



FIRST PARISH of WESTWOOD, UCC

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FIRST PARISH OF WESTWOOD LEADERSHIP

Ministers *The Body of Christ*
Pastor *Rev. JT Hills*
Director of Music *Dr. Sarah Tocco*
Office Administrator *Nicole Wietrak*
Custodian *Roger Matson*
Faith Community Nurse .. *Margery Eramo*
Moderator *Sharon Hobbs*
Technology .. *Doug Hyde*
Liturgist. *Martha Crawford*
Ushers. *Charlie Domina & Peter Kane*
Nursery Care. *Ericka Der Marderosian*
Sunday School Teachers. *Juliana Belding & Nancy Hyde*

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The alter flowers are given by Chuck & Kathleen Davis to the glory of God and in celebration of family.

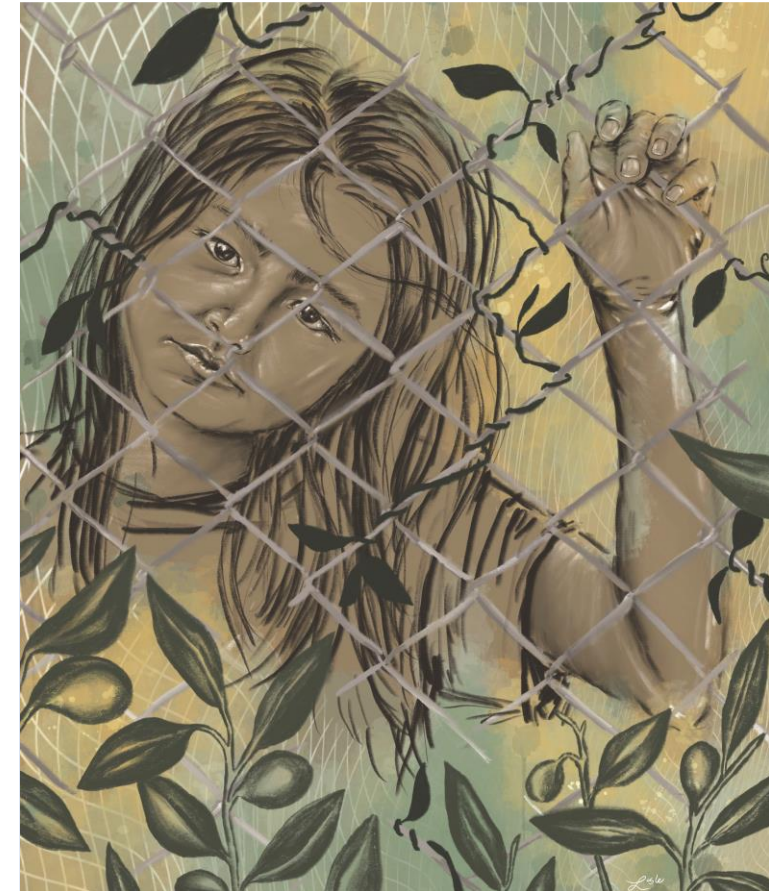
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Growing Faith.

Sharing Love.

Grounding Lives.



November 6th, 2022, at 10 a.m.

All Saints Day

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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GATHERING

*Please rise in body or in spirit. The congregation is invited to sing with choir.
Items in **Bold** indicate congregational participation.

CHIMING

WELCOMING AND NAMING OUR GRATITUDE

SENDING MUSIC (INSERT)

Although We Go Our Separate Ways

(For this portion of worship, we ask that children join the adults in singing the first verse of the song, followed by the second verse, during which the children and their teachers will depart for Sunday School)

CENTERING OUR FOCUS UPON GOD

Fantasia No. 1 - Georg Philip Telemann

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Through Moses, God said,

People: "Let my people go." (Ex.9:1)

Leader: In scripture, the law declares:

People: "In the seventh year, you must cancel all debts." (Deut.15:1)

Leader: With grace, Jesus said:

People: "Give one coat away." (Luke 3:11)

Leader: With honesty, Jesus taught:

People: "Sell what you have, give that money to the poor." (Matt. 19:21)

Leader: Faith has always involved letting go, releasing, setting free, dropping our nets, giving to others, and following.

People: So in this hour of worship, may we release that which binds us. May we worship with open, untamed, and porous hearts, so that we can walk freely with God.

Leader: Let it be so.

