

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.

March 13, 2022

COVID Protocols

Our Covid protocols have been updated as of March 8, 2022. [Click here](#) for the letter from Pastor JT with protocol information

Other information about return to in person worship

Sunday School will resume today.

Nursery coverage is not available until after vaccines for children under the age of five become available. Look for updates in future emails.

Daylight Saving Time

Clocks should be set ahead one hour today.

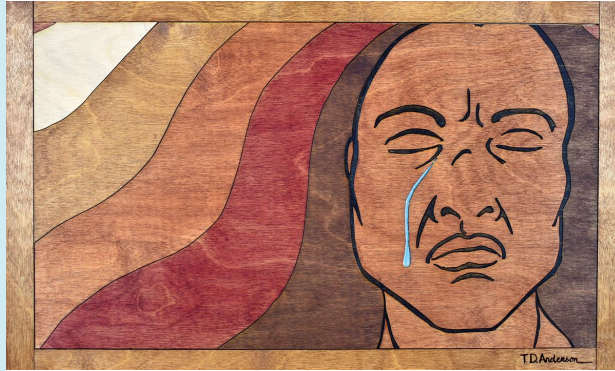


Image: Enough by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Artist Statement: Engaging with this theme has drawn me to wood and water. Here, I've moved away from realism and my usual oil paints to a medium with a more graphic quality: wood inlay. I wanted a simple depiction of this very specific pain. I felt that an emotion so germane to the human experience had to be anthropomorphized, and because Jesus uses feminine imagery, I decided to depict a figure who could be perceived as feminine, but perhaps could also be perceived as masculine or nonbinary. The Parent's eyes are closed as if they cannot bear to watch what's happening. The hair radiates to the left, mimicking a mother hen's wingspan. The teardrop is a clear acrylic inlay with its underside painted blue, and the subtle way it refracts and reflects light is reminiscent of water.

Join us for an in-person worship service today at 10am

Please join us in person or on Facebook for a live-streamed service at 10am. Church School will resume today.

This service will also be available for viewing on Facebook and YouTube* after the service is concluded. To access the service via Facebook page, please [click here](#). You do not need a Facebook account to do this. Anyone viewing the service who has a Facebook account is invited to LIKE and SHARE the service.

*To access worship via YouTube: Go to YouTube on a Smart TV or do a Google search for YouTube on your phone or laptop. Once in YouTube, search First Parish Westwood. The live stream of a service Sunday morning or recordings of past services should appear on your screen.

For the service bulletin, please [click here](#).



Thoughts and Prayers

Bill Storey, former parishioner at First Parish, passed away on February 28 after a long illness. Bill leaves his wife Virginia Ryan and son Billy Storey. Bill was a long-time choir member, beloved for his voice and sense of humor. A celebration of Bill's life is being held at Walpole United Congregational Church on April 2 at 11am.

If anyone would like to send a card, the family's address is 26 Rose Court Way, Walpole 02032.

Lent Devotionals

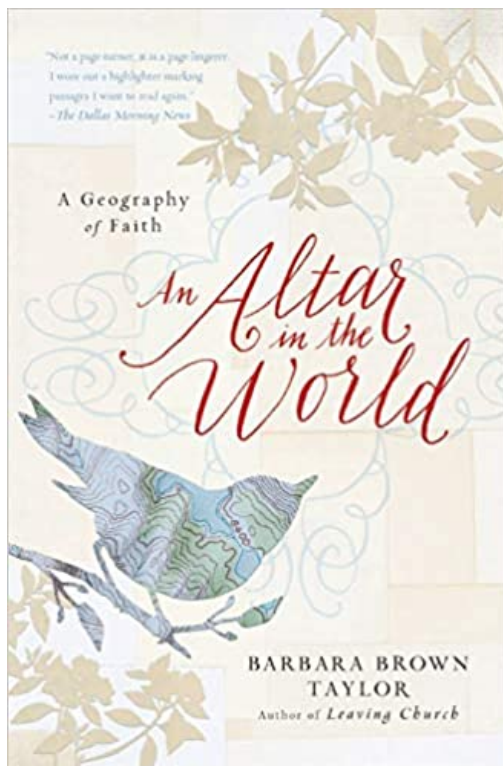
Our Lenten theme is *Full to the Brim*, brought to us by A Sanctified Art, the people that also brought our Advent theme. This theme addresses that desire for a closer and deeper connection to God. As the creators of the theme wrote, "Full to the Brim is an invitation—into a radically

different Lent, into a full life. It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed." ***Sets of Daily Devotional Cards and a Devotional Booklet created by A Sanctified Art for the season of Lent are available in the church lobby.***

Easter Dedications

Easter dedications represent an opportunity to dedicate a plant(s) in memory of or in honor of special people and loved ones. These plants will be displayed in the front of the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

Please submit your order to the church office by **Tuesday, March 29**. Please [click here](#) for the order form.



