



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

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

Volume CXXXXIV Number III

January & February 2024

Worship in the Meetinghouse at 10:00 am & on YOUTUBE
Zoom Social Hour every Sunday between 11 and 11:30
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84586826172>

Sunday, January 7, 2024

Hymn Sing Sunday

Come to church and consider the importance of music in worship and choose your own favorite hymns to sing!

Sunday, January 14, 2024

The Human Be- In

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
Held in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park Polo Fields on January 14, 1967, the "Human Be-In" was a prelude to San Francisco's Summer of Love, which made the Haight-Ashbury district a symbol of American counterculture. This Sunday, we will explore the good and the bad of the counter-cultural movement that began on this day 57 years ago.

Sunday, January 21, 2024

The Nature of Loneliness

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
This Sunday, we will consider the emotional and spiritual conundrum of loneliness and what if anything, we can do about that feeling.

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Folk Music Sunday

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
All who are musically inclined or just like to sing are invited to perform their favorite folk songs! We will consider the importance of the folk music tradition in American History and worldwide.

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Unintended

The Rev. Anita Farber Robinson will preach

This Sunday we will reflect not only on unintended consequences but also on unintended or unanticipated experiences that shape our lives.

Sunday, February 11, 2024

Native Son Richard Wright

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
For Black History Month this year, each Sunday we will explore the lives of three Black artists. This Sunday, we will turn an eye to the life and work of southern-born Richard Wright and what his life work had to offer.

Sunday, February 18, 2024

Amiri Baraka

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
We will explore the life and times of poet and cultural commentator Amiri Baraka, whose themes from black liberation to white racism drew praise and criticism in his lifetime.

Sunday, February 25, 2023

Neo-expressionism and Jean-Michel Basquiat

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
This Sunday, we will explore Jean-Michel Basquiat's contribution to Neo-Expressionism and consider the value of art as a political statement.

Our Minister: The Rev. Rali M. Weaver

Happy 2024!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday surrounded by love and comfort.

As I write, our youngest, Lucy (now 19), is putting up the Christmas tree and listening to modern Christmas music. Lucy was about 14 when she took upon the responsibility of putting together our tree each year. I am sure some of you think fake trees are silly, but I am allergic to pine trees. Thus, Lucy and Zoe have grown up with a fake tree my father gave me when he downsized. In many ways, fake trees are safer and more sustainable than real ones. As a child, though, I just wanted a real tree and the smell of a real tree more than anything. Perhaps the truth is we always want what we don't have.

Time changes all things, too. I remember when Lucy and Zoe hid out on the stairs during church and under the tables in the dining room during the social hour. Many members of First Church have grown up in the parish, raised their children, and brought their grandchildren to this church and Parish. One of my greatest pleasures in this life is participating in and witnessing this parish's life. All the children learn to love our community and buildings differently over time.

We have many friends in the parish who are isolated and cannot witness or fully participate in the life of this parish. I know some of them feel they don't belong anymore. I hope we can always be sensitive to those around us and welcoming to all ages. There is value in having diversity of all kinds in our friend groups. This is why it is important that we all take time to reach out to those more isolated in our parish so they do not feel left behind as we grow and invite new members in.

In a church community, we must always try to balance the needs of the few against those of the many. One example is how we try to leave the auditorium for the children to run around and the dining room for a more peaceful discussion during our social hour. This does not mean children cannot be in the dining room or that adults cannot be in the auditorium, just that children deserve to have a place to run, and adults need a place to feel steady on their feet and hear each other speak.

One of the initiatives of the UU Explorers Committee has been the First Fridays Family Fun Night. Each month, they invite families from the church and the wider community to bring their children for fun and activities for a couple of hours once a month (free of charge) to play games and make crafts while the parents have some respite. This is a much-needed service to our wider community as it is a great introduction to our church. While the Children's UU Explorer's Committee has taken the lead on planning this, it is really an all-church activity, and we need more people to help out if it will continue into the future. Do you have a couple of hours per month you could give to engage with the children of our wider parish? If so, please contact Lisa at lisapilat@dedhamuu.org. What I believe you will get by participating in the First Friday Family Nights Out is the satisfaction of widening the diversity of your friend groups within the parish!

