

# FIRST PARISH OF WESTWOOD, UCC

*Growing Faith + Sharing Love + Grounding Lives*



## We are an Open & Affirming Church

*First Parish of Westwood affirms the dignity and worth of every person regardless of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, physical or mental ability, family structure, education level, economic circumstance and faith or religious tradition.*

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## November 18, 2021

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### **Join us this Sunday, November 21st at 10am.**

First Parish Church will be holding an in-person worship service including a baptism.

The service will also be live streamed on our Facebook page. To access the Facebook page, please [click here](#).

Sunday School will be held outside due to the different variants of COVID-19 and our young parishioners. We are working on an alternative plan if there is inclement weather.



### COVID Protocols:

\*\*\*\*We are continuing to open windows in the sanctuary during Sunday services as long as temperatures allow. We have blankets available for anyone who needs one. We also encourage people to dress warmly as we head into late fall/winter.\*\*\*\*

Everyone who attends in-person worship should wear a mask and will be asked to sign-in upon arrival. Should it be too cold to have windows open during service, seating in pews will be spaced. The balcony is also available to anyone who would like to be seated there.



## Stewardship Sunday, November 21st

Stewardship Sunday will be a time for us to offer gratitude for all we have done this past year and to breathe new life into the coming year. Stewardship letters and pledge cards have been sent out. Extras are available at church.

Please bring your pledge card to worship this Sunday so that it may be included in the blessing of all the pledge cards received.

## Advent Devotionals & Advent Calendars

The season of Advent begins November 28 and marks a time to pause, watch, wait, anticipate, and prepare for the Christ child to enter the world once again. This season, to help you prepare, we have a few resources that flow with our theme this Advent: Close to Home. Our Advent devotional booklets provide an opportunity to pause every day with a reading to help you connect with your faith more deeply this season. Our Advent calendars serve as inspiration to put your faith into action as an individual or as a family every day throughout the season. Both the devotional booklets and calendars are available now in the lobby.

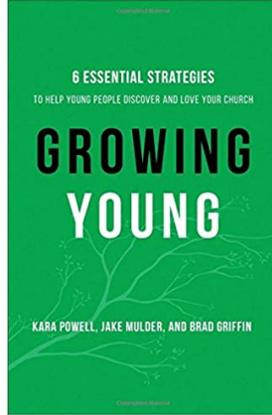


Graphic Design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | Original photography by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

## Christian Education Book Discussion

This winter, our Sunday School leaders will be dreaming about an exciting new direction for our Christian Education program. To start, they'll be having a discussion using the book [Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church](#) as a guide. They want to invite everyone in the church to be a part of the conversation, so if you are interested please contact the church

office at [office@firstparishwestwood.org](mailto:office@firstparishwestwood.org) by December 1 and we'll order a book for you.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Christmas Fair and Silent Auction Saturday, December 4th 9am - 1pm

First Parish is again holding its traditional Christmas Fair and Silent Auction on Saturday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm. This is an important fundraiser and community builder for our church.

Would you be able to help with a donation of an item to our silent auction?

Past donations have included restaurant and service gift certificates, retail gift cards, event/concert tickets, museum passes, club memberships, artwork, autographed memorabilia, fine wine, jewelry, toys, and themed gift baskets. Other ideas are offering a service-of-the-month, experiences like a spa visit, vacation getaway, or a lesson in your area of expertise (e.g., cooking, arts and crafts, business, music). We appreciate donations of any type or value!

To donate, contact Mary Masi Phelps at [mary.masiphelps@gmail.com](mailto:mary.masiphelps@gmail.com) or Darlene Wong Cancell at [promodw@gmail.com](mailto:promodw@gmail.com) to discuss or arrange a pick-up/drop-off of your item. Or stop by with your donation during office hours. Making your donation on or before Friday, November 26, 2021 will enable us to present it in the best light for the auction. Thanks for your attention! Thank you!



## Lifeworks Christmas Family Gift Tree

Please join us in our annual tradition of making Christmas brighter for families facing challenging circumstances this holiday season. We have a Christmas tree in the lobby



with ornaments color coded for the six families. Each ornament represents a gift for a member of the family.

Please select an ornament (or several) AND put your name on the list on the clipboard by the tree. Bring back your wrapped gift with the ornament attached to the outside of the gift by December 12<sup>th</sup> and leave it under the tree.

Alternatively, if you are not able to shop, you can donate money so our elves can do the shopping for you! Send your donations to First Parish and indicate Christmas Families on the envelope or memo line of your check.

## Food Drive Sunday is the final day!!!

We are thrilled that we have been able to fill the wagon again and again. Thank you for all the donations that have already come in!

On Sunday the donations will be blessed at the altar and then during Sunday School the youth will help count, sort and box the items to prepare them for delivery to several local food pantries. This activity will be held outside with an alternative, indoor plan if there is inclement weather.



## Winter Clothing Drive - Mission and Outreach Project

Donations of clothes, winter coats and jackets are still being accepted for Rosie's Place and for TEC (The Education Cooperative) class at the Westwood High School and the Friendship Club. A bin is available in the church lobby where donations may be left until December 5th.



## Important Dates at a Glance

### November

- Nov. 21 - Stewardship Sunday; Baptism: Final day for food drive
- Thursday, Nov. 25 - Thanksgiving/Church Closed
- Sunday, Nov. 28 - 1st Sunday in Advent

### December

- Wednesday, Dec. 1 - Deadline to order book for Christian Ed.
- Saturday, Dec. 4 - Christmas Fair
- Sunday, Dec. 5 - 2nd Sunday in Advent
- Sunday, Dec. 12 - 3rd Sunday in Advent
- Sunday, Dec. 12 (afternoon)- Fellowship Event. Churchwide caroling outing. Details to follow.
- Sunday, Dec. 19 - 4th Sunday in Advent/Music Sunday
- Friday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Services  
Two services will be held. Details to follow.
- Sunday, Dec. 26 - At home worship

## Office Hours

Monday 9 am - 1 pm

Tuesday 1 pm - 3 pm

Wednesday 9 am - 1 pm

In order to have everything ready for Sunday's



service bulletin each week, all information should be submitted to the church office by Tuesday morning.

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STAY CONNECTED

