



The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXXI, No 5

May & June 2021

Worship in May & June 2021

We will continue to offer virtual services on most Sundays. On a few select Sundays ☀️, we will offer services on the church green, weather permitting, following social distance and mask protocols. Details about weekly worship will be on our website at www.dedhamuu.org, on our Facebook page and in our weekly email. All services will **also** be available on Youtube to watch as you like. You can find them by searching:
Rev. Rali Weaver: Tiny Desk Worship.

Please join us at 9:45 am to watch the worship together in the Zoom Worship and Social Hour link. :
<https://zoom.us/j/99906139969>

☀️ Sunday, May 2, 2021

The Kerner Commission and What We Refused to Learn

The Rev. Rali Weaver will Preach

On Youtube and we will also worship at 10 am,
weather permitting, on the Green

President Johnson's Kerner Commission outlined the issues facing civil rights in the 50's and 60's that still plague us today. This week we will explore the spiritual question of shutting our eyes and ears to truth.

Sunday May 9, 2021

Louis D. Brown Mother's Day Walk For Peace

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

This year we will be walking all during the month of April into May and taking pictures to be included in the LDB Mother's Day Walk for Peace. This is a fundraiser we participate in every year to support families dealing with tragedy wrought by gun violence in our city.

☀️ Sunday, May 16, 2021

The Canonization of Joan of Arc

On Youtube and we will also worship at 10 am,
weather permitting, on the Green

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

We will consider how a witch who was burned at the stake became canonized by the same church that lit the flame.

Sunday, May 23, 2021

The Tree of Life

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

We will consider the life of trees and the importance of forest bathing.

Sunday, May 30, 2021

Rev. John N. Marsh will preach

Rev. John N. Marsh has been Rali's mentor since her internship in San Francisco. Rev. Marsh has gone on to serve churches in Candida, New York and New England. Just before Covid he experienced a stroke and he will be preaching for the first time since to share his experience.

Sunday, June 6, 2020

In Celebration of Children

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

We will celebrate our children and consider what our UU Exploration Program might become in the years ahead.

☀️ Sunday, June 16, 2021

The Flowers that Bloom about our Feet

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

On Youtube and we will also worship at 10 am,
weather permitting, on the Green\

This will be our Flower Communion.

Bring a flower if you wish to share and let us reflect on the beauty and variety of our Church Community.

There will be a socially distanced picnic
on the green after service.

Please bring your own lunch.

Summer services will be on Zoom

If you are willing to host a summer Zoom service
for your church friends please contact

raliweaver@dedhamuu.org

Mark your calendars for a return to our Meeting
House on Sunday, September 12, 2021.

From Our Minister: The Rev. Rali Weaver



It was so wonderful to see so many of you on the green on Easter Sunday. We hope to carefully do the same thing several times this spring. We will continue to offer Youtube worship as well as strive to broadcast our in-person service on the green over Zoom, as well. I am sad that it has taken us so long to get things back to normal. Who knows if they will ever be normal. Some of my colleagues have been talking about a 'new normal' as though things have changed so much they can never return to what they once were.

I know that one of my greatest pleasures was greeting all of you and saying hello and saying goodbye as you left church with handshakes and hugs and hanging out over social hour. I still don't know if we will be able to eat together in the old ways or hug and shake hands without hand sanitizer nearby. I do think we can worship in the Meeting House with the windows open when it is warm and if any of us have a cough or are not feeling well or are immunocompromised we agree to wear a mask. I believe things might return to near normal starting September 12th.

I hope next year will be an opportunity for us to capitalize on all we have learned. For example, some meetings are better on Zoom and having Zoom opportunities for those who cannot attend in person is valuable. We have also learned that cleanliness and precaution is worth a pound of cure. It is not that we weren't careful before but providing gloves for our cleaning staff, being sure there are plenty of antibacterial cleaners on hand has helped the school re-gather safely and will help us do so as well.

Finally I moved around so much before I came to Dedham, I used to joke that my theme song should be "how can I miss you if you won't go away". What the pandemic has reminded me of is how essential our community is to my own sense of health and well being. I miss you all very much and continue to hold you in my heart every day in meditation. I hope you know you can reach out to me even this summer if anything is on your mind or you need an ear. Thank you for your support and patience with First Church as we have weathered this storm together.

Love, Rali

Rev. Rali M. Weaver on Zoom 9-9:30 am <https://zoom.us/j/684365896>
for daily check-in and meditation
raliweaver@dedhamuu.org or 617-4595-5979
or make an appointment online at <https://revraliweaver.youcanbook.me>



**From Grace Peña,
Director of the U.U. Exploration Program**

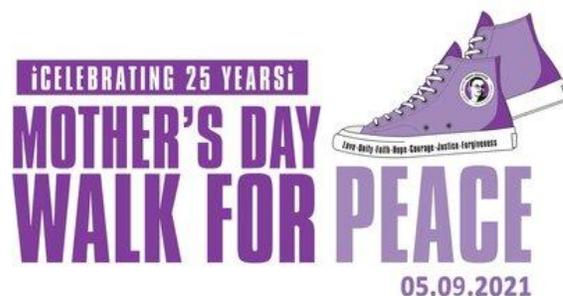
This has been a very unusual year without church classes and with reaching out to the children through monthly packets containing stories and activities. I do hope the children considered our 7 Principles through those packets and hopefully had a discussion or two.

Instead of a packet in May, our last month of the church year. I ask that we all join the efforts of our First Church team for the 25th Annual Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's Mother's Day Walk for Peace. Rali created this team and I have joined her and, hopefully, you can too. You can register to "join" us or to donate to our team at: www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org. Our goal is to raise \$1,000.

Remember, if you are interested in joining the RE Committee to see what will happen in RE in 2021-2022, please contact me at either gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org or at 781-326-7463. We always are looking for new people to join us to keep the program fresh and inviting.

Stay well and be safe until we next meet again.

With love, Grace



The Mother's Day Walk for Peace is a beloved Boston tradition and celebration of our potential to create more peaceful communities. It is the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's (LDBPI) largest fundraising event to grow and sustain our services, advocacy and training.

Parish Record May & June 2021

From our Music Director: Darry Dolezal



Please feel free to join the choir for our remaining Zoom meetings this spring. We enjoy fellowship and a bit of music-making. The dates are:

Thursday April 29, 7:30 pm

Tuesday May 11, 7:30 pm

Thursday May 27, 7:30 pm

Tuesday June 8, 7:30 pm

As always, you may contact me with comments and suggestions about the music at darrydolezal@dedhamuu.org.

The Zoom link for choir meetings is:

<https://zoom.us/j/97999564921?pwd=ZG84cFg2YkpzMkhHTlRraGcyWkF4QT09>

-Darry

From our Church Administrator: Grace Peña

The Church Office hours are:

Monday ~ Closed

Tuesday through Friday ~ 10 am-3 pm

If you would like to receive our weekly church email, please contact me at: 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.

Lastly, if you are wondering where you stand with your pledge fulfillment for the current church year, please contact me at firstchurch@dedhamuu.org or by phone at 781-326-7463.

You can reach the office at firstchurch@dedhamuu.org

Care and Concern

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 Henry Keene, 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 or Susan White at sbsw6567@gmail.com.

If you would like to help out with your fellow parishioners please fill out the survey attached to the all church email and online at:

<https://www.dedhamuu.org/get-involved>

or by going to: <https://forms.gle/CsUKhn2rXLhD6DJW6>

Did you know if you miss worship you can listen to Rev. Weaver's Sermons at <https://soundcloud.com/weaverali> or watch all the Covid worship on YOUTUBE by searching youtube Rev. Rali Weaver, Tiny Desk Worship.

Civic Engagement

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 ssennotti@gmail.com or check the UU Urban Ministry out online at <http://www.uuum.org/>

Religious Exploration

Nature and Nurture Society (Social Distancing walk): Will start up again, weather permitting, in March, April and May on the fourth Saturdays (March 27, April 24, and May 22nd). 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: Will have Zoom Contact raliweaver@dedhamuu.org for details. For the rest of the church year each participant is to choose their own book and report on it at the meeting. If you need suggestions of books please contact Rali Weaver.

A First Church Writers' Group meets the Second and Fourth Thursdays at 5pm on Zoom. Please join us for reading and listening to 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>



Parish Committee Minutes February and March

Minutes of the Parish Committee

Monday, February 1, 202 at, 7:00pm (6:45 Check-in)

Call meeting to order: 7:06 PM

Present: Rali Weaver, Debbie Harrison, Allison Staton, Andrea Gilmore, Liza Arend, Geoff Tegnell, Erik Meyer-Curley, Jonathan Pape, Howard Ostroff. Jenn Atkins, Joshua Langmead, Paquita Bass

Gratitudes for Past Chairs and Committee Members - Ann Miranda and Dave Miller, Susan White, Kathy Elefterakis:

Our former Chairs, Dave and Ann, and our clerk Sue were especially thanked for their leadership achievement during the inception of the pandemic. Below find some of the kudo quotations inscribed on celebrants' Thank You cards:

Susan White - "The best leaders are note-takers." Tom Peters

David Miller - "A good plan executed now is better than a perfect plan executed next week." George Patton

Ann Miranda - "You manage things. You lead people." Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper

Ann, Dave, and Sue displayed their gifts, namely attractive trays with maps of Dedham centered on First Church. Kathy showed off the beautiful Spring-anticipating arrangement the Deacons sent her in appreciation for her deaconship. And Sue White, as usual, shared some funny UU jokes

Review and approve

1. Minutes from January 4, 2021 meeting: Minutes were approved unanimously.
2. Treasurer's Report (requires approval): Rali and Erik have gone through the budget to correct the erroneous numbers presented at the last meeting. The utility bill doesn't yet reflect the discounting for the solar panel power savings. Andrea will follow up with EverSource. Total Income to date is 56.6% of budgeted. Pledges are at 56.6% of budgeted and Building Use at 40.7% of budgeted. We will vote on this budget knowing that what is in the middle column is accurate and next month we will vote on the ongoing fiscal year budget-actual for 2020-21. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was passed unanimously.

