



First Presbyterian Church of
NORTHPORT

1st Sunday of Christmas
December 31st, 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.

Please welcome our guest preacher today Elder Amy Means. Born and raised in Metro Detroit, Michigan, where she first served as an Elder and Evangelism Team leader for three years. She and her husband reside in Huntington where they stay busy cheering their three children on in dance, lacrosse, and cross-country. Amy has spent twenty years as an educator and currently teaches in South Huntington schools. She is an actively serving Elder, member of the Education and Worship teams, and helps run the Youth Group at Old First Church in Huntington.

Please welcome our guest organist, Carole Huston. Carole Huston retired to Long Island in 2018 after a long career as a Church Musician. She was last on staff at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church in McLean, Virginia, where she was Director of Music. In her retirement life, she is busy with substituting, for other organists, taking classes at OLLI, and volunteering as a Medicare counselor.

Cover Art: Light of the World - Peace, The Peace Wall in Hamilton, New Zealand from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/act-image-link.pl?RC=55234> [retrieved December 21, 2023]. Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/taniwha/7186910/>.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST, 2023

1st Sunday of Christmas 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	"Pastoral in F (I)" J. S. Bach	Carole Huston
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WELCOME AND INVITATION TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH	Elder Vicki Field
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CHORAL INTROIT	"In the Stillness" Chancel Choir	S. Beamish
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*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

A star burns brightly; the shadows of the world have been dispersed in God's gift of Jesus, our Savior.

Arise! Shine! Our light has come; the glory of our God has risen upon us!

Let us rejoice as we lift our eyes to see the light of Christ, dwelling in our hearts, lives, and community of faith.

Arise! Shine! Our light has come; filling us with faith, hope, peace, joy, and love!

The glory of the Lord shines upon us in majesty; revealing our Christ to us in this New Year.

Arise! Shine! Our light has come; penetrating the darkness that covers the world!

In the coming of Jesus, our Savior, our hearts are filled with the transforming power of Emmanuel, God with us.

Arise! Shine! The glory of the Lord is born among us; let us worship God together in Spirit and Truth!

*HYMN NO. 123	"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"	CAROL
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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION (responsive)

God of power and might, God of grace and mercy, heaven and earth are full of your glory. You chose to become one of us in Jesus Christ, sharing our joys and sorrows, displaying your greatness in the child of the manger. We praise you for your amazing love, great enough to embrace the expanding universe, yet close enough to enter our humble hearts. During this time of worship, surprise us with your grace once again, that we, with the whole Church and your precious creation, may praise and honor your holy name, O God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

God of goodness and guidance, in Christ Jesus, our Lord, you sent us light to live by, yet we seek shadows in which to hide. In him, you promise new and everlasting life, but we prefer old habits and patterns, nursing grievances and clinging to familiar opinions. You are generous with your love, but we reject neighbors and fear strangers who differ from us. In your mercy, remake us in the image of your Son, and teach us how to follow him in thought, word, and deed in the year ahead, amen.

SILENT PRAYERS

(Moment of silence for personal confession and reflection)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news of God's Gospel of love, forgiveness, and grace: Jesus Christ is God's elect, chosen by God for our salvation!

In the presence of Jesus, our Savior, we find God's freedom and acceptance. Let us give thanks to God for this gift, living at peace with ourselves, with another, and with our God. Thanks be to God! Amen!

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “Angels We Have Heard on High” Hymn No. 113 v.1

~We Hear God's Word~

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 60:1-6 Elder Vicki Field
(p. 690, pew Bible)

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

HYMN NO. 314 “Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness” CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSONS	1 John 1:5-10	(p. 238, pew Bible)
	John 8:12	(p. 101, pew Bible)
	Matthew 5:14-16	(p. 4, pew Bible)

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

SERMON “Let Your Light Shine” Elder Amy Means

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed (Ecumenical)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE "Angels We Have Heard on High" Hymn No. 113 v. 3

OFFERING Please scan the QR Code on the back page

OFFERTORY "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Traditional
Chancel Choir

*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)

Generous God, we bless your name because you have called us and claimed us and sent us into the world to do your will. Receive now this offering, both of our money and our lives. Through these gifts, may the hungry be fed, the thirsty quenched, the naked clothed, and the stranger welcomed. In Jesus' name we pray. 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. 744 "Arise, Your Light Is Come!" FESTAL SONG

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" Arr. D. Wilcox & J. Rutter

*POSTLUDE "Salvation Now Has Come to Earth" J. S. Bach

Announcements

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 starting back next Sunday, January 7th.

Memorial Service for Linda Siegmann – Saturday, January 6th at 2 pm in the Sanctuary.

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 7th 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.

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

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:** Richard Kranenberg (Ginny's husband & Sue Ebert's father), 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	

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

