



**The First Church and Parish in Dedham**  
670 High Street, Dedham, MA 02026

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Volume CXXXXV Number IV

January and February 2025

**Sunday, January 5, 2025**

**Strengthening Democracy:**

**The power of the civic sphere.**

**Rev Paul Langston-Daley will preach.**

As we face the ever-increasing challenges to our democracy, there are ways we can strengthen and reinforce our power. Even a small group of people can make a difference, today we'll look at how.

**Sunday, January 12, 2025**

**Generosity**

**Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach**

We will explore the concept of generous thinking and the benefits of moving beyond ideas of scarcity to abundance.

**Sunday, January 19, 2025**

**The Rev. Dr. Ken Reeves will preach**

On January 29, 1858, after the Supreme Court had delivered a setback to the abolition of slavery, Theodore Parker offered optimism to his fellow abolitionists: "I do not pretend to understand the moral universe; the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but little ways; I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight; I can divine it by conscience. And from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice." Five years later, President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. Eight years later, the 13th Amendment abolished slavery. Despite current setbacks, the universe is still bending toward justice. This sermon can't explain why, but does look at how the universe bends toward justice.

**Sunday, January 26, 2025**

**The Stories We Tell Ourselves**

**Rev Rali M. Weaver will preach**

How do we create our life stories? What do we tell ourselves to make sense of our life experiences? This week, we will consider how the stories we tell ourselves shape our reality.

**Sunday, February 2, 2025**

**Music Sunday**

Join us for a Midwinter celebration as the First Church Choir performs *A Winter Day* by Canadian composer Sarah Quartel. With lyrics by Sara Teasdale, Lucy Maud Montgomery, and Melville Cane, this vibrant piece captures the beauty of a winter day, from crisp mornings to swirling snowflakes.

**Sunday, February 9, 2025**

**Curiosity, Caring, and Compassion**

**Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach**

How we approach even tricky conversations can change the solutions we find. This week, we will explore the foundations of Internal Family Systems Therapy and how understanding our parts might help us listen more deeply.

**Sunday, February 16, 2025**

**Equanimity in Challenging Times**

**Rev Paul Langston-Daley will preach.**

The Buddhists consider equanimity to be one of the Four Great Virtues. (Along with compassion, loving-kindness, and sympathetic joy.) In times of chaos and crisis, equanimity can help us find a center and connect to what is most important.

**Sunday, February 23, 2025**

**Draw The Circle Wide**

**The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach**

How do we keep widening our circle of concern to be increasingly more inclusive? "Widening the Circle of Concern" is a report by the UUA Commission on Institutional Change published in 2020. This seminal work examines the presence of structural and systemic racism, as well as white supremacy culture, within Unitarian Universalism. This Sunday, we will explore its teaching and consider what changes we might make to be more inclusive.

**Our Minister: The Rev. Rali M. Weaver**

As we step into a new year, we often reflect on our paths and the ones ahead of us. It's a time for resolutions and imagining new possibilities. But it's also an opportunity to deepen our commitment to the world and each other.

In a world that can sometimes feel divided, it's easy to focus on what's close to home—our families, our communities, and our own well-being. And, of course, these are important. But as Unitarian Universalists, we are called to live out our values of justice, compassion, and interconnectedness within our immediate circles and on a broader, global scale. Our principles urge us to care not only for those we know but for the earth, for people, we'll never meet, for species we may never encounter, and for future generations who will inherit the world we leave behind.

Widening our circle of concern means cultivating an attitude of empathy that transcends borders—whether those borders are physical, cultural, or even emotional. It means acknowledging that the struggles of others, whether in our own neighborhoods or across the globe, are bound up with our own. The joys and sorrows of all people are, in some profound way, our joys and sorrows, too.

In this new year, let us remember that the planet's health, the rights of marginalized communities, and the well-being of our neighbors near and far are not separate from our own lives. All concerns are interconnected and a part of us. This doesn't mean we need to fix everything or carry the weight of the world alone. But it does mean that we are called to care, listen, and act with a sense of responsibility beyond our personal sphere. For this collective work, our church community is vitally important.

