



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES AT FIRST PARISH IN LINCOLN

FALL 2022

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 (RALLY SUNDAY)

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS. Rally Sunday is the one time we ask everyone to participate in church via the Sanctuary or Live Stream. Children will bring their school backpacks to the sanctuary and receive a special blessing from our new ministers, Reverend Kit and Reverend Nate.

After the blessing, kids will head up the hill to make a "Children's Face Wall" with updated photos and a chance to express their individual interests via drawing, painting and collage. Our final art products will hang in the Parish House so that all the grownups can learn a bit about each of our FPL spiritual explorers.

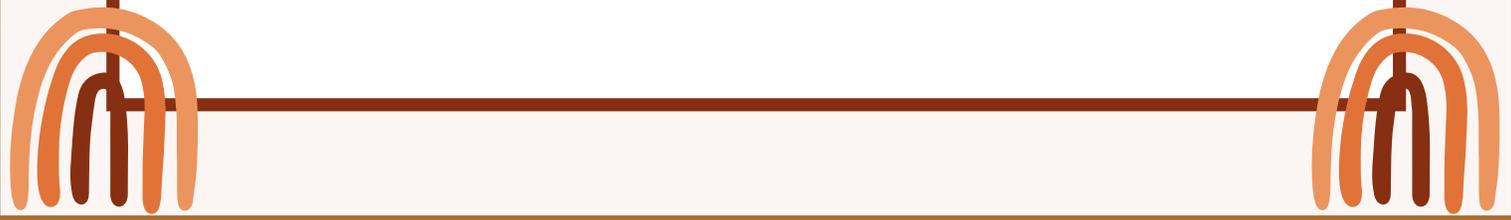
Lay Leaders: Jeani Welsh, Elizabeth Kelly, Abigail Agams



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 (ROSH HASHANAH LONG WEEKEND)

KIDS NATURE WALK. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a raincoat if it's drizzly because we are not afraid of a little weather, are we? Just like FPL adults have a Friday nature walk, we're taking the kids out today to explore the fields and woods around our sanctuary. Perhaps we'll see a few colorful native birds such as goldfinches and chickadees. Do you think we'll be lucky enough to see any mammals? When we walk quietly and pay attention, what do we see and hear? We'll probably have our snack on the trail today which means that we'll pack out any of our trash.

Lay Leaders: Andy Falender, Jackie Lenth





SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

CALMING OUR MONKEY MINDS. Settling in with meditation is the focus of today's religious exploration. Grab a yoga cushion and let's talk about some of the meditation practices at FPL and maybe in your school. We'll share a short children's reading from the great Buddhist teacher, Thich Nhat Hanh, a Vietnamese monk who was important to meditation in the West and loved children very much. Everyone will take turns ringing the Tibetan Singing Bowl followed by a short walking meditation. Then you'll learn about the practice of sending Metta (kindness and compassion) to the world. Snacks today will be Vietnamese so don't miss it!

Lay Leaders: Joan Kimball, Jeani Welsh



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 (INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY)

NO RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION. Long weekend.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16 (SCARECROW CLASSIC ROAD RACE)

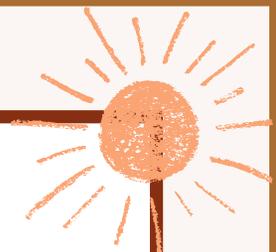
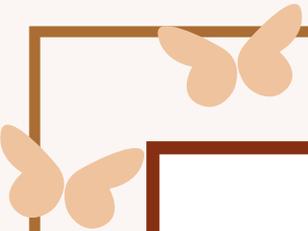
NO RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION. Saint Vincent de Paul food drive at the Scarecrow Classic! Support the food pantry with assistance from our FPL youth by purchasing items from the "most needed list" before or after the race!



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

PUMPKIN CARVING AND HALLOWEEN CARDS. Church will be ablaze with pumpkins this morning. We'll use our safe carving tools and get to work making spooky or silly faces. If you don't want to hurt your pumpkin with a knife, paints are a splendid option. Did you know there are people from church who would smile if they got a homemade Halloween card? They might even hang it up in their house. Anyone who enjoys design can make Halloween cards today and we'll mail them to folks who aren't able to come to church. Our snack menu today is apple cider and popcorn for a fall treat.

