



First Presbyterian Church of
NORTHPORT

4th Sunday of Advent
December 24th, 2023



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
- Follow us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/fpcnorthport
- Join the church!
- Find the most current information on our website (www.fpcnorthport.org).

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.

Advent & Christmas at First Pres.

Sunday, December 24 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion. 7:00PM

Pre-service music at 6:40 PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 2023

4th Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM

~We Gather in God's Name~

PRELUDE

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"
Arr. L. Smith

Dr. Brenda Clark

WELCOME TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Rachel Vione

CHORAL INTROIT

"Advent Canticle"
Chancel Choir

M. Shepperd

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

The Heuer Family

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)

Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world. We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness. We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us. We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Prepare us for His return. Help us rejoice in the light so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts. Amen.

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

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.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Hymn No. 132, v. 2

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forever-more.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

~We Hear God’s Word~

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

(p. 638, pew Bible)

HYMN NO. 128

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”
Please remain seated

W ZLOBIE LEZY

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:1-5

(p. 91, pew Bible)

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Holiday House Tours”

Rev. Rachel Vione

~We Respond As God’s People~

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)

An Advent Affirmation

We believe in one God, whose almighty word brought forth the universe, who speaks to us by his Spirit through what he has created and through what has been written for us in Holy Scripture. We believe that at the right moment in time, God’s Word became flesh in the life of Jesus of Nazareth, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. We believe that this good news of great joy which heralded Jesus’ birth also points us to the cross on which Jesus died, and to his empty tomb. There the angel’s message “He is risen!” heralded the glorious, good news of Christ’s resurrection. We believe that this same Jesus is alive to meet us every day, and to offer us new and abundant life. We rejoice in the knowledge that he will one day return to rule in righteousness, to renew the earth, and to claim us as God’s own.

*SUNG RESPONSE

“Love Has Come”

Hymn No. 110 v. 1

**Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love!
Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love!
Glory to God on high.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERING

Please scan the QR Code on the back page.

OFFERTORY

“Praise Ye, the Lord of Hosts”
Chancel Choir

C. Saint-Saens

*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)

Emmanuel, in gratitude for the gift of your presence with and among us, we present these offerings to you. Accept and bless these gifts so that they might spread the joy of Christmas to others. Amen.

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.

*HYMN NO. 100

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

“Amen”

S. Janco

*POSTLUDE

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”

D. Christiansen

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Announcements

Please join us this evening at 7:00 PM for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion.

Sunday School Classes – Sunday School classes will take a break during the holidays. Students of all ages are invited to worship with their families. Classes will resume mid-January. Nursery care is provided in the nursery on the lower level.

Adult Education will not meet today – We will take a winter break for the next few Sundays starting back on January 7th.

All-Harp Nutcracker – On Sunday, January 7th at 4 pm in Fellowship Hall, The Long Island Chapter of the American Harp Society will present an “All-Harp Nutcracker.” Featuring favorite selections from the Ballet and special holiday music. Harpists from all over Long Island will come together to create this one-of-a-kind musical holiday celebration.

Health and Wellness Seminar – January 7 at 11:30 am in the Library. Deacon Tiffany Thomas will lead a seminar on how to be the healthiest version of yourself in 2024. Tiffany owns her own health coaching business, Pay Health Forward, LLC. And is passionate about guiding people to be the best version of themselves, in terms of health and wellness.

Holiday Blood Drive – Tuesday, December 26 from 1:45 pm - 7:45 pm – Northport Fire Department, 204 Main St., 2nd Fl. Meeting Room. For more information, contact Chairman Bill Engellis at 516-528-2262.

The 2023 Deficit is Closing! Thank you to all who have made one-time contributions to the 2023 budget deficit. We began the year with a \$95K deficit and we are now at \$30K. If you have not yet done so, please consider making a one-time contribution to the 2023 budget.

2024 Stewardship Update – Thank you to all who have submitted their pledges for 2024. If you have not yet pledged for 2024, please do so either online or in person. There are pledge cards in the pews. You can also call the church office and speak to Financial Manager, Kevin McKerr.

Weekday Nursery School Early Enrollment is currently underway for current school families and church members who would like to enroll for the 2024-2025 school year. If you are considering enrolling, please act soon as some classes fill up quickly. Please contact Michelle Micucci at 631-757-1342 or email info@weekdaynorthport.com for more information.

Volunteers Needed for Coffee Hour Hosts – In addition to our Ministry Committees who sign up to host coffee hour, we would like to invite members of the congregation to sign up to host as well. The Sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Hartt Room.

Pioneers will meet on Wednesday, January 3rd – Senior adults are invited to join our Pioneers for fellowship, fun, chapel, at 10:00 in the Hartt Room.

Presbyterian Women's (PW) Book Discussion Tuesday, January 23rd – The next PW book discussion will be about *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar. The talk will take place on Tuesday, January 23 at 10 am at the home of Andrea Gladding. Please call Andrea at 631-757-0488 to let her know if you plan to attend. Please join in; the talks are so enjoyable!

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

Help is needed with our livestream! We need volunteers to run our livestream equipment on Sunday mornings. Our livestream services have become an important ministry here at FPC and we would like to continue to offer this option to those who cannot worship with us in person. Training will be provided. Please contact Kevin McKerr if you can help.

Prayers

Richard Kranenberg (Ginny Kranenberg's husband), Sean Tinker (Pegge Strella's nephew), Ethan Montalto (new grandson of Pat Bell's friends), John Phelan (Kathy Landi's friend), Charlie Tyrrel (Sue Tyrrel's brother), Barbara Fusco-Spera, Danny Digennaro (friend of the Mercer family), Greg Farrell (Kathy Landi's friend), Joe Winkler, Mike Rowley (friend of the Newmans), Justin Yoskowitz, **the family of:** Jeanne Connelly (friend of the Dickmans), Linda Siegmann, Paul Roberts, **those in Healthcare facilities** – Carillon Nursing Rehabilitation: Lugenia Gantt; St. Johnland Rehabilitation: Violet Olsen; 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.)

Anyone who is not able to attend church in person who desires a visit with communion, please contact Pastor Rachel at rvione@fpcnorthport.org.

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:

Pasta sauces	Peanut butter & jelly	Rice (1 or 2-pound bags)
Oatmeal, corn flakes, rice krispies	Mustard, ketchup, mayonnaise	Flour, sugar, brown sugar,
Canola & olive oils (small cont.)	Cookies, snack foods, chips	Hot chocolate
Laundry soaps, dish soaps (small containers)	Pancake mix	

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Contact Information

Church Office

330 Main St., Northport, NY 11768

Phone: (631) 261-6434

Email: office@fpcnorthport.org

Website: www.fpcnorthport.org

 www.facebook.com/fpcnorthport

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

Colleen Agovino
Chancel Choir Director

Brenda Clark
Director of Music & Organist

John Kennedy
Facilities Manager

Kevin McKerr
Finance and IT Manager

Michelle Micucci
Director of Weekday Nursery School

Karen Twitchell
Office Administrator



Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the church.
The network name is FPCN_Guest
The password for the guest network is Hartt330

Session

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

Deacons

Jim Beyer, Janeen Crowley, Helene Dunat, Sue
Ebert, Jack Fink, Tim Gladding, Carolyn Louis
(co-moderator), Krista Mellinger-DeRoma, Jeannie
O'Brien (co-moderator), Robin O'Neil Gonzalez,
Jeannie Reed, Robert Spiller, Pegge Strella,
Marjorie Sundquist, Tiffany Thomas

Give Online



Enter Your 2024 Stewardship Pledge

