



First Presbyterian Church of
NORTHPORT

4th Sunday in Lent
March 27th, 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 live in the area, are new to the area, or are visiting from out of town, we are glad you are here.
- 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!
- 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.

Today is the Fourth Sunday in Lent

Lent is the forty-day period of preparation for Easter. (It's actually forty days not including Sundays). In the past, Lent was often associated with fasting and self-denial; indeed, many Christians still "give something up for lent" as a simple way to remember the sacrifice of Christ and focus attention on the things that matter most in life. Today, however, many Christians, especially Protestants, understand Lent as a period for focused study, prayer, or personal reflection.

Please welcome our guest preacher today Rev. Ralph B. Wright, Jr. The Rev. Ralph B. Wright, Jr. is a retired Presbyterian Pastor having served churches in California and New York. His most recent parishes have included Yaphank, Remsenburg, East Moriches and Merrick. He also served churches in transition as pulpit supply for Massapequa, Levittown, Old South Haven. and Mattituck. As a Tentmaker minister, his non-church employment has included service with the Los Angeles United Way and the American Red Cross, as well as serving the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Africa and Europe, and his family's accounting firm in Patchogue. With his accounting and financial background, he has served the Presbytery of Long Island as a member of the Board of Trustees, the Budgeting Committee, The Shepherding Council and the Presbytery's Disaster Assistance Committee.

Cover Art - Murillo, Bartolomé Esteban, 1617-1682. Prodigal Son, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54669> [retrieved March 23, 2022]. Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Return_of_the_Prodigal_Son_1667-1670_Murillo.jpg.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27TH, 2022

4th Sunday in Lent

~We Gather in God's Name~

PRELUDE

"Variations on *Lower Lights*"
Dr. Brenda Clark

Robert Thygerson

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Nancy Winkler.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Come, let us give thanks to God, for God is good!

God's love endures forever!

God gives each of us grace according to the measure of Christ's gift so that His church may be built up in love.

God's love endures forever!

It is God's will that we all come to the unity of the faith and acquire the knowledge of the teaching of the Christ.

God's love endures forever. Together we worship God. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 12

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

ST. DENIO

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins with a humble, lowly, penitent and obedient heart; so that we may obtain forgiveness, by God's infinite goodness and mercy. Let us now admit to our sins, our weaknesses and our shortcomings.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Lord, we believe in Thee, help Thou our unbelief.

Lord, we love Thee; yet not with perfect hearts.

Lord, we long for Thee; yet not with our full strength.

Lord, we trust in Thee; yet not with our whole selves.

O Lord, our Christ, may we have Thy mind and Thy spirit.

**Make us contrite that we might be renewed from our sinful selves
into new persons, according to Thy will and for the sake of Thy glory.**

We ask all these things in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

(Moment of silence for personal confession and reflection)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news. Christ is our peace and salvation. And so I declare to you, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*We invite you to share a sign of reconciliation and friendship with one another.
If you are comfortable, turn to those around you and offer a smile or a hand over your heart,
using the following words:*

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of Your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and Your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what You say to us today. Amen.

~We Hear God's Word~

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Old Testament: Psalm 32:1, 2, 6 & 7

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON New Testament: Luke 15:11b-32

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe-the best one-and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Holy Humor Sunday"

Rev. Ralph Wright

Call to Laughter:

One: This is the time to rejoice!

All: What better time than now!

One: This is the day to laugh: What did the cabbage pastor say to the people?

All: Lettuce pray!

One: Which Bible character was the best musician?

All: Samson – he brought the house down.

One: How many Presbyterians does it take to change a light bulb?
All: None. God has predestined when the lights will be on and off.

One: How did Joseph make his coffee?
All: Hebrewed it.

~We Respond As God's People~

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (in unison)

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

Hymn No. 1, v. 1

NICEA

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

OFFERING

Please give online at www.fpcnorthport.org

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

**"Who is This King?"
Chancel Choir**

by Lloyd Larsen

***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**

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. 687**

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

ST. ANNE

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

"Postlude in A Minor"

George Calkin

Announcements

Easter Flowers -The sign-up for Easter Flowers will be held in the Hartt Room after worship today and next Sunday, April 3rd.

