



The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXXIX, No 5

May & June 2019

Worship in May and June

Worship at 10:00 am in the Meetinghouse

Sunday, May 5, 2019

Have A Hearty Laugh

The Rev. Rali Weaver and the Irreverent Susan White will lead worship.

Come laugh with us as we celebrate and welcome our new members!

Sunday, May 12, 2019

Louis D. Brown Institute for Peace

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

Rev. Rali Weaver will be walking in part of the Mother's Day Walk for Peace this year and will hurry back in time for church. Can you join her? If not, church will be open as usual and we will learn about this important cause and celebrate the Mother's Day Walk for Peace.

A special offering for the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute will be received.

Sunday, May 19, 2019

Moving Forward by Looking Back

The Rev. Mary Margaret Earl from the UU Urban Ministry will preach

As we deepen our awareness of the injustice of racism, we are eager to press for progress. But to really understand our context, and make deep change, we need to understand our history first.

Sunday, May 26, 2019

Our Church Body

The Rev Rali M. Weaver will preach.

This will be an intergenerational service. On this Sunday before Memorial Day we will remember the names and gifts of those who have contributed to the life of First Church and acknowledge how we pick up their mantles to make one church body in our time.

Sunday, June 2, 2019

Children's Sunday

Please join us in celebrating our children and another successful year in our Children's Religious Education Program

The First Church Annual Meeting will take place after worship. Members are encouraged to attend.

Sunday, June 9, 2019

Flower Communion

Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach
We will celebrate our end of the church year with our yearly Flower Communion where each member is invited to bring a flower and to exchange it for another. We will talk about the origins of this service and the gifts of summer.

This service will be followed by an all church picnic on the green. Sandwiches and drinks and Paper Products will be provided, desserts and salads and sides would be welcome.

Summer Lay Led Services begin

Have you ever wanted to lead a worship service or are you willing to greet our summer guests? Our Summer Services might be small but they are cozy. Please consider signing up to lead a summer service on the bulletin board outside the dining room.

If you have questions, please call

617-458-5979 or email
raliweaver@dedhamuu.org.

From Our Minister: The Rev. Rali Weaver



This summer I will be preaching at King's Chapel in Boston on Sundays in July and August. King's Chapel is an equally historic congregation to ours. They however continue to read from the 1745 Anglican Book of Common Prayer. I hope that I will see some of you in the pews on Sundays at the same time I hope we will also have our lay led services here. If you are available and are willing to share your ideas with the small gathering of summer worshipers I hope you will sign up on the bulletin board or contact me.

Keeping worship going over the past decade of summers has helped new visitors find us and aided in building our congregation. It takes all of us to make new visitors feel welcome and find their way in our congregation.

I recently read an interesting article about myths about church growth. In it the authors pointed out that that there are many other ways that we can measure church growth than actual numbers. Church vitality and growth may sometimes go hand in hand but they really have little to do with each other.

We have been lucky at First Church to welcome several new members each year, just as we will on the First Sunday in May this year. This slow and steady growth has made us one of the fastest growing congregations in our district. I would argue that what is more important is how we support each other and witness to each other through all of our life's changes and this is more and more difficult if we can't find ways to connect with new members and keep in touch with longer term members.

It would easy to pin the responsibility for all growth and longevity of the church on the minister and church leadership. However, all churches are much more than their minister and leaders. How you all gather and treat each other, how you enter into covenant with each other and care for each other and walk together to achieve your goals is far more important than any sermon I preach or plan the Parish Committee makes. How we deepen as a community is more important than what we each as individuals gain from worshiping together.

I think this is part of why I felt it was so important for me to help King's Chapel this summer. King's Chapel has a particular worship style that is vital to their spiritual growth together. To not have someone trained in using their Prayer Book and worship style while their minister is away would make it difficult to continue their communal practice over the summer months.

We on the other hand base our spiritual practice so much on our collective spiritual practice and growth that my not being here does not inhibit your growth. I hope you will gather with friends both from church and outside of church and deepen your connections. I hope if you have something to share you will sign up to share it as a summer worship service for those who want to attend and for new visitors. I look forward to our last two months worshipping in this church year and look forward to all we can find out about each other in the years to come.

Rev Weaver is in the office Tuesday – Friday 9-2 and by appointment Rev. Weaver
<https://revaliweaver.youcanbook.me/>
617-459-5979 or raliweaver@dedhamuu.org

If you would like to more formally care for your fellow parishioners please sign up to help with the Parish Community Network or need support you can ask for it by contacting Susan White or Vicky Berg or Rali.

From our Director of Religious Education: Grace Peña



Lots of wonderful classes and activities happened in our Children's Religious Education program in March and April. Thank you to all the teachers who contributed their time and love to our classes. Thanks you also to those who contributed to our Healthy Snack.

We also had lots of Special Activities. The children made new name badges, we made snakes out of paper plates and we also finger-knit some. We enjoyed Pi/Pie Day #2 when the kids made and sold pies to benefit their annual donation to a charity (tbd at the end of this year). To Miranda Grady's great surprise, I remembered that she suggested having more ice cream for the children so we enjoyed making ice cream sundaes and chatting about this year's classes and next year's classes. We helped out around church by cleaning the play space of leaves then enjoyed some basketball and tetherball together. Lastly, we made seeded paper to eventually plant and enjoy at home.

We also all enjoyed our Easter Sunday Service including the important Easter Egg Hunt.

As we head toward the end of our church year, R. E. will consist of a couple of special activities and preparing for *Children's Sunday* (June 2nd). If you have not taught or led an activity in R.E. and would like to do so in May, please contact me.

Please remember to join us on Sunday June 2nd for Children's Sunday. We will be celebrating this past year in our Children's Religious Education program. We will have a children's parade, milestones to celebrate (children entering *Spirit Play*, children moving up from 2nd grade and those graduating high school and college), sing songs, share projects and artwork and we will celebrate how Love is the spirit of our church!

Lastly, I would like to welcome Lisa Pilat and Jonathan Pape into our Religious Education Committee. Wonderful additions!!

With love, Grace

Grace has office hours Tuesday-Friday 9 am-2:00 pm
and Sunday 9 am-12:30 pm.

You may reach her at gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org

Coffee Hour Teams

Our Coffee Hour Teams project has been a great success! This project has helped to create a network of people to provide all of the necessary pieces to this special and “sacred” time in the life of the congregation. It helps to lighten the load and create opportunities to meet and get to know others. If you are not on a team, but would like to participate, please contact the church office at either 781-326-7463 or firstchurch@dedhamuu.org.

The schedule through May 26, 2019 is:

Schedule:

May 5 – Liz & Jenn Otto-Fagan, Team 2

May 12 – Kayla Schneider, Team 3

May 19 – Julia Gecha, Team 4

May 26 – Meg & Peter Lutze, Team 5

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.

If you are interested in contacting any of these people please contact Vicky Berg chair of the Parish Community Network at v.berg@juno.com or by phone at 781-326-3723

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

Civic Engagement

The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute

May 12 at 7 am is the Louis D. Brown Walk for Peace starting in Dorchester. If you would like to support the walk there is a pledge sheet on the bulletin board. If you would like to walk with First Church contact Grace or Rali. On May 12 we will share our offering with the Lois D. Brown Peace institute.

Dedham Food Pantry

First Church & Parish in Dedham will be staffing the Dedham Food Pantry on Saturday, May 4th, 8am-11am. Please sign up to help stock shelves and to help the DFP clients shop. A Sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions about signing up or helping out, please contact Pam Aist at pfaist@gmail.com.

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. They will be holding their Annual meeting soon if you would like to attend or find out more about UU Urban ministry you can talk to Susan Sennott ssennotti@gmail.com or check them out online at <http://www.uuum.org/>

On Sunday May 19th, The Rev. Mary Margaret Earl will preach. The Rev. Mary Margaret Earl is Executive Director and Senior Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry. In this ministry, she has worked to strengthen bonds between UUs and the Roxbury neighborhood where the UUUM operates. She is on the Moral Movement Massachusetts leadership team, which works to connect faith leaders with those impacted by poverty, and serves as co-chair of the Roxbury Cultural Network. Prior to her arrival at the UU Urban Ministry, she spent 10 years at a faith-based nonprofit in RI serving the homeless community, She is past president of the Board of the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, recipient of the Heroes of Faith Award from the Rhode Island State Council of Churches for her interfaith work, and is a longtime vegan committed to standing up for nonhuman animals.

February & March Parish Committee Minutes

PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 4, 2019

Present: Cindy Jones, Audrey Cecil, Ann Miranda, Matt Grady, Andrea Gilmore, Allison Staton Liz Arend, Jen Atkins, Rali Weaver and Susan White.

Meeting called to order 7:10 p.m. by Matt Grady

Gratitudes

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting January 7, 2019

Motion to accept minutes-seconded-SO VOTED.

Treasurer's Report

Cindy Jones

Income through 2/4/2019

Total income to date 53.87% of budgeted

Pledges at 55.73% of budgeted

Bay State paid through January

Land rental/parking is 66.14% over budget

Expenses:

Electric payments exceed budget for all buildings

Gas at budget for Parish House and Parsonage

Trash removal for Holly Fair to an offset of Holly Fair income

Regular trash removal 75% of budgeted

Insurance paid this past month (about \$15,000)

We are \$2,385.62 over budget

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report – seconded- SO VOTED.

Minister's Report

Ruth Counts passed away today-a memorial service will be planned

Parish Committee should thank Alliance for funding presentation by Jenna Chandler-Ward

Dale Meyer-Curley will work with Dave Atkins on stewardship

Vacation March 16-23 with family

Would like to use my expense monies to attend a spiritual retreat in Scotland this summer

Will be serving as Sabbatical Minister at King's Chapel from the end of June thru Labor Day

DRE Report

Variable attendance

OWL going really well, might be opening to broader community

Action Items

Discussion about Safe Communities Act-What does it mean for First Church to endorse or support legislation?

