



First Presbyterian Church of
NORTHPORT

Baptism of the Lord
January 7th, 2024



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.

Baptism of the Lord

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is observed annually. It falls on the Sunday after January 6 (Epiphany), so this year the date is January 7. It commemorates the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. It is also known as "Theophany".

At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus presents himself to John to be baptized in the Jordan. The heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends as a dove and we hear the voice of God: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased" (see Psalm 2:7).

At this festival of the Christian year, we not only remember Jesus' baptism, but we celebrate our own: the baptism we share with Christ. It also foreshadows the season of Lent, as Jesus was immediately driven into the wilderness for 40 days after his own Baptism.

Cover Art: Pittman, Lauren Wright. Bayou Baptism, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57083> [retrieved January 3, 2024]. Original source: Lauren Wright Pittman, <http://www.lewpstudio.com/>.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH, 2024

Baptism of the Lord/Communion Sunday 10:00 AM

~We Gather in God's Name~

PRELUDE "Once in Royal David's City" Dr. Brenda Clark
Arr. R. Lind

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

CHORAL INTROIT "I Love You, Lord" L. Klein

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Today we celebrate a special baptism; the baptism of Jesus of Nazareth.
God says: Look! See my chosen servant, the One in whom I utterly delight.
I have placed my Spirit on him, he will bring true justice to the nations.
When Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened up, and the Spirit came down like a dove;
and there was a voice from heaven saying:
"This is my dearly loved Son, with whom I am delighted."
The joy of the Lord be with you all.
Let us worship the Lord!

*HYMN NO. 450 "Be Thou My Vision" SLANE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Creator God, in our baptisms, you marked us with your love, inviting us into covenant with you.
As we grow older, you reveal more and more of yourself to us. We see and experience the
brokenness of the world; we know that we are called to embody your love. But the task sometimes
feels too big. It's easier to ignore the pain of others. It's easier to choose blindness. Forgive us for
forgetting our baptism, for forgetting that our lives are meant for something bigger. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYERS

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE "Arise, Your Light Is Come!" Hymn no. 744, v. 1

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.**

*Indicates the congregation is invited to stand

~We Hear God's Word~

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1:4-11

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Torn Place”

Rev. Rachel Vione

~We Respond As God's People~

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)

Book of Common Worship

Through baptism we enter the covenant God has established. Within this covenant God gives us new life, guards us from evil, and nurtures us in love. In embracing that covenant, we choose whom we will serve, by turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ. Amen.

LITANY FOR BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Book of Common Worship

O Christ, by your epiphany your light shines upon us, giving us the fullness of salvation. Help us show your light to all we meet today. **Lord, have mercy.**

O Christ of glory, you humbled yourself to be baptized, showing us the way of humility. Strengthen us to serve you in humility all the days of our life. **Lord, have mercy.**

O Christ, by your baptism you cleansed us from our sin, making us children of your Father. Give the grace of being a child of God to all who seek you. **Lord, have mercy.**

O Christ, by your baptism you sanctified creation and opened the door of repentance to all who are baptized. Make us servants of your gospel in the world. **Lord, have mercy.**

O Christ, by your baptism you revealed to us the glorious Trinity when the voice from heaven proclaimed, “This is my beloved Son,” and the Holy Spirit descended upon you like a dove. Renew a heart of worship within all the baptized. **Lord, have mercy.**

OFFERING

Please scan the QR Code on the back page.

OFFERTORY

“Gloria in Excelsis Deo” (Glory to God in the Highest)
Chancel Choir

A. Vivaldi

*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)

God of redemption and new life, we focus once more this day on the greatest gift ever given -- Jesus, our Savior. As he was baptized by John in the Jordan, we were able to share in his baptism and receive the promise of sharing in Jesus' resurrection. As we leave one year behind and look with hope to the new year ahead, help us to live and give of ourselves as those who know every day what a great gift we have been given. May it move us to give our whole selves more freely. In the name of Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

~Holy Communion~

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

*COMMUNION HYMN NO. 503 "Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation" O QUANTA QUALIA

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 AND THE REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

*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, move to the baptismal station and return to your pew by the side aisles. Take your empty cup back to your pew.
If you are unable to come forward, a server will come to your pew.*

COMMUNION

"Divinum Mysterium (Of the Father's Love Begotten)"

"Take and Eat"

Chancel Choir

J. Utterback

M. Joncas

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN NO. 65

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

CWM RHONDDA

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

P. Lutkin Arr. L. Larson

*POSTLUDE

"Postlude in C Major"

J. Callaerts

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

Sunday School Classes – Sunday School classes will resume on January 21. Students of all ages are invited to worship with their families. Nursery care is provided in the nursery on the lower level.

Adult Education Today at 9:00 am in the Library – In keeping with the tradition of New Years resolutions to improve things in our lives, we will begin a series titled “Renovate, Building a Life with God” by Jacob Armstrong. The series centers on the concept of God renovating our lives, “altering the old you, and creating a new you.” As always, we begin at 9 am each Sunday morning in the library upstairs. Come join us and learn how “Renovating with God” is a wonderful opportunity for change and improvement in our relationship with God. See you there!

All-Harp Nutcracker – Today, 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 – Today 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.

Sign Up Today for HIHI Dinner – Monday, January 22nd, 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 three Sundays. You can sign up to purchase as many meals as you prefer. Donations of fruit or cookies are also welcome.

Nominations for Deacons & Elders – The All Church Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for Deacons & Elders to serve a three year term. Please email your nominations to nominating@fpcnorthport.org by February 5th. Your email should include the person’s name, his/her involvement in the church and the reason you think he/she would be a good Deacon or Elder. For an explanation of what it means to be a Deacon or Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA), please go to www.pcusa.org/elder,deacon.

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.

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.

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!

About Today’s Music:

Today’s prelude and organ offertory were composed by American composers using tunes or themes from other parts of the world. Dr. C. J. Frost of England submitted his postlude for a 1904 collection of service music that continues to be used by organists across the world. Our choral music includes the beloved Vivaldi chorus “Gloria” and 20th century anthems and hymns as our musical offerings on this special day – the first Sunday of 2024 and Holy Communion.

Prayers

Sean Tinker (Pegge Strella's nephew), John Phelan (Kathy Landi's friend), 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	

About Today's Cover Art – Bayou Baptism - Lauren Wright Pittman - "Jesus is stretching out of the frame inviting the viewer to celebrate their own mysterious and wonderful calling from God, as he basks in his own. I chose to paint a pelican for the Holy Spirit's descent, because the scriptural texts leave some room for interpretation; the descending figure is described as "like a dove". So, I decided to paint a pelican which is native to the bayou and was also used to depict Christ's sacrifice in medieval Christian art. God the Creator is represented as the sun, with voice waves radiating from the center, expressing how pleased God is with Jesus." While at Columbia, she also realized her background in graphic design was a great asset in ministry. In the midst of the Church's struggle for relevancy in a rapidly changing world, she saw the need for faith communities, ministries and non-profits to share their story and mission more effectively and fully through visual means. [from: <http://www.lewpstudio.com/about>].

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



Hartt330

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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

