

First Parish of Westwood, UCC

252 Nahatan St., Westwood, MA 02090

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June 20, 2021, 10:00 a.m. 4th Sunday Pentecost

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

Meditation

"The way most people talk about darkness, you would think that it came from a whole different deity, but no. To be human is to live by sunlight and moonlight, with anxiety and delight, admitting limits and transcending them, falling down and rising up. To want a life with only half of these things in it is to want half a life, shutting the other half away where it will not interfere with one's bright fantasies of the way things ought to be."

Barbara Brown Taylor,

Learning to Walk in the Dark: Because Sometimes God Shows Up at Night

CHIMING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nancy Hyde, Search Committee Chairperson

CENTERING Notturno Edvard Grieg

HYMN 12 I Sing the Mighty Power of God ELLACOMBE

I sing the mighty power of God that mad the mountains rise, That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies. I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day; The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

Bold text is for congregational responses.

^{*} Please stand as able.

ENGAGING THE WORD

Reader: Sharon Hobbs
LESSON
Genesis 1:1-5, NRSV

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Reader: For the Word of God in scripture, among us, and within us.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE Luminous Darkness Rev. JT Hills

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS
PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

ANTHEM Footprints in the Sand David Angerman

First Parish Choir

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD AND TO ONE ANOTHER

Call to the Offering

Offertory Gabriel's Oboe Ennio Morricone

Doxology

* Dedication of the Offering

GOING WITH THE WORD

HYMN 556 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens HOLY MANNA

God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place Flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space; We, your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you; Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Sonata in C Major, K 14 W. A. Mozart II. Allegro

1. Allegio





Welcome to First Parish of Westwood United Church, an accessible, solar-powered, and Open & Affirming congregation of the

and Open & Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ.

Welcome Rev. Hills

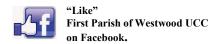
Join us in welcoming **Rev. JT Hills** and family to our congregation this morning.

Originally from Nebraska, then California, Reverend Hills (JT) is from a family of ministers. His grandparents served in UCC churches, and his mother also attended seminary. JT earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Doane College in Crete, Nebraska and his Master of Divinity from Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California.

JT was ordained in 2014 and served as senior minister at the Evangelical United Church of Christ for five years in Tell City, Indiana. From 2018 to 2020, he served as Senior Minister at United Church of Big Rapids, Michigan, and this past year as Bridge (Interim) Pastor at East Church UCC in Grand Rapids, Michigan. JT and his wife Kelse have two children, Jay (8yrs) and Quorra (6yrs).

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Jill Edens, Interim Pastor Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor Dr. Sarah Tocco, Director of Music Margery Eramo, Faith Community Nurse Meg Kara, Church Administrator Denis Wholey, Sexton



Today

Guest musician: Thomasine Berg, flute

Barb Delisle and Pam Kane are our Ushers.

FLOWERS are given by Barb, Jed and Scott Delisle in loving memory of Susie Helgeson.

First Parish of Westwood UCC Open and Affirming Covenant

Jesus, through his teachings and deeds, emphasized God's two greatest commandments:

- 1. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and
- 2. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

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.

We open our hearts in love and extend our hands in welcoming and including all who seek participation in the sacraments and rites of the Christian faith, leadership, fellowship, and mission work of our congregation.

The members of First Parish of Westwood, covenant to continue to live out the inclusive love of Jesus, faithfully discerning what that looks like in both the present and the future.

December 4, 2020



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"We believe in God's

continuing testament in the world."

As the "God is still speaking" church, the United Church of Christ believes, as did our historic predecessors, there is more truth and light to be revealed in God's holy Word. We take the Bible seriously, but not literally, relying on God's Spirit to guide us in ways that are faithful and relevant for people today. We believe the church's role is to speak words of love, and also to challenge the powers that oppress people everywhere.

"We believe in extravagant welcome."

"No matter where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here," is more than a sloganit is a theological principle. Jesus' ministry was about expanding the circle of those who were included as his disciples. We believe the church should be a place of welcome for people of all ethnicities, genders, and expressions, abilities, and ages, regardless of political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, or income.

"We believe in changing lives."

In our families, our church communities and around the world, we believe in God's power to change lives. Our human effort guided by prayer and the community of faith helps us to express the life changing message of Jesus. We believe it is the church's role to give generously of its resources and time to make the world a better place and share the hope we have found in Christ.

FIRST PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, June 20 Candidating Weekend

4th Sunday after Pentecost Worship at **10:00am**, Sanctuary Led by Rev. JT Hills

Congregational Meeting to follow.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS 9:30am, Outdoors on the Patio, weather permitting, or in the Gathering Hall

SUNDAY, June 27

5th Sunday after Pentecost Led by Rev. Richard Edens

SUNDAY, July 4

6th Sunday after Pentecost Worship this Sunday will be via **Facebook** Led by Rev. Richard Edens

SUNDAY, July 11

7th Sunday after Pentecost Led by Bob Deininger

SUNDAY, July 18

8th Sunday after Pentecost Led by Kathleen Davis

SUNDAY, July 25

9th Sunday after Pentecost Led by Amie Colcord

SUNDAY, August 1

10th Sunday after Pentecost Led by Rev. Dr. Jill Edens

SUNDAY, August 8

11th Sunday after Pentecost Led by Rev. Richard Edens

SUNDAY, August 15

12th Sunday after Pentecost Led by Rev. Dr. Jill Edens

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