



Worship in the Meetinghouse at 10:00 am
Worship can also be found on our website: www.dedhamuu.org
Zoom Social Hour every Sunday at 11:30
<https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/99906139969>

All worship can be found at www.dedhamuu.org at the Live Stream Update on the first page
(click the button Watch Zoom Feed at 10 am on Sunday)

Sunday, May 7, 2023

Four Friends and a Futon

Rev. Hank Peirce will preach.

It takes a village to raise a child, yet when that child has an addiction problem finding support for them and their family becomes difficult often due to long held assumptions. This sermon will center around the Christian story of Jesus and the paralyzed man.

Sunday, May 14, 2023

Bridges to Equals

The Rev. Ken Reeves will preach
This service tells a story of interpersonal equality engendering meaningful relationships. It describes the benefits of seeing the world not as a hierarchical pyramid, but as an interdependent web of equals.

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This Sunday we will share our plate with the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute

Sunday, May 21, 2023

The Rev. Stephen Kendrick will preach
We will share our Joys and Concerns this Sunday

Sunday, May 28, 2023

The Rev. Stephen Kendrick will preach

Sunday June 4, 2023

Children's Sunday

We will celebrate our year of Children's Ministries

Sunday June 11, 2023

Our Countless Worries.

Our Enduring Hopes

The Rev. Hank Peirce will preach.

Please join in our Flower Communion this Sunday by bringing a flower to share with the congregation

We will celebrate our church year with a picnic out on the green (weather permitting) after service.

Our Minister: The Rev. Rali M. Weaver (on sabbatical)

Rev. Rali M. Weaver will be keeping a blog of her travels you can see at <https://www.dedhamuu.org/from-the-minister>
Rev. Weaver will return to the pulpit on September 10, 2022

In an emergency contact Grace Peña at firstchurch@dedhamuu.org

The Ministers preaching in May and June are:

The Rev. Hank Peirce comes from old Swamp Yankee stock, with roots in our Bay State churches that reach back centuries. He has served a number of Unitarian Universalist churches both as an interim and as a settled minister. Hank lives in Medford with his wonderful wife Rebecca and their two teenage daughters.

The Rev. Ken Reeves is a graduate of the Starr King School for the Ministry, and has served congregations in Ohio and Delaware. He has also earned a Masters in Pastoral Counseling and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. He is currently a clinical psychologist with a therapy practice and a consulting psychologist with the Center for Career Development and Ministry. He is also the author of: The Whole Church, Congregational Leadership Guided by Systems Theory.

The Rev. Stephen Kendrick Stephen Kendrick is Minister Emeritus of First Church in Boston, founded in 1630, Unitarian Universalist. Stephen is the author of six books, three co-authored with his son dealing with race and politics in American history. His most recent book, Nine Days: The Race to Save Martin Luther King Jr's Life and Win the 1960 Election, was published by Farrar Straus and Giroux in 2021. He has published extensively in publications including the New York Times, Washington Post, Christian Century, and Hartford Courant. He is a graduate of Princeton University, Harvard Divinity School and has an MFA in Creative Writing from Hollins University.

Our Music Director: Darry Dolezal

For those of us who enjoy singing together it has been a good year to rejoin the choir and lift our voices. The choir will continue to sing through our last service in June and we encourage all singers, former or future choir members, to join us for the remainder of the church year. We meet on Sundays at 8:45am to warmup and rehearse. There are two more choir practices scheduled - Tuesday, May 16 and Tuesday May 30 at 7:30pm in the Dining Room. We may also have a music sorting session/party in June. Stay tuned!

Our two concert series this year were quite successful, bringing much entertaining and inspiring music to Dedham Square as well as generating income for the church. There are two Friday Folk Coffee Houses left: Andrew Innes and the Reluctant Ramblers on May 19, Baird and Ridarelli on June 16. Please come and enjoy the music, camaraderie and refreshments.

The Music Committee will meet later in the spring to review this past year's music program, including the concert series, and make recommendations for next year. We welcome your input! Please pass on your thoughts to me or a member of the committee.

Darry can be reached at darrydolezal@dedhamuu.org

Our Director of the UU Explorers Program: Lisa Pilat

Hello Church Family!

March and April have been full of classes and anticipation of Spring!

Spirit Play continues to meet with Aoife Barrington Haber leading the way!
We added 2 new work trays for the kids.

UU Explorers continue to meet and follow the Toolbox of Faith curriculum. There have been some special things happening in UU Explorers. Our focus for spring has been Theology. We created a theological garden based on Rebecca Parker's Theological House and planted some seedlings. We hope to nurture these seedlings and work with Dedham's Fruitful Offerings and donate these plants to the Dedham Food Pantry.

OWL 4-6 and OWL 7-9 continue to meet on their scheduled days.

We created a spiritual intergenerational service in April. It was full of community and love. The sermon was shared with folks speaking on what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist to them. We had perspectives from all generations. We created a communion clothes line that will stay up until June. We are able to add affirmations, thoughts, prayers and reflections to this community clothesline. It is located at the rear of the meeting house.

As we plan and Vision for next year I would love to remind everyone that we are all a church community together. We come together to worship, to sing, to bond, to do our important work and to grow together both in faith and in spirituality. We are all on this journey together. We may be at different places in our journey but we do it together. This includes our children. They also come together to worship, to sing, to bond, to do important work and grow together. Doing church together is not just worshipping together on Sunday mornings but being together. It is all of our calling to help one another on this journey, including our children. I invite you to be a part of the kids UU journey and for them to be a part of yours. Come and meet them, spend time with them and you will be rewarded with what you get from it as well as what you give to it!

Share your talents, or just come be present in class. An adult presence in their class is an adult presence in their lives. This is how we grow together as UUs.

Lisa in in the church office on Wednesdays, 11am-3pm
or you can reach her at lisapilat@dedhamuu.org

Church Administrator: Grace Peña

Church Office hours are:
Please check the weekly church email during May and June for office hours.
or call the office at 781-326-7463

I apologize because my office hours will change during the months of May and June as my family's schedule changes. You can always check the weekly church email or call the office at 781-326-7463 as I update the voicemail message as my hours change. Generally I am in every Friday, 9am-2pm.

Starting Wednesday June 15th the Dedham Farmers' Market returns to our church green for a new season. Starting that date and every Wednesday until the end of October I will be in the office that day from 12pm until 5pm including in July and August.

You can reach me at 781-326-7463 on my office days, but I am always available by email at firstchurch@dedhamuu.org. I check my emails even on my days out of the office.

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.

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.

If you have a care or concern to share or an address and phone number, please contact Grace in the church office by calling 781-326-7463 or emailing firstchurch@dedhamuu.org.

Adult Religious Exploration

If anyone would like to offer a social or educational opportunity to others while Rali is on sabbatical, please contact Grace at firstchurch@dedhamuu.org.

Music at First Church



First Church Friday Folk Coffeehouse presents its eighth concert of the 2022-2023 season featuring Andrew Innes & The Reluctant Ramblers at First Church and Parish Dedham 670 High Street, Dedham on Friday, May 19, 2023 at 7:30 pm in the Auditorium. There will be refreshments for purchase. Tickets are \$10 and are available online at [Folk Coffeehouse | dedhamuu](https://folkcoffeehouse.dedhamuu.org) and at the door. Doors open at 7:00 pm.

Andrew Innes The Reluctant Ramblers make their first appearance at the Friday Folk Coffeehouse at First Church Dedham. The Ramblers draw their material primarily from Andrew's original songs which are rooted in the slower, dreamier side of indie-folk, blues, Americana and bluegrass. **Andrew Innes** (Acoustic Guitar & Vocals) has been studying and performing music for almost 40 years. Andrew started at the age of 16 with harmonica and piano, and then picked up saxophone in his senior year of high school. Over the years Andrew has fronted various jazz groups on alto and tenor saxophones; played washboard, musical saw and harmonica with the wonderful NYC-based bluegrass/western swing band, The Bootleg Remedy; Played saxophone and harmonica with indie-chamber pop supergroup Champale (featuring members of Clem Snide, Luna & Nada Surf); Spent two years in the house band for the Bindlestiff Family Cirkus; Performed for many years with Uncle Jimmy's Dirty Basement, a provocatively

unlikely collaboration between Henson-level puppeteers and an avant-garde rock band; Added musical saw, saxophones and accordion to the cinematic soundscapes of the instrumental band, Anchor Tattoo. In recent years Andrew has shifted his primary focus to guitar, dobro, singing, and songwriting and can be seen in the Boston area fronting the Reluctant Ramblers, playing with the AKE Trio, and accompanying singer-songwriter Carla Ryder. Check out www.weescotsman.com to sign up for Andrew's email list and find out about upcoming shows.

Eric Smalley (Upright bass) and **Kim Patch** (Fiddle) play with many groups in the Boston area including The Rozzicats, Louder Than Milk, Creek River String Band & the Bookmatch Duo. **Tim Obetz** (Pedal Steel) has performed and recorded with many musicians and bands in the Boston-area including Buffalo Tom, Will Dailey, Terry Kitchen, Buttercup, and The Pineapple Ranch Hands.

First Church and Parish Dedham Unitarian Universalist was first gathered in 1638 and is located in Dedham Center at 670 High Street. Its lively music program includes choir at Sunday services, the Parish Players theater troupe, and the **Concerts at First Church** Saturday classical concert series, in addition to our Friday Folk Coffeehouse events.



Thank you to all the musicians who performed and shared their music with us in our first Concerts at First Church season!

Stay tuned for more concerts to come in our next church year starting in September 2023.

FIRST CHURCH & PARISH IN DEDHAM HISTORICAL NOTES

Introduction: Last Autumn, while the Parish Committee was considering the portraits of Ministers in the Meeting House and cleaning out the Religious Education closet in the Parish House, I stumbled upon some more portraits of previous ministers. I asked our resident historian, Geoff Tegnell, if he might explore some of the stories of our previous ministers so that we could share them with all of you. Geoff has been working all spring and summer at the Dedham Museum and Archive (Previously the Dedham Historical Society) to gather the stories of previous Ministers and Members of our church.

Jason Haven 1755-1803

Haven was born on March 2, 1733 in Framingham, Massachusetts, the youngest son of Deacon Moses Haven II and Hannah (Walker) Haven. He was graduated from Harvard College in 1754. While at Harvard, he was a classmate of John Hancock and one year ahead of John Adams. Haven was called to the Dedham church in 1755 and ordained on February 5, 1756. Prior to this, he was serving as interim pastor in Wrentham, Massachusetts. The church voted 40-6 to call him and the town voted 56-10 to ratify that decision. Forty years later, Haven reminisced about his early opponents that "after a little time, he had the satisfaction of numbering them among his kind, affectionate and confidential friends."

As part of the call, he was offered £133.06s.08d in addition to an annual salary of £66.13s.8d plus 20 cords of wood "for carrying on the work of the ministry in this place". He was also granted "the use and improvement" of a plot of land near the meetinghouse and given three parcels of land in Medfield, Massachusetts. In 1795, he was granted a £20 raise.

He married the oldest daughter, Catherine, of his predecessor in the Dedham Church, Samuel Dexter. He also had a son, Samuel, although two other children died in infancy, one at one month old and the other at seven months old. From his early 20's Haven was periodically afflicted with bouts of fever which would temporarily disable him to such an extent that in 1774 church leaders declared a day of fasting and prayer for his recovery.

As First Church minister Haven accomplished much. To begin with, he brought a number of young men into his household to prepare for college or the ministry. During his 40-year tenure, 14 of them were educated at Harvard College. Next, he oversaw the construction of the current meetinghouse in 1762. In addition, Haven shepherded the 1793 reframing of the First Church covenant which reflected the democratizing tendency of the Age of Revolution by instituting a new method for bringing members into the congregation. The minister would propose an individual and, if there was no objection after 14 days, they became a member of the church. He also had a new creed written which had so few articles, that all persons professing and calling themselves Christians, could assent to it without any objection. Haven underlined his support for this liberalization of church rules by stating that every member should be permitted to "enjoy the right of his private opinion provided he doth not break in upon the

rights of others." Also Haven sermons were said to be expressive and direct which led him to be called upon to frequently address public assemblies and to speak at ordinations. He addressed the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company at the election of their officers in 1761 and preached a sermon before the Great and General Court in 1769. He preached the general election sermon in 1766 and a sermon before the British Colonial Governor, the Governor's Council and the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1769. Lastly, it should also be mentioned that Haven enforced a church provision requiring anyone who had sex with another before marriage to confess the sin before the entire congregation. Such confessions increased dramatically during Haven's term. During his first 25 years there were 25 such confessions. An observer remembered that "the females blushed and hung down their heads. The men too hung down their heads and now and then looked out from under their fallen eyebrows to observe how others supported the attack."

Haven was an enthusiastic supporter of the American Revolution which he believed granted Americans "civil and religious privileges, equal, or perhaps superior to those enjoyed in any part of the world." He had contacts with influential politicians on both sides of the growing Loyalist/Patriot divide, having dined with Governor Thomas Hutchinson in December 1771 and with John Hancock at the home of his neighbor and brother-in-law Samuel Dexter Jr. in July 1773. Haven also served as Dedham's delegate to the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention of 1779-1780. His political influence, however, waned as his health and mental capacity grew weaker with old age.

Haven had been called to minister at Old North Church, but the people of Dedham convinced him to stay. He was also considered for the presidency of Yale College on account of his orthodox theology and for "Neatness dignity and purity of Style [which] surpass those of all that have been mentioned," but was passed over due to his "very Valetudinary and infirm State of Health."

Shortly before he died on May 13, 1803, Haven wrote a final message to his congregation. It was delivered from the pulpit after his death by Rev. Prentiss of Medfield. In it, Haven entreated his flock "as far as possible, to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace; that you may know how good and pleasant it is, for brethren to live together in love and harmony. Let this be your care, particularly, in your endeavors to attain an able and faithful minister of the New Testament, to take the pastoral charge of you. Let there be no strife and contention in the important affair of settling a minister of the gospel of peace."

Bibliography

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jason_Haven#:~:text=Jason%20Haven%20\(March%202%2C%201733,Church%20and%20Parish%20in%20Dedham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jason_Haven#:~:text=Jason%20Haven%20(March%202%2C%201733,Church%20and%20Parish%20in%20Dedham).

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Haven-390>

Smith, Frank. A History of Dedham. Dedham; The Transcript Press, 1936.

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

Filing Cabinet: History: 1839-1900: History of First Church in Three Discourses by Alvan Lamson Burgess, Ebenezer (1840). [Dedham Pulpit: Or, Sermons by the Pastors of the First Church in Dedham in the XVIIth and XVIIIth Centuries. Perkins & Marvin.](#)

[The History of Dedham: From the Beginning of Its Settlement, in September 1635, to May 1827 by Erastus Worthington:](#)

Parish Committee Minutes

First Church & Parish Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Attendees via ZOOM: Julia Gecha, Paquita Bass, Debbie Harrison, Howard Ostroff, Kerrie Gallagher, Erik Meyer-Curley, Jonathan Pape, Rebecca Vautour, Lisa Pilat, Grace Pena, Mathew Grady

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 pm

Gratitudes: grateful for modern medicine, new families with younger children at church, being able to go to a comedy show with son

Review and Approve:

1. Minutes from February 7th, 2023 accepted; no corrections.
2. Treasurer's Report from February 7th, 2023 approved; a large check got lost in the mail, so Erik set up an electronic way to pay bills in the future (lost check was canceled). Deacons had clarifications to the treasurer's report. Jonny suggested we pay musicians in electronic form also if possible. Jenny the bookkeeper pays bills online.
3. RE Report from February 7th, 2023 accepted. Alliance will donate \$300.00 to RE.
4. Administrator's Report from February 7th, 2023 accepted. Things are going OK. Farmer's market fee will probably go up about 10% this year. The Dedham School of Music is not sure what it will be doing this summer. We should plan a Welcome to New Members Sunday sometime in the near future – maybe on Picnic Sunday or Children's Sunday.

Old Business:

- Stewardship Committee – Steve Brayton created a letter to go out in the first week of April. Information added to the letter will be for members to let us know how they will inform us of their pledge. Will they use the Google form, drop a card at church, or ask for a stamped envelope? Pledges should be in by May 1. We will ask for roughly \$110,000.00. Kerrie will help Grace mail the envelopes to church members.
- Share the Plate – March 26th donations will go to the Harmony Fund.
- Tech Committee – Initial goals and objectives are listed in a document provided by Mary Lynn Davis. A list of jobs in the church will be printed out and hung up in the meeting house so that people will know what needs to be done. Someone will need to take care of the cameras in church.
- Urban Ministry – A First Church field trip to the UU Urban Ministry will be organized for some time in May. The Women's Alliance will also be invited as they donated funds to fix up the First Church in Roxbury.
- Bathroom Update – A quick fix to the main bathroom will be done first. The rest of the bathrooms will be dealt with later as they are a bigger project and need lots of planning to be ADA compliant. An initial

bid has been put out. The Alliance will decide how much money to donate once the bid comes in. The Building and Grounds committee and Andrea will be working on the bathroom project.

New Business

1. Parish Committee Rethink – We need to think about how to develop leaders. Leaders experience a tidal wave of information and can be overwhelmed which leads to burnout. We need to set up people to succeed by distributing information and responsibilities to more people across the board. We also need to document jobs and think about how to bring up leaders over three years.
2. Mother Brook Trivia Night – Another Trivia Night is coming up on April 28th. People need sign up.
3. Refugee Resettlement – Catholic Charities started the program in 2017. Howard is our representative and met with Father Steve at St Susanna's. They are going through a regrouping period and will soon be sponsoring another family. Paquita will go to the next meeting as Howard will be away.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 4th, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Meeting adjourned: 8:44 pm on March 7th, 2023

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Gecha, Clerk
First Church and Parish in Dedham

First Church & Parish Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Attendees via ZOOM: Julia Gecha, Paquita Bass, Debbie Harrison, Howard Ostroff, Kerrie Gallagher, Erik Meyer-Curley, Jonathan Pape, Rebecca Vautour, Lisa Pilat, Grace Pena, Mathew Grady, Mary Lynn Davis, Geoff Tegnell

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 pm

Gratitudes: Grateful for Grace and Rali for their service, for the Music Committee and their ability to host Geoff's cousin's concert, and for the Parish Committee as a whole.

Review and Approve:

1. Minutes from March 7th, 2023 were accepted with corrections.

2. Treasurer's Report from March 7th, 2023 was accepted. Most things are in order. Grace will send out a reminder to people who still have to finish paying last year's pledges.
3. RE Report from March 7th, 2023 accepted.

Old Business:

1. Mother Brook Trivia Night – Paquita will organize Trivia Night Participation for our group.
2. Building Use – St. Paul's Church and the Star Island Meeting group will be using our building this summer. The Music School will not be using the building. There might be two Fall weddings coming up.
3. Religious Education Committee - The RE Committee asked if we could reinstate the Safe Church Policy which entails locking both building doors and having a person with a cell phone opening the doors as necessary. The Parish Committee needs to find and study the original document and discuss the issue further at the next meeting.
4. Finance committee – Met twice and would like to give cost of living increases to staff. They are asking for \$110,000.00 budget for next year.
5. Parish Committee Rethink – We need to divide Parish Committee responsibilities over three years so folks can get educated sooner. A “First Church Parish Committee” document was produced. It lists what Parish Committee members would do over three years and also provides transparency.

New Business

1. Jess LaRochelle signed our membership book and wants to become a member. She was highly recommended by people from the Parish Committee and was approved to become a new member.
2. Farmer's Market – Our church will participate in the Farmer's Market this summer. We will have a table with information and smiles.
3. Porchfest – Will take place on June 17th and maybe the Parish Players will participate.
4. Community Purchasing Alliance – Lisa spoke about the CPA which is a group that supports sustainable businesses that churches can use to get better deals on pricing for energy, trash removal, etc. There is an initial fee of \$300 to join and an annual fee of \$100 thereafter. The Parish committee will get more information from the website and will discuss this issue further at the next meeting.
5. Mother's Day walk – Howard will be in charge of organizing this year's Walk for Peace.
6. Youth Choir – Mary Lynn suggested that we start a Youth Choir in the church which could be a positive way to attract new members. The Youth Choir could meet once a month. We can talk with Lisa about this.
7. Parish Committee End-of-the-Year picnic – We could take Grace out to dinner for the final meeting.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 2nd, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Meeting adjourned: 8:20 pm on March 4th, 2023

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Gecha, Clerk
First Church and Parish in Dedham