

FIRST PARISH OF WESTWOOD, UCC

Growing Faith + Sharing Love + Grounding Lives



March 4, 2021

This Sunday, March 7

This Sunday, March 7, is the **Third Sunday in Lent**. Lent is set aside as a time to realign or restructure our lives in preparation for the celebration of life being made new on Easter. This Sunday we revisit how God's Law is *a gift of love structuring our life together* as we hear anew the **Ten Commandments**.

Join First Parish for worship on Sunday morning as we continue gathering virtually



on **Facebook** (at <https://www.facebook.com/First-Parish-of-Westwood-120302557982716>). Invite a friend to join you.

This Sunday in worship **Jesse Aguilar**, assisted by **Fina**, will ring the hour, **Richard Edens** will welcome you, **Jill Edens** will have a children's message based on the book, *Sadie and the Big Mountain*, **Charlie Domina** will read the Gospel lesson, **Sarah Tocco** will offer music, the **First Parish Choir** will sing "Let My People Go" and **Jill**

Edens will preach.

Following the pre-recorded Sunday Worship on Facebook, please plan to gather on **Zoom** at 10:30am for Communion using this link: (<https://zoom.us/j/97776095457>). You will want to have a cup (with juice or wine) and bread within reach when you join on **Zoom**.

After Communion, plan to stay on **Zoom** (<https://zoom.us/j/97776095457>) as we bless the Pastoral Search Committee.

Grace and peace,
Jill & Richard Edens

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE IN WORSHIP DURING LENT

Revs. Richard and Jill Edens are including a children's component in worship during Lent. As the Hebrew Scriptures in Lent follow various covenants made between God and God's people, our hope is to find a fresh expression of those familiar covenants for each Sunday.

Blessing the Pastoral Search Committee

Following Zoom Communion this Sunday, March 7

Join your Moderator, Sharon Hobbs, and the Pastoral Search Committee this Sunday following our monthly Zoom Communion to bless our Pastoral Search and those who have agreed to serve on the Pastoral Search Committee (Nancy Hyde, Bob Deininger, Dave Blomquist, Allison Bayer, Landon Bayer, Dan Der Marderosian, Pam Kane, Kathy Davis and Amie Colcord).

As previously announced, the church's profile has been posted and profiles from possible pastors are being received. In March the Committee's discernment will begin!

In the literature about Search and Call from the United Church of Christ it is written: *Just as the local church is not "our" church but rather God's, so too the Search Committee is really God's committee. A search for a new pastor is one of the most spiritual ministries in the church. The selection of Search Committee members is a task that is approached with prayer, wisdom, sensitivity, and awareness that God may be calling certain church members to consider serving in this particular capacity.*

Join us on Sunday to bless this search and to check-in with the committee as their discernment begins. For reasons of confidentiality, it is common for Search Committees to go quiet during this discernment. This would be a good time to join in the blessing and ask any general questions that you may have.

One Great Hour of Sharing



Let Your Love Flow **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – March 21, 2021**

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. Over the next several

weeks stories will be shared, and you are invited to send a offering to First Parish, 252 Nahatan St., Westwood, MA 02090 before Sunday, March 21. Please write *OGHS* in the memo line of your check.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Please keep the family of our former Pastor, **Rev. Theodore Fritsch**, in your thoughts and prayers. Ted passed away earlier this week at age 91. To view the obituary, please [click here](#).



Condolences can be sent to Rev. Fritsch's wife, MaryAnn at:

MaryAnn Fritsch
70 Landing Lane
North Chatham, MA 02650

And/or his son, Andrew at:

Andy Fritsch
PO Box 56
South Harwich, MA 02661

Lenten Bible Study Continues at a new time...7:30pm

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY
TUESDAY, March 9, 7:30pm
Zoom Bible Study,
(<https://zoom.us/j/95721703863>)



Join your pastors and other church friends for Bible study on **Tuesday, March 9 at 7:30pm via Zoom** (<https://zoom.us/j/95721703863>). We will look at the lectionary readings for Sundays, Lent 4 and Lent 5

- Lent 4, March 14, John 3:14-21 – John uses a story from the wilderness narrative in which poisonous serpents symbolic of God's wrath are overcome by the lifting of a bronze serpent. The gospel writer uses this image as a parallel to proclaim how the lifting of the Son on the cross was not to condemn but to save.
- Lent 5, March 21, John 12:20-33 – John has Jesus use an agricultural image that life-giving wheat does not grow without first falling into the ground and dying. If Lent (now in week five) is a catechetical or instructional time in the life of disciples, perhaps the question being posed is “Can we trust *dying-in-order-to-live*?”

Prepare for worship by joining us as we converse about these texts for our Lenten worship via **Zoom** (<https://zoom.us/j/95721703863>). As we have learned no time is right for everyone. If you are able, please join us. If you are interested, and this is not a good time, please let us know (jrichardedens@gmail.com) or (jillredens@gmail.com).

Interested Persons' Gathering - Sunday, March 14 @ 10:30



<https://zoom.us/j/91584318770>

Are you interested in knowing more about First Parish? About the United Church of Christ? About membership?

If so, please gather with us via **Zoom** (<https://zoom.us/j/91584318770>) on **Sunday morning, March 14, at 10:30am**. We look forward to getting better acquainted with you, listening to your questions, and discovering your interests.

We will have a representative from the Pastoral Search Committee with us to answer your questions about what First Parish has learned about itself, what we believe the future portends for First Parish and who we are seeking to provide pastoral leadership.

The light at the end of this pandemic tunnel is getting brighter. We don't have an exact date but soon we will be able to gather for worship, talk over coffee, circle for prayer, study God's Word, offer a helping hand, and practice our faith together. Even now, a new future is being formed here at First Parish of Westwood.

Questions? Please contact us. Jill Edens, jillredens@gmail.com, 919-357-3914 or Richard Edens, jrichardedens@gmail.com, 919-357-3913

From Our Faith Community Nurse, Margery Eramo: Covid-19 Vaccination Card



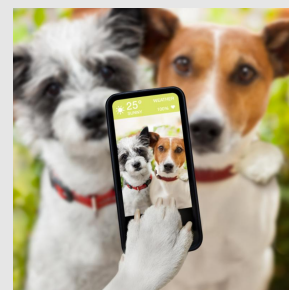
A vaccination card with the type of vaccine administered and dates given is provided to those who have received vaccinations. It is recommended you bring the card to your healthcare appointments. A word of caution: people have been posting copies of their cards on social media to share the news that they have been vaccinated. It is being advised not to post your card on sites like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. The card includes your name and date of birth. Someone who then finds a way to access your social security number can open a fake credit card in your name. Many vaccination sites are giving out stickers. It's a better choice to use if you want to post about your vaccinations.

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 Winter 2021 Spire Newsletter, please [click here](#).

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STAY CONNECTED

