment of silence for personal confession and reflection)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you. Amen.

*Indicates the congregation is invited to stand

**Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

~SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS~

Bidding Carol No. 140 “Once in Royal David’s City” Arr. Willcocks & Rutter
Jillian Heuer, soloist Chancel Choir & Congregation on verses 3 & 4

Lesson 1 Genesis 3:8-15
God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent’s head
Nancy & Joseph Winkler

Carol “In the Bleak Midwinter” G. Holst
Melissa Maravell, Solo & Guitar

Lesson 2 Genesis 22:15-18
God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.
Vicki Field

Carol “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” Arr. Willcocks & Rutter
Chancel Choir

Lesson 3 Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah
Frank Dentrone

Carol “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” Arr. Willcocks & Rutter
Chancel Choir

Lesson 4 Isaiah 11:1-9
The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown
Peggy Denniston

Carol No. 121 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ST. LOUIS
Chancel Choir & Congregation

Lesson 5 Luke 1:26-38
The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary
Sarah Pierce

Carol “Hail, Mary” Arr. W. Dawson
Chancel Choir Barbara Fusco-Spera, Soloist

Lesson 6 Matthew 1:18-23
Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus
Anne Mateer

Carol No. 115 “Away in a Manger” MUELLER
Chancel Choir & Congregation

Lesson 7

Luke 2:8-16
The shepherds go to the manger
Nancy & Joseph Winkler

Carol No. 119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
Chancel Choir & Congregation

MENDELSSOHN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray...

THE LORD’S 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Please scan the QR Code on the back page.

OFFERTORY

“A Cradle Carol”
Cynthia Corso, Soloist

D. Forrest

*DOXOLOGY NO. 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate and whose Lordship we praise. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 127

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
Jesus, the Light of the World

WE’LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

“As With Gladness Men of Old”

W. C. DIX

POSTLUDE

“Drummer Boy - Pat a Pat”

Arr. D. Bish

Following the benediction, the congregation is invited to depart the sanctuary for coffee hour.

Please be aware that the broadcasted service may include images and video of people in the sanctuary who are present for the service.

Announcements

Advent & Christmas at First Pres.

Sunday, December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent, Service of Lessons & Carols

*Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion. 8:00 PM
Pre-service music at 7:30 PM*

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day Worship Service

Today is our Lessons & Carols Service – Based on the service begun at King's College, Cambridge, in 1918, the Service of Lessons and Carols tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of a Messiah, and the birth of Jesus through a series of Scripture readings, carols, hymns, and choral anthems. Please join with the Chancel Choir as together we celebrate in word and in song the joys of the Christmas season.

Worship Services in January 2023 – The Session has voted not to have a worship service on Sunday, January 1, 2023. We invite you to return to worship on Sunday, January 8 on the Baptism of the Lord Sunday. We will renew our baptismal covenant and celebrate the Lord's Supper in worship that day.

Sunday School Classes – Sunday School classes will take a break during the holidays. Students of all ages are invited to worship with their families. Nursery care is provided in the nursery on the 2nd floor.

Adopt-a-Family – Thank you all for your generosity! All the stars have been taken for Adopt-a-Family this year. If you have not yet done so, please drop your gift off in the chapel.

Here's Your Year-End Checklist! Yes, Advent is a time of waiting. But there are some productive things you can do while you wait. **First: Submit your 2023 pledge**, if you haven't already. You can pledge online, by filling out a pledge card, or by calling Kevin McKerr (631-261-6434). **Second: Fulfill your 2022 pledge**, if you have a balance outstanding. If you didn't receive a statement a few weeks ago, please call the church office. **Third: Help us identify the next officer class!** Please pray about who would be a good Elder or Deacon. We will be taking nominations beginning in January.

Weekday Nursery School Early Enrollment is currently underway for current school families and church members who would like to enroll for the 2023-2024 school year. If you are considering enrolling, please act soon as there are now only limited spots available. Please contact Michelle Micucci at 631-757-1342 or email info@weekdaynorthport.com for more information.

Attention Ushers – the new ushering schedule is available. Please pick one up at the church or call Pat Bell or Nancy Winkler for the schedule.

Daily Devotions These Days – The new issue of These Days for January – March has arrived. Copies are available in the Hartt Room.

Presbyterian Women's (PW) Book Discussion, Tuesday, January 24th – The next book discussion will be about "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus. Please join in! The talk will be at the home of Diana Montusi on Tuesday, January 24 at 10:30. Please RSVP Diana at 516-991-0114.

