



The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXXII Number 5

May & June 2022

Worship in the Meetinghouse at 10:00 am.

Zoom Social Hour every Sunday at 11:30.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99906139969>

All worship can be found on youtube at www.dedhamuu.org after the service

Sunday, May 1, 2022

Covenant

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

We will consider the history and purpose of the covenant and what our covenant means in a non-creedal, non-doctrinal church.

This is the last day to get your pledges in so we can form our budget for the Fiscal Year 2023.

Please reach out to the office if you need a pledge card!

Calliope's Call Evolution: The Composer's Journey

**Sunday, May 1 at 3:00 pm
At First Church and Parish Dedham
680 High Street, Dedham, MA**

Sunday, May 8, 2022

Mother's Day Walk For Peace

We will be walking with the Louis D. Brown Walk for Peace.

For those who cannot join us, you are invited to a coffee hour with a live stream of the walk experience.

Please sign up for the walk or sponsor those walking if you cannot.

<https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/firstchurchdedham>

Sunday, May 15, 2022

"The Spice of Life"

Rev. Rali Weaver and Susan White

We explore the importance of humor and comedy in life, and we will laugh and laugh and laugh.

Sunday, March 29, 2022

In Memorial

Rev. Rali Weaver will Preach.

We did not get to say goodbye to many people during Covid. This Sunday, we will celebrate the lives of Henry Keene and Jane Kelly and all those we have loved and lost.

You are encouraged to bring mementos of those you would like to remember to share

Sunday, June 5, 2022

Inch by Inch, Row By Row.

We will celebrate our children.

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

This Sunday; we will celebrate the growth of our children and the efforts of their teachers.

We will also acknowledge our graduates and remember our mission to support the spiritual growth of every person.

Our Annual Meeting will follow worship.

Saturday, June 11, 2022

Yard Sale on the Green 9-1

Contact the church office if you want to reserve a table. Non-Members are asked to contribute \$20 to use a space (includes a table and chair).

Members get a space for free. Sign up at firstchurch@dedhamuu.org.

Sunday, June 12, 2022

End-Beginnings

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

This is our last Sunday of the church year. We will celebrate our Flower Communion and encourage everyone to bring a flower to share.

A picnic on the green will follow worship.

Sandwiches will be provided.

We ask everyone to bring side dishes, drinks, and desserts to share.

Our Minister: The Rev. Rali M. Weaver

We are nearing the end of another church year. My fifteenth year with you, to be exact. Fifteen years pales compared to the ministry of The Honorable Rev. Dr. Alvan Lamson, who served this as his only parish from 1818 until 1860 - a total of 42 years. While I have no plan to leave this parish soon, at my age, 42 years might be beyond my scope and ability.

However, next year I will be taking a sabbatical for half of the year, between January 15th and June 15th. Sabbaticals have long been a part of a minister's contract to give a minister time to reflect and renew for a long ministry ahead. I have taken three sabbaticals in my time as your minister. The first sabbatical was time to pursue my Ph.D. (for which I have completed all my work but my dissertation). The second sabbatical was to take care of my great-nieces when they were taken from my niece's care. I am fortunate that my wife Jenny also has a sabbatical built into her job. We have been able to coordinate our sabbaticals for next year (she will start with time off before Christmas).

Next fall, both Zoe and Lucy will be attending college, and Jenny and I will be empty nesters (save for our dogs). Our mutual sabbaticals couldn't come at a better time for us. We plan to spend our Sabbatical traveling across the country with our pop-up trailer. We will be visiting long-ignored family and friends, trekking through our national parks, and exploring places we have never seen before. This trip will not only serve as a mighty distraction from our changing parental roles but will also help us to widen our horizons and nourish relationships long ignored due to our busy schedules.

The church will likely hire a Sabbatical Minister to cover my time away. The Ministry Committee will help keep the congregation informed of not only my travels but who will take on my responsibilities in my absence. I hope this will be an effortless time for all of you and that the church will continue to grow and strengthen in my five-month absence.

You may think I am getting ahead of myself by telling you my plans. I want you to know what is happening so that my absence as your minister doesn't worry anyone. I hope this planned time away will give me new insights and ideas for another decade or two in Dedham (if not twenty-seven more years to match Alvan Lamson's tenure). If you have any questions about my sabbatical planning, please don't hesitate to contact me or any member of the Ministry Committee: Claudia Leone, Tyler Carpenter, Betsy Hetzler, Eileen Sullivan, Diane Cullen-Moore.

We have more than eight months before my sabbatical begins so please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us with your ideas, questions and/or concerns.

Much Love,
Rali

Rev. Rali M. Weaver on Zoom 8-8:30 am <https://zoom.us/j/684365896>
for daily check-in and meditation
Thursdays 5-6 on Zoom for Readers and Writers workshop
and Sundays at 11:30 for Zoom Social Hour
In the Church Office Tuesday through Friday 10-3
raliweaver@dedhamuu.org or 617-4595-5979
or make an appointment online at <https://revraliweaver.youcanboo>

Our Church Administrator: Grace Peña

The Church Office hours through June 30, 2022 are:
Monday ~ Closed
Tuesday through Friday ~ 10 am-2 pm

Hello! I continue to be in the office three days a week. Rali and I are in on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Rali is in the office on Thursday. The office is closed on Monday and Saturday.

Thank you so much to those who have helped us with the tasks that I have noted in my *Help Around the Office* section in our weekly email. It's been great to get responses to my requests for help with such tasks as getting the Parish Record mailed out. Plus, it's been great to spend some time with you!

If you would like to receive our weekly church email, please contact me at: firstchurch@dedhamuu.org or by phone at 781-326-7463 and I will add your email address to that contact list. The all church email usually goes out on Thursday afternoon.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have stopped receiving the weekly email what likely has happened is that the program has noted your email address as inactive. This automatically occurs if you do not open that message for a while. Please make sure to at least open the message even if you do not click through. Please contact the office if you need your email address placed back on the contact list.

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.

In particular we hope you would reach out with a card or a call to Vicky Berg, Martha Leonard, Joan Wisloki, Maryanne Osborne, Mary Dario 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 or Susan White at sbsw6567@gmail.com.

Did you know, if you miss worship you can listen to Rev. Weaver's Sermons at <https://soundcloud.com/weaverali> or watch all the Covid worship on YOUTUBE by searching youtube Rev. Rali Weaver, Tiny Desk Worship.

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/409of4caca829a2f49-20201>

Louis D. Brown Mother's Day Walk for Peace May 8, 2022

You can participate in one of three ways:

1. Pledge our First Church Team and help us reach our \$3000 goal.
<https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/Team/View/156349/First-Church-and-Parish-Dedham-UU>
2. Register to Walk with the First Church team on May 8th
<https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/Team/View/156349/First-Church-and-Parish-Dedham-UU>
3. Or register to walk virtually on your own and tune in to watch the virtual broadcast on the day of.



Aoife Barrington-Haber offers drama camps and classes for children in Canton. A long-time member of this parish she has generously offered to give a discount to any First Church families who wish to sign up.

Just use the coupon DEDHAMUU at checkout and you will receive 15% off your registration. Thanks Aoife!

<https://www.stageworthydrama.com/>



Join us on Mother's Day May 8th for the 26th annual Mother's Day Walk For Peace. We choose to walk in the walk for peace to forge greater connections to our neighbors and build relationships to other faith groups who share the same vision for a just and equitable and peaceful world.

Those of you who can only walk a bit can come and sign up and walk less than a mile to the UU Urban Ministry for coffee and doughnuts.

Those who can walk the whole walk, great.

Those who would rather stay back and come to church may watch what we are able to share from our phones and have refreshments with Grace.

Meet at the church at 7:45 or Meet us at the church and we will drive over to Town Field Park in Dorchester. The UU Urban Ministry is nearly across the street- and those who want to only be there for the festivities can park there and walk down or meet us later in the morning. We will be sending out a second email next Monday to give more details.

Please consider signing up to walk with us in the Louis D. Brown Mother's Day Walk for Peace You can participate in one of three ways:

- 1. Pledge our First Church Team and help us reach our \$3000 goal.**
<https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/Team/View/156349/First-Church-and-Parish-Dedham-UU>
- 2. Register to Walk with the First Church team on May 8th**
<https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/Team/View/156349/First-Church-and-Parish-Dedham-UU>
- 3. Or register to walk virtually on your own and tune in to watch the virtual broadcast on the day of.**

Adult Religious Exploration

Nature and Nurture Society (Social Distancing walk): Come rain or shine we will be walking together on Saturday, May 21 at 9 am as the last walk of this Church year. We will explore the works of the transcendentalists and explore nature's theater that brought them so close to the divine. Contact Rali if you are interested so she can give you directions and knows who to wait for. 617-459-5979 or raliweaver@dedhamuu.org. New walkers are always welcome!

Daily Meditations: Join Rali for 30 minutes of check-in and meditation, 8:00-8:30 every day of the week on Zoom <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/684365896> This will continue through the summer.

A First Church Reader and Writer Group has changed its time to invite more. It now meets **every Thursday** from 5pm - 6 pm on Zoom. Please join us for reading and listening and writing both poetry and prose. Even if you aren't a writer, bring some of your favorite author's work to share. This is a fun and enjoyable time for all those who participate. Please join us on Zoom <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87160212466>. New readers and writers are always welcome



First Church Parish Committee Meeting, Monday, February 7, 2022, 7:00 Attendees: Josh Langmead, Jonathan Pape, Rali Weaver, Erik Meyer-Curley, Geoff Tegnell, Kerrie Gallagher, Howard Ostroff, Matt Grady, Paquita Bass, Rali Weaver

Call meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Gratitudes: Rali is grateful that the media worked on Sunday. Meredith's aunt passed and had a chance to speak with relatives before she died. Paquita was grateful for her friend's opportunity to promote her friend's restaurant.

Review and Approve:

Minutes from January 3, 2021 meeting (requires approval) Appropriate date? Otherwise the minutes were accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (requires approval) Overall everything is tracking. Some name errors that Erik is correcting. Mistake about groundskeeping for January check which he corrected. Question about AA building use? Erik will amend building use for misfiles about Bay State Learning. Recommendation to change this from a liability to an asset and keep it in a separate account. Correction for 4793. Accept with corrected budget #: accepted unanimously.

Minister's Report: Good small group ministry conversations after church. Rali will get volunteers to help. Lower numbers of service participants at church because of Covid,. Rali is working with ministers who are offering online classes. The Ministry committee is working with the data. They are also writing a sabbatical plan. She will go to Costa Rica in March. Grace is working and doing deposits. She is hosting the coffee hours online. Question about a Watch Party for film series, but few people are showing up.

RE: Video of story every week which goes out with a link to the live stream.

New Business:

Parish Committee Funds: Keeping account of Parish Committee Fund. Choice #1: have a new account in Needham Bank with \$ from PC. Choice #2. Quickbooks options with complicated fake withdrawal. Choice #3 just having a second account in the bank. Motion for Choice #1 passes unanimously. New question about how we roll over PC funds from year to year. We also need a mechanism for funds that aren't spent at year's end to be rolled over to the new budget. A Motion to automatically withdraw church funds from the previous year into the following year passed unanimously. The next item is to clarify the usage of other funds such as the Memorial Garden Fund. This task will be ongoing

Dedham School of Music is looking for more suitable space for rehearsals. Jon P and Howard have talked to the Director of DSM. In addition, Andrea has talked about spaces with BLSC. We

are talking about space for lessons, ensembles and orchestras. We are moving to these discussions with the facilitation with the Building Use Committee, the Minister, and the PC Chairs. Good opportunity for \$ for the church and will support our concert series. This is an opportunity to establish a long-term relationship with the DSM. A walkthrough will soon happen.

BSLC Summer Camp: Need to check with the needs of the DMS. Want BSLC to build a proposal for summer school usage. We might change the meeting date.

Action Items:

Parish Committee Sub-Committees: Two Minute Updates. Geoff reported on the short range plan for restarting the Church. By March we will have more information on the Church Leadership Survey in Josh's Google Form. This will be re-sent.

Stewardship Committee: All Parish Committee members are to make videos to support Stewardship. We can record these at church or wherever.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 7, 2022 at 7:00pm

Adjourn at 8:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Geoff Tegnell, Parish Committee Clerk

First Church Parish Committee Meeting Notes, March 8, 2022, 7:00 Meeting

Attending: Josh Langmead, Rali Weaver, Howard Ostroff, Kerrie Gallagher, Andrea Gilmore, Erik Meyer Curley, Matt Grady, Geoff Tegnell, and Paquita Bass

Call meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Gratitudes: Celebration of spring, Rali is pleased because more parishioners are attending services and because our RE program is starting up again

Review and Approve:

Minutes from February 7, 2022 meeting (requires approval): Discussion of how we post fund information in our minutes. We don't want to confuse parishioners with information that they might not be oriented about. The plan is for the Parish Committee chairs to go through the accounts at the Needham bank, develop an overall account and then present the account information to the congregation. We will take out the \$60,000 from the minutes. Minutes were adopted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (requires approval): We are at 52% percent of budgeted costs, but 66% through the year. Utilities are high which may be attributable to wacky weather. However, with spring, the oil/gas prices may decline. As of now, energy bills have gone up considerably. Andrea will investigate the electricity bill in view of the solar power plan that we have and haven't been credited for. She is concerned about how this gets accounted for in this calendar year. Erik will continue to track energy billing with the help of Jenny. Andrea mentioned that the annual endowment fund deposit is about to be made and should supplement our budget deficits. Treasurer's Report was accepted unanimously.

Minister's Report: Easter phone calls by Parish Committee members inviting parishioners back along with an Easter picnic on the Green and a stirring Music Sunday. Rali thinks that all committees should do some small group bonding such as chalice lighting and breaking bread together. Rali thinks that we should collaborate with the Belmont UU church for trainings and online activities, especially for RE. Ministry Committee goals. Rali is concerned about the Leadership Survey results because they were not developed in collaborative discourse. Rali is going to Costa Rica for the next two weeks, but will be attending to messages about the church. Plus she has provided coverage for both Sundays. Rali has staffed the necessary church business with Parish Committee members and church employees. Rali shared the Leadership Survey and the Appreciative Inquiry feedback. Rali said she had productive conversation about the feedback with growth along with persistent patterns. Rali points out how difficult it has been to forge social adhesion after 2 years of no coffee hour.

RE: Lisa observed that the kids were enthusiastic about returning to church RE this past Sunday. Josh talked about the challenges of teaching OWL with small groups of kids. More adults are needed to be trained.

New Business:

2022-2023 Budget: So we need to begin the process. Rali thinks that we need to consider the following: 1. Get rid of RE assistant and hire a ½ RE director (with increased parent volunteers.) Rali thinks that we can collaborate with the Belmont UU church once a month. (Would help in recruiting parents), 2. Rali found a new and cheaper trash collection company, 3. Cost of living increase for church employees, 4. Our total budget projection (does it go up, stay the same or go down?) Should we index our budget to cost of living i.e. by 2%? Some PC members are worried about setting a higher goal when perhaps fewer people will be re-engaging with our church after the pandemic. The Parish Committee agreed to ask for an increase of 2% on the budget

Nominating Committee: One deacon, member at large, Re, Alliance, and parish committee member: Matt volunteered, Andrea suggested Susan Sennott or Susan White. Carole Dixon Hutton will be the backup. Paquita will be the PC rep. RE committee person might be Liza Arend or Emily Peloquin-Pape or Dale Meyer Curley or Josh Langmead. Member at large - Mason Miranda or Tyler Carpenter. We could also consider Ann Miranda. We will be seeking two Parish Committee members (with Howard as a replacement), as well as a deacon. We will

also need two auditors.

Audit Plan; Pushed to next month

Finance Committee: Parish Chairs, Deacon and volunteers. Pete Lutz and Cindy Jones are good candidates. Erik also and Lisa Seibert are also qualified people. Howard and Josh have also agreed to be part of the process. Paquita will ask Jon Pape to volunteer as well.

Action Items:

Ministry Evaluation: Already covered; will be addressed again next month.

Easter Sunday: To be held in the Meeting House. Parish Committee members will make calls to congregants. (Rali will provide a script for calls.) We will stage a picnic after the service. Easter service will be combined Music Sunday George Shearing choir concert. Geoff also discussed other plans for regathering including restarting Willy Wonka, holding concerts in March and May and collaborating with the Dedham Music School in UU folk music coffee house events and classical music concerts next church year.

Revisit First Church Document Transfer: We resolved that provisionally we will postpone transferring the First Church Records to Harvard until August 31st so that we can conclude research into the biographies of First Church ministers from 1638 till the present. Rali will take responsibility for following through with the transfer of these documents.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 7:00pm

Adjourn: 9:05 PM, 3/8/22

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Tegnell, Parish Committee Clerk

Members get at table, chair and space for free- contact the church office to sign
firstchurch@dedhamuu.org 781-326-7463



Non-Members
we ask for a 20-25\$
Donation to rent a spot call
781-326-7463 or email
firstchurch@dedhamuu.org to reserve
a space.



670 High Street, Dedham, Ma
Saturday, June 11, 2022
9:00AM-1:00PM



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