People: Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 299

For All The Saints

RECOGNIZING GOD'S PRESENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Gracious God, we admit to holding tight to that which we know and understand. We put you in a box to avoid the shades of gray that come with faith. We put worship in a box to avoid the discomfort of change. We put ourselves in boxes labeled with gender expectations and societal norms. We put others in boxes labeled "worthy" and "unworthy." We put all that we have in a box and pray we won't run out. So in this moment, we confess to holding tight to fear, greed, and worldly structures. Forgive us for missing the point. Open our eyes to a new way—to a holiness found in open boxes, unclenched fists, shades of gray, and holy release. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

(silence)

Listen – here is the good news: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, to forgive you in your failure; to accept you as you are; to set you free and make you what you were meant to be. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 15:1-11

ANTHEM

Prayer of Saint Francis - Stephen DeCesare

SERMON

The Year of Cancelled Debts

HYMN NO. 459

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses on this All Saints Day, we celebrate and remember the saints of our community that have passed in the last year.

Thelma Bruno

Christine Harte

Gail Miskell

Jim Worth

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

A MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

CALL TO OFFERING

We all have a money story, whether we recognize it or not. Where might God be speaking a new narrative into the story of this church? Let us remember, release, reimagine, and restore our own money stories so that we can live into God's money story of liberation and justice.

OFFERTORY

Blessed Assurance - Phoebe P. Knapp

* DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy God, it is not always easy to give what we have. We count pennies. We weigh the pros and cons. We calculate what we have given before, and we remind ourselves what we are giving to now. We all have our money stories. And yet, even though it can take work for us to practice release, we trust that you can take these gifts—however freely or reluctantly given—and use them to build a more beautiful world. For that is who you are. You are forever building castles out of sand, disciples out of people, and new life out of cautious gifts. We believe; help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The dinner table is always a place where we tell stories. We tell stories of growing up and falling in love, of making mistakes and figuring it out. We tell stories that make us laugh, stories that make us cry, and stories that help us remember. This table is no different. For at this table we tell stories about a God who loves us unconditionally. We tell stories about a man who fed the hungry, washed the feet of his disciples, and said, “This is my body—for you.” So friends, as you come to this table tonight, bring your stories—stories about who you are and who you want to be. Stories of shame and disappointment, stories of fear and faith. Bring your money stories, your faith stories, your love and heartbreak stories—bring them all. For no matter the narrative, God welcomes us at this table. You belong here. There is a seat saved for you.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Eternal God, as we gather around this table, set with bread and the fruit of the vine, we remember that on the night he was betrayed the Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples, saying: “Take, eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: “This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.” Merciful God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, bless these gifts and your people that we may receive Christ’s blessing given for us.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Creator God, prayer has never been easy for us. Our mind flutters with news updates and questions of faith—our thoughts like a river that won’t stop. So today we take a deep breath—inhaling your name into the cobwebs of our lungs, willing your presence to wipe away the dust of self-doubt and fear. And with that breath, we ask you that you would tell us again: tell us again how you moved over the waters. Tell us again how you led them with a pillar of fire. Tell us again of that still, small voice, and then tell us of the prophets. Tell us of Mary and Joseph and that angel chorus. Tell us of the blind man, and the leper, and the crowds that you healed. Tell us what it was like to walk on water. Tell us of the little children that ran to you. Tell us of the justice you preached. Tell us of the hosannas and the palm branches. Tell us again of the love that changed the world. Tell us again, because we are forgetful people. It is part of our human nature; that is why we long for this space week after week, so that we might be reminded of who we are and whose we are.

So tell us again. For our anxiety is loud. Our scarcity is loud. Our fear is loud. Our anger is loud. Our shame is loud. Our loneliness and self-doubt are loud. Mental illness is loud. Doubt is loud, so tell us again. Tell us again how it all began. Tell us of manna in the wilderness and the disciples around the table. Tell us again of your love for this world. Tell us again how it changed everything. Tell us again, so that we have the strength to tell others. And as you do, pour out your Spirit on this table. Tether your Spirit to our fragile bones. Be with us in these ordinary symbols of extraordinary love and give us the strength to remember your story anew. Amen.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, as we leave this table, help us to remember this moment. Help us remember that with you, all are invited. Help us remember that with you, there is a seat for everyone. Help us remember that with you, there is enough food to go around, that even Judas was invited to the meal, and that there is manna in the wilderness. Help us remember so that as we go, we can build tables like this in the world. We need more tables like this in the world. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

VENTURING OUT INTO THE WORLD

* RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 377

Forward Through the Ages

* ANNOUNCEMENTS

* BENEDICTION

* FOLLOWING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

Go in Peace - Kenneth E. White

**Go in peace, and the peace of God be with you in this day.
Go in peace, and the peace of God be with you always.
Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate new life!
Go in peace, and the peace of God be with you always.**

POSTLUDE

Sonata in G Major, BWV 1027 - J. S. Bach II. Allegro ma non troppo

While it is our custom to sit during the postlude, you are free to exit the sanctuary at any time at the conclusion of the service.

Although We Go Our Separate Ways

Al - though we go our sep - arate ways to lis - ten, learn and
And let us hear the news of Christ so that, when wor - ship's

teach, keep us to - geth - er, God, and share your love with all and each;
done, we may be full of Eas - ter - life, then go and pass it on!