Lay Leaders: Gina Halsted, Rosemary Lloyd



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

MAKING COSTUMES FOR BELOVED STUFFIES. Everyone has a favorite stuffy and we bet you'd like to show yours some love with a new outfit for the holidays. Bring your bear, rabbit, weasel or snake to church and we'll cut, sew, glue and otherwise fashion some fancy new apparel. While we're working, we'll talk about unconditional love and what it means. Each of us has someone who loves us unconditionally even more than we love our stuffies. Today's snack will be suitable for humans but not for stuffies.

Lay Leaders: Terry Green, Trisha Deck



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

HONORING LINCOLN VETERANS. Wear Red, White and Blue today to recognize the military service of our Veterans. One of our Lincoln Veterans will talk to us about what it's like to serve in the military. Later we'll walk over to the cemetery and put flags on the graves of veterans. During snack we'll listen to the anthems of each of our armed forces.

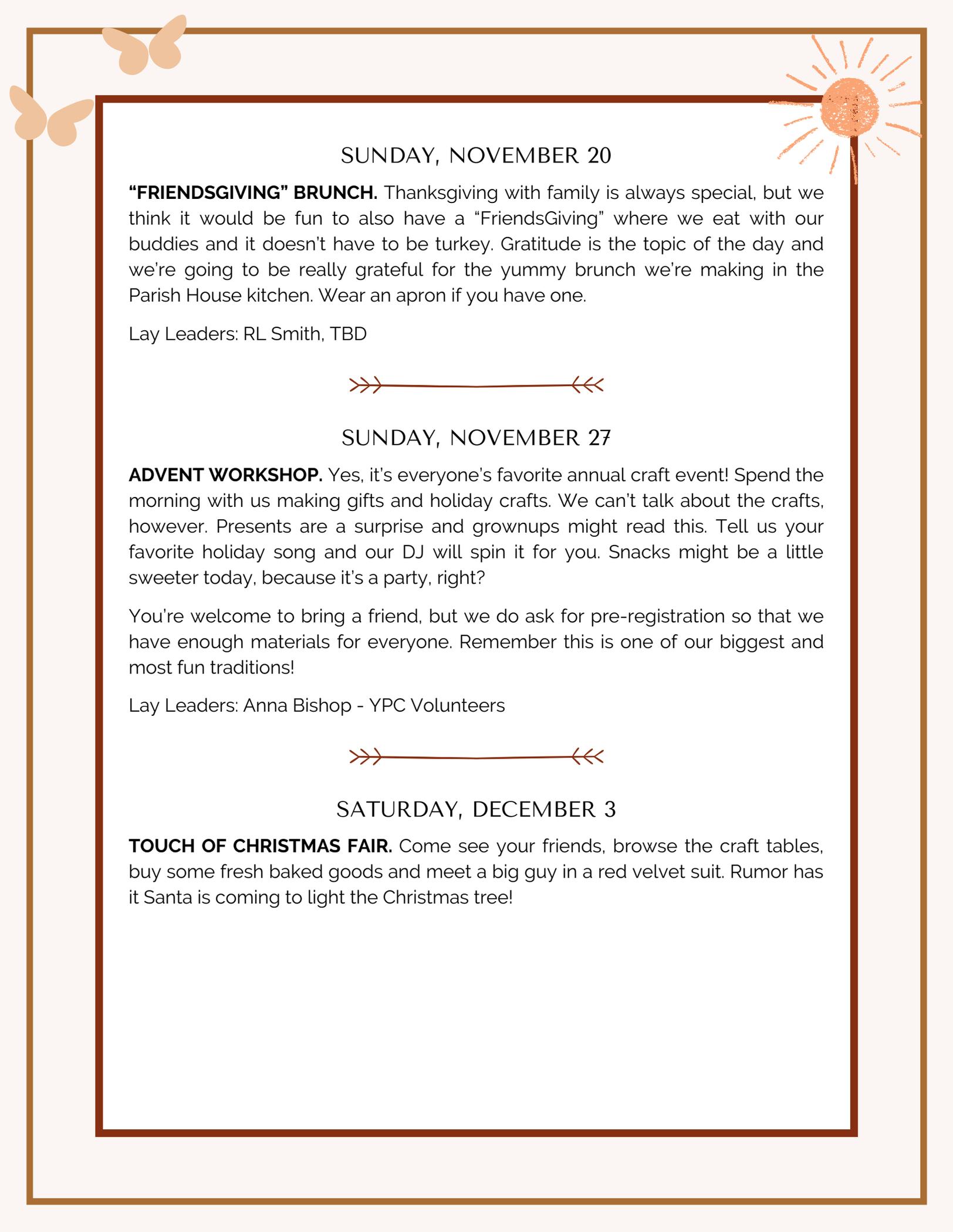
Lay Leaders: Adam Hogue, TBD



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

GATHERING CRAFT MATERIALS FROM NATURE. In preparation for our upcoming Advent Workshop, we need to visit Mother Nature's craft store. We'll go into the woods and hunt for pine cones, berries and other cool stuff to use when we make holiday crafts in a couple of weeks. Bring a basket if you have one! Snack will be on the playground after we stash what we found on the hunt.

