



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

www.dedhamuu.org
781-326-7463
firstchurch@dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXXXV Number II

November & December 2024

November 3, 2024

Rev Mary Ann Barry will preach

On the brink...breathe and remember

Two days from the election, we gather together to set aside our stress to be instruments of peace – for ourselves and yes, for the world.

November 10, 2024

The Commonweal

Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach

Our Commonwealth was founded on the old English understanding of the Commonweal which was a Puritan understanding of the common good. We will consider the vital importance of our UU communities in fostering the common good for all.

November 17, 2024

Hymn Sing

Music is a central part of our UU worship services. This Sunday, you will get to choose your favorite hymns, and we will reflect upon the importance of music in Worship.

November 24, 2024

Trusting the Hiccups of Life

Rev Rali M. Weaver will preach

We are worshipping with the Allin Congregation at 10 a.m. in their church. We will reflect upon the tools we need to navigate the ups and downs of life. This will also be our bread and cider communion service. Please bring bread from your family traditions to share.

Following worship from 12-1:30, there will be a reception for the Dedham Food Pantry clients while they await their Thanksgiving Dinner giveaway. You are encouraged to stay and visit with clients and help.

December 1, 2024

The Rev. Dr. Ken Reeves will preach

Ken Reeves has been with us before and will join us in worship again - watch your all-church email for details.

December 8, 2024

Ambassadors of Hope

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach

We will explore the essence and importance of hope and how best to share it with the world if we are short of becoming evangelical.

December 15, 2024

Christmas Pageant

December 22, 2024

A Winter Solstice Celebration

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach

Culturally and historically, the winter solstice has been celebrated by many civilizations as a time of renewal and rebirth. It symbolizes the return of longer days and the eventual arrival of spring. Many festivals and rituals, such as Yule in pagan traditions or various cultural celebrations, honor this transition, often emphasizing themes of light overcoming darkness and hope for the future. We will explore them all this Sunday and prepare our hearts for the season.

Tuesday, December 24th, 2024

Lessons and Carols

The Rev. Rali Weaver will greet you.

Caroling begins at 6 pm on the Green. We will enter the Meetinghouse for our traditional (battery-operated) Lessons and Carols service, followed by a reception on the green, weather permitting.

December 29, 2024

Letting the Old Year Die With a Fond Goodbye

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach

We will gather together to release all the ups and downs of 2024 and prepare our hearts for 2025. This service will be interactive and filled with joy and release.

Our Minister: The Rev. Rali M. Weaver

The tradition of the Free Pulpit in Unitarian Universalism embodies our commitment to intellectual freedom, the exploration of diverse beliefs, and the pursuit of truth. Rooted in our historic emphasis on individual conscience and the democratic process, the Free Pulpit allows ministers to speak openly and authentically about faith, ethics, and social justice matters. This principle empowers ministers to share their insights and challenges and invites congregants to engage deeply with varying perspectives, fostering an environment where dialogue and exploration thrive.

This commitment to intellectual and spiritual freedom empowers us to explore diverse ideas and beliefs, fostering a vibrant and inclusive community. Yet, with this freedom comes responsibility—especially when it comes to our relationships with one another, particularly in the context of supervising staff.

The free pulpit invites us to speak our truths, challenge the status quo, and nurture a culture of openness. However, we must recognize the complexity of this in our leadership dynamics. When I stand before you, sharing my thoughts and insights, I do so with the understanding that my words carry weight and can profoundly influence the community. This same weight extends to how we interact with and support each other tirelessly to fulfill our mission.

Working together within our congregational life is not merely about oversight; it is an act of partnership rooted in trust and mutual respect. Each staff member, congregational member, and friend of this parish brings unique gifts and perspectives that enrich our collective experience. It is crucial to create an environment where each voice is heard while professional and personal boundaries are honored, and everyone feels safe expressing themselves fully.

Working within a congregational system, where each member brings unique beliefs and values, can lead to a rich tapestry of perspectives but also presents significant complications. The diversity of thought often enriches our discussions and decisions, fostering creativity and innovation. However, it can also result in disagreements and conflicts, as differing visions of what is "right" may clash, leading to misunderstandings or feelings of exclusion. Navigating these differences requires active listening, empathy, open dialogue, and a willingness to find common ground and sometimes repair, forgiveness, and redress. In this complex landscape, it is essential to cultivate a culture of respect and collaboration, ensuring that every voice is valued while striving for unity in our shared mission. Balancing individual convictions with collective goals is a challenge and a profound opportunity for growth within our community.

