



First Presbyterian Church of
NORTHPORT

1st Sunday of Christmas
December 28, 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.

Please welcome our guest preacher Elder Amy Means. Amy Means is an actively serving Elder at Old First Church in Huntington. She was 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 girls on in dance, cross-country, lacrosse, and field hockey. They are also proud Michigan State University alumni and parents to their son, who recently completed his freshman year as an MSU Spartan. Amy has spent over twenty years as an educator and teaches in the South Huntington Union Free School District.

Cover Art : JESUS MAFA. Flight into Egypt, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48313> [retrieved December 23, 2025]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH, 2025

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

“In Dulci Jubilo”
Bach

Daniel Berman

WELCOME & INVITATION TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Elder, Vicki Field

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

After the angels have departed, the gifts have been given,
and the journey has begun again – God is still with us.

**We come to worship the God who does not leave us
or abandon us when the story becomes difficult.**

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God from the heights above.

Praise the Lord from the earth; praise God from places of safety and fear.

**We praise the God who shared our flesh and blood,
the God who walks our roads and knows our vulnerabilities.**

When the world is ruled by fear, the powerful lash out,
children are not safe, and families must flee their homes –

God does not turn away. God chooses to draw near.

Young and old, those who rejoice and those who grieve,
those who are settled and those who are searching –

**Let all of creation praise the name of the Lord, lifting our hearts
and voices to worship Emmanuel, God with us always, even now!**

*HYMN NO. 119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsive)

Holy and faithful God, we come before you with gratitude, for you are the God who chooses closeness over distance and mercy over might. We revere you for the wonder of your incarnation, electing not to remain removed from our world, but entering fully into it. In Jesus, you took on flesh and blood, sharing our joys, fears, vulnerabilities, and limitations. We praise you, O God, for the courage of your love, for choosing to be born not into safety, but danger; not into privilege, but poverty; not into certainty, but trust. You sanctified ordinary life – family and work, journey and exile, birth and risk – by dwelling among us. You are the God who goes where we least expect, finding refuge in unlikely places and remaining present when the story becomes challenging. Your glory is not diminished by human suffering, but shines within it. All honor and praise are yours, O Lord, our God, now and forever.

Merciful God, you come to us in love, but we do not always welcome you, preferring faith that comforts rather than transforms. We long for a Savior who reassures us, instead of the one who calls us to confront suffering and injustice in the world. We confess that fear often shapes our lives – fear of loss, fear of change, and fear of those we do not understand. Like Herod, we cling to what we think we must protect, even when it costs others their safety or dignity. We turn away from the cries of the vulnerable, failing to see the face of Christ in displaced families, grieving parents, or frightened children. Forgive us, O God, for forgetting how you share our flesh and blood, how you know our suffering from the inside, and how you call us to follow you into love that risks, mercy that disrupts, and faithfulness that endures. We pray in the name of Christ Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (responsive)

The God who comes to us as Emmanuel, God with us, does not turn away from our failure or fear. Instead, God draws near. Sharing our human experience, Jesus enters fully into our lives – our suffering, our joy, and each moment in between – so we may know the fullness of eternal life!

Because Jesus is not ashamed to call us his siblings, we are not abandoned to lives of sin. In Christ Jesus, our Savior, the power of sin is broken, the grip of fear is loosened, and we are forgiven and set free! 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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Loving God, as we turn to your Holy Word, send your Spirit among us, that the words we share may breathe new life into weary souls. Open our minds to understand what we have not yet grasped, our hearts to receive what we resist, and our lives to be shaped by your truth revealed. Where Scripture unsettles us, grant us courage; where Scripture exposes our indifference, grant us honesty; where Scripture calls us to acts of compassion, grant us strength. May we encounter more than words on a page, but the living Christ, who shared our flesh and blood and walks with us still. Make us attentive, receptive, and faithful – for we are listening, and we trust you to speak. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Hebrews 2:10-18 Elder, Vicki Field
(p. 219, pew Bible)

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

HYMN NO. 159 “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem” **KINGSFOLD**

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 2:13-23 (p. 2, pew Bible)

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

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)

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

“Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine”

M. Hayes

*DOXOLOGY NO. 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Generous and faithful God, we offer our gifts of time, talent, and treasure with thankful hearts and open hands. Receive each one as signs of our trust in you and desire to follow Christ beyond the safety of what is familiar. May these gifts become refuge for those forced to flee, comfort for those who grieve, and courage for those living in fear. May they strengthen your church to bear witness to the God who comes near, dwells among us, and walks with us even now. Send us out to share your love, so that our giving and our living may proclaim the good news: you are with us always. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Christ, who freely gave himself for us. 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. 132

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

IN DULCI JUBILO

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

“Ding, Dong, Merrily on High”

M. Hayes

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 on January 11th. Nursery care is provided in the nursery 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.

Adult Ed Class – Adult Ed will be taking a break on Sunday, December 28th. We will return Sunday, January 4th with a new series entitled "When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box" by John Ortberg. It explores the concept of what is important in our lives; not the promotions, the financial planning and all the stuff, but our relationships with each other and our world. Join us at 9 AM before service for coffee, pastries and lively discussion. See you then!

Save the Date! Frank and Jill Theatrics Presents - Winter One Act Festival; A series of community written plays, January 9th & 10th at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.

New Members Class – There will be a new members class after worship on January 18th in the Chapel. Anyone who is interested in learning more about membership at FPC is invited to attend. New Members will be welcomed into membership on January 25th.

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, January 7th – 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.

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.

Sign-up to be a Liturgist – The Sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Hartt Room.

Men's Wednesday Morning Breakfast – Each week the Men's Wednesday Morning Breakfast Group meets at 8:15 AM in the Greenlawn Family Restaurant. All men of the church are invited to join in! For more information, please email Deacon Tim Gladding at emgeetd@aol.com.

Prayers

David Bartlebaugh (Claire Newman's brother), 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:** Linda Wenze (friend of Deidre Gehrke), **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.

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."! **Pantry's New Website - elcfoodpantry.org** – where you can find information and make donations.

Specific Pantry Needs

The food pantry is in need of the following items:

Pasta sauces	Peanut butter & jelly, crackers	Pancake mix, cake mix
Oatmeal, corn flakes, rice krispies	Mustard, ketchup, mayonnaise	Flour, sugar, brown sugar,
Canola & olive oils (small cont.)	Cookies, snack foods, chips, dips	Hot chocolate, juice boxes
Laundry soaps, dish soaps (small containers)	Cooking Oil	Baby Food

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