Lay Leaders: Chris Andrysiak, Sarah Andrysiak



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

"FRIENDSGIVING" BRUNCH. Thanksgiving with family is always special, but we think it would be fun to also have a "FriendsGiving" where we eat with our buddies and it doesn't have to be turkey. Gratitude is the topic of the day and we're going to be really grateful for the yummy brunch we're making in the Parish House kitchen. Wear an apron if you have one.

Lay Leaders: RL Smith, TBD



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

ADVENT WORKSHOP. Yes, it's everyone's favorite annual craft event! Spend the morning with us making gifts and holiday crafts. We can't talk about the crafts, however. Presents are a surprise and grownups might read this. Tell us your favorite holiday song and our DJ will spin it for you. Snacks might be a little sweeter today, because it's a party, right?

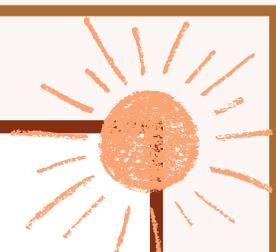
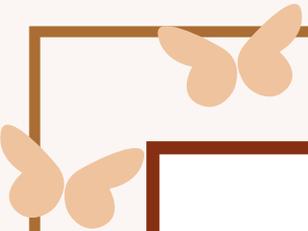
You're welcome to bring a friend, but we do ask for pre-registration so that we have enough materials for everyone. Remember this is one of our biggest and most fun traditions!

Lay Leaders: Anna Bishop - YPC Volunteers



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

TOUCH OF CHRISTMAS FAIR. Come see your friends, browse the craft tables, buy some fresh baked goods and meet a big guy in a red velvet suit. Rumor has it Santa is coming to light the Christmas tree!



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

NATIVITY PAGEANT REHEARSAL: Why is the Nativity Story Important to Us?

We hear the Nativity story this morning including both a spiritual and historical context of what was happening around the time of Jesus' birth. Actors participating in the Christmas Pageant are assigned roles this morning with a quick script review. Snacks during December will be backstage after rehearsal.

Lay Leaders: Sarah Bishop, YPC Volunteers



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

NATIVITY PAGEANT REHEARSAL AND COSTUME FITTINGS. It's Santa Lucia Sunday and we will begin with our traditional costumed procession through the sanctuary to celebrate this 4th century Christian Feast. Then we'll turn the clock back 3 more centuries and start rehearsing for the Nativity Pageant.

Lay Leaders: YPC Volunteers



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

INTERGENERATIONAL NATIVITY PAGEANT AT 10:00 A.M. Pageant actors should be backstage at 9:30 a.m. Children will perform the Nativity Pageant. Non-speaking roles are also available to grownups who like to have fun. We'll share snacks with grownups during Hospitality after the show.

Lay Leaders: YPC Volunteers



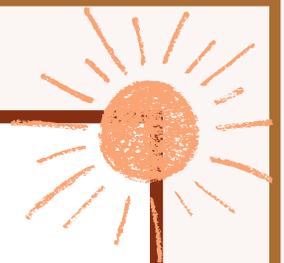
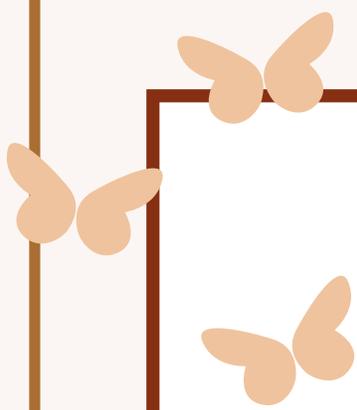
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT FIRST PARISH. Worship Readings by High School and College Students during Evening Candlelight Services.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

NO RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION. MERRY CHRISTMAS!



OUR WHOLE LIVES

Stay Tuned for information about our 2022-2023 Schedule for Our Whole Lives (OWL), a sexuality program for youth that models and teaches caring, compassion, respect and justice.



For more information about children and youth programs at First Parish Lincoln, call 781-259-8118.