Widening our circle of concern invites us to practice generosity—not just in material terms, but in terms of our spirit. When we expand our concern to include those who are different from us, those who are suffering, and even those we find difficult to understand, we make space for the kind of love that heals, transcends boundaries, and transforms us all. In our commitments to social justice, climate action, anti-racism, and peace, we have become living examples of love vast enough to heal the whole world.

As we enter this year, let us take concrete steps to broaden our perspectives and embrace our shared humanity. Let us listen to the stories of others with open hearts. Let us advocate for those whose voices are too often silenced. Let us care for the Earth as our home. In doing so, let us deepen our sense of interconnectedness and strengthen the bonds that tie us together as one global family.

May this new year bring us closer to the realization that the circle of concern we widen today is the circle of compassion that will carry us into the future.

With gratitude and hope for the New Year!, Rali

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-5 and other days and times by appointment

<https://revraliweaver-dedham.youcanbook.me/>  
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November and December Visiting Ministers' Bios

January 5, 2025 & February 16, 2025 The Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

<http://www.revpaullangstondaley.com/>

**Rev. Paul Langston-Daley (he/him)** is a transgender man living in Massachusetts with his two cats Odin and Loki. He was ordained as a Unitarian Universalist minister in 1997. He has served congregations large and small as settled, interim, and consulting minister in six states. He holds a Master's Degree in Restorative Practices and Youth Counseling from the International Institute for Restorative Practices. He has a background in organizing, social justice work, and engaging restorative practices with congregations in conflict.

January 19, 2025: The Rev. Ken Reeves

**Rev. Dr. Ken Reeves** is a graduate of the Starr King School for the Ministry and has served congregations in Ohio and Delaware. He has also earned a Masters in Pastoral Counseling and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. He is a clinical psychologist with a therapy practice and a consulting psychologist with the Center for Career Development and Ministry. He is also the author of *The Whole Church, Congregational Leadership Guided by Systems Theory*.

Our Director of the Children's UU Explorer's Program: Lisa Pilat

Hello families,

November and December were full of wealthy classes and lots of activities.

**OWL K-1** successfully completed its series, which ended with the families joining them in their last class. This cohort will then finish up Love Surrounds Us starting in January.

**The UU Explorers** are using Soul Matters and will continue until Spring 2025. Josh Langmead and Jonny Pape are leading this group.

**Neighboring Faiths** completed their journey through world religions. They visited several houses of worship and services, including a Powwow and a Hindu Temple. In January, they began "Heading the Call," led by Susie Short and Jess Larochelle.

**Coming of Age** completed its second phase and will continue with phase 3 in January. Their Coming of Age Service is scheduled for May 18, 2025. Mark your calendars!

November's joint service with Allin Church was a wonderful connecting experience. The kids made centerpieces for the Dedham Food Pantry Turkey Distribution tables.

December was busy with pageant preparations and the pageant. The pageant on December 15th was an interactive Christmas Pageant, and the entire congregation participated! It was light-hearted, silly, and fun—just what we all needed during these times. I am looking forward to full programming in the Spring and an RE Committee service in March.

Lisa's office hours will be on Wednesday, 11 am-3 pm  
You can reach her at [lisapilat@dedham](mailto:lisapilat@dedham)

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**Our Music Director: Darry Dolezal**

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February 2 is Music Sunday. It is also a millenia-old holiday celebrating the exact midpoint of winter, known to Catholics as Candlemas, pre-Christians as the Feast of Lights, Wiccans and ancient Celts as Imbolc, and to most Americans as Groundhog Day. The day is observed in a myriad of ways including lighting candles, reflecting on light entering the world, purification and cleaning, predicting the end of winter, making plans for spring planting, and eating pancakes.

