



First Presbyterian Church of
NORTHPORT

3rd Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025



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

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.

Today is our Lessons & Carols Service – Based on the service begun at King's College, Cambridge, in 1918, the Service of Lessons and Carols tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of a Messiah, and the birth of Jesus through a series of Scripture readings, carols, hymns, and choral anthems. Please join with the Chancel Choir as together we celebrate in word and in song the joys of the Christmas season.

Cover Art :

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent/Service of Lessons & Carols 10:00 AM

PRELUDE "Prelude on "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" P. Fey

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

CHORAL INTROIT "Come, Come, Emmanuel" J. Raney
Chancel Choir

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Harold & Joan Armet

On the first two Sundays of Advent, we lit candles for hope and peace. Today we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of joy. As the coming of Jesus, our Savior, draws nearer, our joy builds with our anticipation of his birth.

"Be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight." (Isaiah 65:18)

The light of Christ's joy shines into the darkness of our world. Let us rejoice as we worship our Savior.

*HYMN NO. 105 "People, Look East" BESANCON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Holy and wonderful God, we confess that we have closed our eyes to what you are doing. We prefer to concentrate on problems, bad news and violence. When we do, we miss all the healing, freeing and helping you accomplish in our world. We pass up opportunities to participate in your Good News. We rob ourselves of so much joy. Forgive us and give us eyes to see, ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to treasure your mission in the world. Fill us with unquenchable joy at the coming of Jesus.

SILENT PRAYERS (Moment of silence for personal confession and reflection)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" Hymn No. 132, v. 3

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; Now we need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls us one and calls us all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND PRAYER

5th grade and younger gather on the chancel steps

After the message, children are invited to attend Sunday school classes on the lower level of the church.

~SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS~

*Bidding Carol No. 140	“Once in Royal David’s City” Congregation & Chancel Choir	Descant Arr. D. Willcocks & J. Rutter
Lesson 1	Genesis 3:8-15 <i>God’s announcement in the Garden of Eden</i> Susanne Haffner	
Carol	“On A Night of Wonder” Duet: Libby Yoskowitz and Colleen Agovino	J. Raney
Lesson 2	Genesis 22:15-18 <i>God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed</i> Krista Mellinger DeRoma	
Carol	“Away In A Manger” Chancel Choir	T. Howe
Lesson 3	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 <i>Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah</i> Shelley Pierce	
Carol	“Do You Hear What I Hear?” Chancel Choir Women	H. Simeone
Lesson 4	Isaiah 11:1-9 <i>The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown</i> Carolyn Louis	
Carol	“Noel” Ken Kopolovicz, Soloist	M. Redman/C. Tomlin/ E. Cash
Lesson 5	Luke 1:26-38 <i>The Angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary</i> Wayne Louis	
Carol	“Patapan” Chancel Choir	H. Helvey
Lesson 6	Matthew 1:18-23 <i>Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus</i> Susanne Haffner	
Carol	“Coventry Carol” Chancel Choir	A. Snyder
Lesson 7	Luke 2:8-16 <i>The shepherds go to the manger</i> Wayne Louis	
*Carol No. 110	“Love Has Come” Congregation & Chancel Choir	BRING A TORCH

Announcements

Today we continue our stewardship dedication for 2026!

Pledge numbers so far...46 Members/Households have pledged. Our pledge goal is \$300,000. We have received \$173,036 in pledges, so we are 57.68% toward our goal. Thank you to all who have already pledged for 2026. If you have not yet pledged, we invite you to do so by placing your pledge card in the offering plate today. You may also pledge online at <https://onrealm.org/FPCNorthport/AddPledge/stewardship2026> or by scanning the QR code on the back of your bulletin. Thank you for your generosity!

Give Generously. Give Smart. *A tip on tax-free, charitable giving from your IRA.* If you are 70-1/2 years of age or older and have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), you can support our church by making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Qualified Charitable Distributions are tax-free withdrawals transferred directly from your IRA to qualifying organizations, such as our church, up to a maximum of \$108,000 annually.

Sunday School and Nursery Care – Sunday school with Miss Lisha will meet on the lower level of the building. Nursery care with Miss Mary and Miss Joey is available on the lower level.

