

FIRST PARISH OF WESTWOOD, UCC

Growing Faith + Sharing Love + Grounding Lives



March 25, 2021

This Sunday, March 28

Join us this Sunday for Palm Sunday worship via Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/First-Parish-of-Westwood-120302557982716>.

On Sunday, **Jesse Aguilar**, assisted by **Fina**, will ring the hour, **Richard Edens** will welcome you, **Jill Edens** will have A Word for All Ages, **Kathleen Davis** will read the lesson, **Sarah Tocco** will offer music, and **Jill Edens** will preach.

Peace,
Richard & Jill



Holy Week 2021

First Parish of Westwood, UCC
252 Nahatan Street, Westwood, MA 02090
781-326-5344
www.firstparishwestwood.org



Palm Sunday – March 28

Join us as we enter Jerusalem with Jesus and his disciples. Rev. Jill Edens preaching. Worship is on-line via Facebook

(at <https://www.facebook.com/First-Parish-of-Westwood-120302557982716>).

Maundy Thursday – April 1, 7:00 pm

Come and gather around the Table as we remember the night Jesus last supper with his disciples. Worship is on-line via a Facebook livestream

(at <https://www.facebook.com/First-Parish-of-Westwood-120302557982716>). Please have a cup of wine or juice and bread near by as you gather for worship. Following the observance of the Last Supper, members of First Parish will read Mark's account of Jesus' suffering, death and burial.

Good Friday – April 2, 12 Noon to 3 pm

The sanctuary will be open for you to enter for prayer and meditation. The windows will be open for ventilation, please wear a mask and remain socially distanced.

Easter – April 4

Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the rebirth of hope with us on Easter morning. Worship begins on-line via Facebook (at <https://www.facebook.com/First-Parish-of-Westwood-120302557982716>).

At 10:30 join us on Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/97776095457>) for communion. Please have a cup of wine or juice and bread nearby as you gather for worship.

Following communion, we will receive new members. If you have been intending to join First Parish and have not yet spoken to our pastors, please speak with Revs. Jill or Richard Edens (Jill : 919-357-3914; jillredens@gmail.com; Richard: 919-357-3913; jrichardedens@gmail.com).

At 11:30am we will be hosting a socially distance egg hunt for children of our member families. Please see below for all of the details.

Invite your family and friends to worship with you this Holy Week.

Outdoor Easter Egg Hunt for First Parish Families

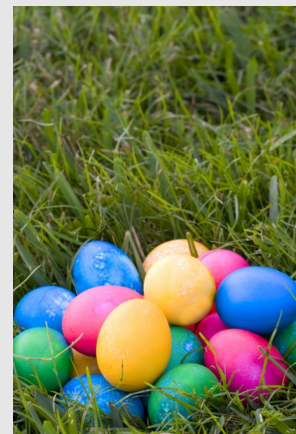
EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH

11:30AM

LOCATION: FIRST PARISH GROUNDS

First Parish of Westwood is delighted to host a socially distanced egg hunt for children of our member families. Our Outdoor Easter Egg Hunt, which celebrates the reason for the season, will be held on Easter Sunday at 11:30 a.m., rain or shine!*

Egg hunters may bring their own basket/bag for collecting, and all attendees over age 5 must wear masks. Toddlers will enjoy a head start. Further staggered starts may be used, to ensure social distancing.



To register, please click [here](#) to sign up (password is "FPEggs"), or email Darlene Wong Cancell at promodw@gmail.com. Please provide the name of the church member, the age of the egg hunter(s), and the total count of family attending.

We look forward to sharing Easter fellowship with our member families!

*In event of snow, thunder, or other unexpected development, please check email and our Facebook page for updates.

One Great Hour of Sharing



Let Your Love Flow **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is an all-church offering within the United Church of Christ, but it is also an offering received in multiple denominations. A portion of the offering is held used to address emergencies (floods, hurricanes, war, famine, etc.) and a portion is used for development that can help break the cycle of poverty and misfortune.

This year's theme is **Let Love Flow** as water projects are stressed. You are invited to send an offering to First Parish, 252 Nahatan St., Westwood, MA 02090. OGHs offerings are accepted at anytime. Please write *OGHS* in the memo line of your check.

Family Service Project Opportunity: Cradles to Crayons

This Lent our family wanted to find a way of practicing our faith through a family service project. We found an opportunity with Cradles to Crayons, a Boston-based organization that provides clothing to children and their families who need it, including families in homeless situations.



