



# The First Church and Parish in Dedham

[www.dedhamuu.org](http://www.dedhamuu.org)

Volume CXXXI, No 1

September October 2020

## Worship in September/October 2020

Worship is at 10:00 am. **We will continue to follow Governor Baker's recommendations.**

Details about weekly worship will be on our website, Facebook Page and our weekly Email.

All services will **also** be virtual at 10 am on Youtube: Rev. Rali Weaver: Tiny Desk Worship

You can also find the link at [www.dedhamuu.org](http://www.dedhamuu.org)

11:00 am Zoom Social Hour is at <https://zoom.us/j/684365896>

**Sunday, September 13th we will not be able to worship safely so we will continue our Youtube worship and Zoom Social Hour**

**Sunday, September 13, 2020**

**"Let the Boat Carry Me,  
Tomorrow is Another Day"**

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach

This is our usual annual water communion homecoming service, only nothing is the same. We cannot worship together in person, we cannot sing together or eat together. How do we manage the journey when we do not know where we are going or how long it will take to get there? Feel free to email your water photos to [raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org) by Friday

**Sunday, September 20, 2020  
Weighing Risks and Benefits**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

In this age of Pandemic we constantly have to weigh risks and benefits to live in the midst of all the things we have no real absolutes about. We will explore other times in history when these impossible calculations had to be made and ask how faith might help us make the right choices.

**Sunday, September 27, 2020  
Idol Worship**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

We will explore the dismantling of Confederate Idols and consider the problem of idol worship throughout history.

**Sunday, October 4, 2020  
If We All Worked Together**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

This week we will rest in the ideals our faith community holds up and explore a potential 8th principle and ask what is really possible if we all work together to dismantle racism.

**Sunday October 11, 2020  
Internal Family Systems Theory**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

We have mostly all heard of Family Systems theory but what of IFS or Internal Family Systems Theory? This Sunday we will ask what might happen if we all learned to love all parts of ourselves before we try to effect change?

**Sunday October 18, , 2020  
Bass Reeves, Esther Jones and Bessie Coleman and why history was rewritten.**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

We will explore several important figures in American history that most white people have never heard of and ask ourselves why our history was rewritten to begin with.

**Sunday, October 25, 2020  
Coming of Age  
or the Common Age We Live in**

Our Youth will share their Credos or

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

If we are back in our Meeting House our Youth will finally share their credos if not Rev Weaver will reflect upon the times we live in.

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From Our Minister: The Rev. Rali Weaver

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I suppose if the pandemic has taught me nothing it is to be flexible. Flexibility is the only way we can live in the face of so much uncertainty. Hoped for outcomes are always dashed when you cannot choose and have no control.

At times I wonder if this feeling of loss of control is just an outcropping of my white privilege. Examining my white privilege has been an all consuming passion during this pandemic.

In June 2020 the UUA Commission on Institutional Change has issued a report titled “Widening Our circle of Concern” which is encouraging all congregations to explore our role in White Supremacist Culture and even consider an Eighth Principle:

“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

I am proud of our congregation because I feel we have been striving to make sense of racism in our times and deconstruct our part in it. I have heard of several of you taking large steps in confronting racism in your communities outside of church and it is my hope we can spend some time this year examining the Commission on Institutional Change report as well as participate in workshops and discussions with the goal of adopting an eighth principal.

Of course I have no idea if we can do any of these things in person, and perhaps it would be easier for some of you to participate in them online anyway. To that end I imagine that we will continue to offer worship and workshops online even when the happy day comes when we can participate in person. I hope you will join us in whatever way you can.

If you have any ideas or suggestions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

Much 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](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org) or 617-4595-5979 or make an appointment online at <https://revraliweaver.youcanbook.me>



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**From our Director of Religious Education: Grace Peña**

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Welcome back....well, kind of.

I hope you all had a wonderful Summer. It's always hard to believe when Summer comes to an end and Autumn is just around the corner. I look forward to cooler days and nights, apple picking, the leaves turning vibrant colors and all things Autumn.

With our church services remaining virtual and with the Children's Religious Education classes on hold for now, I want to let all of you know that I pledge the following during this remote time:

- #1: To keep the children safe and happy,
- #2: To keep the children connected to our church and to their UU faith,
- #3: To make sure the children know that they are loved by all of us, and
- #4: To continue to teach the children our Unitarian Universalist values.