The Westminster Choir will rehearse in the Choir Room (lower level) today after the worship service from 11-11:30. If you'd like to sing with the Chancel Choir during Easter, they rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:30-8:45 in the Sanctuary.

Sunday School classes -- Youth in grades 6 through 12 will have class in Fellowship Hall with Mr. Barasch, and preschool through grade 5 children will be upstairs with Holy Moly. Both classes will begin at 10:00 and students can go right at the start of worship. Mary will be in the nursery for the young ones!

Today, March 27 is the last day for Soles 4 Souls donations. The collection box is in the back foyer. Please remember to tie shoes together or bind with a rubber band. Any and all shoes/slippers will be accepted. Contact Kim Gilbert if you need shoes to be picked up.

New Women's Bible Study - All women of the church are invited to join in a new study, Finding I Am, by Lysa Terkeurst. This six-week study will examine Jesus' own statements about himself in the Gospel of John, leading to a fullness of knowing Him. We'll meet every other Thursday at 10:00 am beginning March 10, in person at church and simultaneously on Zoom. For more information, contact Lisa Nikrant, slnikrant@gmail.com or check this site for information and to order books: [Finding I AM – Lifeway.com](https://www.findingiam.com)

Give a Book, Take a Book! There will be a cart in the Hartt Room after worship with books for people to take. Please take a book and bring a book in for the cart. Books can be on any topic and can be paperback or hardcover. Happy Reading!

FPC Art Project-- Cranes Art Project – We hope you have enjoyed practicing the art of folding paper cranes during our church-wide project. There are still a few packets of paper and instructions in the Hartt Room and a little time left, so it's not too late! Pick up yours today and enjoy the peaceful practice of origami. **We'd like to have all folded cranes returned to church in their zip-loc bags by Sunday, March 27.** We will string the folded cranes together and create a display that everyone can enjoy at church. **We invite you to participate in stringing the cranes together on Monday, March 28th at 10:00 am and Monday, April 4th at 7:30 pm in the Hartt Room.** There will be coaches there to show everyone what to do, so we can all enjoy participating in creating this beautiful display! If you have questions, contact Libby Yoskowitz, libbyyoskowitz@gmail.com.

Pioneers will meet on Wednesday, March 30th. All older adults are invited to join our Pioneers on March 30th at 10:15 in the Hartt Room. Please join us for fellowship, fun, chapel, and lunch.

The 2022 Per Capita amount is **\$38.08** per member. The per capita for FPC totals \$13K. We only receive about \$4K, therefore the rest comes out of our general fund. Please do your part by paying your per capita of \$38.08 for each member of your household. This donation supports our regional and national Presbyterian Church USA. Thank you! You can pay your per capita by texting FPCNPT percap 38.08 to 73256

Presbyterian Women (PW) Notes: the next PW book discussion will be about the novel **“Wish You Were Here”** by Jodi Picoult. Date: **Tues. May 17** at 10 am in the Hartt Room. Also, please save **Saturday, May 7th** for the **Ladies Spring Luncheon**. More info to follow.

Prayers

Bob Corso, Sally Sohre (Diane Lobaugh's sister), Janet Hennig, Jean Wilson, 2022 Confirmation Class, Joseph Netrda (friend of Marcia Mercer), James Zima, Richard Kranenberg (Sue Ebert's father & Ginny Kranenberg's husband), Maryann Campagno (friend of Marcia Mercer), Demetra Innes (friend of Deidre Gehrke), Muriel Best, Todd Pierce, Gary Sandel, Justin Yoskowitz, Aaron Thomas, Brian Brewer (Faustine White's son), **those in Healthcare facilities** – Whisper Woods of Smithtown: Art Shaw, 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.)

Online Prayer Service and Check in with Pastor Rachel – Our Zoom Prayer Group meets every Wednesdays at Noon. Please join us as we lift up our prayers for one another and for the world.

The Zoom information is the same each week:

Meeting ID: 7760178040

Passcode: Pray 21

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 "Big Blue Bin" near 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: flour, sugar, spices, ketchup, salad dressing.

Contact Information

Church Office

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

Christine Mulholland
Director of Weekday Nursery School

Karen Twitchell
Office Administrator

Ariana Warren
Carol and Westminster Choirs Director

Dana Warren
Chancel Choir Director

Give Online