May we continue cultivating a community that celebrates freedom, fosters collaboration, and honors the diverse expressions of our faith. Thank you for being part of this journey, for your openness, and for your commitment to our shared mission.

With gratitude and hope, Rali

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

<https://revraliweaver-dedham.youcanbook.me/>
raliweaver@dedhamuu.org or 617-459-5979

November and December Visiting Ministers' Bios

November 3, The Rev Mary Anne Barry

Rev. Mary Ann Barry celebrates twenty years as an ordained Interfaith Minister. Her journey started as a Nurse, then healthcare sales, to 16 years teaching her national model wellness program "Feeling Good...Celebrating the Mind, Body & Spirit" for Mass Housing Finance Agency, and her favorite role so far: chaplain. She worked eight years as a chaplain in Leominster HealthAlliance hospital and two hospice programs. She is self-employed doing weddings, baby blessings and funerals. Warning: she is accidentally funny. She is filled with gratitude and joy and it is contagious. Be prepared to relax, breathe, and go with the energy of The Spirit. Music and laughter will be served

December 1, 2024: The Rev. Ken Reeves

Rev. 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 my families and friends,

September and October got off to a great start! We are back in full session with all classes. We welcomed a new Nursery Care person Ava Gelfusa. Ava is a senior from Dedham High School and comes to us with lots of childcare experience. She is settling in beautifully!

OWL K-1 is in full swing and will be wrapping up this December. This cohort will then finish up Love Surrounds Us in the Spring.

UU Explorers are using Soul Matters and will continue with this through Spring 2025.

Neighboring Faiths will finish up this Fall and move to "Heading the Call" in the Spring.

Coming of Age is in their second phase and will continue with phase 3 in the Spring with their Coming of Age Service scheduled for May 18, 2025. Mark your calendars!

In November we will be joining The Allin Church for service and will have Nursery care here at First Church. All other kids and youth will be across the street with myself and Elizabeth McNamee, Allin's Director of Christian Education.

December will be busy with holiday activities and pageant prep! The pageant will be on December 15th and we will be doing an interactive Christmas Pageant where the entire congregation will participate!

Lisa's office hours will be on Wednesday, 11 am-3 pm
You can reach her at lisapilat@dedham

Our Music Director: Darry Dolezal

The choir is going full steam! If you wish to join us please come on Sunday mornings at 8:45 to go over music for the service. Our remaining evening rehearsals this fall are November 12 and 26, and December 10 and 17, Tuesday evenings at 7:00 in the Dining Room.

Please mark your calendars for the joint choir singing for the Anniversary Service at Allin Church on November 24. There will be a rehearsal at the Allin Church on Thursday evening November 21. If you would like music please email me or see me after church. Also note that Music Sunday will be February 2nd.

Darry

darrydolezal@dedhamuu.org

Church Administrator: Grace Peña

November is here and the summer Dedham Farmers Market is over for the season which means that my office hours will change... again! My new office hours will be Mondays, 10am-3pm, Wednesdays, 12pm-5pm and Fridays, 10am-3pm. If you are around church on any of those days and at those times, please stop by to say "Hello!" I would love to see you!

Everything is moving along swimmingly with the church year. New schedules are working out and we are getting ready for another holiday season. So much to look forward to!

In November we will have our joint service with Allin Church on Sunday, November 24th and on that same day we will have the Dedham Food Pantry Thanksgiving Meal Give-Away in our dining room with a reception in the auditorium hosted by the Women's Alliance. This year, the Allin Church will join us to help with the reception and the Give-Away!

Our wonderful Holly Faire will take place on Saturday, December 7th. Donations for the Holly Faire will begin to be accepted as of Monday, November 25th. Remember to start to clean out your drawers, cabinets, attics, basements, etc. to donate to our Trading Post!

Then there will be the Christmas Pageant, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and mixed in there among all of our regular monthly happenings (Folk Coffeehouse, Fourth Friday Family Fun Night, etc.) will be another concert by John Muratore in the Meetinghouse. So much to do, so much to enjoy, so much to be thankful for!

A special "Thank You" to our Coffee Hour Teams for so gracefully taking on a few more tasks this year. Having you take care of ushering and flowers for service has been a great help.

Remember, if you are not a part of a Coffee Hour Team, but would like to be so, please contact me at firstchurch@dedhamuu.org and I will add you to a team.

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Also, if you cannot commit to a Coffee Hour Team just yet, but would like to usher or bring flowers for service on a particular date, please email me and let me know. I will contact the corresponding team for the date that you are interested in and let them know that task will be taken care of.