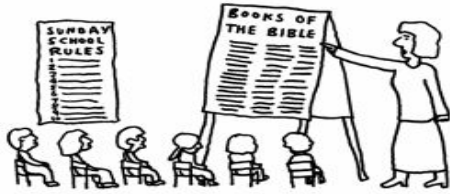
I have missed you all so much and look forward to when I see each and every one of you...especially those kids! I have definitely missed those smiling faces and how they make me laugh.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about R. E., even during this time.

With love, Grace

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

WHAT THE PARENTS THINK  
HAPPENS AT SUNDAY SCHOOL



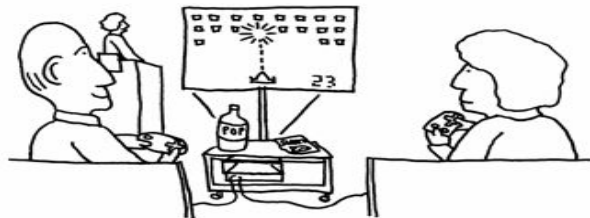
WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS  
AT SUNDAY SCHOOL



WHAT THE CHILDREN THINK  
HAPPENS IN THE MAIN CHURCH SERVICE



WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS  
IN THE MAIN CHURCH SERVICE



CartoonChurch.com

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## From our Church Administrator: Grace Peña

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Hello! It's good to be back in the office. My new hours are:

Monday ~ Closed

Tuesday ~ 9:30 am-3:30 pm

Wednesday (for the Farmer's Market, until the end of October) 12 pm-6 pm

Thursday ~ 9:30 am-3:30 pm

Friday ~ 9:30 am-3:30 pm

(if there are any changes to this schedule for a particular week,  
it will be noted in the all church email)

Remember, if you do not receive our weekly church email, please contact me at:  
[firstchurch@dedhamuu.org](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org) or by phone at 781-326-7463 and I will make sure to add your  
email address to that contact list. The email usually goes out every Thursday afternoon.

If you need help setting up bill pay through your checking account to the church don't  
hesitate to reach out. With love, Grace

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You can reach Grace at [firstchurch@dedhamuu.org](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org) or at [gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org](mailto:gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org)

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Care and Concern

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## Parish Record September and October 2020

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

Jane Kelly is back at Brigham and Women's hospital for now and will be returning to Nebridge on the Charles soon. We all wish her a speedy recovery with a return home soon.

If you have a care or concern to share, please contact our church office by calling 781-326-7463 or emailing [firstchurch@dedhamuu.org](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org) or Susan White at [sbsw6567@gmail.com](mailto: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> or watch all the Covid worship on YOUTUBE by searching youtube Rev. Rali Weaver, Tiny Desk Worship.

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### Civic Engagement

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#### 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>

#### 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 at [ssennott1@gmail.com](mailto:ssennott1@gmail.com) or check the UU Urban Ministry out online at <http://www.uuum.org/>

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### Religious Exploration

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**Nature and Nurture Society (Social Distancing walk):** Will continue on fourth Saturdays. The next one will be Saturday, September 26 from 10-1. In September and October we will explore short easy hikes in Blue Hills Reservation. You are invited to bring a picnic for a socially distanced lunch

## Parish Record September and October 2020

following the walk. Contact Rali if you are interested so she can give you directions and knows who to wait for.

**Daily Meditations:** Join Rali for 30 minutes of check in and meditation 9:00-9:30 every day of the week on Zoom <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/684365896>

**Dismantling White Supremacy:** Wednesday, September 16 5:30-6:30 on Zoom Contact [raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org) for details. For our Septmeber Meeting we will be reading "A Case for Reparations" by Ta-Nehisi Coates from the 12/6/2015 Atlantic Monthly.



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## August 2020 Parish Committee Minutes

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### Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting

August 3, 2020

**Present:** Rali Weaver, Howard Ostroff, Allison Staton, Josh Langmead, Debby Harrison, Andrea Gilmore, Jenn Atkins, Liza Arend, Geoff Tegnell, Erik Curley-Meyers, Jonathan Pape,

**Meeting called to order:** 7:05 PM

#### Gratitudes:

Allison is grateful that this is the team that is leading us through this pandemic.

Josh's friends have been gifted a trailer with a living room and a loft in NH.

Jonathan saw whales today.

Rali appreciates that parishioners have helped some elders with health care issues this summer.

#### Minutes of June 8, 2020:

--Motion to approve minutes with correction; seconded, approved

Josh made the motion to accept and Jen seconded. All members said aye.

