



First Presbyterian Church of
NORTHPORT

1st Sunday of Advent
December 3rd, 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 3 – First Sunday of Advent, Communion

Sunday, December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent, Service of Lessons & Carols

Saturday, December 16 – Holiday Concert. 7:00PM

Sunday, December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent, Christmas Pageant

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

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Cover Art:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 2023

1st Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM

~We Gather in God's Name~

*The service of worship begins with the music of the prelude.
Through its power and brilliance, may you feel the majesty and glory of God;
in its quietness, God's peace.*

PRELUDE

Partita on "From Heaven Above to Earth He Came"
D. Schack

Dr. Brenda Clark

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Rachel Vione

CHORAL INTROIT

"Advent Canticle"
Chancel Choir

M. Shepherd

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

Marlena, Frank, Frankie & Amelia Dentrone

Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. This is the candle of Hope. With Christians around the world, we use this light to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness----on them light has shined." (Isaiah 9:2)

Let us open our hearts to the joy and gladness of Jesus' coming, for He is our light and our hope. Come, let us worship God!

*HYMN NO. 106

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Gracious 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.**

*Indicates the congregation is invited to stand

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.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“People Look East”

Hymn No. 105, v.1

**People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

~ The Sacrament of Holy Baptism ~

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

PRESENTATION

Elder Diana Montusi

*The child being baptized today is: Sage Olivia Mooney
Daughter of Timothy & Kelsey Mooney*

HYMN NO. 486, v. 1

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

Please remain seated

***Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit’s sign,
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.***

BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS AND PRAYER

Statement of Commitment

Elder: Jesus Christ commanded us to teach those who are baptized. Let us state our commitment to this child.

All: We joyfully welcome Sage Olivia Mooney into the church: the family of faith and the body of Christ on earth. We promise to enfold her in our love and offer her support, understanding, and counsel as she grows in faith. As people of God, we promise to teach her the things of Christ, and by our fellowship, to strengthen her family ties with the Household of God.

BAPTISM

BLESSING AND WELCOME

HYMN NO. 486, v. 4

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

Please remain seated

***Child of God, your loving Parent, learn to listen for God’s call.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship; trust and love God more than all.***

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND PRAYER

5th grade and younger gather on the chancel steps

Following the Children's message, children are invited to return to their pews to worship with their families. Younger children may be taken to the nursery on the lower level.

*HYMN NO. 82

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

~We Hear God's Word~

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 13:24-37

(p. 50, pew Bible)

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

SERMON

"The Two-Minute Warning"

Rev. Rachel Vione

~We Respond As God's People~

OFFERING

Please scan the QR Code on the back page

OFFERTORY

"Coventry Carol"
Chancel Choir

H. Helvey

*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)

Christ calls us to live generous and grateful lives. Take these gifts we offer today, O God, and use them to the fulfillment of Christ's ministry. May these gifts help to free the captives, heal the sick, comfort the lonely, feed the hungry, heal the wounded. As Christ's hands and feet, use us too, in service to building your beloved community. Amen.

~Holy Communion~

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

*COMMUNION HYMN NO. 507 "Come to the Table of Grace" TABLE OF GRACE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS [congregation sings]

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Communion will be served by intinction. You are invited to come forward by the center aisle beginning with the front rows, take a piece of bread, eat it, then move to the juice filled trays. After drinking the juice, please take the empty cup back to your pew and place it in the cup rack. All elements are gluten free.

COMMUNION MUSIC "Advent of Hope" B. Buda
Chancel Choir

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN NO. 93 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" TRURO

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Amen" S. Janco

*POSTLUDE "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones" M. Martin

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

Announcements

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 \$35K. 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.

No Sunday School Today – Following the Children's Message, all children are invited to return to their pews and worship with their families. Nursery care is provided in the nursery on the lower level.

Adult Education Today at 9:00 a.m. in the Library – This week, we will continue with the 4-part Advent series on the "Heart that Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch".

Adopt a Family – 'Tis the season! We will again participate in the Adopt-a-Family this year. The stars are on the tree today in the Hartt Room. Please take a star and sign your name, telephone, and email address next to your star's number. Unwrapped gifts may be dropped off in the chapel at the church by Monday, December 18th. Please contact Cindy Mies or Kim Gilbert with any questions. Thank you for your generosity!

Lessons & Carols next Sunday, December 10 – Our annual Lessons & Carols Service will take place on Sunday, December 10. The service features our Chancel Choir and liturgists reading the scripture texts of the season.

Christmas Pageant, Sunday, December 17th – Our annual Christmas pageant will take place on Sunday, December 17th during worship. The Sunday school children are learning the songs in their Sunday school classes. There are parts for everyone and no rehearsals necessary. All are welcome to participate.

The Sanctuary Guild will begin sign-ups for the Christmas dedications today after worship in the Hartt Room and continue through December 10th. You can purchase a Poinsettia(s) to adorn the Sanctuary and contributions for the brass will be accepted. Dedications will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Make sure to sign up early. Poinsettias are \$25.00. Should you have any questions, contact Sharon Noonan at 631-368-7545 or 631-487-4709.

On Monday, December 11, Mission Ministries will be providing meals for 24 homeless men staying in a motel in Huntington. The meals will consist of commercially prepared hearty dinners that are microwave approved and dinner plate size that will fit into the small microwave ovens in the hotel rooms. Sign-up sheets will be provided in the Hartt room for the next few Sundays through December 10th. Volunteers can sign up to purchase as many meals as they prefer. Donations of fruit or cookies are also welcome. If you would like to participate, please sign up on Sundays after church or contact Marilyn at zorraz2@optonline.net.

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, December 13th – Senior adults are invited to join our Pioneers for fellowship, fun, chapel, and lunch at 10:00 in the Hartt Room. Our Weekday Nursery School kids will also join the Pioneers on Wednesday.

Prayers

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), Lillian Mosher, Barbara Fusco-Spera, Jeanne Connelly (friend of the Dickmans), 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:** 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.

Give Online



Enter Your 2024 Stewardship Pledge