Pioneers meet on Wednesday, January 4th – Senior adults are invited to join our Pioneers at 10:00 AM for fellowship, fun, chapel, and lunch in the Hartt Room.

Men's Wednesday Morning Breakfast – Each week the Men's Wednesday Morning Breakfast Group meets at 8:15 AM in Greenlawn Family Restaurant or in the Hartt Room. All men of the church are invited to join in! For more information, please email Deacon Tim Gladding at emgeetd@aol.com.

Prayers

Mike Rowley (friend of the Newmans), Julie Brosnan (friend of the Mercers), Fred Kedjierski (Sharon Noonan's brother-in-law), Barbara Weise (friend of Marlena Dentrone), Glenn Stollberger (friend of Tim Gladding), Cynthia Victory Mignella (friend of Jim Zima), Barbara Van Deusen Josephson, Phyllis Crowley (Janeen & Dennis's sister-in-law), Sean Tinker (Pegge Strella's nephew), Grace Alber (friend of Tiffany Thomas), Todd Pierce, Justin Yoskowitz, Aaron Thomas, Brian Brewer (Faustine White's son), **those in Healthcare facilities** – St. Catherine of Siena Nursing & Rehabilitation Center: Ann Deery, **our partner congregations:** Nueva Paz, Cuba and Iglesia Evangelica Presbiteriana Nueva Vida, Malverne; the Presbytery of Long Island and its staff; the Synod of the Northeast, the Presbyterian Church (USA), its Louisville staff, its missionaries worldwide

Pastoral Care Concerns - If you or someone you know is in the hospital or needs a pastoral care visit, please contact the church office to let us know. This will help us to be sure that we are aware of the pastoral care needs of our church members.

If you have a pastoral concern/request, please email Karen at ktwitchell@fpcnorthport.org. Relaying this type of information in this way will assist us greatly in our efforts to be attentive to the pastoral needs of members of our congregation.

The names of those on our prayer list will remain in the bulletin for six weeks. If, after the six-week period, you would like the name you submitted to remain on the list, please contact the church office with your request. Thank you! (To add or remove your name from this list, please call the church office, 261-6434.)

Food Pantry News

The Pantry is open Monday-Thursday from 10:00-12:00. If you would like to make food donations to the Pantry, please place your donations in the donation box marked "Food Pantry" in the parking lot entrance of the church Monday-Thursday from 10:00-12:00. If you would like to make a financial donation to the Pantry, please make your check out to "ELC Food Pantry."

Specific Pantry Needs

The food pantry is in need of the following items: diapers size 1-5, wipes.

Contact Information

Church Office

330 Main St., Northport, NY 11768

Phone: (631) 261-6434

Email: office@fpcnorthport.org

Website: www.fpcnorthport.org

Ecumenical Lay Council Food Pantry

Phone: (631) 261-4357

Weekday Nursery School

Phone: (631) 757-1342

Email: info@weekdaynorthport.com

Website: www.weekdaynorthport.com

 www.facebook.com/weekdaynorthport

To sign up for the church email list send your email address to:
office@fpcnorthport.org

The Staff of The First Presbyterian Church of Northport

Rachel Vione
Pastor

Brenda Clark
Director of Music & Organist

John Kennedy
Facilities Manager

Kevin McKerr
Finance and IT Manager

Michelle Micucci
Director of Weekday Nursery School

Charlie Morgan
Weekday Nursery School Custodian

Frances Roberts
Interim Choir Director

Karen Twitchell
Office Administrator

Session

Marcia Mercer (Clerk of Session), Melissa Beyer, Pat Bell, Cathy Coleman, Dennis Crowley, Vicki Field, Marilyn Fox, Kim Gilbert, Susanne Haffner, William Heuer, Cindy Mies, Diana Montusi, Fred Mosher, David Ofsharick, Florence Ogg, Anita D'Amico Stambouly

Deacons

Jim Beyer, Marlena Dentrone, Sue Ebert (co-moderator), Jack Fink, Tim Gladding, Carolyn Louis, Krista Mellinger-DeRoma, Jeannie O'Brien, Robin O'Neil Gonzalez, Shelley Pierce (co-moderator), Jeannie Reed, Pegge Strella, Marjorie Sundquist, Tiffany Thomas

Give Online



Enter Your 2023 Stewardship Pledge