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

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

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 or Rali at raliweaver@dedhamuu.org.

JOIN US FOR:

FOURTH FRIDAYS!
Fun and Free,
BABYSITTING FOR KIDS!

FEATURING

Games, CRAFTS, FOOD, MOVIES, and a BOUNCY HOUSE

FOURTH FRIDAYS OF MOST MONTHS*
6PM-8PM
FIRST CHURCH AND PARISH IN DEDHAM
670 HIGH ST.
DEDHAM MA

Parents are welcome to stay and play, or drop off and enjoy dinner in the Square with **FREE babysitting!**

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

Women's Alliance Fall 2024

The Women's Alliance will be hosting a "Post Election Baking Therapy Session" on Saturday November 9th starting at 10 am in the church kitchen. Lisa Seibert will be leading us in baking some old favorites from the church cookbook that was put together in 1988 for the 350th anniversary of First Church. Please let Carol Dixon know if you are planning to come so you can get copies of the recipes, carolhdixon@gmail.com.

On Sunday, November 24th , the Women's Alliance will be hosting a reception for the Dedham Food Pantry clients, noon to 1:30 pm. First Church has been providing a space for the Dedham Food Pantry Thanksgiving and Holiday dinner distribution for many years. Several years ago, we began to provide a reception for food pantry clients so they would have a warm and welcoming place to wait to pick up food for their Thanksgiving or Holiday dinners.

This year, the Alliance will organize the Thanksgiving reception and the RE Committee will organize the Holiday reception on December 21st . Everyone is welcome to help in any of the ways listed below:

1. Set up on Saturday, November 23rd
2. Soup making on Saturday, November 23 rd
3. Provide baked goods (homemade or purchased) for the reception
3. Making and serving coffee for the reception
4. Serving at the reception
5. Cleaning up

Please let Carol Dixon know if you can help in some way.





Holly Faire

Saturday, December 7, 2024 9 am-1:30 pm 5 weeks away!

Thank you to everyone who showed up for the Holly Faire organizational meeting. We have a great crew and thanks to all who volunteered to chair the different parts of the fair.

Here's the 2024 Holly Fair Crew:

Holly Fair chair - Carol Dixon Hutton

Food Table - Diane Cullen-Moore

Trading Post - Kathy Widger and Noreen King

Special Treasures - Sam King and Linda Meyer-King

Toys – Becca Vautour and Jess Larochelle

Greens - Andrea Gilmore

Luncheon - Kerri Gallagher

Raffles – Rali Weaver

There are a couple of open spots:

- we need someone to chair the Gift and Craft Table,
- a publicity chair, and
- someone to take charge of the clean-up process.

Flyers and digital flyers will be available in November.

Please save the date - Saturday, December 7th and encourage your friends to drop by!

Just a reminder, it's not too soon to put away items for the Yankee Trading Post! You can start dropping off your items for the Trading Post on Monday, November 25th. 9-3 during office hours or Call Rali 617-459-5979 to drop off after hours.

If you have Holly Faire thoughts, questions, and/or ideas, please contact Carol Dixon at carolhdixon@gmail.com

Cheers, Carol

Civic Engagement

Dedham Food Pantry

Dedham Food Pantry needs volunteers at this time. If you can help, please sign up by going to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4caca829a2f49-20201>

Musical Events at First Church



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

- **Heather Mumford, Friday, November 15th, 7pm**

Heather Mumford is a Boston-based musician who plays country, folk and blues classics with her band, including Heather (lead vocals, ukulele and fiddle), Harry Wolfson (upright bass), Gary Kemp (guitar and vocals), and Sam Kendall (mandolin and vocals).

- **Three at Home, Friday, December 20th, 7pm**

Three at Home is comprised of Dann Russo on vocals and guitar, Mary Casiello on vocals and keyboard, and Kari Paisley-Flango on vocals and drums. Their Three at Home sound is a cocktail of harmony-driven rock, infused with soulful energy and emotion.

- **Baird and Ridarelli, Friday, January 17th, 7pm**

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, 7pm**

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, 7pm**

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 right 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.

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>



First Church and Parish Dedham Unitarian Universalist was first gathered in 1638 and is located in Dedham Center at 670 High Street. Its lively music program includes its choir at Sunday services, the Parish Players theater troupe, and the **Concerts at First Church** concert series in addition to our Friday Folk Coffeehouse events.

HISTORICAL NOTES

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.