May your new year be filled with respite, fun, and pure joy. Rali

Rev. Rali M. Weaver

In the Church Office Tuesday through Thursday, 9-2, and by appointment when convenient for you.

Third Thursdays 5:30 -6:30 on Zoom for Readers and Writers workshop <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83183979464>
raliweaver@dedhamuu.org or 617-459-5979

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

Hello Church Families and Friends,

September and October have flown by! We are in full swing with robust classes running and many fun events to come.

In the nursery, we have Desi Langmead and are looking to hire an additional Nursery care worker. We have 1 to 2 babies who stay in the nursery.

In *Spirit Play* Aoife Barrington Haber is our lead teacher. Aoife has added new workstations and is working on adding new stories. We have 5 children in *Spirit Play*.

In *UU Explorers* we are exploring the Love Connects Us curriculum. Becca Vautour and Jess Laroche are the lead teachers and we have 8 kids in this class.

OWL 7-9 continues to meet through December with Josh Langmead, Emily Peloquin Pape and Lex Cushman as our facilitators. We have 8 youths in this class.

We have the Youth and Young Adult group meeting a couple of times per month. Jen Tegnell and Chloe Seibert are leading this. The youth are planning several activities including a Haunted House, graveyard visit, and pizza parties.

We are continuing with Families Night Out for most first Fridays. Our October event was very successful. We had 12 kids attend with 1 new family. Our families love this and the kids have a blast. It is such a wonderful way to be in the community while allowing our parents and caregivers a well-deserved night out. The kids and youth really enjoy coming to church at night for a fun evening together. We always need additional help with these evenings so, if it moves you, please offer an evening to our child and youth community! We also appreciate any snack and drink donations for this as well.

Part of being in a community and church together is sharing our gifts and talents with one another. Last year, Stephen Brayton came to a class and read his own authored story with the kids. They really enjoyed hearing him read his own story and it gave the kids a chance to meet him and get to know him better. He was also able to get to know our kids a little better as well. I invite you to reach out to me if you have a gift, passion, or talent you would like to share. If you play an instrument, love to sing, are a crafter, love sports, or love to read. Please come and share this with our kids. A large part of faith development is in being in and growing in a community together.

Lisa Pilat is in the Church Office Wednesday, 11am-4pm.
Or you can reach her at lisapilat@dedhamuu.org

Our Music Director: Darry Dolezal

Happy Winter everyone! There are two musical events of note coming up this season. The first is Folk Music Sunday on January 28, 2024. We are focusing on protest songs and inviting any member of the congregation to take part. Please let me know about a week in advance of January 28 if you'd like to sing or play. If you need help finding a song I have plenty to recommend. The message that week will include reference to iconic but little remembered Native American protest singer from the 1960s, Peter LaFarge.

The second special musical event this winter is Music Sunday on March 10. This year we will perform the exquisitely beautiful "Requiem" by Gabriel Fauré. Extra singers would be very welcome so please consider joining the choir for this wonderful piece. Rehearsals will be 7-9 pm in the Dining Room on the following dates: January 9, 23 and 30, February 13, 20 and 27, and March 7. It's okay if you can't come to all of them. I will have music and practice tracks available online.

One last item - the Hymn Sing is back! Please come to church on January 7 to sing your favorite hymns.

Cheers! Darry

darrydolezal@dedhamuu.org

Church Administrator: Grace Peña

Church Office hours are:
Monday through Friday ~ 10 am-3 pm
The office is closed on Saturday

I am in the office on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 am-3 pm. Rali is in on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 am-2 pm, depending on her calendar and anything she may have scheduled outside of the office (you can check the church calendar on our website at www.dedhamuu.org). Lisa has office hours on Wednesday, 11 am-4 pm. (More on page 5)

The office is closed on Saturday.

Lots to look forward to in the coming New Year! Looking forward to seeing you at church.

You can always reach me at firstchurch@dedhamuu.org or when I am in the office at 781-326-7463.

If you would like to receive our weekly email, please contact me either 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 software has marked 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.



