



# The First Church and Parish in Dedham

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

Volume CXXXII Number I

September October 2021

## Worship in September and October 2021

We hope to offer live stream services from wherever we worship. Currently CDC guidelines prohibit indoor singing and what is church without singing? On rainy days we will find out. Weather Permitting we will be on the green ☀️, following social distance and mask protocols. When it rains we will be in the Meeting House, socially distanced and wearing masks without singing.

### Sunday, September 12, 2021 "Hi! Ho! You Rolling River"

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

What vital place do rivers play in our lives? What threat are they to well-being? What has climate change done to our rivers and lakes and how might we make a difference by paying more attention to our rivers and waterways?

### Sunday September 19, 2021 "What People Want"

The Rev. Stephen Kentrick

"There's nothing like living through a pandemic to focus a minister's mind (and heart) into what is essential about this weird and lovely thing we do called "church"; and as I neared the end of a more than 40 year career as a congregational leader, that certainly concentrated my thoughts as well. I eventually came to a rather surprising conclusion as to what people want, truly want, as they live and gather and make their way through a life they did not choose or can ever control. But there is something that we long for and need to help us make our way... but I'm afraid that you have to come to the Green and learn what that something is. I am looking forward to your being the first congregation I have the privilege to preach to in my new life!"  
--Rev. Stephen Kendrick, Minister Emeritus of First Church in Boston (and co-author of the recent book, *Nine Days: the Race to Save Martin Luther King's Life and Win the 1960 Election*, Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2021)

### Sunday, September 26, 2021 "Feasts and Fasts"

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

Life has its ups and downs. This week we will consider how to celebrate those ebbs and flows of activity and withdrawal without collapsing into sloth or bouncing into unthinking business.

### Sunday, October 3, 2021 All Creatures of the Earth and Sky

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

This will be our pet blessing Sunday on the green. Bring your pets to worship this Sunday and we will worship with them and celebrate the gifts they bring to our lives.

### Sunday, October 10, 2021 "Europeanization"

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

On this Sunday we will consider the costs of Europeanization and how we might honor the past with more intention.

### Sunday, October 17, 2021 "Unpoverty"

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

We will consider how fiscal disenfranchisement has created more problems than it has solved and how reversing that trend might require all of us to reconsider the way we view the world.

### Sunday, October 24, 2021 "Thinking Outside the Box"

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

This week we will explore the life of Benjamin Banneker and consider his life as an inventor and what impulse is required to look beyond the obvious to find solutions to the problems in front of us.

### Sunday, October 31, 2021 Real Witches Do Not Have to Wear Costumes

The Rev. Rali Weaver will Preach

Come to worship - in a costume if you wish. This Halloween we will consider the tools of real witches.

Details about weekly worship will be on our website at [www.dedhamuu.org](http://www.dedhamuu.org), on our Facebook page and in our weekly email. If you are unable to join us on Sunday due to health concerns- watch us on [www.dedhamuu.org](http://www.dedhamuu.org) and please join us at 11 am for Zoom Social Hour. :  
<https://zoom.us/j/99906139969>

From Our Minister: The Rev. Rali Weaver



We are back and will try to return to some sense of normal church even amidst the new restrictions from the Delta Variant and any other variants that may come our way. All this requires flexibility and resilience and patience. It is normal to feel frustrated and disappointed and uncertain and even anxious in the midst of things we cannot control. I am certainly feeling some if not all of those things.

We are going to be having worship in person and hopefully live streamed every Sunday this church year. We will have outdoor and masked events for children on the third Sunday and we will open the office for regular hours again. Many things will return to normal. Many things may take some time to feel 'normal.'

Masks are a new inconvenience perhaps, but they do keep us safe. I have dreamt of having new church masks made with our logo. Maybe combining something I love with something that is an inconvenience is in some ways what I think this new normal is all about. Sort of like songs or movies that are so bad they actually become good. Some of my "Go-To" bad songs that are almost good include "Wake Me Up Before You Go Go" by Wham and "You Dropped a Bomb on Me" by the Gap Band. Some of my "Go-To" so bad they are almost good movies include: "Mommy Dearest" and "Killer Klowns from Outer Space." As my grandmother would have said "there is no accounting for good taste," and as I might add in 2021 "neither is there a way to account for normal." As we move through this strange new world I am sure there will be hiccups and hurdles we cannot even imagine now. I bet there will be some moments that are so bad they will be good to reflect upon and laugh at in the future - those "remember when we had to..." moments.