#### Review and Approve:

##### Treasurer's Report

-- First month into the year has been problematic because of Quickbook issues.

## **Parish Record September and October 2020**

Erik is still collecting \$ from 2019-20. Bills are being paid and the overall income from pledges is lagging; i.e. \$3000 versus 101K. Grace reports that people have been great about 2019-20 Josh proposed accepting the Treasurer's report and Jonathan seconded. The committee accepted the report.

### **Religious Education-Grace Pena**

Grace has been coming in all summer and she is staying in touch with the children. She is only employed one day a week. She has been thinking about how we engage the RE students and their families if we go virtual for a long duration. Some worry that families will become disengaged from church. Rali said that kids will do children messages and that Grace has ideas about reaching out to children to keep them engaged.

### **Minister's Report-Rali Weaver**

Rali has been doing services all summer. Rali discussed the Commission on Institutional Change about becoming a more multicultural congregation. There is a new principle: We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association will work to build a beloved community by examining racism in ourselves and building a more inclusive community. Rali thinks we have done some of this work and would like to continue this work. She would also like us to think about having an Allin/First Church celebration of our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dedham decision. Rali is the member of a group that tries to unite clergy to collaborate on civic action i.e. buying supplies from black and Latinex businesses. Rali has put together a calendar that acknowledges some of the events and services 2020-21 that will be virtual. She will keep us apprised of the virtual and in-person events of the year in view of the changing pandemic situation. There was a discussion about cancelling the yard sale in September, Allison is concerned about safety and the possibility of an uptick in the Fall. Dedham Historical Society is having a speaker on the Dedham Decision and Andrea suggests that we coordinate with the DHS to commemorate this 2021 event.

### **Review Action Items**

Bay State Learning Center: Andrea has been negotiating with the Bay State Learning Center about their new contract. George is concerned about mold and water damage in the cellar. Andrea will ask Sam tonight to make sure that the windows are covered. George wants to have access to more areas of the Parish Hall because of Covid-19 ventilation concerns. Andrea will stay in touch with the BSLC as to when they will be virtual versus in-person and how they will be able to access other areas like the auditorium and perhaps the Dining Room. Andrea will see where this goes. BSLC has proposed to set up tents this fall, but they need to have sides. Allison asked if the school is interacting with the Dedham Health Department. Andrea says they haven't gotten back to her with numbers. Allison emphasizes that it is important that the school is perceived as being associated with the Church. And the school has been a faithful lessee. We have offered the school a discount in utility fees during state-mandated shutdowns.

### **Annual Meeting:**

We will make virtual meetings authorized by our bylaws. People have wanted to attend the end-of-the-year annual meeting and we got good feedback on this meeting.

### **PPP**

Ann Miranda will follow through with the requirements of the PPP loan/grant.

## Parish Record September and October 2020

### New Business

#### Parish Committee Meetings

Because Labor Day is a Monday and we have Parish Committee meetings are to be held on the first Monday of the month, we can make Monday, August 31 the date of the next Parish Committee meeting.

#### Church Services

The UUA has suggested that we don't hold church services live until next year. Others think that if we abide by the state protocols that we can meet in person healthily. The equity part can be addressed by streaming service. Andrea pointed out that we can ventilate our meeting house in the Fall. Rali thinks we might be able to sing with masks on. Maybe Rali can preach behind a plexiglass shield. Rali suggests that we start with a Homecoming Service and maybe have a live service once or twice a month during September and October (and see what happens with the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave in November. Everyone should have a mask and we should send out a warning at the beginning of the church year. We have to mark off the pews to assure social distancing and the ushers should remind parishioners about the rules. Services will be different with no coffee hour, no hymns, no choir. Don't come up to the front; don't bring water; ask people to send pictures again. So we will have a Homecoming Service with a virtual feed for those who stay at home. To do live services from the meeting house we need wifi and a better sound system. Buildings and Grounds will look into these upgrades. 9/13 will be Homecoming.

#### Next Meeting:

We will plan Homecoming preparations. Allison, Jonathan, Liza, and Josh will work with Rali to plan Homecoming. In preparation, Rali will send some preparatory and provisional information about Homecoming to congregants. For future meetings we might share reports on screen via Share Screen. We should also think about plate collections and donations to the church via credit cards, Venmo etc. Our next meeting will be on August 31st via Zoom.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Geoffrey Tegnell

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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.