

First Parish of Westwood

Growing Faith + Sharing Love + Grounding Lives

April 24, 2022



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.

COVID Protocols

Our Covid protocols have been updated as of April 12, 2022.

[Click here](#) for the letter from Pastor JT with protocol information.

Other information about return to in person worship

There is no Sunday School today. During worship, a craft activity will be available for children in the back of the Sanctuary.

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

Second Sunday After Easter/Earth



Day - 10am

Please join us in person or on Facebook for a live-streamed service today at 10am. Our guest preacher, Rev. Greg Briggs, is a friend of Pastor JT, Rev. Greg is filling in while the Hills enjoy their vacation.

Today's service will also be available for viewing on Facebook 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.

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

We welcome the Rev. Greg Briggs as our Guest Minister this morning. Rev. Greg recently moved to Vermont from Michigan, where he served as a UCC parish minister and intentional interim minister for over 10 years. He has also run a UCC camp and retreat center and worked for his alma mater, Chicago Theological Seminary. He is passionate about the intersection of faith and social justice, especially water justice, and is both a nerd and an upcycling crafter. He is currently interested in developing active groups of Christian peacemakers and disaster responders. Having just moved here from the flat plains of the Midwest, he is only now understanding what "you can't get there from here" means.

EARTH DAY - 2022

Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by EarthDay.org (formerly Earth Day Network) including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries. The official theme for 2022 is Invest In Our Planet.



Caring for God's Creation



Report on First Parish Annual Meeting

The 73rd Annual Meeting for First Parish was held in late March. At this meeting, the 2022 Annual Budget of \$286,000 was approved. Pledges made for 2022 total \$142,825, which represent an increase over the prior year. Other important revenue projections for the year include revenue to be generated by the Annual Yard Sale and Christmas Fair, revenue from the cell tower located in the church steeple, rental fees for use of the church facilities, investment income and miscellaneous other sources.

An additional presentation made at the Annual Meeting covered the upcoming capital program and associated capital campaign to raise necessary funds. Identified capital projects include restoration of the barn,

steeple upgrades, sanctuary ceiling renovation and carpet replacement, and replacement of steps leading to front of church (facing Nahatan Street). Opportunities will be coming up for all to learn more about these projects.



New Life 5k Trail Run

Furnishing hope with every stride.

New Life 5K - Saturday, May 7

Join the First Parish team to run/walk the 5th Annual New Life 5K in Medfield.

What and Who: The 5th annual New Life Trail Run is welcoming runners, walkers and everyone in between. The route winds through the beautiful Charles River Reservation. There is also an on-site Kids Fun Run and live music on race day with the Cultural Alliance of Medfield. **Why:** The Trail Run benefits New Life Furniture Bank of MA and its mission to provide essential home furnishings to those in need. **When:** May 7th 9:30 am (We'll meet as a team at 9 am.) Where: Medfield State Hospital grounds (at Hospital Rd. & Service Dr., Medfield, MA) **How:** To sign up, go to www.newlifefb.org/5ktrailrun and register as part of a team (our name is "Westwood First Parish Church"). An "early bird" discount registration of \$25 is available until April 23; after that registration will be \$30 between April 24 to May 5; and \$35 on race day. There is a \$5 group discount for teams of four or more when the registrations are made at the same time. There is also an on-site Kids Fun Run at 9am with day of registration of \$5 (cash or check). Anyone can sign up on our team: not just members of First Parish.

Questions? Contact Juliana Belding Rifenburg (jvbean27@hotmail.com)



FIRST PARISH YARD SALE - SATURDAY, MAY 14th 9am -1pm

It's that time of year... time to think about the spring purge of all the junk you no longer need or want. What a perfect way to donate to the church!!!!

VOLUNTEERS: To sign-up to volunteer for setting up on Friday and helping on the day of the yard sale, please [click here](#). It is so important for us to have a strong showing of volunteers,

even an hour of your time is greatly appreciated. Many hands make light work and it's a fun way to help out. Weather permitting, we'll grill hot dogs and hamburgers for the workers!

Volunteer opportunities (to sign-up [click here](#) or sign-up on bulletin board outside the church office):

- Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Set-up
- Saturday Sale (looking for 2-hour increments)
 - 8:30am last minute prep
 - 9am doors open
 - 1pm doors close
 - 1-2:30pm clean-up

DONATIONS: For all who have items they wish to donate, drop-offs* will be accepted starting Wednesday, May 11.

Please check with the church office on times when drop offs can be made by emailing office@firstparishwestwood.org.

*We will accept most donated items, but we cannot accept any computer equipment, printers, medical equipment, TV and no car or booster seats. If you're dividing your perennial plants, please think about moving a few to pots and bring them for us to sell at the sale. It's best if the plants are moved a few weeks before the sale so they have a chance to acclimate to the new pot. We can charge more if they look happy! If you need pots, let Pam know.

Please call Pam Kane at 781-690-1617 or email her with any questions, pkane@haskellinsagency.com.



Church Volunteer Opportunities

- **Westwood Day**, Sat., Sept. 17 – First Parish will be participating again this year! We would like to have one person join Barb Delisle in coordinating this event for First Parish.

If you are interested, please contact the church office at office@firstparishwestwood.org

Pastor JT's Schedule

Pastor JT will be on vacation followed by continuing education starting April 18th and returning May 3rd. During this time, please contact the office for any pastoral care needs.



Important Dates at a Glance

April

- April 18 - 22 - School Vacation Week
- April 22 - Earth Day
- April 24 - Sunday Worship @ 10am.
Guest Preacher - Rev. Greg Briggs

May

- May 1 - Sunday Worship w/communion @ 10am. Our Worship Committee will lead worship. Sermon provided by Amie Colcord.
- May 8 - Mother's Day/Sunday Worship @ 10am. Guest preacher - Rev. Alex Shea Will, Area Conference Minister
- May 14 - Saturday, First Parish Yard Sale 9am-1pm
- May 15 - Sunday Worship @ 10am
- May 22 - Sunday Worship @ 10am
- May 29 - Sunday Worship @ 10am
- May 30 - Monday, Memorial Day - Office Closed

Coffee Hour Sign-Ups for May and June

Please click this [link](#) to see what dates are available to sign-up as coffee hour host(s) and enter your name to host. Thank you.



Office Hours

- Mondays 1pm - 3pm (The office will be closed on 4/25)



- 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