William Henry Parker (1909-1921)

William Henry Parker was born in Mukwonago, Wisconsin in 1877, the son of John J. Parker and Anna Vanderpool. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1902 and received his Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree from Harvard Divinity School in 1905. Parker was ordained at the Christian Union (Unitarian) Society in Reading, Massachusetts on June 19, 1905 where he served as pastor until 1909. On June 28, 1906 Parker and Elvy Hunt were married at Parker's church in Reading and in the following three years, Elvy gave birth to two children. Parker was installed as minister of First Church Dedham on April 29, 1909, pledging that "I give myself in the hope that no future generation can say of us who are alive now 'the parish declined under them.'"

William Henry Parker's mission from the inception of his ministry was the growth of First Church. As he stated in the First Church Parish Record, "The First Parish needs a larger constituency, more people to support its services and its various enterprises. We want new families to send their children to our Sunday School for it has ever proved itself a counselor, a help and an incentive to a reverent, dependable, and serviceable maturity. The comradeship of the young people of ours has been wholesome, healthy, and joyous... First Parish was organized as the church of the town, not as a sectarian church, not as a protest against any other church. It was an inclusive church and has tried to maintain the tradition both in practice and in its bond of fellowship." In the service of this mission, Parker tried to implement this intention by employing multiple strategies.

First, Parker attempted to raise the profile of First Church in Dedham. To achieve this, he began advertising upcoming First Church services in the Dedham Transcript. Next, Parker served 10 years as the chaplain of the Dedham's Norfolk County House of Correction. In addition, under Parker's leadership First Church reinforced Dedham's Americanization efforts

by hosting lectures by Italian army officers, inviting Italian children to singing parties, and setting up getting-acquainted meetings between Italian families and members of the First Church Layman's League. After the Great War broke out in Europe, the Dedham Branch of the Civic Federation Surgical Dressing Committee was invited to convene at the First Church Vestry to manufacture slings, fracture cushions, gauze, cotton, surgical sponges for the hospitals in France. Moreover, during the 1918-19 influenza pandemic, Parker contracted with the Dedham Board of Health to utilize the Vestry as an emergency hospital. As Parker related in the Parish Record, "The Commissioners of Norfolk County loaned the jury beds from the County Courthouse. The Chickering House gave the use of several beds. Many of the townspeople loaned bedding. Some forty men, women, and children, mainly pneumonia patients, were received and every care possible given them. It has been a fine illustration of the way the modern religious spirit of the community meets a great emergency."

Second, Parker helped First Church to revamp its committee structure so as to create more compelling opportunities for church members to build congregant community. For example, Parker formally incorporated the post of "women at large" into the Parish Committee governance structure of First Church in 1911. Parker also advocated the community-building strategy of deploying many engaging special-interest groups, such Girls' Club which organized several dancing and bridge parties, the Current Events Club that set up debates on such topics as High Cost of Living, and the Congregational Men's Club that held suppers and sponsored lectures on topics like Dedham Public Aid. And in March 1919 Parker finalized the reorganization of First Church governance by establishing a new committee system. The overarching Planning Committee composed of Parker, Parish Committee Chairs and Deacons was to oversee a function-specific superstructure of committees that included the Housekeeping, Entertainment, Nominating, Sunday School, Parish Record, Hospitality, Publicity, and Music committees. Parker hoped that this reorganization would make First Church more responsive to the needs of both congregants and the greater community.

Lastly, Parker sponsored First Church events calculated to excite congregants, recruit fellow Dedhamites, and revive the affiliation of lapsed church members. Most prominently, during Parker's tenure First Church celebrated its 275th anniversary with several theatrical, musical and religious observances. On a weekly basis, Parker initiated the holding of Sunday Vespers, a 4 PM musicale featuring the newly purchased First Church organ, choir, and professional singers. Parker suggested that First Church hold yearly Harvest Suppers for members and their neighbors, invited all present and past First Church congregants to reunion at annual Members' Sundays, honored area Grand Army of the Republic members, Spanish War veterans, and American Legionnaires at Memorial Day services, and planned First Church commemorations such as its celebration of the 50th anniversary of Civil War-era minister Benjamin Bailey's tenure. And in the midst of U.S. engagement in World War I, Parker committed to holding four joint services with the long-estranged Allin Church congregation as

a gesture of national unity.