Coffee Hour Activities for Children – Parents are invited to bring their children to coffee hour where they can participate in making crafts and other age-appropriate activities while parents enjoy coffee hour.

Sunday School Christmas Pageant Sign Ups Today! Our annual Christmas pageant will take place at 10:00 AM next Sunday, December 21. Please sign up with Miss Lisha today during Sunday school. We have parts for everyone and there are no rehearsals prior to the pageant.

Adult Ed Class – Adult Ed will continue with the Advent series by Matt Rawle, titled *Experiencing Christmas; Christ in the Sights and Sounds of Advent*. Join us on Sunday mornings through the month of December at 9 AM before service in the Chapel for coffee, pastries and lively discussion.

Adopt-a-Family – ‘Tis the season! We will again participate in the Adopt-a-Family this year. Today is the last day to drop off your unwrapped gifts in the chapel at the church. Please contact Kim Gilbert with any questions. Thank you for your generosity!

Youth Group is Going Shopping – Today, December 14, the Youth Group will go shopping following worship for our Adopt-A-Family kids. All youth in grades 6th-12th are invited to participate in this fun event. We will leave the church parking lot by 11:30 and return by 2:00. Come join the fun!

Today is the last day to sign-up for the Sanctuary Guild Christmas dedications after worship in the Hartt Room. 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. Poinsettias are \$25.00. Should you have any questions, contact Sharon Noonan at 631-368-7545 or 631-487-4709.

Daily Devotions “These Days” – Copies of the new issue of “These Days” for January - March are available in the Hartt Room.

Pioneers will meet again on Wednesday, December 17th – Senior adults are invited to join our Pioneers for fellowship, fun, chapel at 10:00 in the Hartt Room. For more information, please call Sharon Noonan at 631-368-7545.

Weekday Nursery School Early Enrollment is currently underway for current school families and church members who would like to enroll for the 2026-2027 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.

Prayers

David Bartlebaugh (Claire Newman's brother), Linda Wenze (friend of Deidre Gehrke), Bob Treanor (Susan Van Deusen's father), David Capobianco (Marcia & Ron Mercer's brother-in-law), Karen Caputo (friend of Kathy Landi), Rebecca Zusman (friend of Marilyn Fox), Phyllis Crowley (Dennis & Janeen's sister-in-law), Ed Cohen (friend of Diana & Bob Montusi), Cyndi Mignella (friend of Jim Zima), Diane User and son, Adam (friends of Jim Zima), Lugenia Gantt, Sean Tinker (Pegge Strella's nephew), Christians who are being persecuted around the world, **the family of: Bart Allen, those in Healthcare facilities** – Gurwin Nursing & Rehab: Lillian Mosher, **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.

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### **Advent & Christmas at First Pres.**

***Sunday, November 30th – First Sunday of Advent***

***Saturday, December 6th – PW Christmas Lunch 12 noon Hartt Room***

***Sunday, December 7th – Second Sunday of Advent, Communion***

***Saturday, December 13th – Holiday Concert - 7:00 PM Fellowship Hall***

***Sunday, December 14th – Third Sunday of Advent, Service of Lessons & Carols***

***Sunday, December 21st – Fourth Sunday of Advent, Children's Christmas Pageant***

***Wednesday, December 24th – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service***

***with Communion 5:00 PM***

***Pre-service music at 4:45 PM featuring soloists, trumpet and special music***

***Sunday, December 28th – First Sunday of Christmas***

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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

Daniel Berman

Organist

John Kennedy

Facilities Manager

Dana Laughlin

Finance and Weekday School Manager

Michelle Micucci

Director of Weekday Nursery School

Lisha Schlaich

Sunday School Teacher

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, Cathy Coleman (Assistant Clerk), Dennis
Crowley, Frank Dentrone, Vicki Field, Marilyn Fox,
Kim Gilbert, Susanne Haffner, John Iorio, Diana
Montusi, Claire Newman, David Ofsharick, Betsy
Radecki

Deacons

Jim Beyer, Janeen Crowley (co-moderator), Tim
Gladding, Kathleen Landi, Anne Mateer, Robin
O'Neil Gonzalez, Robert Spiller, Pegge Strella
(co-moderator), Marjorie Sundquist, Libby
Yoskowitz

Give Online



Enter Your 2026 Stewardship Pledge