Lent Reading and Book Discussion - *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor

During the Lent season, everyone is invited to read and participate in a book discussion of *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

Taylor's book is an exploration of encountering God in our everyday lives. "Something as ordinary as hanging clothes on a clothesline becomes an act of meditation if we pay attention to what we're doing and take time to notice the sights, smells, and sounds around us."

The book discussions will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm over Zoom, starting Tuesday, March 8 and ending in Holy Week on Tuesday, April 12. Two chapters will be discussed each week.

This coming week the discussion will be about Chapters 3 and 4.

UCC Ukraine Relief Fund

First Parish is participating in the UCC Ukraine Relief Fund. Gifts made to UCC Ukraine Relief Fund will provide shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. It also will help refugees and asylum seekers from African, Middle Eastern and other countries who had sought refuge in Ukraine and now are twice displaced, as well as other citizens of more than 125 countries living in Ukraine.

There is a donation bowl in the church sanctuary, or you may send in donations to the



church office (payable to First Parish of Westwood and note Ukraine Relief on memo line of your check).

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) 2022

Would you like to put your love for others into actions? Putting love into actions is a call to us to help our neighbors, near and far, as we have the ability. Your generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing – United Church of Christ enables our church and our worldwide partners to make a difference in the lives and communities around the world. Together, we are responding to disasters, supporting sustainable farming, education, and health initiatives, as well as pitching in to assist people fleeing violence from their home communities.

The OGHS calendar [click here](#) is designed to help us acknowledge our blessings but to also think about and pray for others. Each day highlights various situations and suggests a donation of coins or bills. Your household can decide which unit works best for you. It is easiest if you select one unit and use it throughout the days on the calendar. We have a limited number of coin boxes still available or you can save your donations in an envelope or small bag to bring with you to church on Sunday, March 27, when all the donations will be received and blessed.



Our churchwide collection for OGHS will take place on Sunday, March 27, 2022.

SEVENTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING

THE FIRST PARISH OF WESTWOOD, UNITED CHURCH

Under the authority of the constitution of First Parish of Westwood, United Church, notice is hereby given that the Seventy-Third Annual Meeting of the First Parish of Westwood, United Church will be held on Sunday, March 27th 2022 following morning worship. The meeting will take action upon the following agenda:

1. To approve and accept the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting.
2. To hear and approve the Treasurer's Report for the restated financials for 2020 and the financial report for 2021.
3. To hear the proposed budget for 2022.
4. To hear and act on any other matters which may properly come before this meeting.

Judith A. Thomson

Clerk

**Westwood High School Performing
Mamma Mia - March 17, 18 and 19**

Westwood High School students, including one of our own, will be performing in Mamma Mia.

The date and times of the shows are:

Thursday, March 17 @ 7:30pm

Friday, March 18 @ 7:30pm

Saturday March 19 @ 2pm and 7:30 pm

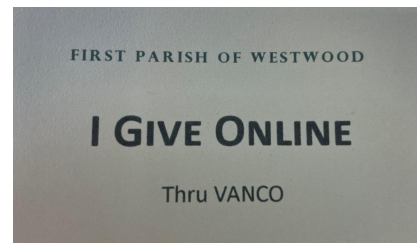


Help Wanted

First Parish is looking for permanent, part-time church administrator. Please [click here](#) for the job posting. If you know of anyone who might be interested in this 18 hour a week, non-benefits position, please have them contact the church office at office@firstparishwestwood.org with a letter of interest and resume. Please note this person should not be affiliated with First Parish.

Church Offerings

For all who now fulfill their pledges online, we have "I give online" cards (see photo) in the pews so you can place a card in the offering plate to show your participation. Contact asst_treasurer@firstparishwestwood.org if you are interested in giving online.



Important Dates at a Glance

March

- March 20 - Sunday Worship in person @ 10am
- March 27 - Sunday Worship in person @ 10am followed by the Annual Meeting
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April (More information to follow for worship services during Holy Week)

- April 3 - Sunday Worship in person @ 10am
- April 10 - Palm Sunday Worship in person @ 10am
- Maundy Thursday
- April 17 - Easter Sunday Worship in person for sunrise and 10am

Office Hours



Mondays 9am - 1pm

Tuesdays 1pm - 3pm

Wednesdays 9am - 1pm

Contact the church office at
office@firstparishwestwood.org or
call 781.326.5344.

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STAY CONNECTED