I want you to know that I am here to listen to your joys and frustrations as we navigate this new world together. In fact this is a year where we will be entering a new Long Range Planning process and as part of that the Ministry Committee will be conducting their 5 year Ministerial Review. The Ministerial Review is an Appreciative Inquiry Process. If you aren't familiar with this term it is an organizational review process that focuses on strengths rather than weaknesses. This does not mean that the Ministry Committee and I are not open to your complaints and concerns and suggestions as a part of this process, but it does mean that we will build and work to find ways around these weaknesses with our strength. As we get closer to this process we will need to form the questions for us to reflect upon in the coming weeks and months. If you have questions you would like the congregation to consider or if you have an interest you would like to see reviewed as part of the long range plan or my evaluation you can contact any member of the Ministry Committee: Claudia Leone, Tyler Carpenter, Diane Cullen Moore, Mason Miranda and Betsy Hetzler. Reach out to me or the office if you need their contact information, or leave a note in the Church office in the Ministry Committee Mailbox or email them at [ministrycommittee@dedhamuu.org](mailto:ministrycommittee@dedhamuu.org). I hope this year despite all its ups and downs brings us closer as a community and that I see you in church soon! Love Rali

Rev. Rali M. Weaver on Zoom 8-8:30 am <https://zoom.us/j/684365896>  
for daily check-in and meditation  
In the Church Office Tuesday through Friday 10-3  
[raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org) or 617-4595-5979  
or make an appointment online at <https://revraliweaver.youcanbook.me>

## The U.U. Exploration Program

Grace will not be with us the first few weeks of church, but we hope you will all welcome Lisa Pilat our new RE Administrator! Lisa will be working with us Part-Time (10 hours Per week) to help us get our UU Exploration off the ground and running.

Hello! Welcome back to the First Church Children's U. U. Exploration Program (CUUEP) for 2021-2022. Although we will constantly assess any changing situation regarding meeting for service and attending classes considering the Delta Variant, this letter to you will serve as a welcome back as if classes will resume, with some modifications such as masks taken into account. *Nursery* will resume starting Sunday, September 12th. There will be a "Welcome Back" activity for the children on Sunday, September 19th and all classes will resume on Sunday, September 26th:

### ***Nursery***

Alexas and Desi, who are both fully vaccinated, are returning to care for the infants and toddlers whose parents wish to attend service. We ask that you leave a diaper bag in the nursery and that you please sign your child/children in and out of the classroom. Plus, we ask that you leave a phone # in case we need to reach you.

Both Alexas and Desi will wear masks and the classroom will be well ventilated. The room is cleaned regularly every week. Hand sanitizer will be provided in the room.

*Nursery* will meet each week unless otherwise noted.

### ***Spirit Play***

This is a Montessori-based UU curriculum for 3-year old children through first grade. Each class begins with a circle time and an interactive story with touchable objects. The story is followed by "Wondering Questions" that help the children to explore the story further. After that, the children are invited to choose an activity for work time such as working with paints, play-doh, puzzles, games, toys that are in the classroom or to continue exploring the materials set out for the story. *Spirit Play* allows children to make their own meaning from stories and lessons from our UU sources.

This class will meet one to two times a month and class will start Sunday, September 26. Emily

## **Parish Record September & October 2021**

Peloquin-Pape will be the coordinator for this class and teachers will be assigned from the parents of the students in this class. We ask that each parent sign up at least two times either as a team or separately during the year to help to teach the class.

### **U. U. Explorers**

This class is for students in 2nd grade through 4th grade. *U. U. Explorers* learn about our 7 Principles and our 6 Sources. They learn what we believe in as Unitarian Universalists and that they are an important part of First Church's community. Each class focuses on one of the principles and/or one of the sources. A typical class will start with a welcome and a brief explanation of the class. We then move on to either a story, a craft/art activity and/or a more physical activity. At the end we come together again to explore what principles we explored in the class activities. Lisa Pilat will be coordinating thi class and we ask that each parent with a child/children in this class please sign up for at least two Sundays when class meets. Lisa will email SignUp Genius to the parents.