3. Minister's Report: Rali continues to offer virtual worship from her office, using the new cameras and the microphones that Jeff contributed. Rali reaches out to parishioners and offers the Dismantling White Supremacy meetings. She chairs a writers' group and is taking a MA.gov class on safe church maintenance. She is also relinquishing her work with Harvard Divinity School. There are some issues with our alarm system that Rali is dealing with. The Bay State Learning Center is in session and the students have been respectful of the church spaces. Allison commended Rali for getting her minister's report in early.

4. DRE Report: Grace and Rali hope to complete the play space this spring so that it is ready for full use in the fall when, it is hoped, most of us have been vaccinated and we can return to normal church activities. Grace is planning for kids to write letters to parents for Valentine's Day. The main DRE goal is to make sure that kids have an important activity every month and Rali is providing children's worship each Sunday.

5. Next month we will discuss First Church work on anti-racism in the alliance with the Anti-Racism Coalition in Dedham.

Review Action Items:

1. New alarms and locks: One key opens all the Parish House doors to the outdoors. New alarms and locks have been installed to keep the buildings safe from domestic terrorists and others.

2. Stewardship Messaging and Update: The Parish Committee will act as the Stewardship Committee. Liza reported on sending out the Stewardship letters. On the topic of Parish Committee videos, Rali would like to access video stewardship messages from Parish Committee folks for disseminating to congregants during services. With a landscape setting, we should all record messages about what we love about First Church, why church is important to us, and/or what compelling reasons motivate us to contribute to church life. Messages 45 secs to 3 minutes of length will be shown in upcoming services.

3. Spring Annual Meeting

a. Committee Job Descriptions: Allison and Josh are spearheading this. Expect to hear more about this plan soon.

4. 2021-2022 Budget: The office will reach out to committees to generate both funding numbers and their "hope for our return", i.e. an idea that they want to accomplish next church year.

5. PPP Round 2 – Payroll Boogaloo: 2nd PPP is out and we are checking as to whether we are eligible, considering we won PPP funding last spring. Some

Parish Record May & June 2021

Parish Committee members are uncomfortable with applying again for PPP funds because we don't seem to be hurting and because this PPP is aimed at small businesses. We will table this agenda item.

6. Bay State Learning Center: They are back in session, following all the protocols we agreed on and maintaining clean and sanitary spaces.

New Business

1. Proposal for hiring a Bookkeeper

a. Jenny Conley - <http://jfcaccounting.com/>: She runs JFC Accounting and Bookkeeping. Allison proposes that we hire an accountant to actually run the books while the treasurer oversees the process. This way Rali's time will be less consumed with helping maintain the books. Jenny Conley has lots of useful and pertinent experience with bookkeeping for the Needham UU church. Allison proposes that we take \$2500 from First Church account to fund her for the remainder of the year to set up the Quickbook accounts. Howard supported this hire. There was some confusion as to the line item (unrestricted funds) from which to access these funds. We discussed whether the accountant should attend Parish Committee meetings. Proposal: Hire Jenny Conley as bookkeeper for remainder of the year and pay her \$2500 from line #2370 Parish Committee unrestricted account. This motion was passed unanimously!

2. Mother's Day Walk for Peace: Rali encourages us to consider holding an alternative church service for Mothers' Day and to encourage congregants to participate in the Walk virtually or in person. Jen suggested that Rali craft a pre-recorded sermon, so that she can participate in this event with fellow congregants. Josh mentioned that we should be aware that we might have good weather in May, so we should schedule outside services on Sundays other than Mothers' Day.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM, 2/1/21

Next Meeting

1. March 1, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Tegnell

Clerk, First Church and Parish in Dedham

Minutes of the Parish Committee

Monday, March 1, 2021, 7:00pm (6:45pm Check-in)

Present: Rali Weaver, Debbie Harrison, Allison Staton, Andrea Gilmore, Liza Arend, Geoff Tegnell, Erik Meyer-Curley, Jonathan Pape, Jenn Atkins, Paquita Bass

Gratitudes: Allison is grateful for her co-chair Liza who is leading the meeting because Allison is not feeling well.

Review and approve

Minutes from February 1, 2021 meeting: We corrected the fund name from which the assets for hiring a bookkeeper and correctly identified the new hire as bookkeeper and not an accountant.

