

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.

November 21, 2021

Join us today at 10am. First Parish Church will be holding an in-person worship service and baptism.

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

Note: To view the Order of Service for this morning's service, 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 - Today

Today, 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 today 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*.

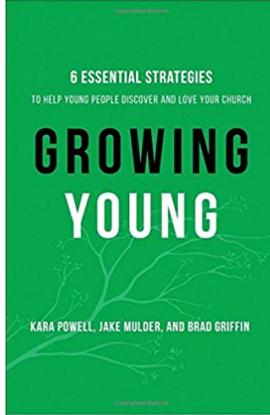
Our Advent devotional booklets provide an opportunity to pause every day with a reading to help you connect with your faith more deeply this season. Our Advent calendars serve as inspiration to put your faith into action as an individual or as a family every day throughout the season. Both the devotional 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 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. 4th 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 or Darlene Wong Cancell at 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 12th 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.



First Parish is a supported charity on AmazonSmile!

You can now support First Parish of Westwood when you shop at smile.amazon.com at no extra cost to you. Simply go to your Amazon account; on the bar on the left - go to **Programs and Features** to find AmazonSmile. There you can choose the charity of your choice (hopefully First Parish of Westwood). 1/2% of your purchase amount will come to First Parish.

Electronic Giving - So Easy!

As many of you know, First Parish uses Vanco to implement our electronic giving. It is safe, reliable and flexible and it provides the church with a reliable monthly cash flow. It also helps to avoid the year end rush to find out how much is outstanding on your pledge!

During the month of December, we will be introducing laminated cards in the pews so electronic givers can put a card in the offering plate to indicate they give electronically. If you are not currently an electronic giver, please indicate on your pledge card if you would like to start. The Assistant Treasurer, Barb Delisle, will send you information to make this happen.



Important Dates at a Glance

November

- 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