As a celebration of Midwinter the choir will present “A Winter Day” by Canadian composer Sarah Quartel, setting texts by Sara Teasdale, Lucy Maud Montgomery (of 'Anne of Green Gables' fame), and Melville Cane. This vibrant and poignant work depicts a winter day from morning to evening, conjuring up vivid images of cold, crisp air and swirling, dancing snowflakes.

Calling all past choir members and other interested singers to take part in this beautiful event. Rehearsals will be on Tuesday evenings January 14, 21 and 28, and on Sunday mornings before church.

Darry

[darrydolezal@dedhamuu.org](mailto:darrydolezal@dedhamuu.org)

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**Church Administrator: Grace Peña**

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Happy 2025! I hope everyone had a festive holiday season filled with good food, good company and good cheer.

We got to celebrate so much in November and December: our anniversary along with our Thanksgiving service with Allin Congregational Church, another great Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinner Give-Aways for the Dedham Food Pantry, a delightful Christmas Pageant, a beautiful Christmas Eve service tying the end of the year bow and welcoming in 2025. I'm excited to see what it holds for all of us!

We will continue to have our Friday Folk Music Coffeehouses, our Jazz/Classical concert series in the Meetinghouse in connection with Dedham School of Music, more visiting ministers to our pulpit, Fourth Fridays Family Fun Nights, and Music Sunday on Sunday, February 2nd. After that, we will be looking forward to Spring!

With much love to all, Grace

Grace's office hours will be on Mondays and Fridays, 10 am-3 pm  
and on Wednesdays, 12 pm-5 pm  
You can reach Grace at [firstchurch@dedhamuu.org](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org)

## Adult Religious Exploration

**Our UU Faith:** Are you interested in deepening your faith? Join Rev. Weaver for eight classes of exploration and discussion on Tuesday Nights, 7-8:30 in January and February, on Zoom. Email [raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org) or 617-459-5979 to sign up and get the link.

**Readers and Writers's Workshop-** Do you enjoy literature? Join us to share your favorite works or your writing every week on Thursday at 6 pm on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83183979464>

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## Care and Concern

We continue to have parishioners who are not feeling well and/or cannot make it to worship or virtual services and would benefit from a call, a card, or a visit. Please reach out regularly to Kathy Elefterakis, Martha Leonard, Mary-Anne Osborne, Mary Daurio, and Priscilla King. If you have a care or concern to share or an address and phone number, please contact our church office by calling 781-326-7463 or emailing [firstchurch@dedhamuu.org](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org)

If you are interested in joining the Parish Community Network to reach out to those in need please contact Vicky Berg at [v.berg@juno.com](mailto:v.berg@juno.com) or Rali at [raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org)

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## Women's Alliance

The Women's Alliance will be hosting a memorial tea to honor the lives of Joan Wislocki and the Reverend Betsy Stevens on Saturday, February 15th, 2-4 pm. The tea will be held at Andrea Gilmore's 66 Church St. Dedham home. Please bring your memories and your stories as we gather to celebrate the lives of these two fine women.



\*Fourth Friday of October, November, January, February, March, April, May

### A Free event for families!

Fourth Friday, January 24th  
and February 28th 6-8 pm

Sign up at:

[https://www.eventbrite.com/  
e/fourth-friday-family-fun-night-  
tickets-1096529903459?  
aff=oddtcreator](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fourth-friday-family-fun-night-tickets-1096529903459?aff=oddtcreator)

If you would like to help with Fourth Fridays contact  
[raliweave@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweave@dedhamuu.org)

617.459.5979. [raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org)

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## Civic Engagement

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In November, Vicky Berg coordinated reestablishing the Parish Community Network which had been formed to strengthen the connections within the First Church community by matching parishioners who need help with parishioners volunteering to provide help. Vicky will be circulating a survey asking those who want to help what tasks they would like to volunteer to do.

First Church hosted the Dedham Food Pantry Thanksgiving Dinner distribution on November 24th where we provided lunch for DFP clients waiting for the distribution and helped with the distribution itself.

