

FIRST PARISH OF WESTWOOD, UCC

Growing Faith + Sharing Love + Grounding Lives



Service for Sunday, August 29

Worship this morning, August 29

Dear Members and Friends of First Parish,

Worship will be held this morning at 9:30 with Pastor JT Hills. Rev. Hills will also be livestreaming the service on our Facebook page. To access the Facebook page, please [click here](#).

Everyone who attends in-person worship is asked to wear a mask and will be asked to sign-in upon arrival.



As my first few weeks have unfolded here at First Parish, I've been spending a lot of time trying to learn more about the church, the traditions, and the people: you! I'll be spending much more time doing that this fall, as I hope to meet with all of you individually or as families in an effort to get to know all of you better, but until then I've been trying to listen, and one thing I've heard a lot is questions: questions about how we're settling in as a family, questions about the structure and infrastructure of the church, and questions

about where we might be headed in the future as a church.

One question I've heard often, both on my initial visit to Westwood in June and since we arrived this month, regards our Open and Affirming covenant. I celebrate with you that we have become an Open and Affirming church, but now that the covenant has been adopted, here comes the question: what next? That's a very good question; now that we have adopted an Open and Affirming covenant, how do we live into it with our everyday lives, both as individuals and as a church?

And, to be honest, I don't know how to answer that question. By that, I mean I have lots of experience in this area, and plenty of ideas of what to do, but none of it works without you. So let's figure this out together. If you want to be a part of this conversation, let me know by email (jthills@firstparishwestwood.org) or phone (781-326-5344, ext. 202), and we'll get together sometime in early September.

Worship this week includes a scripture from the seventh chapter of the Gospel of Mark in which Jesus discusses with the Pharisees the traditions of the elders. I hope to see you 9:30 on Sunday morning!

Pastor JT

Church Administrator, Meg Kara

Our Church Administrator, Meg Kara, has accepted a full time teaching position with the Wellesley Public Schools for the 2021-2022 school year. Meg will be leaving her position as of August 30th in order to pursue this new opportunity. Meg will continue to help out behind the scenes with office tasks until a new administrator can be hired. Please see the following note from Meg:



Dear First Parish Members and Friends:

It is with a mix of excitement and sadness that I write to inform you that I will be leaving my position as Church Administrator as of August 30th to pursue a full-time teaching career. As many of you know, I was teaching elementary school in Boston before having my twin girls eleven years ago. This past spring, I spent time substitute teaching in Wellesley and my time there renewed my passion for educating students at the elementary level. I'm excited to announce that I was recently offered a full-time position with Wellesley for the upcoming school year to teach elementary math. With that said, it is with a heavy heart that I say goodbye to First Parish. Your congregation has always welcomed me with open arms and has felt like home to me for the past six years.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to Barb Delisle who has been an amazing source of support, guidance and friendship from my very first day on the job. I'd also like to thank both Pastor Chris Dodge and Pastors Rick and Jill Edens for their kindness and flexibility in always allowing me to put my family first while getting the job done. Thank you to countless others who have made my job easier by giving of yourselves and your time to support First Parish. Although I won't be the main point of contact anymore, you will definitely see me browsing the pumpkins and shopping at the Christmas Fair and Yard Sale each year!

Thanks again for being my second home for the past six years. I will miss you all so very much!

*Warmest regards,
Meg Kara*

Save the Date: Welcome Back Sunday, September 12



We will resume "regular services" in person on **Sunday, September 12 at 10AM**. This service will be followed by a social event at the Church. More information to follow soon.

While we hope to see you in person, the intent is that we will also simultaneously livestream regular service worship to Facebook.

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STAY CONNECTED