On Monday we picked up a large bag of clothing, which had been quarantined. Together, we sorted clothes by type and made sure they were of quality, getting them ready for the next step of creating packages for individual children. We returned the sorted bags for Cradles to Crayons the next Monday for them to quarantine before the next step. We found this to be a small but meaningful way that we could be helping hands for others, and for us to remember that we are all held by hands we do not see. As Ellis and Silas said:

- *"It felt good to think about how they would feel when they received the cloths and to do something for other people." (Ellis)*
- *"It felt like doing a chore for God and I was happy afterwards." (Silas)*

We are hoping to participate again soon. If you are interested in doing so too, please feel free to contact Juliana for more information or for possibly coordinating pickup and dropoff of materials. (Juliana Belding at jvbean27@hotmail.com) Or contact Cradles to Crayons directly by [clicking here](#).

The Belding Rifenburg Family: Juliana, Leanne, Ellis and Silas

Sermon Shaping *On the Patio*
Sundays, beginning April 11th
10:30AM

Join your pastors and other church friends for *Sermon Shaping* on the Sundays of Easter beginning April 11. Each Sunday we will look at the lectionary reading for the next Sunday.

- **On April 11** we will discuss the readings for April 18, the Third Sunday of Easter: Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, I John 3:1-7 and Luke 24:36b-48.
- **On April 18** we will discuss the readings for April 25, the Fourth Sunday of Easter: Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, I John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18.



Please note that in the season of Easter, instead of readings from the Hebrew scriptures, we read from the Acts of the Apostles which is the account of the early church.

When we gather on the patio, we need to continue being vigilant: wear masks, stay socially distanced, wash hands. By being outside we are well-ventilated. Should weather drive us inside, we can open all the windows in the Fellowship Hall and spread out. As we move towards May and June, we anticipate that more and more of us will be fully vaccinated.

Mark Your Calendar - Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd



If the Covid count continues to decrease and the Vaccination rate continues to increase, the Worship Ministry is preparing to re-gather for worship beginning May 23, Pentecost Sunday. It still means people will need to wear masks, be socially distanced and feel well. We will open the windows in the Meeting House so it is well ventilated and have the pews marked. People will be encouraged to socialize before or after worship while outdoors. We will follow the CDC guidelines as we plan to gather in-person.

We want you to know that we have a goal – May 23rd. With the drop in Covid cases and accelerating vaccinations, we think this is a modest or cautious goal. If this goal needs to be adjusted, you will be informed. If you have concerns or questions, please be in contact with Roger Christian, Chair of Worship Ministry or one of our Pastors.

Pentecost Sunday is remembered as the day when the Holy Spirit empowered the disciples to be the church with “tongues, as of fire, resting on each of them,” so observe the day by wearing red.

First Parish Landscaping Fund

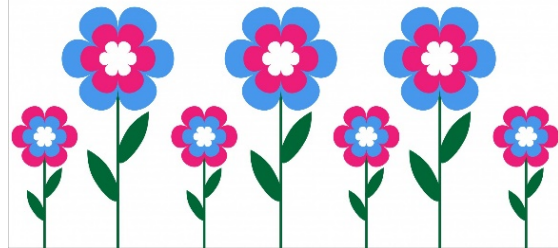
Friends of First Parish -

Spring has arrived and planning is underway for cleaning up and maintaining our church property!

After some discussion amongst a few of us who have been volunteering to clean-up and

plant garden beds, fertilize and prune shrubs, it is time to hire a landscaper to help us with several of the bigger jobs.

In order to have the necessary financial resources, we need to “grow” and sustain the landscaping and grounds fund. To start, we have set a fundraising goal for this first year of \$5,000.



How can you help? Donations to this fund should be made payable to First Parish of Westwood with a note on the memo line (Landscaping Fund). While donations are welcome year-round, we would like to jump start the fund with donations made by **May 15th**.

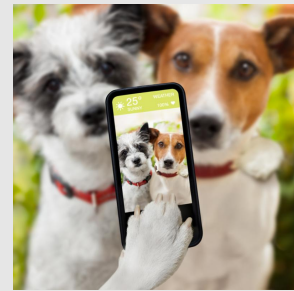
Questions? Contact Jim Worth at jworth@opentext.com or Nancy Hyde at nancy.c.hyde@gmail.com.

Send a Selfie!

During the year, Meg will be working on compiling a "homemade" pictorial directory as a gift for our new settled Pastor.

Pastors Rick and Jill Edens invite you to email Meg a "selfie" of you/your family. Please send all pictures to: office@firstparishwestwood.org.

Feel free to get creative!



Welcome Videos Requested



We are currently seeking volunteers to do a "Welcome to service at First Parish" video. We encourage you to get creative and have fun.

If you have questions, contact Amie Colcord at amiecolcord@gmail.com. Please submit completed videos to Doug Hyde at dkhydema@gmail.com.

To read our March/April 2021 Spire Newsletter, please [click here](#).

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STAY CONNECTED

