

**Difficult Conversations Series**— Starting this November, I am embarking on an enlightening journey where I will be delivering a thoughtful sermon each month, focusing on complex and challenging topics. These sermons aim to shed light on these issues from various perspectives, encouraging open dialogue and understanding. To foster engagement and facilitate further discussion, we will host an interactive forum immediately following the service. This will provide an opportunity for everyone to share their insights, ask questions, and deepen their understanding of the subject matter. We believe that engaging in these challenging topics together will not only strengthen our faith but also enhance our community's bond. We look forward to your active participation and the valuable exchanges that will undoubtedly ensue.

**November 5, 2023**—Death will be the difficult conversation presented in November. Following the service will be an 11:30 a.m. public forum called a “Death Café.” Some members of the community may be joining us, so I ask that everyone see the church as a visitor might see it and help out if needed. For more information about Death Café, see [www.deathcafe.com](http://www.deathcafe.com). There will also be handouts, including a Five Wishes pamphlet. From [www.fivewishes.org](http://www.fivewishes.org): “Five Wishes is more than a workbook that becomes a legal advance directive when completed. It is a comprehensive, person-centered advance care planning program that offers a proven, easy-to-use approach to having effective and compassionate conversations.”

**December 10, 2023**—We will be hearing passages of Lynne Twist’s book *The Soul of Money* both from the pulpit and in the 11:30 a.m. forum following. We will also have an opportunity to hear from the professional who oversees the Third Church endowment, Anthony Assante, AIF, CFS, MBA.

**January 7, 2024**—The topic for this week will be violence. While physical, sexual, and verbal violence will be emphasized, other forms of violence will also be discussed. The sermon will incorporate teachings of Nonviolent Communication (NVC), and the forum following will feature Susan Clark, who has worked with and written about intimate partner violence, and Aliyah Wright of Women and Families Center regarding sexual violence. See [www.cnvc.org](http://www.cnvc.org) and [www.womenfamilies.org](http://www.womenfamilies.org) for more information. Money