### **Worship Leaders**

This class is for 5th-6th grades. When classes meet, these children will assist the teacher(s) with the *U. U. Explorers* class. When children are in service, this class will assist Rali in various ways with the service from serving as ushers to doing reading or helping Rali out with the service in other ways.

### **7th - 9th GRADES**

This cohort has a series of three classes designed for the older children in our congregation and follow this order: *Neighboring Faiths*, *Our Whole Lives*, and *Coming of Age* . The first two classes run on a regular calendar year (January to the following church year's December). *Coming of Age* is for one semester only (January through May) and is considered our "graduating" class. Each class has designated teachers from our membership for their entire curricula.

### **Neighboring Faiths**

This class will explore the different faith practices outside of Unitarian Universalism. The first semester (January through May) will explore the Abrahmic faiths - Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Each faith comprises three separate classes: the first where they learn about the faith from someone who practices it, a visit to a faith service (this may be on a different day than a Sunday) and the third class where the children talk about what they experiences, what was different from our church service and what was the same.

The second semester (September through December) will concentrate on another three faiths - any three chosen by the class as a whole.

**Our Whole Lives, 7-9**

A sexuality education program for youth that models and teaches caring, compassion, respect, and justice. A holistic program that moves beyond the intellect to address the attitudes, values, and feelings that youth have about themselves and the world. These classes are facilitated by trained individuals with the class meeting in a separate space from the Parish House so that the children feel that they are in a safe and private space. There is a parent orientation prior to the beginning of this curriculum.

**Coming of Age**

This class is the culmination of your child's experience in our congregation and in the *U. U. Exploration Program*. The class is facilitated by a teacher and the Director of Religious Education. There will also be two seminars held at the church.

The class will explore what is important to them through review of our 7 Principles. Each child will be paired with a Mentor chosen by each of them from our membership. They will then each create a Credo and present it to the congregation at a special service.

**OTHER CLASSES**

**Cool Deeds/Special Activities**

One Sunday a month all grades will come together to work on either a *Cool Deed* or a *Special Activity*. *Cool Deeds* are when we work together on a community service or church project. Some examples of groups that we have helped through our *Cool Deeds* are the Dedham Food Pantry, The Animal Rescue League and Boston Medical Center.

Our *Special Activity* Sunday focuses on a specific activity for a special day at church such as creating crafts to sell at our Holly Faire.

**Our Whole Lives, Kindergarten-1st Grade and 4th through 6th Grade**

These two separate classes are on a rotating schedule that switches from one to the other each year. They both occur during the second half of the church year - January through May. They are both taught by trained facilitators and meet in their own classroom here at First Church.

*O.W.L. K-1* supports parents in educating children about birth, babies, bodies and families. Following a Parent Meeting and Parent/Child Orientation, the 8 sessions engage children with stories, songs and activities and include a weekly HomeLink - a homework project for parents and children to do together. This class promotes dialogue between parent and child.

*O.W.L. 4-6* This ten-workshop curriculum is designed to help children ages nine through twelve to gain the knowledge, life principles, and skills they need to understand and express their sexuality in holistic, life-enhancing ways. Like the other Our Whole Lives programs for different age groups, this comprehensive, developmentally appropriate program introduces key topics like values, body image, gender and sexual identity, peer pressure, and healthy relationships with sensitivity and inclusiveness, yet without specifically religious doctrine or reference. This section of the *Our Whole Lives* curriculum also starts with a Parent/Child Orientation.

We look forward to seeing you in church

Every parent who registers their child for UU Exploration on or before Sunday, September 12th  
will receive a surprise!

If you would like to reach Lisa during this time you may contact her at [lisapilat@dedhamuu.org](mailto:lisapilat@dedhamuu.org)

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From our Church Administrator: Grace Peña

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The Church Office hours are:  
Monday ~ Closed  
Tuesday through Friday ~ 10 am-3 pm

Grace will be out of the office for the first few weeks of church due to a health concern. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and Rob and Mia and Georgia. Rali Weaver will be in the office and on call during regular office hours in her stead.

If you would like to 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 add your email address to that contact list. The email usually goes out on Thursday afternoon.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you have stopped receiving the weekly email, what likely has happened is that the program has noted 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.

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You can reach the office at [firstchurch@dedhamuu.org](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org)

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## Care and Concern

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

In particular we hope you would reach out with a card or a call to Vicky Berg, Grace Peña, Martha Leonard, 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](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org) or Susan White at [sbsw6567@gmail.com](mailto:sbsw6567@gmail.com).

## Parish Record September & October 2021

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>

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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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### Adult Religious Exploration

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**Nature and Nurture Society (Social Distancing walk):** Will start up again, on the Fourth Second Saturdays. Come rain or shine we will be walking together on September 25th and October 23rd. We will explore the works of the transcendentalists and explore the nature that brought them so close to the divine. 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 8:00-8:30 every day of the week on Zoom <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/684365896>

**Eighth Principal Project-** Paula Cole-Jones of the Joseph Priestly District of the UUA recommended an eighth principal be added to encourage our continued efforts as congregations to dismantle systemic oppression. The new principal reads:

**“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.”**

Join with a group of interested parishioners to explore the eighth principle and define what it will mean to us as a congregation. The first meeting will be on Zoom Wednesday, September 29, 2021 6-8 pm.

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87994708672>

**A First Church Writers' Group** meets the Second and Fourth Thursdays at 5pm 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. This is a fun and enjoyable time for all those who participate. Please join us on Zoom <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87160212466> beginning September 23rd, October 14th and 28th from 5-6:30.

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The Appreciative Inquiry Ministry Evaluation will begin in October. This is an opportunity for you to give feedback on the ministry of our church and to offer suggestions and ideas of how you would like the ministry of our congregation to evolve. We hope everyone will attend at least one Zoom meeting or a one on one phocall with a Ministry Committee member to share your ideas, thoughts and concerns during the month of October. If you would like to add a question to the evaluation you can email it to [ministrycommittee@dedhamuu.org](mailto:ministrycommittee@dedhamuu.org) or put it in an envelope and put it in our mailbox at the church - or send it to:

Ministry Committee  
% First Church and Parish Dedham  
670 High Street, Dedham, Ma 02026

**Parish Committee Minutes for June and August 2021**

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**First Church Parish Committee Meeting Monday, June 7, 2021, 6:30pm Potluck  
and 7:00 In-Person Meeting!**

Attendees: Allison Staton, Liza Arend, Josh Langmead, Jonathan Pape, Debbie Harrison, Andrea Gilmore, Rali Weaver, Erik Meyer-Curley, Geoff Tegnell, Kerrie Gallagher, Howard Ostroff, and Paquita Bass

**Call meeting to order:** June 7, 2021, 7:26 AM

**Gratitudes :** Allison thanked Parish Committee members for sticking out the 2020-2021 church year.

**Welcome New Members:** Kerry Gallagher was present, though Kayla Schneider was inadvertently absent.

**Review and Approve:**

Minutes from May 5, 2021 meeting (requires approval)

1. Corrections were made to the Present list, i.e. Paquita Bass and Jenn Atkins. The RE program was cited in Rali's minister's report. Under Job Descriptions, Rali was reported as contacting "previous auditors" to support new candidates. Lastly, Line 6675 was cited as the line item that will pay for our new bookkeeper.

- The corrected minutes were seconded and approved.

2. Treasurer's Report (requires approval)

1. **Income**

- Total Income to date is 96.85% of budgeted

Pledges are at 84.65% of budgeted (adjusted for next fiscal year amounts)

- Building Use at 89.22% of Budgeted (movie parking)

2. **Expenses**

- Eleven payments have been made for the following: Verizon, Housing Equity Trust, Rali's Pension, Taxes, so these should also be about 91.67%
- Verizon phone and internet are listed as a singular line item, so it is 194.72%
- Trash Removal Includes Payment to be reimbursed by BSLC;
- Parish House Sewer, water bills are where they should be
- Note: Grace's pension for being RE director will start showing up.

3. Minister's Report

- Rali believes that congregants are engaged and are excited about the prospects of next year. We will coordinate summer services with the Concord Church. The last church service of 2020-21 will be next Sunday, June 13, after which we will hold a picnic. In September we will hold a tag sale.

4. DRE Report: No Report

**Review Action Items**

1. Spring Annual Meeting Debrief:

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- The Safe church policy was discussed at several preliminary meetings. These presentations were well and smoothly done.
- 2, Portraits in front of church
- Issue of portraits of old white men. Other suggestions included putting up a screen. We will have more opportunities to discuss representation of our historical heritage.

### New Business

1. Bay State Learning Contract for next year - rental fee and the spaces they will be allowed to use. The contract is being renegotiated and the intent is to ask for higher rent and clarify the spaces they are allowed to use and when. The BSLC currently has 22 kids (45 last year) and is contemplating taking on younger students. It is likely that the BSLC will be out of the auditorium, nursery, /and office next year. BSLC is intending to grow into capacity this coming year.

2. Plans to increase membership and welcome new members (Jonathan)

- The Membership Committee is in charge of getting more members to join our church. We also have a history since 2012 of Long Range Plans to grow our membership. Rali mentioned that she maintains several programs like Writers' Group to add interested persons to our ranks. Rali also reminded us of First Church effort to engage people such as picnic, small groups, concerts, Parish Players, Pride efforts, and recruiting younger persons into the Membership Committee. Rali suggested that the 2021-22 Parish Committee review the Strategic Plans 2012-2017. Also a revision of the Welcome Kit was discussed.

### 3. Planning for re-opening

- The Safe Church policy was implemented at the Annual Meeting on 6/6/21. Rali wants to recruit head ushers to undertake leadership over the new Safe Church Policy. We will hold a church picnic on September 12<sup>th</sup>, along with a Bouncy House. We should collect congregant cellphone #'s and welcome back members.

4. Co-Chair Handoff: In August we will hold a PC meeting to hand off leadership of the church to the new Parish Committee. In preparation for that meeting, there should be a change in signature authority on bank accounts

For Fiscal Year 22, the authorized signers for the First Church in Dedham should be:

Joshua Langmead and Howard Ostroff. The former co-chairs Elizabeth Arend and Allison Staton should be removed from this account.

### Next Meeting

1. August 2, 2021 at 7:00pm

**Adjourn** at June 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:40 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Tegnell

Clerk, First Church and Parish in Dedham

**First Church Parish Committee Meeting Monday, 8/9, 2021, 6:30pm Potluck  
and 7:00 In-Person Meeting!**

Attendees: Josh Langmead, Jonathan Pape, Debbie Harrison, Andrea Gilmore, Rali Weaver, Erik Meyer-Curley, Geoff Tegnell, Kerrie Gallagher, Howard Ostroff, Kayla Schneider, and Paquita Bass,

**Call meeting to order:** August 9, 2021, 7:10 PM

**Gratitudes:** Thanks to Rali and Darry for all their fine work keeping us worshipping together and maintaining our extended church community over the past church year. Andrea expressed thankfulness for the long life of Henry Keene. Kayla and Debbie said they were grateful to be back in the church. Rali is grateful to the deacons for painting the Parsonage. Josh welcomed Kayla and Kerrie as new Parish Committee members.

**Review and Approve:**

**1. Minutes from June 7, 2021 meeting (requires approval)** Howard asked for a date corrections which was done. This report was approved with no abstentions.

**2. Treasurer's Report (requires approval)**

- 1. Income** We are at 2% of budgeted income. Debbie asked about dividend income, Erik explain that this was a rebate from our insurance company. Erik is coordinating with Jenny to have a month to month tally as well as a year to date accounting.
- 2. Expenses'** Debbie asked about electric company charges for the Parsonage for \$290. Supposedly we were not supposed to be charged for our electricity consumption, considering our solar panel contributions to the grid. However, Rali said that a church roof panel had been hit by lightning, knocking it out of commission, and that may explain the charge. Andrea will follow up on this. Treasure's report was accepted unanimously.