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Tune: St. Flavian

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{ *Announcements* }

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Clean-Up of Church Grounds TODAY

Please join us immediately after worship today with your rakes ready so we can make quick work of removing the fallen leaves. Youth will have an opportunity to also plant daffodil bulbs. As with many tasks, many hands make light work! As a special bonus, we will have pizza and refreshments for all volunteers.

Coffee Hour Hosts

Every Sunday through December 18th, there will be two hosts for coffee hour. Please see the sign-up sheet located outside the church office to add your name to partner with an experienced host.

Fundraising Continues for Project Bread

The Interfaith Mini Walk for Hunger is over, but the fundraising continues! First Parish has raised \$418 of its \$500 goal to help eliminate hunger in Massachusetts, where one out of four families with kids are currently experiencing food insecurity. It's hard to tell who is food insecure - you can't tell by looking at a person that they are sometimes hungry. Hunger is more prevalent than many of us know. Please help First Parish meet its goal of helping hungry kids and families! Online donations are being accepted toward our \$500 goal through Thanksgiving, November 24, 2022. Check today's E-Blast for more information and the link to donate.

Special Thanks to the Pumpkin Patch Crew

Thanks to everyone who supported our Pumpkin Patch this October. A special thanks to Andrea and Bob Deininger, Nancy Whitney, Martha Crawford, Nancy Hyde, Juliana Belding, Mary Masi-Phelps, Linda Saripalli, Pam Kane, the Der Marderosian Family, the Hills, Chuck and Kathy Davis, Kathleen and Katherine Howley (and Chloe and Oakley), Darlene Wong, and Joyce Cannon. For our first year back selling pumpkins, we were able to raise almost \$2,000 for Service and Outreach projects. And we are happy to say that the leftover pumpkins will be put to good use as food for the animals at Unity Farm, a not for profit animal sanctuary in Sherborn. We can proudly say once again that we are the Pumpkin Church!

Dates at a Glance

- ✓ **All Saints Day Today**
- ✓ **Fall Clean-Up of Grounds Today** – Come rake and bag leaves with us directly after worship today.
- ✓ **Stewardship Season Begins** – Runs until November 20th; Don't forget to pick up your Study Journal in the lobby.
- ✓ **November 11th** – Veteran's Day
- ✓ **Christmas Concert December 4th @ 4 p.m.** – Come and enjoy the musical stylings of the New Sound Barbershop Chorus in the Sanctuary. Donations collected at the door.

Stewardship Season Begins

Come join us this November for Stewardship Season as we continue to think about the stories that will guide our future. And don't forget to pick up a Stewardship Study Journal which can be found on the table in the lobby.

Bring Us Your Veteran's Day Photos

First Parish is asking that its members bring in old photographs of either yourself or a loved one that has served or is currently serving in the armed forces. We would like you to share them with the rest of the congregation this Veterans Day worship service, which will be held Sunday, November 13th.

Christmas Concert December 4th at 4 p.m.

Save the Date: Come and enjoy the musical stylings of the New Sound Barbershop Chorus on December 4th at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Donations will be accepted at the door.

First Parish of Westwood Family Singers Needs YOU

Calling all music lovers to join First Parish Westwood Family Singers! Family Singers is an intergenerational and informal new choral ensemble at our church. Anyone who likes music and loves to sing can join; no age limits and no musical background needed. The main task for Family Singers will be to provide an anthem for Youth Service every third Sunday of the month. This is a unique opportunity for families to sing together for our worship service and create beautiful memories for years to come. The music will be low key, mostly light gospel songs which are easy and fun to learn for everyone. The rehearsal will be typically either after service on the second Sunday of each month or at 9 a.m. on the third Sunday. Please come and join this wonderful opportunity and sign up for next month. Sign-up sheet will be available near the office.

Wreath Committee Needs Pinecones and Ornaments

The holiday wreath tradition at First Parish will continue on this year, but with a fun twist. Instead of selling fully decorated wreaths, we will be selling plain wreaths and including supplies and directions for "do-it-yourself" wreath decorating. In order to replenish our supplies, the wreath committee is asking for donations of the follow:

Pinecones - Specifically, the shorter, round variety. We still have a supply of the longer cones. Do you have any in your yard? Because the cones need to be baked and prepped beforehand (the committee will take care of this step), time is of the essence and the sooner they receive the pinecones the better.

Ornaments - Also, if you have purchased wreaths from First Parish in past years and still have the decorations from them, please consider donating them back to the committee to be reused, as supply costs have gone up substantially.

Donations of cones and decorations can be dropped off at the church anytime during office hours (Monday – Wednesday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.) or on Sunday. Please mark them as Wreath Decor. Any questions or suggestions? Call or email **Kathy D** or **Linda S**.