Visiting Minister: Anita Farber Roberson

Rev. Dr. Anita Farber-Robertson, Rev. Anita, retired in 2020 after forty years of active ministry, serving congregations in New England as a settled minister and as an Accredited Interim Minister. She taught at Andover Newton Theological School as the adjunct Professor of Communication. Rev. Anita chaired the UUA's Racial and Cultural Diversity Task Force with Leon Spencer from 1992 until 1997 when the new Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Team was formed. She authors two books: Learning While Leading, Increasing Your Effectiveness in Ministry, for clergy and lay leaders, and Called to Community: New Directions in Unitarian Universalist Ministry. Both are available in paperback and on Kindle through Amazon. Rev. Anita has a consulting practice, Learning Edge Consulting, to clergy and congregations. She is the mother of two and stepmother of two, all adult children, and grandmother of their combined eight children. She lives by the sea in Swampscott, Massachusetts, with her dog Tinker.

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 Eleftrakis, Martha Leonard, Joan Wisloki, 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

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>

Adult Religious Exploration

Nature and Nurture Walks: We have had some very inclement weather on the scheduled walks. If you would like to join a walking circle and be on a list serve with other parishioners ready to walk given the proper weather conditions, please email raliweaver@dedhamuu.org

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The First Church Reader and Writer Group meets the third **Thursday** from 5:30 pm - 6:30 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. Please join us on Zoom <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87160212466>. New readers and writers are always welcome!

Many More Adult RE offerings through CommUUnity Collaborative



A Unitarian Universalist collaboration created by ministers and staff teams who want to share new programs with their congregations, and beyond.

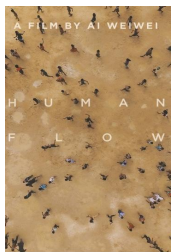
Rev. Norman Allen, First Parish in Portland, Ma
Rev. Jenna Crawford, UU Church of Marblehead
Sophia Doescher, First Church in Belmont
Rev. Rob Hardies, First Parish in Cambridge
Rev. Kim Crawford Harvie, Arlington Street Church in Boston
Rev. Chris Jablonski, First Church in Belmont
Rev. Rali Weaver, The First Church and Parish in Dedham

Our course catalog includes a variety of stimulating online and in-person programs and workshops to help adults deepen their faith, wrestle with big questions, and nurture their souls.

Justice Documentary Film Series
Chanting: Through History, As Spiritual Practice
Our Shared Theology
Dinner with Pema Chödrön
Spiritual Practices for a Fast-Paced World
Readers and Writers Workshop
Reclaiming Christianity for Progressives
On Repentance and Repair...
Exploring the Legacy of Slavery in Our Churches

Don't miss the opportunity to connect more deeply with other UU's and to share your stories. For descriptions and to register for programs visit our website <https://www.commuunitycollaborative.com/>

February 4, 2024, 2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Human Flow (2017)
PG 13 - 2 hours and 20 minutes.

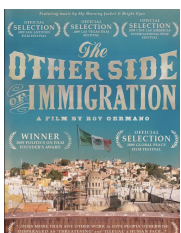
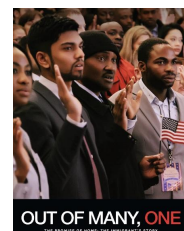


Over 65 million people around the world have been forced from their homes to escape famine, climate change, and war in the greatest human displacement since World War II. Human Flow, an epic film journey led by the internationally renowned artist Ai Weiwei, gives a powerful visual expression to this massive human migration. The documentary elucidates both the staggering scale of the refugee crisis and its profoundly personal human impact.

February 11, 2023, 2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Double Feature:

Out of Many One: The Immigrants Story (2019) 34 minutes

In this short documentary, a group of diverse immigrants discuss their personal journey to pass the immigration test. &



The Other Side of Immigration: (2009) 55 Minutes.

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Based on over 700 interviews in Mexican towns where about half the population has left to work in the United States, *The Other Side of Immigration* asks why so many Mexicans come to the U.S. and what happens to the families and communities they leave behind. Through an approach that is both subtle and thought-provoking, filmmaker Roy Germano provides a perspective on undocumented immigration rarely witnessed by American eyes, challenging audiences to imagine more creative and effective solutions to the problem.

