



First Presbyterian Church of  
**NORTHPORT**

3rd Sunday of Advent  
December 12th, 2021



#### 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 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](http://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 refreshments and conversation on the Memorial Garden patio or in the Hartt Room in case of rain.

## 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](http://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.**

**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.

# SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

3rd Sunday of Advent

~We Gather in God's Name~

+PRELUDE

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"  
Dr. Brenda Clark

Charles Callahan

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Rachel Vione

MINUTE FOR MISSION

*Christmas Joy Offering*

Elder, Marilyn Fox

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT AND CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

*Helene Dunat & Pegge Strella*

On the first two Sundays of Advent, we lit the 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. 133

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Eternal God, John the Baptist prepares the way by calling upon us to repent. We have failed to share as we should. We have failed to honor the poor and the oppressed. We have failed to bear fruit worthy of your salvation. Have mercy upon us, God. Heal and forgive us so we can welcome Christ with pure and genuine hearts.**

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

±\*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.**

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Hymn No. 88 v. 1

*O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

~We Hear God’s Word~

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

SERMON

“Getting There”

Rev. Rachel Vione

~We Respond As God's People~

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)

*From the "Book of Common Worship"*  
Rom. 8:1, 28, 38, 39

**We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

\*SUNG RESPONSE

*"Love Has Come"*

Hymn No. 110 v.1

**Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

OFFERING

Please give online at [www.fpcnorthport.org](http://www.fpcnorthport.org)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Come, Lord Jesus, Come to Earth"  
Chancel Choir

Walter L. Pelz

\*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. 83

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

STUTTGART

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Postlude on *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*"

Miles Martin

## Announcements

### **Christmas Eve Worship Service Schedule--Friday, December 24, 2021**

4:30 PM Family Friendly Worship Service Featuring the Youth Choir -- Pre-Service Music begins at 4:15 PM  
8:00 PM Candlelight & Communion Worship Service Featuring the Chancel Choir -- Pre-Service Music Begins at 7:30 PM

**Stewardship Update** Thank you to everyone who has pledged for 2022. We're off to a good start! If you have not yet pledged, please do so either online, in church, or by mailing your 2022 pledge card to the church office. Every pledge counts!

**Mission Opportunity – HIHI Dinners** -- Starting on Monday, December 27th, Mission Ministries is sponsoring an outreach program to prepare meals for homeless men who will be spending the night in Gloria Dei Lutheran church in Huntington Station. The food preparation consists of preparing bag lunches containing sandwiches, boxes of fruit juice and cookies. If you would like to sign up to participate in this program, please contact Marilyn Fox ([zorra2@optonline.net](mailto:zorra2@optonline.net)).

**Adopt a Family** Today is the deadline to drop off your Adopt a Family gifts in the chapel. Please securely attach your star to the unwrapped package. Thank you all for your generosity!!

**Sunday School is back today, December 12th!** Holy Moly will meet upstairs, and Youth in grades 6-12 will be downstairs in Fellowship Hall. All classes will begin at the start of worship – 10:00! Mary will be in the nursery with the little ones. Also, join us today for the Pop-up Christmas Pageant! We'll meet in the Hartt Room from 4-5 pm for a Christmas celebration of singing and telling of the Christmas story, with the kids dressing in costumes or reading and telling the story of Christ's birth as it unfolds in the Bible. We'll have a fun, free-form time with no performance pressure! Older kids who would like to help out will be welcome! Please contact Lisa Nikrant, [slnikrant@gmail.com](mailto:slnikrant@gmail.com) if your children would like to participate, so we have an idea who to expect. Also, let me know if you would like to help as well. After this weekend, Sunday School will be on a break until the new year. Watch your email for what's coming in January!

**Want to offer a gift to your church this holiday season?** – How about joining the Chancel Choir for an anthem or two during the Advent and Christmas season. We rehearse every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 pm in the Sanctuary!

**Pioneers meet on Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.** All older adults are invited to join our Pioneers on December 15th. Please join us for fellowship, fun, chapel, and lunch.

**Presbyterian Women (PW) Book Discussion** The next PW book discussion will be about the book called "The Hello Girls" by Elizabeth Cobbs. This book is a work of historical fiction about WWI telephone operators. Please watch the bulletin for the discussion date.

**Weekday Nursery School Early Enrollment** opens on December 1<sup>st</sup> and continues through December for church members for the 2022-2023 school year. If you would like information and a tour, please contact Christine Mulholland at 631-757-1342 or email [info@weekdaynorthport.com](mailto:info@weekdaynorthport.com)

**Saturday Hikes:** The Membership Ministry hosts Saturday morning hikes at Sunken Meadow State Park the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, weather permitting. Join us at 10:00 am for a nice morning of conversation and walking with other church members. We meet in the far eastern parking lot where there's access to both the boardwalk and the beach/cliff trails. Hope to hike with you soon!

**Winter New Members Class -- New Year, New Church!!** There will be a new members class in Mid-January for anyone who wishes to join the church in the New Year. The class is for anyone who would like to find out more information about joining the church or asking any questions about what it means to be a member at FPC. Watch your bulletin and email for more information.

## Prayers

Gary Sandel, James Zima, Rosalie Heckman Torres (family member of Diane Lobaugh), Sean (Pegge Strella's nephew), Demetra Innes (Deidre Gehrke's friend), Justin Yoskowitz, Aaron Thomas, Brian Brewer (Faustine White's son), **the family of:** Carole Gandy, David Troy, Edward Zima (brother of Marie and James), **those in Healthcare facilities** – Whisper Woods of Smithtown: Art Shaw, Sunrise Senior Living: Joan DeNigris, **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](mailto: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 Wednesday at Noon and will continue to meet through the fall. 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: Pray21

## 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](mailto:office@fpcnorthport.org)

Website: [www.fpcnorthport.org](http://www.fpcnorthport.org)

**Ecumenical Lay Council Food Pantry**

Phone: (631) 261-4357

**Weekday Nursery School**

Phone: (631) 757-1342

Email: [info@weekdaynorthport.com](mailto:info@weekdaynorthport.com)

Website: [www.weekdaynorthport.com](http://www.weekdaynorthport.com)

 [www.facebook.com/weekdaynorthport](https://www.facebook.com/weekdaynorthport)

To sign up for the church email list send your email address to: [office@fpcnorthport.org](mailto: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**



**Enter A Pledge for 2022**

