



First Presbyterian Church of
NORTHPORT

4th Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026



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.

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.

Cover Art: Gerung, Matthias, approximately 1500-approximately 1570. Healing of the Man Born Blind, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57308> [retrieved March 12, 2026]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ottheinrich_Folio126v_Jn9.jpg.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH, 2026

4th Sunday in Lent 10:00 AM

~We Gather in God's Name~

PRELUDE Meditation "O Mensch, bewein dein Sünde gross" Daniel Berman
P. Fey

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

CHORAL INTROIT "The Glory of These Forty Days" Bach
Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive) *from Psalm 146*

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will sing praises to God all my life long.

Happy are those whose help is in God, creator of heaven and earth, who is forever faithful;

seeking justice for the oppressed and for the hungry;

setting prisoners free and opening the eyes of the blind;

lifting up those who are bowed down and loving the righteous.

The Lord protects strangers and upholds the orphan and widow;

but the way of the wicked is brought to ruin.

The Lord our God will reign forever, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

*HYMN NO. 667 "When Morning Gilds the Skies" LAUDES DOMINI

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE "Arise, Your Light Is Come!" Hymn No. 744, vs. 1 & 2

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

*Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door
Proclaim the captives' liberty, good tidings to the poor*

*Indicates the congregation is invited to stand

~ The Sacrament of Holy Baptism ~

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

PRESENTATION

Elder, Susanne Haffner

*The child being baptized today is: Charlotte Ruth Karwoski
Daughter of Brenna and Michael Karwoski*

HYMN NO. 486, v. 1

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

Please remain seated

***Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit’s sign,
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.***

BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS AND PRAYER

Statement of Commitment

Elder: Jesus Christ commanded us to teach those who are baptized. Let us state our commitment to this child.

All: We joyfully welcome Charlotte Ruth into the church: the family of faith and the body of Christ on earth. We promise to enfold her in our love and offer her support, understanding, and counsel as she grows in faith. As people of God, we promise to teach her the things of Christ, and by our fellowship, to strengthen her family ties with the Household of God.

BAPTISM

BLESSING AND WELCOME

HYMN NO. 486, v. 4

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

Please remain seated

***Child of God, your loving Parent, learn to listen for God’s call.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship; trust and love God more than all.***

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND PRAYER

*5th grade and younger gather on the chancel steps.
Following the children’s message, children are invited to attend Sunday School on the lower level.*

HYMN NO. 451

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

OPEN MY EYES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

May the words of my mouth, and the meditations of all of our hearts, be acceptable, even pleasing in your sight, O Lord, our strength and redeemer. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 9:1-41

(p. 102, pew Bible)

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

SERMON

“Blindness of the Heart”

Rev. Rachel Vione

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)

Psalm 23:1-6

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

*SUNG RESPONSE

Hymn No. 1, v. 1

NICAEA

**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!**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERING

Please scan the QR Code on the back page

OFFERTORY

“The Road Home”
Chancel Choir

S. Paulus

*DOXOLOGY NO. 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

God of grace, you provide for all our needs. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless them to further Christ’s ministry and mission among the poor, the despairing, and the destitute. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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. 649

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

AMAZING GRACE

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

K. Medema

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Following the meeting, the congregation is invited to depart the sanctuary for coffee hour.

Announcements

Lent 2026 at First Pres

Wednesday, February 18, 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service with Communion.

Sunday, February 22, 10:00 AM First Sunday in Lent.

Sunday, March 29, 10:00 AM Palm Sunday Processional with Sunday School Children.

Thursday, April 2, 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service with Communion.

Sunday, April 5, 7:00 AM Easter Dawn Service in Northport Harbor Park.

Sunday, April 5, 10:00 AM Easter Sunday Worship Service with Communion.

Annual Congregational Meeting - Today, March 15 – The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Northport has called for the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, March 15, 2026. The meeting will take place following the morning worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect Elders and Deacons for the class of 2028, elect members to serve on the All-Church Nominating Committee for 2026, accept the 2025 annual report and 2026 budget.

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

Adult Ed Class – Adult Ed will continue the Lenten Study entitled "The Easter Experience" by City on a Hill Productions. This 6-week series is designed to deepen our relationship with Jesus and teach us that Easter is truly an experience that changes everything. Join us at 9 AM before service for coffee, pastries and lively discussion. See you then!

Easter Flowers – The sign-up for Easter Flowers will be held in the Hartt Room after worship on March 1, March 8 and March 15. Donations for Easter Brass will be accepted also.

FPC Northport will support Soles 4 Souls once again this year. There will be a collection box in the back foyer through **March 22**. Please tie shoes together or bind them with a rubber band. Any and all shoes/slippers will be accepted, so clean your closets! Contact Kim Gilbert if you need shoes picked up.

Deacon's Annual Blood Drive at FPC - Monday, March 30th from 3:15-7:45 PM in Fellowship Hall.

Presbyterian Women (PW) – Please save the date of **Saturday, April 18** at 12:30 for the "Annual Presbyterian Women's Spring Luncheon." It will be held this year at Crossroads Café. Reservation dates are March 29, April 5 and 12 after worship. A wonderful gathering time ladies!

Debtors Anonymous Meetings at FPC – A newly formed 12-step program will meet each week on Wednesday evenings from 7 - 8 pm in the Chapel.

Pioneers will meet again on Wednesday, April 1st – Senior adults are invited to join our Pioneers for fellowship, fun, & devotions at 10:00 in the Hartt Room. For more information, please call Sharon Noonan at 631-368-7545.

Presbyterian Women's (PW) Book Discussion - March 17 – The next PW book discussion will be about "*The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot*" by Marianne Cronin. That talk will be held at Peggy Denniston's home on March 17th at 10 AM. Please call Peggy if you are able to join in. (631-261-2426). The gatherings are lovely and interesting. Please come!

Prayers

Kristin Lombardi & Denton, Bob Montusi (Diana's husband), Bruce Solomon (Lilli's husband), Joan Armet, Kate Wardle (friend of the Gladdings), Dominick Marinello (friend of the Noonans), David Bartlebaugh (Claire Newman's brother), Bob Treanor (Susan Van Deusen's father), 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, **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