Sunday, February 18, 2024, 2 p.m- 5:30 p.m.



A Thousand Pines (2023) 73 Minutes

Raymundo Morales runs a crew of 12 Oaxacan tree planters traveling the United States in this intimate portrait about the hidden world of guest workers regrowing America's forests. We follow them over the course of one season planting for the country's largest reforestation company, and we watch as Raymundo balances the job's demands with the needs of his men and their loved ones back home. Through the voices of the planters and company owners, we learn how the industry turned from American to foreign workers, and how planting went from work people cherished to work people endure.

Sunday, February 25, 2024 2-5:30

New Immigrant and Refugee Visions: Films by

and about Immigrants

The NIRV films include short stories about a Rohingya refugee who newly arrived in the US, Haitian healing with dance, Indian campaigning for city council, a Somali refugee family divided generationally, a Puerto Rican cultural activist, a Ugandan wondering why he's working in a nursing home, a Bhutanese Christian refugee helping other refugees and immigrants; an Ethiopian evangelical minister helping addicts; a Haitian fixing other Haitians' troubles; and, an undocumented Dominican mother and DACA designated daughter.



Watch on Netflix during the week and discuss on Zoom
at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays in February



Immigration Nation is a 2020 documentary streaming television miniseries directed by Christina Clusiau and Shaul Schwarz. The series consists of footage filmed from 2017 to 2020 of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency's work during the Trump era.

At least one film reviewer has described the documentary as "showing the inhumanity and unconscionable cruelty of [the] agency's tactics."

Prior to release, filmmakers were faced with legal threats; ICE sought to delay the release until after the 2020 United States elections. 6 -60 minute films

Week of January 31- February 6, 2024: watch episodes 1,2 & 3 to discuss on Zoom.

February 6, 2024. Week of Feb 7-February 13: watch episodes 4, 5 & 6 and Discuss on Feb 13 on Zoom.

Living Undocumented is a 2019 Netflix documentary series co-directed by Aaron Saidman and Anna Chai and executive produced by Selena Gomez, Mandy Teefey, Eli Holzman, Aaron Saidman, Sean O'Grady and Anna Chai. The series documents eight undocumented immigrant families living in the United States. The series was produced by Industrial Media-owned production company The Intellectual Property Corporation.

According to an op-ed written by Gomez for Time on October 1, 2019, Gomez said she was approached about the project in 2017 and decided to become involved after watching footage that captured "the shame, uncertainty, and fear I saw my own family struggle with. But it also captured the hope, optimism, and patriotism so many undocumented immigrants still hold in their hearts despite the hell they go through.

Week of February 14-February 20: watch episodes 1, 2 & 3 and then discuss on Zoom Feb 20.

Week of Feb 21- 27: watch episodes 4, 5 & 6 and then discuss on Zoom February 27th.

Register on the ComUUnity Collaborative Website or by contacting raliweaver@dedhamuu.org.

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.

George McKean Folsom (1869-1875)

George McKean Folsom was born on February 6, 1837 to Charles and Susanna S. (MacKean) Folsom in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was secretary of his Harvard 1857 class and went on to get a doctorate degree from Harvard Divinity School in 1866. He married Susan Cabot Jackson on January 8, 1867 and was ordained in that year by First Parish of Groton. Folsom was called on February 1, 1869 to be minister for First Church Dedham which had been without a pastor for 1 1/3 years.

One of Folsom's Dedham parishioners described him thusly: "He was a man of the greatest purity and simplicity, honest and sincere. No offer of worldly profit or advantage could have made him swerve from the path of rectitude. He was a faithful friend, and wise counselor, a lover of his kind, prompt to follow the dictates of generosity, a cheerful giver. He was ever ready to see the good in

the character of others, while his extreme modesty led him to underestimate his own. Incapable of resentment, he was ready to forgive, although slow to perceive, the fault affording opportunity for forgiveness. He was more apt to take blame for himself than to take offense, a truly unselfish man.”

Folsom played an important role in First Church history, despite several obstacles with which he had to contend. First, he reportedly was a very mild-mannered man with a presentation characterized by a parishioner as one of “shrinking and reserve”. Secondly, for the first three years of his ministry, his wife was seriously ill and ultimately died in 1871, at which some would “marvel how, as pastor or preacher, he had time, strength or heart to accomplish anything.” Folsom’s First Church successor attributed his third challenge to “the very delicate and critical condition of things theological at that date prevailing.” Two theological developments come to mind. To begin with, the American Unitarian Association had rehabilitated the controversial abolitionist, social activist, feminist (and deceased) Boston theologian Theodore Parker by publishing a volume of his writings, Speeches, Addresses, and Occasional Sermons (1867) as “one of the recognized representatives of Unitarian thought.” Consequently, a congregant donated a considerable sum to First Church so long as Parker’s thought was welcome in its meetinghouse. To continue, as a recent graduate of divinity school, Folsom was familiar with state-of-the-art German theological scholarship on the origins, context, and textual history of Christianity. German scholars had been probing ancient texts to corroborate the synoptic gospel accounts of Jesus’s life and ministry. Folsom delivered “a very instructive class for Sunday-school teachers which Mr. Folsom conducted fortnightly at his own house. Hase’s Life of Jesus was at one time the subject of study.” Karl August Von Hase wanted to reconcile modern culture with historical Christianity in a scientific way.” Hase applied the historical methodologies of examination of primary texts, i.e. sourcing, contextualization, corroboration, and close reading. Hase carefully applied the new scholarship tools to the synoptic gospels and where historical technique did not find sufficient support, he challenged some of Jesus’s miracles as lacking substantiation. Folsom’s lectures provide congregants with the opportunity to become aware of the application of rationalism and historical methodology to traditional Protestant verities.

The last challenge of Folsom’s ministry concerned the actual structure of the church property. “It was,” says the same witness, “while Mr. Folsom was with us that the need of a more commodious and convenient vestry was strongly felt and, though the building was not completed till a later day, moneys were raised from time to time for that purpose.” One way said moneys were raised was by means of Folsom’s eloquence: as a congregant reminisced, “Mr. Folsom himself contributed largely to the cause by giving public readings, which his remarkable talents rendered very enjoyable occasions, and which benefited us by considerable sums of money.” It was gratefully remembered by many who have enjoyed our improved social and Sunday-school accommodations that the first contribution toward the new vestry was the proceeds of Mr. Folsom’s readings.

Folsom served as a member and later chair of the Dedham school committee for several years. His service extended from March 1871 to March 1875, but according to the testimony of a Dedham teacher, about Folsom, she had “most delightful recollections.” Therefore, it is hardly surprising that in March 1875, after a ministry of six years, Folsom resigned the Dedham pastorate and accepted the office of supervisor of schools in Boston, a position for which many believed he was eminently qualified. Mr. Folsom died suddenly, in Boston, on May 20, 1882. In a notice of his death it was said, “He was as simple and true and genuine a man as ever lived. He loved his friends and his books. Certainly, his life was not a brilliant or noisy one, but it was rich in gentleness and unselfishness, and in the power of doing good to others, and the rare gift of diffusing happiness.”

Bibliography:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=hvd.3204410729he5693&view=1up&seq=58&skiVonn=2021>

Filing Cabinet: Ministers-1688-1897: First Church Papers- 1627-1965; Dedham Museum and Archive

[A brief history of the last three pastorates of the First parish in Dedham, 1860-1888 : a sermon preached November 11, 1888 : Beach, Seth Curtis, 1837-1932 : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

[North America, Family Histories, 1500-2000 - Ancestry.com](#)



Ruth and Ben String Band 1/26/2024

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. They are joined by clawhammer banjo player Joel Wennerstrom and upright bass player Michael Siegel.

As a multi-generational four-piece band, their musical influences are far reaching and include many genres--from Irish and Scottish fiddle tunes and early country to punk. Ruth brings years of experience as a principal member of the '80's and 90's all-woman old-time band from Boston, "The Poodles" touring Europe and the US. Her son Ben is following in Ruth's footsteps with his musically diverse fiddle playing, which has garnered much attention through his many performances in the area. Joel's rhythmic and melodic banjo playing can be heard on recordings alongside members of the Punch Brothers and various Appalachian fiddle contest winners. You can find Michael playing in numerous Americana, Bluegrass, and old-time groups, including Rachel Sumner's "Traveling Light" band. Together they make a highly entertaining quartet.

