

# **FIRST PARISH OF WESTWOOD, UCC**

Growing Faith + Sharing Love + Grounding Lives



**January 14, 2021**

## This Sunday

Dear Friends,

This morning, as I write this, the TV is on in the background as the U.S. House of Representatives prepares to vote on an Article of Impeachment. Covid numbers have put our town in the red. Parents wonder when the schooling of their children will return to normal and everyone wonders when they will be vaccinated. We joined our National UCC Church in a prayer service last Wednesday and we continue to pray for you and our neighbors. On this MLK Sunday, we remember the gifted leader whose book, *Strength To Love*, changed so many lives including mine. I will be preaching on the work of Howard Thurman, King's mentor. It is said that King reportedly carried his own well-thumbed copy of Thurman's best-known book, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, in his pocket during the long and epic struggle of the Montgomery bus boycott. In my sermon I will be reflecting on Thurman's book entitled *Disciplines of the Spirit*.



In these difficult times, remember, we have been here before. These books among others are readily available, pick them up, they read like today's news. In the meantime, never flag in prayer. God is with us, we are not alone.

We are looking forward to worshipping with you this Sunday. The worship video will be ready first thing on Sunday morning for you to view at your convenience. Please join us on Sunday at <https://www.facebook.com/First-Parish-of-Westwood-120302557982716>. And while on Facebook, please "share" the church's post on your Facebook page.

See you on Sunday!

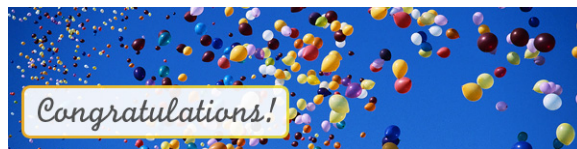
In faith,  
Jill Edens

## Ordination of Bert Cote

Our former student minister, Bert Cote has shared the following good news:

Dear family and friends old and new,

Happy New Year. Please join me in my ordination into Christian ministry. This special event will be held via Zoom on January 17th at 3 pm. If you would like to attend you must register ( link below) . You may share this link with others however please do not post on social media such as Facebook, Tweeter, Instagram etc. I look forward to seeing you virtually during this blessed event.



Blessings and Peace,  
Bert

<https://www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/13133461?month=1&year=2021&day=1&display=m>

## An Update from our Faith Community Nurse, Margery Eramo



Westwood is now in the Covid 19 RED ZONE! Recently two more Westwood residents have succumbed to Covid. All surrounding towns are also in the Red Zone.

Please BE SAFE and follow mask, hand washing and distance requirements. The vaccine is here and we all will have the opportunity to be vaccinated.

Be patient, have hope and faith, and continue to show God's Love for one another.

## Bible Study Continues...on January 26



### *Light Up Your Winter Bible Study*

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 5PM**

**Zoom Bible Study, ( <https://zoom.us/j/95721703863> )**

Join the pastors on **Tuesday, January 26, at 5pm** as we look at the coming lectionary lessons (particularly those in the Gospels) via Zoom ( <https://zoom.us/j/95721703863> ). The group had such a robust conversation, we decided to continue. Hope you will join us!

As we have learned no time is right for everyone. If you are able, please join us at this time. If you are interested, and this is not a good time, please let us know ( [jrichardedens@gmail.com](mailto:jrichardedens@gmail.com) or [jillredens@gmail.com](mailto:jillredens@gmail.com) ).

## Auction Sermon

This year's auction item of asking a question to be answered in a sermon or asking for a particular topic or scripture to be addressed will be preached on January 24. Fortunately, the topic picked was that of "calling" as it is one of the themes of the lectionary in January. The Gospel readings at this time generally cover the emergence of Jesus' ministry and the call of his initial disciples.

## Stewardship Campaign 2021



You should have received by now our Stewardship mailing, and and thank you to the many of you who have replied. It is not too late to



Thank you to the many of you who have replied. It is not too late to let us know your plans about your financial gifts to First Parish. It is important as we prepare our budget in anticipation of our annual meeting that you get your pledges in as we can only create our budget on the pledges we have in hand. If you are already an electronic giver, you need to confirm continuation of that pledge. Your pledges are more important this year as other revenue sources have been reduced, such as the fair, and rentals. You may email Barb Delisle, Asst. Treasurer at [Asst\\_Treasurer@firstparishwestwood.org](mailto:Asst_Treasurer@firstparishwestwood.org) confidentially with your pledge.

## Welcome Videos Requested

We are currently seeking volunteers to do a "Welcome to service at First Parish" video. This week, Amie Colcord is going to do one in Spanish! We encourage you to get creative and have fun.

If you have questions, contact Amie Colcord at [amiecolcord@gmail.com](mailto:amiecolcord@gmail.com). Please submit completed videos to Doug Hyde at [dkhydema@gmail.com](mailto:dkhydema@gmail.com).

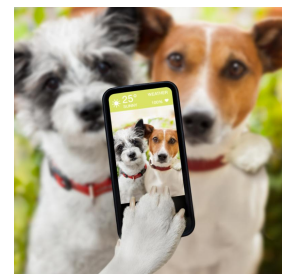


## Send a Selfie!

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](mailto:office@firstparishwestwood.org).

Feel free to get creative!



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STAY CONNECTED



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