



The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXXX, No 5

May and June 2020

Worship in May and June 2020

Worship at 10:00 online you can find the link at www.dedhamuu.org

11:00 zoom Social Hour <https://zoom.us/j/684365896>

Sunday, May 3, 2020

Creativity in the time of Covid 19

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach

We will explore the creative process and how constriction lends itself to the creative process. It is encouraged to doodle or knit or sculpt or do anything you love during this service.

Sunday, March 10, 2020

Mother's Day Walk for Peace

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

This Sunday we will walk virtually with the Louis D. Brown Institute in the Mother's Day Walk for Peace. We invite you to join with us in this important honoring of the work LDBI does for families in our neighboring communities who have been impacted by violence.

Sunday, May 17, 2020

When Bad Things Happen To Good People

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

This Sunday we will consider Rabbi Harold Kushner's seminal work in light of the recent pandemic and ask not just 'why us' but how we can make sense of all that has befallen the world.

Sunday, May 24, 2020

Labyrinth or Maze

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

Do you encounter roadblocks on your life's journey or twists and turns? How might your life change if you viewed each twist more as a gift than an obstacle?

Sunday, May 31, 2020

The Gaslighting of America

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

This Sunday we will consider gaslighting and how perhaps the American Public has been gaslighted and how we might see past lies to find the reasons people spread them.

THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR OUR CHURCH AND PARISH WILL BE HELD ON ZOOM FOLLOWING THIS SERVICE.

Sunday, June 7, 2020

"In Praise of Children"

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

What Gifts are our children and how do we sustain them during these changing times? Even though we will not have a children's sunday this spring, we will consider our commitment to our children and youth and what we can do for them during this pandemic.

Sunday, June 14, 2020

Flower Communion

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

We won't be able to participate in Flower communion in the usual way but we will explore the importance of connecting to the beauty in nature and share our flowers virtually during coffee hour so have a flower or flour ready to share.

Summer Services and Beyond

We will continue live stream services and zoom coffee hours throughout the summer. Rev. Rali Weaver will be preaching. Tune in at 10 am Sunday Morning to consider life together.

September 13

10 am In the Meeting House?

Hopefully Homecoming

The Rev. Rali Weaver will Preach

It is hard to know what will happen between now and September 13 but we hope we will be back together. This will be a celebration of our community followed by a church potluck on the green.

From Our Minister: The Rev. Rali Weaver



This spring has been unpredictable. All events that were planned have been rescheduled. A feeling of endings and, if we are lucky, beginnings have been lurking in our hearts and consciousnesses.

I try hard not to think of the things we have lost: the birthday plans, the concerts, coffee with friends, dinner parties, the face-to-face Sunday worship and social hour. I instead celebrate the things I have gained: Zoom conversations, virtual worship that can be watched when people stay at home, more time for reflection and reading, our new puppy and plenty of time to train her.

It is hard to imagine how we will re-emerge from this pandemic. What businesses will be lost, how much regression students will experience, if any of you will want to wake up on Sunday mornings and come to church again once the possibility of asynchronous worship has diminished. Now the question is how to make something real and engaging available online. Then the question will be what if we continue some things online for those who prefer it or are unable to make it to church?

Every day since the stay at home order was put in place I have meditated from 9-9:25 on Zoom. Usually one person who lives at Sophia Snow House (where I am on the Board) meditates with me and more recently my friend from Main Joins us. Meditating every day at 9-9:25 is something I think I will continue even when this epidemic has passed, no matter who shows up.

The live stream worship is watched by my family and friends who can rarely see me in person. Even my penpal from San Quentin and his family members have been trying to log in. Finding ways to share our worship with a wider audience and with people who care would be a wonderful addition to the regular worship service once we are able to return to the Meeting House.

Nothing beats being able to sing with your family and friends in person and having a wider circle of caring people available to share worship with each week. I hope that will all be available again in September, but what I have been realizing is that the church is more than just worship and more than just religious education or social hour. It is this bond between us that remains even in these isolating hours. I hope you will reach out if you need anything during this time and remember you are loved and appreciated and cared for even at this distance.

Love Rali

Rev. Rali M. Weaver on zoom 9-9:25 <https://zoom.us/j/684365896> for meditation
You may reach her at raliweaver@dedhamuu.org or 617-4595-5979 or make an appointment online at <https://revraliweaver.youcanbook.me>



From our Director of Religious Education: Grace Peña

It has been very strange here at First Church. The only smiling face I see occasionally is Rali's, there is no one to tell not to run in the halls (which is not a bad thing), no one asking me what we are doing in class and no one to eat our Cheez-its:(I miss all the kids' faces, smiles and laughter.

With the closing of church for the rest of our church year, there will be no Coming of Age service nor will there be a Children's Sunday service which makes me sad. Hopefully, when we return to church we can reschedule these missed services.

Please know that you are all in my heart. During this time, please help your children to remember our 7 Principles:

- #1: We believe each and every person is important
- #2: We believe all people should be treated fairly and with kindness
- #3: We accept all people and we believe in learning together
- #4: We believe each person is free to search for what is true and right in life
- #5: We believe everyone deserves a vote about the things that concern them
- #6: We believe in working for a peaceful, fair and free world
- #7: We believe in caring for our planet Earth and every living thing that shares it with us.

Our UU Youth also have their own credo that is different from the one we say during service. It is: We are Unitarian Universalists, With Minds that think, Hearts that feel and Hands that are ready to serve.

Remind them of this one. You'll get a kick out of what they add to it!

I'll be sending suggestions for activities in our weekly church email. If you do not receive that please contact the office at firstchurch@dedhamuu.org and I will make sure to add your email address to the contact list.

Stay safe and be well.