At the January 1919 Springfield Unitarian Laymen's Convention, Parker helped to craft a declaration urging Unitarian churches to adopt "modern" policies that not only embodied his aforementioned strategies for growing First Church, but also prefigure our current UU Guiding Principles: "We want you to help us continue as a Unifying, Democratic, American, and truly Christian church. 1. Teach worth and dignity of human nature; 2. Instruct all children in liberal Christianity and the teachings of Unitarian seers and prophets 3. Use a simple form of declaration for church membership; 4. Cultivate Congregational singing; 5. Welcome all children to Unitarian Sunday Schools; 6. Support Young Peoples Religious Unions; 7. Replace pew rents with pledges; 8. Use parish houses for social and educational purposes; 9. Fight disease, premature death, vice, ignorance and lawlessness; 10. Raise funding for extension work at home and abroad; 11. Exert just efforts to improve modern society and unite with others to promote human welfare." In March 1921 Parker resigned as minister of First Church in order to assume the pulpit at Unitarian Memorial Church in Fairhaven, Massachusetts. Parker went on to serve as minister in Fairhaven until his death at 61 years of age on May 19, 1939.

Bibliography

[William Henry Parker Obit Uni Year Book 193940.pdf](#)

[Search within Collection | HOLLIS for \(harvard.edu\)](#)

https://books.google.com/books?id=idsfAQAAAMAJ&pg=PA1051&lpg=PA1051&dq=william+henry+parker+unitarian+minister&source=bl&ots=Tuwmm_5_Qx&sig=ACfU3UopoZ_rF8ylGi31brFl1IQgoq4Izg&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwia_oSY5rz5AhUAq4kEHWTXDwYQ6AF6BAg7EAM#v=onepage&q=william%20henry%20parker%20unitarian%20minister&f=false

<https://uureading.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/History-of-Ministers.pdf>

[William H. Parker - Facts \(ancestry.com\)](#)

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

Parish Records April 1909-March 1921: Dedham Museum and Archive

PARISH COMMITTEE MINUTES

First Church Parish Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 3, 2024, 7:30pm

Minutes submitted by Ann Miranda

In attendance via Google Meet: Mary Lynn Davis, Geoff Tegnell, Rev. Rali Weaver, Lisa Brayton, Debbie Harrison, Vicky Berg, Rebecca Vatour, Ann Miranda, Thomas Donaghey, Aoife Barrington-Haber

Meeting called to order 7:36

Motion made by Geoff Tegnell to accept Minutes from June 4th 2024 and all present approved.

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Motion made by Mary Lynn to accept the Minutes from August 8th, 2024 and all approved.

Treasurer Report was reviewed. Motion made by Geoff Tegnell and approved by all present.

Rev. Rali Weaver presented the Minister's Report

RE Report from Lisa Pilat was reviewed.

Ministerial Proposal

Rev. Rali Weaver reviewed her proposal. Rali stated her intention was not to leave the church. She said there could be learnings both churches can take from each other from technology, culture, RE, etc. Rali suggested it may be a good idea to re-covenant at the end of this year. It was asked if Rali started working in Falmouth, which she did two days in August. There is a calendar with dates of when Rali will be in Dedham and Falmouth. Rali said when she is working at Falmouth, she will continue to work with Grace and Lisa and will do the same duties as she did when on sabbatical.

Visiting ministers to be paid by church operating funds. Rali offered to reduce her wages by \$10,000 to help cover visiting ministers. Mary Lynn and Becca suggested there be a review within a few months to check in/see how things are going with Rali's proposed plan and to review and stay on top of things.

It was asked if there is enough money to cover ministers and Mary Lynn confirmed per her calculations there is enough. Rali will not be here for 17 services. The \$10,000 would cover ministers plus a little extra. Motion was made by Aoife to vote for the reallocation of \$10,000 to be moved from Rali's salary line and moved to the church operating funds. It was accepted by all present.

Transition Process Discussion

The UUA provided a transitional ministry handbook and assistance in the process. Mary Lynn said there are many resources available. A broad selection of leadership (past and present) and new members from our community are needed to form a pre-search committee to come up with goals and objectives. Mary Lynn advised that Andrea Gilmore is interested in joining the committee. Geoff Tegnell is willing to serve on the committee. Rali suggested folks from the Ministry Committee be asked. Parish Committee members are encouraged to reach out to our community to invite them to serve on the committee.

Audit Process

Jeff Hutton and Karen Book are auditors this year. Deacons Geoff and Debbie will meet to get together documents needed. A goal was set to provide the auditors all the required documents by October 1 for a November 17, 2024 fall meeting.

Holly Faire Planning

Carol Dixon tentatively offered to help with the Holly Faire. Additional members are needed to take on leadership roles and help with the fair.

Parish Committee Covenant

Aoife presented a draft of a covenant. Additions were made.

Next meeting Monday, October 7, 2024 at 7:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm