

FIRST PARISH OF WESTWOOD, UCC

Growing Faith + Sharing Love + Grounding Lives



May 6, 2021

Worship this Sunday, May 9

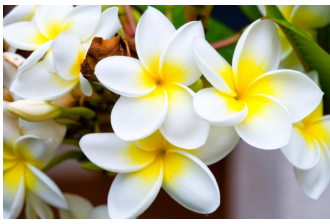
Join us for worship this Sunday morning, and invite a friend! We are worshipping virtually using the congregation's Facebook page. Even if you are not a Facebook member, when you click on <https://www.facebook.com/First-Parish-of-Westwood-120302557982716> you should be taken to the church's Facebook page. And while on Facebook, please "share" the church's post on your Facebook page.

Again, to worship with First Parish this Sunday morning click on <https://www.facebook.com/First-Parish-of-Westwood-120302557982716>.

In faith,
Richard & Jill Edens



A Note from Our Faith Community Nurse, Margery Eramo



My heartfelt thanks, dear friends, for all the cards, good wishes, meals and prayers. It has meant the world to me and has helped me heal.

Love,
Marge

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Barb Delisle** as Westwood's **2021 John J. Cronin Public Service Award Recipient**. The award was presented at Westwood's Town Meeting on Monday evening, May 3rd.

Also recognized that evening was the service of **Nancy Hyde** who was rotating off the Select Board. In addition, another First Parish member, **John Hickey**, is in the picture of those being recognized for their service as



he presided over that portion of the meeting. In between Barb Delisle with the plaque and John Hickey is Rep. Stephen Lynch from the 8th Congressional District of Massachusetts.

Congratulations to our public servants!

What to Expect When We Worship at First Parish on May 23

Love of God

Thanksgiving and praise will rise to heaven as we begin coming out from the Covid-19 pandemic. It will be a joyous time to be with one another and to worship God together.

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Love of Neighbor

One of the practices of our faith is loving our neighbor. Prioritizing the life and health of our neighbors during this next phase of the Covid pandemic means we will:

1. Wear masks.

Wear your Sunday best. If you forget, we will also have masks for you as you enter.

2. Stay physically distanced.

Yes, St. Paul said, "... greet one another with a holy kiss" ... but not yet! As vaccines for children are not anticipated until 2022 handshakes, hugs, and kisses will need to wait. We will also need to space ourselves in the pews.

3. Be well.

When we are not well, we should love our neighbors and stay home.

4. Wash hands.

Handwashing combined with socially distancing and wearing masks has pushed the rate of



flu infections and the common cold to unheard of lows this year. It is simple and effective.

5. Worship outdoors or in a ventilated space .

Covid-19 is most infectious in enclosed spaces over a long time. Fortunately, we have a Meeting House with two stories of windows that can be opened and a lovely patio.

6. Socialize outside.

Increasingly we are learning that transmission of the virus is minuscule when outside and distanced. So, catch up with friends and family outside on the patio, the lawn, or a walkway.

7. Shorten worship.

We will be minimizing risk and possible exposure over time by shortening our worship.

8. Limit singing.

Due to the respiratory nature of the virus, congregational singing will be postponed.

9. Family friendly and inter-generational.

Worship will be designed to be family friendly. With physical distancing, families are encouraged to sit together. Initially we will not have a staffed nursery though it will be open for parents to use as needed.

10. Be vaccinated.

If you have not yet been vaccinated and need assistance signing up or finding a vaccination site, please speak with our Faith Community Nurse, Marge Eramo.

11. Be flexible.

Covid-19 has been a surprising virus. We have learned much since the early days of wiping down groceries so our practices to promote safety and minimize risk will change over time. As the rates of vaccinations increase and of infections decreases, we will gratefully continue to adapt!

Hope to see you on May 23. If you have particular concerns, please contact the church office (781-326-5344 or office@firstparishwestwood.org).

Seeking Volunteers to Lead Worship this Summer

While the Edens are away . . .

It has been the tradition at First Parish to provide lay-led worship while the pastor is on vacation.

Thank you as we now have volunteers for:

- **June 13** (the Edens will be at the celebration of the life of Jill's brother-in-law in Ann Arbor, MI. Robert Dylenski died in November so the family gathering had to be postponed because of the pandemic).
- **July 4, 11, 18, 25**



We are still seeking a volunteer for

- **August 22** (Jill Edens will be preaching for the Homecoming service at the church of Richard's grandparents in Rowland, NC)

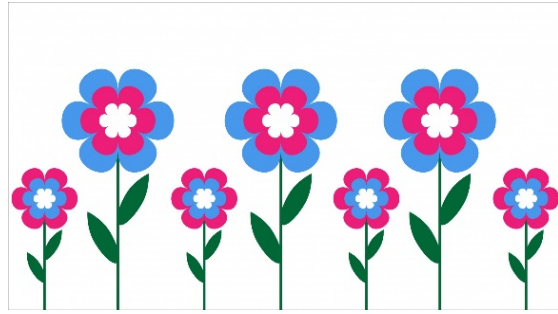
If you are interested, please be in touch with Jill and Richard Edens (jillredens@gmail.com or rrichardedens@gmail.com).

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**.

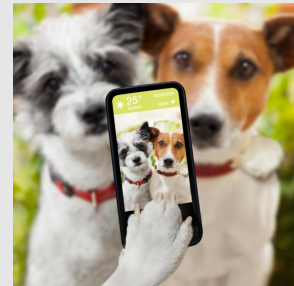
Questions? Contact Jim Worth at jworth@opentext.com or Nancy Hyde at nancy.c.hyde@gmail.com.

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