In December, Susan Sennott coordinated collection of gift cards to support UU Urban Ministry's Renewal House, UU Urban Ministry's domestic violence shelter for individuals and families who are fleeing from domestic violence.

Dedham Food Pantry is always looking for groups to sign up to help with Saturday client food shopping and First Church will be recruiting for volunteers for a Saturday to be determined in February.

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## Musical Events at First Church

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**First Church Friday Folk Coffeehouse** presents the remainder of our concerts of the 2024-2025 season:

- **Baird and Ridarelli, Friday, January 17th, 7 pm**  
Chris and Laura perform a mix of originals, cover songs, and instrumentals ranging from Roots Rock to American and Irish Folk music. They are highly influenced by Bob Dylan, Lucinda Williams, Tom Petty, Gillian Welch, Jorma Kaaukonen, Steve Earle, Paul Brady, The Pogues, Doc Watson, Neil Young, Grateful Dead, and many more.
- **Blue Train, Friday, February 21st, 7 pm**  
Blue Train coasts along the folk music railway tracks powered by a solid bluegrass engine fueled by an eclectic mix of swing, Texas swing, Gypsy jazz with intricate vocal harmonies and instrumentalization.
- **Willie J. Lawes, Friday, March 21st, 7 pm**  
The Willie J. Laws Band is one of the notable Blues acts of the region with a modern funky style that's uniquely its own. The band's sound includes deep Texas roots music, add some funk, and jazz-influenced bass patterns, and the influence of various Afro-Caribbean drumbeats, a genre-bending sound tempered with a groove from Motown, Memphis, Muscle Shoals, the Gulf of Texas and New Orleans.

• **Cooke Family Singers, Friday, April 18th, 7pm**

Cooke Family Singers sets will feature George’s original songs, which tend to be humorous and slightly cynical takes on the foibles of our everyday lives. Cooke Family Singers’ other songs are curated covers that feature Ruth and Frances’ tight harmonies and can range from Lake Street Dive to Johnny Cash to songs from the musical “Hamilton”.

• **Ruth and Ben String Band, Friday, May 16th, 7pm**

The Ruth and Ben String Band plays electrifying old-time Appalachian music. Led by guitarist Ruth Rappaport and her fiddler son Ben Wetherbee. The band’s repertoire includes rousing fiddle tunes and traditional, modern, and original songs that feature tight harmony singing.

• **Crowes Pasture, Friday, June 20th, 7pm**

Crowes Pasture takes a look at what’s happening around them, and to them, when they write songs. But they love a good cover, too: Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Woody Guthrie.

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**Dedham School of Music and First Church Dedham**

**Present:**

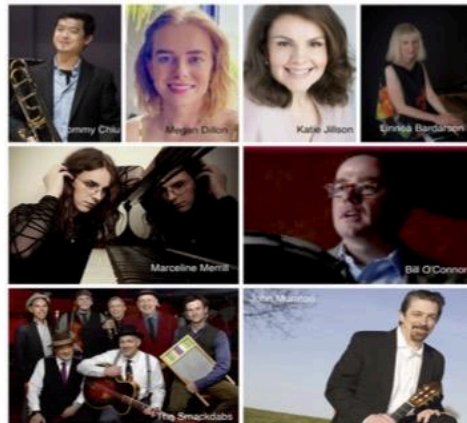
**First Friday Classical and Jazz Concerts**

- ❖ **November 1:** Megan Dillon, Saxophone & Tommy Chiu, Trombone
- ❖ **December 13:** John Muratori, Classical Guitar
- ❖ **February 7:** *Valentine’s Day Cabaret* with Katie Jillson, Voice & Linnea Bardarson, Piano
- ❖ **March 7:** The Smackdabs
- ❖ **April 4:** Marceline Merrill, Solo Piano
- ❖ **May 2:** Bill O’Connor Band

All concerts are at First Church Dedham, 670 High Street at 7:30pm.

Tickets: \$20 adults (online/at door), \$5 children under 10 (at door) and \$10 children 10-18 (at door)

<https://www.dedhamuu.org/live-music>



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## HISTORICAL NOTES

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**Introduction:** Our resident historian, Geoff Tegnell, continues to explore some of the stories of our previous ministers so that we could share them with all of you. Geoff has been working to gather the stories of previous Ministers and Church Members.

### **Charles Rhind Joy (1922-1927)**

Charles Rhind Joy was born in Boston, Massachusetts on December 5, 1885, the third of seven children born to Arabella Sophia Parke and Robert S. Joy. He grew up in Roxbury and attended Boston Public Schools. After his graduation from Roxbury High School. In 1904, Joy was admitted to Harvard University where he studied English literature and became fluent in German and French. After graduating in 1908, Joy entered Harvard Divinity School because, as he later related, "It was my ambition to combine theology and literature in one career." When he matriculated at HDS, Joy also enrolled in courses at nearby Andover Theological Seminary. It was at this time that Joy encountered influential Unitarian mentors who inspired him, once he received a dual degree from Harvard and Andover in June 1911, to give visiting minister sermons at a Unitarian church on Cape Cod.

Shortly afterwards, Joy accepted a call from the First Parish of Portland, Maine where he was ordained in 1913. In addition, the day after commencement, Joy and Lucy Alice Wanzer married in the Chapel of the Divinity School and ultimately had four children, Alice, Lucy, Robert, and Nancy. In Portland Joy was settling into his ministry when the United States in March 1917 entered the First World War. Joy, who had previously declared that he was a pacifist, preached sermons calling the war was "unrighteous", for which he was burned in effigy in front of the church and fired by a congregation that found his preaching "unacceptable."

Joy promptly signed on as an overseas social worker for the Young Men's Christian Association, ultimately serving as Regional Director of YMCA humanitarian work in northern France for which the French government awarded him the Médaille Commémorative de la Grand Guerre. At war's end Joy returned to the United States to become pastor at Unity Church in Pittsfield, Massachusetts from 1919 until January 1922 when he accepted the unanimous call of Parish Committee leaders to become minister of First Church Dedham.

Charles R. Joy's five-year tenure as minister of First Church could be characterized as ambitious, productive, but ultimately somewhat frustrating for both him and his congregation. To begin with, Joy distinguished himself as an energetic leader of his church and denomination. Joy's annual reports would recount that in a typical year he would preach at 44 services, teach 40 School of Religion classes, officiate at 20-30 baptisms, weddings, and funerals, attend 100 church-related meetings, make 200 pastoral visits, and prepare remarks for 80 non-First Church speaking engagements. Joy also took on significant denominational responsibilities: while at First Church from 1922 to 1927, he served as vice president of the Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice, director of the Unitarian Temperance and Moral Welfare Society, literary editor of the Christian Register, Secretary and Treasurer of the Unitarian Ministerial Union, and vice-president of the Unitarian Isles of Shoals summer conference center. Civically speaking, Joy also took the lead in speaking out in favor of liberal religion and the progressive causes of the day, whether it be supporting the Bok Referendum



prize for creating ideas about peacemaking, speaking out against Kentucky legislation to ban teaching about evolution, or collecting funds for refugees of the Russian Revolution 1921-22 famine. Joy's ministry at First Church was also productive of some important innovations. Previous ministers has complained about the lack of a church parsonage. Indeed, Joy negotiated long and hard with Parish Committee leaders about adequate housing for his growing family before he agreed to move to Dedham. Consequently, a Parsonage Committee was established January 1922 to plan for his housing and to collect donations from congregants and church committees. By May the Committee had collected sufficient funds to commit to buying the house that Joy was already renting and in April 1923 purchased the so-named Burdett house on nearby Chestnut Street as the First Church parsonage. Joy supported another important institutional change at First Church, the establishment of free pews. Since 1638 parishioners had subsidized First Church expenses, including ministerial remuneration, by renting church pews. Historically speaking, the pews closest to the pulpit were reserved for Dedham's monied elite, while poorer congregants were relegated to the back of the church and the balcony. However, at the conclusion of the Great War the Unitarian Laymen's League called for abolition of the pew rental system because it conveyed inegalitarian distinctions among congregants, all of whom were purportedly God's children. In March 1922 the Parish Committee presented the "Free Pew" proposition at the First Church Annual Meeting, reminding congregants that "if the system (free pews) they proposed is adopted, pew rents will be abolished and money will be raised by pledges. Present members of the congregation will be assigned their accustomed pews or seats unless they desire to change (seating arrangements), and pews or sittings not occupied will be assigned to persons desiring them. Thus it is apparent that the practical result will be that persons determine for themselves the amount to be paid and the times of payment instead of there being fixed by the Parish an arbitrary sum for the pew rents."

The Free Pew proposition being duly ratified, pledging was introduced as an alternative source of church funding. As the Committee explained, "Pledge cards, made necessary under the Free Pew system to cover the current expenses of the Parish, have been sent out this week.... In making out these pledges, it should be remembered that the amount raised will be the principal source of revenue of the Parish, and everybody is urged to give to the best of his ability." Joy later acknowledged that it was unrealistic for church members to pledge a traditional tithe of 10% of one's income. Rather, he advised that 2% of one's annual income would suffice as a standard pledge, while 1% would suffice from those with more limited financial resources.

Joy was less successful in his efforts at church reorganization. Joy was apparently concerned that First Church and Parish had an overly cumbersome governance structure that resulted in unclear lines of authority, redundant responsibilities, and unaddressed needs. Thus in 1924 he proposed disbanding the separate church/parish organizations with church leaders asserting their decision-making authority over all parish committees, though he acknowledged that this restructuring required permission from General Court. Joy also suggested streamlining committees by merging those with similar functions.

Accordingly, Entertaining was to merge with Hospitality, Publicity would subsume the Parish Record, and Housekeeping would take over the tasks of Building and Grounds. Moreover, Joy called for the establishment of a Social Service Committee oversee all philanthropic appeals that the minister would otherwise have to respond to. Next, Joy called for creating a

Committee of Arts and Architecture for beautifying church properties and incidentally “to protect us from the atrocious memorials that a church is often asked to accept.” Lastly, Joy advised that committees should be appointed by Parish Committee, not the newly Planning Board. However, Joy went on proffer that Planning Board, over which he presided, should coordinate all church activities and committee plans, in much the same way a Committee of Committees operates in Unitarian church today; This would allow minister to coordinate church efforts without interfering with lay control. As far as I could ascertain, despite his cogent and innovative persuasiveness, the only Joy reorganization proposal to be actually implemented during his tenure was the aforementioned repurposing of the Planning Committee.

However, ultimately the aspect of his 5-year tenure that that Joy and his congregants found most frustrating was membership growth. From the early days of his ministry, Joy prioritized increasing church attendance and membership. He organized services in order to attract specific clienteles. For example, he urged congregants to invite young people to specific services. “We want them to feel at home with us. The subject will be ‘What Shall I Fight for?’ and will be of interest to those who are making their decisions for lifework and service.” Another Joy target for membership growth was male attendance at services. As Joy declared, “We need more men in our churches. Religion is not predominantly feminine.” In this effort Joy encouraged the Laymen’s League to track the attendance of men at First Church services. “The ten Unitarian Churches with the best record will be publicly listed each month. This is a call to your loyalty. What are you doing to help the School of Religion?” Joy cajoled. “Have you sent your children? Have you volunteered as a permanent or substitute teacher?

Have you inquired of other ways to help? Have you visited the School that the members of it may know you are interested?” Joy also became invested in the music program of First Church, hoping that purchasing a new hymnal, the hiring of soloist, a quartet, instrumentalists, and a couple of music ensembles, and holding Sunday evening vespers would attract the unchurched. Joy’s reporting about the School of Religion evinced some of his impatience with congregant support for his membership initiatives. “Our Sunday School is being put on a sound educational basis, with competent teachers, high educational standards, and regular reports to parents on the work accomplished. But,” Joy observed, “some parents are uncooperative and there is the failure of most of our church people to show the slightest interest in our difficult task.” Joy confessed that his particular membership recruiting innovation, the setting up of a Wayside Pulpit to proclaim sentences from upcoming services and the short sermon excerpts he published in the weekly Transcript Pulpit column, was somewhat wanting, with only a small percentage of Dedham residents actually accessing the messages purveyed by these means.

Joy’s anxiety about First Church membership growth culminated in 1925-26. In his Annual Report for this year, Joy bemoaned a decline of church attendance from an average of 140 congregants each Sunday to 132. Joy opined that societal transformations were, in part, responsible. “The present day is a hard one for the church. The radio, the auto, the movie, auction and golf, summer homes and winter excursions, are all drawing on the strength and interest of our people.... The recent land boom in Florida comes to mind.” But Joy also blamed congregant selfishness and lack of persistence for declining numbers. “There are three classes of people in every church: the shirkers, the jerkers, and the workers. The shirkers are riding on the charity... They live through the generosity of their charitable neighbors. The jerkers are

those who throw themselves with great enthusiasm into Church work, but at the first discouragement, their enthusiasm evaporates and they become shirkers. They have no patience, no perseverance. The workers are those who stick, through thick and thin, loyally performing the routine tasks of the church, responding to special emergencies with special help, confident in the abiding importance of the task the church is undertaking.” In addition, Joy attributed the membership decline to his own lack of time for community outreach to attract new church members. Joy argued that in order to be freed up to be more of a presence in the greater Dedham community, he needed a parish assistant to take over some of his secretarial duties, such as correspondence, ordering office supplies, and making entries of deaths weddings, and baptisms in the church book. Indeed, in September 1926 Joy paid an assistant for \$100 of his own funds to assist him with these tasks and at an October 15, 1926 Special Meeting he asked the Women’s Alliance, School of Religion, Laymen’s League and First Parish Club to chip in to hire his assistant as year-round clerical support. Attending congregants voted 24 to 20 in favor of this proposal.

But perhaps dismayed by the lukewarm response to his proposal, shortly afterwards, on October 24, 1926, Joy resigned as First Church minister, delivering a parting salvo about the necessity of permanently hire his part-time parish assistant to oversee church activities while church leaders seek to recruit a new minister.

After his resignation from First Church, Charles Rhind Joy’s career was eventful, accomplished and internationally engaged. From 1927 till 1929 Joy was minister of All Souls Church in Lowell, Massachusetts during which time he also assumed the position of Secretary of the Committee on the Supply of Pulpits for the Unitarian Ministerial Union, the association of Unitarian ministers of both the United States and Canada. Joy’s denominational work culminated in his leaving Lowell for employment as administrative vice president of the American Unitarian Association from 1930 till 1937. Between 1938 and 1940, he served the Church of the Messiah in St. Louis, Missouri, the First Parish in Waltham, Massachusetts, the First Unitarian Congregational Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, and the Church of the Disciples in Boston as a visiting minister. During this period Joy completed a massive biblical reference tome, a project that he had been working on for many years. Published in 1940 as Harper’s Topical Concordance, Joy’s book, reprinted several times, became a standard reference tool for ministers. With the founding of the Unitarian Service Committee to rescue endangered Eastern Europeans, namely Social Democrats, union leaders, and Unitarians as well as Jews, fleeing Nazi persecution, Joy assumed the role of Director of the USC in Europe. Stationed in Lisbon, he coordinated aid and provided transportation to safety for thousands of displaced and suffering people, and in this effort oversaw the design of the Unitarian flaming chalice as a symbol on documents that identified USC agents in high-risk areas as non-combatant religious workers. After World War II Joy continued to support starving and displaced civilians as European commissioner and associate executive director of the Save the Children Federation (1947-1950). With the outbreak of the Korean War, Joy took on the responsibilities of Chief of the (Unitarian) Korean Mission to provide support for those displaced by the fighting. And from 1950 to 1956, Joy also appointed by CARE as its executive consultant for African affairs, in part because in 1949 he had travelled to French Equatorial Africa where he befriended the Doctor Albert Schweitzer whose biography he later wrote. Joy spent the remaining years of his long life travelling, writing (a total of 42 books), and speaking about important global issues such as world hunger until he passed away in Grey, Maine in 1978. Reflecting on his career in

the Harvard Class of 1908 50 th Anniversary Report, Joy reported that “I have wandered about the world in more than a hundred different countries and everywhere I have found friendly people with whom it has been good to associate. I am now trying to make these many peoples better known in America and to promote in some small way a world understanding on which alone enduring peace may be built. Traveling, speaking, writing, these are the three foci around which my life now turns. I could not ask for any activities more interesting, more rewarding. I am not much concerned with the past, though I know the future has its roots there. I am eager to see the burgeoning and the fruitage of the years that are to be.”

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[http://uucsjs.org/sermons/20100307\\_UUHistory-WWII.pdf](http://uucsjs.org/sermons/20100307_UUHistory-WWII.pdf)

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/wartime-origins-flaming-chalice>

[https://books.google.com/books?id=w5vIopoWMaUC&pg=PA124&lpg=PA124&p;dq=Charles+Rhind+Joy++Unitarian+Minister&source=bl&ots=vftzpuGtAJ&sig=ACfU3U263iWBf1pnl-vNmA1\\_ymfSSArLBA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj3kcahOPb4AhV5KlkFHQDBC9Y4ChDoAXoECA4QAw#v=onepage&q=Charles%20Rhind%20Joy%20%20Unitarian%20Minister&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=w5vIopoWMaUC&pg=PA124&lpg=PA124&p;dq=Charles+Rhind+Joy++Unitarian+Minister&source=bl&ots=vftzpuGtAJ&sig=ACfU3U263iWBf1pnl-vNmA1_ymfSSArLBA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj3kcahOPb4AhV5KlkFHQDBC9Y4ChDoAXoECA4QAw#v=onepage&q=Charles%20Rhind%20Joy%20%20Unitarian%20Minister&f=false)

Ministers Folder 1903-1968 in First Church Records: Dedham Museum and Archive

Parish Records March 1921-October 1926: Dedham Museum and Archive

Records of the First Parish in Dedham Commencing AD 1900: Dedham Museum and Archive

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### **PARISH COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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#### **First Church Parish Committee Meeting**

**Monday, October 7, 2024, 7:30 Meeting on Google Meets**

**Google Meets connection – Meeting Link [meet.google.com/kmm-qtpe-dhg](https://meet.google.com/kmm-qtpe-dhg)**

**Join by phone: US) +1 713-496-0992 PIN: 827853102**

#### **Agenda**

Call meeting to order

Gratitudes

Review and Approve

1. Discuss and Approve Minutes from Sept 3 2024 meeting
2. Treasurer Report (requires approval) / Parish Committee Restricted Funds
3. Minister's Report
4. RE report

**Action Items / Discussion**

1. Confirmation of budget reallocation re: Minister's Compensation and finalization of Rali LOA with Ministry committee
  - a. Communication to Congregation
2. Consider Breeze software replacing Church Windows
3. Hiring Max Gallagher to run the live stream on Sundays Rali is not in the pulpit.
4. Karen Read/Building Use reform discussion review
  - a. Contract legal review
  - b. Building Use Report in All Church Email
  - c. Outreach to Select Board
  - d. Summary to send to Congregation
5. Transition committee formation status
6. Audit Status
7. Holly Faire Leadership status

**New Business / Next Meeting**

1. Attendance at Allin Church new minister installation. Sunday Oct 27 3pm
2. Planning for Fall Meeting
3. We have moved to the First MONDAY through at minimum December because of scheduling issues

**Next Meeting November**