UU Mass Action

Churches for legislative action

Rali and Allison will come back to March meeting with info on cost to join and other details

Jen Atkins may want to bring a Family Diversity Project called Building Bridges to church-this is a photographic display

New Business

Signage

Budget for banners-check in with the office regarding banners

Permanent sign – investigate options- where to put it-funding

Welcoming message

Audrey Cecil March 17-Committee Chairs rest of month

Budget Committee

Cindy said increases were for Darry’s salary and pension contributions for Grace because of number of hours she works

Jen Atkins will convene Nominating Committee

Andrea Gilmore

Talking to archivists at Harvard Divinity School about First Church records which are currently at the Dedham Historical Society

Black out shades for auditorium and dining room

Summer-work on Meeting House and Parish House

Meeting adjourned

8:45 p.m.

Next Meeting

March 4, 2019 at 7 p.m.

PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 4, 2019

Present: Cindy Jones, Liza Arend, Kathy Elefterakis, Matt Grady, Andrea Gilmore, Audrey Cecil, Allison Staton, Ann Miranda, Jen Atkins, Rali Weaver and Susan White—Dave Miller was available by phone.

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Matt Grady

Gratitudes

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting of February 4, 2019

Motion to accept minutes-seconded-SO VOTED.

Treasurer’s Report

Cindy Jones

Total income to date is 59.88% of budgeted

Pledges at 61.97% of budgeted

Received \$1,250 toward FY 2020 budget

Plate Collections near 88% of budgeted

Expenses-

Gas and electric for Parsonage and Parish House well over budget

We are \$7,036 over budget

Motion to accept Treasurer’s Report –seconded-SO VOTED

Minister’s Report

Busy month

Two new members have signed the book

Hope to have a few more members before Membership Sunday

Vacation with family March 16-23

DRE Report

OWL regular attendance

Looking forward to Second Annual Pie Day

Planning Children’s Sunday

Action Items

Discussion re 2020 Budget

Cindy explained:

Pat Hawkins cut back her hours from seven to five

Added a line under Membership for programs to increase exposure in community

Reduced DRE professional expenses

Doubled advertising budget

Took money out of Music Committee budget and put it in a line item called Music Substitutes/
Music Director Expenses

Baystate Learning stays the same

Snow removal-complaint about church sidewalks-consider a line item of \$500 for clean up

Pledge contributions increased by 5%

Motion to approve budget- seconded-SO VOTED

Affirm new members –Jonathan and Emily Pape

Motion to approve new members-seconded-SO VOTED

Nominating Committee

Jen Atkins-Deacon, Carol Dixon-Alliance, Allison Staton Parish Committee, Liza Arend RE Com-
mittee

Need two Parish Committee members, Clerk, Treasurer, and two Auditors

Annual Meeting June 2, 2019

Easter Sunday Coffee Hour to be supplemented with donations from the Parish Committee

New Business

Andrea called our attention to:

New blinds in the auditorium operated by remote control

New shades in the dining room with UV filtering

Andrea will interview companies that work with non profits for solar panels on our buildings and
will

Come back to next Parish Committee meeting with a proposal

Building and Grounds

Matt mentioned the window at back of stage is broken-could be covered with plywood

Bathroom in the Parish House needs a facelift

Cindy and Rali are working on scheduling Active Bystander Training at First Church on
September 28, 2019 from 1-4 p.m.-cost is between \$1500-\$2000-would be open to community
to recommend donation from participants to help defray cost- investigate the possibility of get-
ting financial help from the Alliance

Volunteers for Opening Message

March 17 - Audrey Cecil

March 10, 24 and 31 members of Stewardship Committee

Meeting adjourned

8:30 p.m.

Executive Session

Next Meeting

April 1, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Office Hours for January and February

Church Office Hours
Tuesday – Friday 9-2
Monday and Saturday Closed

Rev. Rali M. Weaver, Minister
Tuesday-Friday 9am-2pm
By appointment
<https://revaliweaver.youcanbook.me/>
617-459-5979 or raliweaver@dedhamuu.org

Grace Peña, Director of Religious Education
& Building Use Coordinator
Tuesday-Friday 9am-2pm
Sunday 9am-12:30pm
gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org

Pat Hawkins, Office Administrator
Monday by appointment. Wednesday 9-12
firstchurch@dedhamuu.org

Fitness Opportunity

Zumba: Tuesday Nights 7-8 in the auditorium. First Class Free to First Church Members. Then \$10 a class in advance or \$15 drop-in.
This is a fun and invigorating workout for exercisers of all skill sets.



First Church and Parish Yard Sale

Saturday, June 8th 9-1

Rain or Shine

Come shop and play!

**ON THE CHURCH GREEN AT 670 HIGH
STREET, DEDHAM**

**BOUNCY HOUSE,
ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS
AND A BAKE SALE**

or rent a table \$30 or Bring your own for \$20

Reserve your space by calling 781.326.7463

or email firstchurch@dedhamuu.org