Hold onto your hats! This will be a lively show! Ruth and Ben have recently released a new album, "Newfangled Folk" and look forward to playing selections from the album at the show.



Cooke Family Singers 2/16/2024

The Cooke Family Singers is comprised of family members Frances, Ruth, and George, plus an ever-changing and unpredictable set of special guests that can range from their 8-year-old niece to lifelong musician friends. Their sets are constructed and tailored to each performance venue, so they can range from an intimate trio with acoustic guitar to a full band. Vocal duties rotate throughout the performance as our goal is a variety of styles and textures.

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. Some examples are the song "I Didn't Know that You Owned This Road" about driving in Boston or "I'm Going to be a Park Ranger", which is a wistful fantasy about a job change. Cooke Family Singers' other songs are curated covers that feature Ruth and Frances' tight harmonies and can range from Lake St. Dive to Johnny Cash to songs from the musical "Hamilton." They perform at porch fests and other musical events in the Northeast. During the pandemic, the Singers did a biweekly series of online "hootenanny" that were broadcast on Facebook. The Cooke Family Singers felt it was a small way to try to build some sense of community during a very difficult time.

They are looking forward to participating in the Friday Folk Coffeehouse Series on Fri, Feb 16, 2024. Their music can be found on George's Bandcamp site: <https://georgecooke.bandcamp.com/>

PARISH COMMITTEE MINUTES

First Church and Parish in Dedham - Parish Committee Meeting Wednesday, November 1, 2023 Via Zoom

In attendance: Howard Ostroff, Kerrie Gallagher, Geoff Tegnell, Mary Lynn Davis, Deb Harrison, Rebecca Vautour, Rev. Rali Weaver, Matt Grady, Ann Miranda, Baystate Learning: John Ireland-Administrator, Jay Jay Mudridge-Co director, George Popham Co-director

Confirm the zoom link address is the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85238030630>

Gratitude

Meeting called to order at 7:15pm by Howard Ostroff

Baystate Learning Center (BSLC)– JayJay talked about the home school type learning program which has around 32 full time equivalent students. Many students are neurodiverse. For 10 years, BSLC occupying the space and think of the relationship with FCPD as harmonious. BSLC uses RE classrooms, auditorium, kitchen once a week and storage room. Geoff started working with George when Geoff was a Deacon years ago. Baystate said communication has been top notch in the past 5 years.

Minor changes were made to the Minutes from October 3, 2023 meeting. A motion was made to accept the revised minutes and second by Becca and Kerrie. All were in favor.

Treasurer Report (missing)

Minister's Report-Rali reviewed topics in the report. The Safe Church policy has been implemented and the door has been locked without issue. Becca said there is confusion when RE comes back. Ushers are supposed to be on hand at the back of the church to let people in. Rali will instruct ushers to be aware of people who need to come in after the door is locked.

Rali's report had swapped who would be handling the upcoming Holly air and turkey giveaway. The Women's alliance will host Holly Fair and RE Committee will host Thanksgiving turkey give away.

RE Report – no comments or discussion from the committee

Special Fall Meeting

1. The incoming Clerk (Ann Miranda) will work with Rali to draw up the documents for the meeting except for the nomination for the Clerk which Ann cannot do. Parish Committee members to reach out to the community to find a moderator.
2. Deacon's audit is 99% complete per Deb. Treasurer audit almost complete per Rali. Deb seemed to think Lisa did not have the treasurer audit.

Community Purchasing Alliance (CPA)- CPA is not asking for money to pay for it now. But may in the future. The commitment would be a \$300 Co-op Membership Investment and \$100 annual Co-op fee. Rali feels strongly about joining and offered to contribute from her funds to pay for it. The new trash company that the church uses has saved over \$00 per year. Deb is questioned: what other local orgs use it. Concerned that FB is 2 years old and not updated and website old. Rali said CPA communicates through listservs. Rali said there is someone to call when projects are needed. Rali knows of a few churches in the area that use it.

Rali reviewed the contract with the committee. Howard recommended the fees come from operating budget. All were in favor of signing on except for Deb Harrison who voted No. The Parish committee Chair, Kerrie will sign the contract.

Technology plan for weekly activity-Howard suggested there be documentation of communications procedures (camera set up for broadcasts, website content maintenance, all church emails etc.). There should be a place to find written procedures or plan how to use devices, where they are located, trouble shooting, roles and responsibilities and who is the back

up. Howard asked the Technology Committee to take the charge to get the plan written up and the right people are involved. Having a plan will keep vital information centralized.

New business-Becca suggested reaching out to our community to introduce Star Island, engage our youth and adults by doing an introduction to Star Island with a day trip to the island.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 7:00PM

Motion to adjourn made and all accepted. Meeting ended 8:29pm

**First Church Parish Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 7:00 via Zoom**

Attending the meeting: Kerrie Gallagher, Howard Ostroff, Geoff Tegnell Carol Dixon, Deb Harrison, Mary Lynn Davis, Peter Lutze, Matt Grady, Rebecca Vautour, Aoife Barrington-Haber, Ann Miranda and Rali Weaver

Kerry Called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

1. Minutes from November 1, 2023 meeting were approved. Howard made a motion to accept the minutes and all approved.
2. Treasurer Report by Peter Lutze. There appears to be a discrepancy with Parish Committee Restricted funds. Eric last reported on the funds in May 2023 and has not had updates since and there is no paper trail as to where the account is located. Peter to look into this more and report back to the Parish Committee. Becca made a motion to approve the report pending finding the information on the Parish Committee Restricted funds.
3. Minister's Report-Holly Fair was successful, Trading post made more money than past years. Rali has not been able to make contact with Cindy Jones and we may need to get an outside auditor. Rail has found outside auditor resources. Lisa Siebert will be one of the two auditors. There should be 2 auditors if auditing is done by congregation members. This will need to be continued for discussion. There is an uptick in online attendance. Rail will take a few days off after Christmas.
4. RE report-Lisa thanked the Women's Alliance for paying for CPR, Choking and First Aid trainings for 9 people. Lisa wants to open Neighboring Faiths to the larger community as we have a small group of children this year.

Action Items / Discussion

1. Planning for Special Fall Meeting and Audit process was discussed. Geoff Tegnell to act at Clerk and nominate Jeff Hutton. The Clerk will be voted in then, Geoff to stand in and take minutes for Ann who will be absent. The Deacon, Treasurer etc. reports will not be presented because there is not auditor. Audits will need to be postponed as they are not complete due to only 1 auditor. It was suggested the audits be postponed until the annual meeting in June. The Parish Committee voted to hire an outside auditor. The cost is between \$6000-\$10,000. Mary Lynn made a motion to find an outside auditor and it was unanimously approved.
2. Post Holly Fair recap-The Holly Fair made close to \$5,000 goal. It is a good community building event. Although there was a lot of participation this year, still more is needed. In the future, the fair need more foot traffic. Marketing on social media would help and the congregation needs to help to promote the fair too. An electronic form of payment is

needed next year. Rali said we have an electronic payment option. Suggestions-bounce house, outdoor signage, more online advertising.

3. Star Island programs-Becca gave an update that she reached out to Star Island to find out when would be a good time for a day trip. The boats start running at the end of May. She suggested our community share stories about their experiences with Star Island during announcements. Geoff went on to say that FCPD is a founding congregation and has had a relationship with Star Island for the last 100+ years.
4. Technology Committee report-Mary Lynn Davis gave an update. The committee is working on the respective projects. Streaming is going well and Zoom coffee hour is going well. Exporting Church related fundraisers.

New Business / Next Meeting

1. Community events- Geoff has been working on marketing the John Muratore concert on 12/15. On Dec 14, the Dedham Community Band will be giving a holiday show open to the public.
2. Planning for January Parish Committee meeting will be a zoom meeting as usual.
3. Other new business-Geoff requested Baystate Learning has a list of building repairs they would like fixed. He requests the Parish Committee members review the list and discuss it at the next meeting. Geoff to share the list with Buildings and Grounds and the Deacons.

Kerrie made a motion to adjourn and the meeting ended at 8:42 pm