With love, Grace

You can reach Grace at gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org

Care and Concern

We continue to have parishioners who are not feeling well and/or cannot make it to church and would love to receive a call, a card or a visit.

We hold Jane Kelley in our hearts and prayers as she faces yet another battle with cancer. Jane is going into the hospital again to remove a tumor in the outside lining of her skull. Jane has appreciated all the kind calls and cards and letters from her church friends. If you need Jane's address or email address please contact the church office.

If you have a care or concern to share, please contact our church office by calling 781-326-7463 or emailing firstchurch@dedhamuu.org or Susan White at sbsw6567@gmail.com.

If you would like to help out with your fellow parishioners please fill out the survey attached to the all church email and online at <https://www.dedhamuu.org/get-involved> or by going to <https://forms.gle/CsUKhn2rXLhD6DJW6>

Did you know if you miss worship you can listen to Rev. Weaver's Sermons at <https://soundcloud.com/weaverali>

Civic Engagement

Dedham Food Pantry

Dedham food pantry is accepting only limited volunteers at this time. If you can help please sign up by going to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4caca829a2f49-20201>

During the regular church year Rev. Weaver picks up bread from Whole Foods for the Dedham Food Pantry every other Tuesday evening for the Wednesday Senior Shopping. If you can help with this in the summer while Rev. Weaver is in Vermont please contact her at raliweaver@dedhamuu.org or 617-459-5979

The UU Urban Ministry

The UU Urban Ministry helps to serve those in the greater Boston area through afterschool programs, domestic violence support, community development and education. If you would like to find out more about UU Urban ministry you can talk to Susan Sennott ssennott1@gmail.com or check them out online at <http://www.uuum.org/>

February 2020 and March 2020 Parish Committee Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting of February 3, 2020

Present: Dave Miller, Erik Meyer-Curley, Jen Atkins, Peter Lutze, Ann Miranda, Andrea Gilmore,

Rali Weaver and Susan White

Absent: Allison Staton, Josh Langmead and Kathy Elefterakis

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Dave Miller

Gratitudes

Minutes of the January 6, 2020 Parish Committee Meeting
Motion to accept minutes-seconded-so VOTED.

Treasurer's Report

Erik Meyer-Curley

- Erik clarified line items on Budgets vs Actual Fy 2020
- Line 4500 Misc. Income - \$16,000 should be moved to Line 4300 First Church Funds
- Line 4810 non pledge income - \$5300 of this should go back to Instrument Maintenance Fund
- Total Income to date is 58% of budgeted
- Expenditures on track
- Motion to accept Treasurer's Report-seconded-so VOTED.

Minister's Report

- Financial Sustainability Workshop held here.
- I would like to get guidelines for Parish Committee for what to do with Rainy Day funds-Finance
- Committee should come up with a plan.
- Negotiated with HUMAN Rights Committee for wording on Hate Has No Home Here banner for our green.
- Picture Directory will be done soon.
- Will be on vacation March 16-21st.

DRE Report

- Started OWL K-1 and Coming of Age
-
- Review Action Items
- Erik will discuss adjusting billing for utilities next month
- Job descriptions done
-
- New Business
- Planning church sponsored events

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- Service Auction April 4, 2020.
- Cindy Jones is chair- Andrea Gilmore and John Tocci will cook.
- Change meeting time to Wednesdays for future meetings- Dave will poll committee by email.

New Business

Need to convene the Nominating Committee which consists of a Deacon, member from Parish Committee, RE Chair, Alliance Chair and a Member at Large
Need a deacon, two Parish Committee members, a clerk and need to check with Erik to see if he will continue as Treasurer.

Jen will bring snacks for March.

Meeting adjourned 8:05 p.m.

Next meeting March 4, 2020 at 7p.m.

Minutes of The Parish Committee Meeting of March 4, 2020

Present: Dave Miller, Ann Miranda, Allison Staton, Kathy Elefterakis, Joshua Langmead, Liza Arend, Peter Lutze, Rali Weaver, and Susan White. Andrea Gilmore by telephone.

Absent: Erik Meyer-Curley

Meeting called to order at 7PM by Dave Miller

Gratitutes

Minutes of the February 3 Parish Committee Meeting reviews
Motion to approve seconded- So Voted.

Treasurer's Report

Budget discussion about some line items that need adjustment - an email will be sent to Erik listing those items and requesting an update within the next week.

Treasurer's Report tabled.

Minister's report

Attended a church safety connection in Canton they spoke of several things we could do to become a safer church and Rali has been reviewing their suggestions with the Ministry Committee who have been working with her on the Safe Church Policy.

Jonathan Pape has agreed to help lead the Civic Action initiatives and will be assisting with getting the word out for the Mother's Day Walk for Peace.

DRE Report

Things are going well- attendance is good overall. Have volunteers to teach.

Review action items

- Formerly thank auditors
- Adjusted meeting times
- Nominating Committee has met.
- Finance Committee to consider and present a proposal for the size of church reserve fund- Erik (Budget a certain amount for parish committee reserved fund (rainy day fund))

Committee for Parish Concerns

Andrea Gilmore
Matt Grady
Debbie Harrison
Ann Miranda

New Business

Proposed budget for next year- Erick will meet with Cindy
Consider an electronic system for receiving payments
Need to consider the matter carefully.
Rali will check with other churches

Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.

Next Meeting Wednesday, April 8, 2020 7pm on Zoom

Rali Weaver is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

<https://zoom.us/j/238731991>

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,238731991# US (New York)

The Office will be closed for the remainder of the church year. Please feel free to contact us by leaving a voicemail message at 781-326-7463 or by emailing the office at firstchurch@dedhamuu.org. Someone will be picking up messages.

This Parish Record was printed on 100% recycled paper.

This is our new sustainability symbol. Every time we do something to become more sustainable we will highlight it with this symbol.