**3. Minister's Report:** Quiet summer parishioner-wise. Rali went to Star Island to attend the International Affairs conference and highly recommends this event. Rali is talking with the Ministry Committee about launching another Appreciative Inquiry. This will provide areas of growth for both herself and the congregation. Rali thinks we should utilize the Long Range Planning process to implement the inquiry suggestions. Rali has stopped working as a mentor at Harvard and is in the process of applying as a Field Study placement for HDS students in the future. She will continue for one more year as the treasurer for the UU History and Heritage Society who has changed their name to the UU Studies Network and is moving to Meadville Lombard. She is working with the UU Ministers committee this coming year. But she is trying to wind down in order to prepare for a year-long sabbatical in 2022-23. Rali is now in the process of preparing a church calendar. Rali was informed about the latest CDC advice about indoor mask wearing and she is recalibrating her opening protocols.

**4. DRE Report:** Grace is planning for Nursery with Desi Langmead and Alexas Cushman (Sept-June) Spirit Play will be taught for 3years through 1<sup>st</sup> Grade (Sept-June). In addition, UU Explorers will be the curriculum for 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade through 4<sup>th</sup> Grade (Sept-June). Worship Leaders are the curriculum for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grades (Sept-June) and Neighboring Faiths will be taught in 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Grades (Sept-Dec).

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The classes will mostly follow a schedule of meeting on 2 Sundays out of every month. There will then be either a Cool Deed or a Special Activity on one Sunday a month and the last Sunday will see the children in and a part of service. This schedule will be altered by any special services such as our anniversary with the Allin Congregation, Thanksgiving service, Christmas Pageant, etc. and offer cupcakes.

Grace's assistant, Lisa Pilat has been appointed to help out with RE responsibilities. She will reach out to parents and other adult members and some of the older children that have been through the RE program through Signup Genius to sign up to teach classes. Lisa and Grace will also be available to teach.

### Review Action Items

1. Discussion of opening/homecoming service on 9/12/2021:
  - Having Picnic on Green: how does this work with the safe church policy? Discussion: CDC guidelines will dictate whether or not to have a service inside. Also the Committee resolved that it was okay to have a picnic gathering on the Green.
    - Introduction of Parish Committee at service and their facilitating the picnic.
  - How much to spend on food. PC members suggested that we may want to advise parents to bring their own lunches and we can provide dessert. (Healthier option) It was suggested that we encourage people to bring "green lunches" in concert with the latest climate report.
2. Planning for services for church year: Rali will start to recruit ushers. We looked at the PC welcoming letter. We decided to edit out the church picture given Covid restrictions. We will also ask everyone to wear a mask. Also we will add "At this time we will plan to meet at...." All edits go to Rali by Friday, August 20. The Parish Committee will take on the role of Welcome and Announcements for the first 11 Sundays of the Church year. Josh will send a sign-up. Rali thinks it would be good to have a PC liaison for each committee.

### New Business

1. Goals / Planning for church year discussion: Theme = Reconnect and Restart! We should think about how we take what we have learned over the past year to restart. Ministry Committee will do an Appreciative Review. This will help us with Long Range planning in the spring. Collect town government planning documents, town committee reports (Human Relations), Dedham demographic research, school programs like the cultural proficiency coordinator at DPS. The PC members will be liaisons for each committee to solicit input and follow-up. The motion that the PC will be the Long Range Planning Committee for 2021-22 was passed unanimously.
2. Implementation of Safe Church Policy: We have addressed the Welcome letter and the ushers. We will prepare signage for our buildings.
3. Deacon Opening: Jenn Atkins has resigned. Nominating Committee will be convened and Geoff volunteered to serve as the representative of the Men's Group. Debbie will start the selection process now.
4. Rali has stated her intention to take a sabbatical. The Ministry Committee could be the sabbatical committee. The PC will appoint a liaison for this committee.
5. Our next meeting will be 100% Zoom and then try to make the technology work for hybrid meetings.

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 7:00pm

**Adjourn** at 9:05 PM on August 9, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Tegnell

Clerk, First Church and Parish in Dedham