



First Presbyterian Church of
NORTHPORT

4th Sunday of Advent
December 19th, 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.
- 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).



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 19TH, 2021

4th Sunday of Advent

~**We Gather in God's Name**~

+PRELUDE

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"
Dr. Brenda Clark

Albert Travis

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Rachel Vione

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

Todd, Shelley & Sarah Pierce

On the first three Sundays of Advent, we lit the candles for hope, peace, and joy. On this last Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of love.

"God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but shall have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

As we prepare to make our way to the manger, let us make room in our hearts for the love that Jesus brings to us and to the world.

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

With Mary, our spirits rejoice and we sing God's praise.

Let us honor God with our worship this fourth Sunday of Advent.

*HYMN NO. 104

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Most Gracious God, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiveness but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our hunger for your providential care but also our resistance to following you without question. In this season of Advent preparation may your Spirit lead us into lives of joyful obedience to your wise counsel.

(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

“People, Look East”

Hymn No. 105 v.5

*Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

~We Hear God’s Word~

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

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

SERMON

“Restraining the Pearls”

Rev. Rachel Vione

~We Respond As God's People~

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)

From the "Book of Common Worship"
Col. 1:15-20

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation;
in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible.**

**All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things,
and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church;**

**He is the beginning, the first born of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in
everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was
pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood
of his cross. 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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Advent Alleluia"
Chancel Choir

Keith Christopher

*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. 100

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Gloria Peru"

Emily Maxson Porter

This arrangement is based upon Hymn #585 "Glory to God" - A Peruvian melody

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

Worship online Sunday, January 2, 2022 -- Session has voted to use the pre-recorded worship service from the Synod for January 2, 2022. This Christmastide, the Synod is providing a Special After-Christmas Worship Service. The service will include choirs and musicians from across the Synod and a special message from our Transitional Synod Leader. The link to the service will be posted on our website. **There will be no in person worship service on Sunday, January 2**

The Membership-sponsored Wednesday Zoom Prayer group is taking a break during the holidays and will not meet for three weeks, starting on Wednesday, December 22. We will resume our weekly zoom meetings on Wednesday, January 12. The world needs our prayers so keep praying on your own during this hiatus! We hope you enjoy this holy Christmas season and wish you many blessings for a wonderful holiday.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) -- Help our brothers and sisters affected by the recent tornadoes by donating to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) program of the PC(USA). Checks can be made out to the church with "PDA Tornadoes" in the memo, or by donation online at www.pcusa.org.

Adopt a Family -- Thank you to our amazing church family! It has been another great year of generosity for Adopt a Family and Dawn Hill. Your kindness will be enjoyed by many!
Thank you, Shelley & Claire

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!

Youth Sunday School Class with Mr. Barasch will meet in Fellowship Hall at 10:00. Holy Moly will take a break until January. Mary will be in the nursery with the little ones. Watch your email for what's coming in January!

2022 Confirmation Class -- Confirmation class will begin in January for all youth in grades 9-11. Confirmation Sunday is June 5, 2022. Watch you email and bulletin for more information in the New Year.

Pioneers meet on Wednesday, January 5th. All older adults are invited to join our Pioneers on January 5th at 10:15. 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 1st 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

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, **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. 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 will resume Wednesday, January 12th.

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



Enter A Pledge for 2022