Treasurer's Report: Looking at the restricted account, Andrea wondered about the balance discrepancy of \$8000 in the restricted fund. Total Income to date is 59.6% of budgeted. Erik noted that pledges were at 61% of budgeted and building use at 44.4% of budgeted. Erik also reported that 8 payments have been made for the following: Verizon, Housing Equity Trust, Rali's Pension, and Taxes, so these should also be about 58%. Trash Removal includes payment to be reimbursed by BSLC. Parish House sewer and water bills are where they should be. A Parish Committee member asked about the Housing Equity Trust and received a clarifying answer. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously!

3. Minister's Report: Rali has been cleaning things up around the Parish House with Grace. She has been running the service from her office. Rali has contacted some of our elders and looks forward to doing the Commission on Institutional Change to help us be more multicultural and consider adopting the eighth principle through a vote of the congregation in the spring of 2022. "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." Allison has been meeting regularly with our new bookkeeper who is cleaning up some confusion in Quickbooks. Erik agrees.

4. DRE Report: Grace is sending out Packets once a month for First Church Faith Academy. A new packet went out to the children in February including the usual February Cool Deed of sending cards out to those who usually have a harder time attending church during the winter months. Grace did include a list of those who are alone right now, but encouraged the children to send a card to anyone they missed or were thinking about at First Church. Grace also included the card, stickers and an envelope and asked the kids to take a picture of themselves with their cards to be sent to her. The packet contained a story, activities, the Cool Deed craft and Joys &

Parish Record May & June 2021

Concerns focused on the theme of Love in our Congregation and the idea of community from the UUA Tapestry of Faith curriculum *Love Will Guide Us: Session 4*. She started to plan the packet for March including our annual Pi Day (3/14) activity of baking pies.

Review Action Items:

1. Bookkeeper: Some think it is not appropriate to have the bookkeeper attend Parish Committee meetings. This is because the bookkeeper reports to the Treasurer. So the Treasurer will come to explain the bookkeeper's reports.

2. Safe Church Policy: Under the Ministry's authority to establish a Safe Church policy. Now the Governor has sent out a new policy and training for Safe Church response to terrorist activities. This involved alarm systems, lighting, locking up knives and surveilling people entering the church. We will try to present these proposals at the annual meeting'

3. New alarms and locks: Building and Grounds is setting up an alarm in the sanctuary and the Parish House. Rali will oversee this process.

4. Stewardship Messaging and Update: Parish Committee Videos: We need the videos soon so that they can be out in the Parish Record and church services. We will start this week by blasting messages and then Grace will follow up. Maybe Parish Committee will do follow-up calls for the recalcitrant

5. Spring Annual Meeting: Update next month: We will send around the warrants now. We need a Nominating Committee now. We should finish writing the Committee Job Descriptions.

2021-2022 Budget: We will use the 2019-20 (non Covid year) template and adjust based on Stewardship pledges.

New Business

1. Nominating Committee: Parish Committee member, Deacon, Re Committee, Women's Alliance, and Men's Group to compose the Nominating Committee. Need to nominate two Parish Committee members, a treasurer, and a clerk. We also need two auditors. Nominations should be in by early May.

2. Yard Sale: Rali would like the Parish Committee's support in holding a socially distanced yard sale with tables 6 feet apart. We charge \$30. for a non-member plus \$5 for a chair. Congregants pay 10% of their sales. We can also sell packaged food. We can also advertise at the Farmers Market.

3. The Farmers Market is considering renewing their presence on the Green. Rali will reach out to him about the procedures for running this activity at First Church. Rali will follow up.

Parish Record May & June 2021

4. **Sanctuary Repair:** Andrea reported on the Meeting House chandelier restoration.
5. **Ground Rents:** Andrea proposed liquidating the ground rents that the deacons collect from home owners whose houses are on land owned by the church. St. Paul's curtailed collecting their ground rents several years ago. Geoff has some records that he would like to share with Andrea in order to facilitate these transactions. They will set up a meeting to look at the pertinent documents and determine next steps.
6. **Services:** Scheduling the next in-person services was discussed and Allison recommended that we stick with virtual services until the weather improves enough for services outdoors.
7. **Nominating Committee:** It was pointed out that the Nominating Committee needs to be convened in the near future. The task will be to nominate two Parish Committee members, a clerk, a treasurer and two auditors. Carol Dixon was put forth as an at-large and Alliance candidate for this committee which also requires a deacon, an RE committee member, a Women's Alliance member and a representative of the Men's Group (or just a male congregant). Debbie Harrison will be the Deacon on the Committee and Liza will be RE rep.

Next Meeting

April 5, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:27PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Tegnell

Clerk, First Church and Parish in Dedham

This Parish Record was printed on 100% recycled paper.

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

