



Worship in the Meetinghouse at 10:00 am

Zoom Social Hour every Sunday at 11:30

<https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/99906139969>

All worship can be found on youtube at [www.dedhamuu.org](http://www.dedhamuu.org) after the service

**Sunday, January 8, 2022**

**How Can I Miss You If You Won't Go Away?**

**Rev. Weaver's last Sunday before Sabbatical**

This Sunday will include a blessing of the pop up trailer, and sending our minister off with a fond goodbye.

**Sunday, January 15, 2023**

**Mysterious Times**

The Rev. Hank Peirce will preach  
Rev. Hank Peirce's reflection on a sailing trip out of New Bedford more than 40 years ago can be seen as a beacon of hope today.

**Sunday, January 22, 2023**

**The Gardener's Guide to Racial Justice**

The Rev. Mary Margaret Earl will preach  
How do the lessons from tending, trying, failing and trying again teach us to keep moving our justice work forward?

**Sunday, January 29, 2023**

**Lessons for Future Ancestors**

Matt Meyer will preach  
Join us for a reflection of heavy suitcases, surprise turning points, and attending to the complexity of our times with love and resilience.

**Sunday February 5, 2023**

**I Tried Not Trying**

The Rev. Ken Reeves will preach.  
"Try not to try," Zen Buddhism advises its practitioners. When that does not work, Zen suggests: "Quit trying not to try." When all else fails: "Quit quitting." But what about being in control of one's life -- "the master of my fate; the captain of my soul"? This service will explore the tension between quitting and controlling and describe the spiritual experience.

**Sunday February 12, 2023**

**Plato's Footstool**

The Rev. Hank Peirce will preach.  
Plato's description of the cave illustrates the philosophical roots of our Unitarian Universalist theology. Yet our theology and the way we see the world is changing. What will influence the way we understand our world and our future? What will help us have a new vision of ourselves and the sacred as we move forward?

**Sunday February 19, 2023**

**Thought for Contemplation**

The Rev. Anita Farber-Robertson will preach  
This President's Day weekend, Rev. Farber-Robinson will reflect upon the value of being grounded in real history.

**Sunday February 26, 2023**

**Better Love for Country**

The Rev. Anita Farber-Robertson will preach  
"Better to love your country with a broken heart than to love it blind." -Roger Cohen

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**Our Minister: The Rev. Rali M. Weaver (soon to be on sabbatical)**

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Sabbatical. The word “sabbatical” comes from the word “Sabbath,” which is a day of rest dedicated to God. In this traditional sense a sabbatical is several Sabbaths put together. More secularly a sabbatical has represented a period of paid leave granted to a university teacher or other worker for study or travel.

Sabbaticals are meant to be a time of rest and study so that a person can return to their work rejuvenated and revitalized. On my trip I plan to rest and relax in the Caribbean and read nothing but fiction while there, visit the Holy Land and read the bible, Visit many of our nation’s National Parks and read John Muir, John Steinbeck and Henry David Thoreau. I will keep a blog of all my musings while I am on the road. I plan to return with thousands of sermon ideas and new energy for the years ahead.

It has been one of the greatest joys in my life to be your minister. While I am excited about my upcoming travels and study I hope my time away will not diminish our bonds.

I have lined up a variety of great ministers to preach in my absence. Grace and I have also lined up a handful of people who are willing to offer pastoral care in my absence and the Worship Associates and Ushers will be on hand to help make sure everything runs smoothly on Sundays.

The Ministers preaching in January and February 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. Mary Margaret Earl** has served as Executive Director and Senior Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry for 8 years. In this ministry, she has worked to strengthen bonds between UUs and the Roxbury neighborhood where the UUUM operates. She has served on the Faith in Solidarity leadership team and 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 a 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 received a Courage of Conscience award from the Peace Abbey in Sherborn, Ma. She is a longtime vegan committed to standing up for nonhuman animals.

**Matt Meyer** is a musician and worship leader who has led hundreds of services for UU congregations across the country. He has a degree in hand drumming and serves as Director of Community Life for Sanctuary Boston.

**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. Dr. Anita Farber-Robertson**, retired in August 2022 after forty years of active ministry, serving congregations in New England as a settled minister and as an Accredited Interim Minister. She taught at Andover Newton Theological School as the adjunct Professor of Communication. She is honored to be the Minister Emerita at First Parish UU in Canton, MA. Rev. Anita chaired the UUA's Racial and Cultural Diversity Task Force with Dr. Leon Spencer from 1992 - 1997, when the UUA formed the Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Team.

She is the author of two books (Both are available in paperback and on Kindle through Amazon):

- Learning While Leading, Increasing Your Effectiveness in Ministry, for clergy and lay leaders, and
- Called to Community: New Directions in Unitarian Universalist Ministry which she co-authored with Dorothy Emerson.

Rev. Anita has a consulting practice, Learning Edge Consulting, to clergy and congregations. The mother of two and stepmother of two, all adult children, grandmother of their combined eight children, and great grandmother of one, she lives by the sea in Swampscott, Massachusetts, with her dog Tinker.

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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](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org)

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### **Our Music Director: Darry Dolezal**

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The choir will be singing in the New Year beginning on Sunday, January 8. We meet at 8:45 am before the Sunday service to warmup and rehearse. The choir welcomes all who would like to sing. We will also have choir practices at 7:30 pm in the Dining Room on the third and fifth Tuesdays in January and May, and the third and fourth Tuesdays of February, March and April.

The Intergenerational choir will sing a fun and easy introit on the third Sundays of each month. Everyone of any age is encouraged to join us at 9:30 am to go over the music.

We have a "mask friendly" policy in the choir. Masks are not required but may be worn as desired. All are welcome to join us!

If you would like to have your email address added to the choir list in order to gain access to the music in our shared Google folder and to receive choir announcements, please email Darry at [DarryDolezal@dedhamuu.org](mailto:DarryDolezal@dedhamuu.org).

Please come to our two lively new concert series - the Friday Coffee House series and the Saturday Classical and Jazz series. All concerts begin at 7:30 pm. Please check church announcements for the next concert.

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Darry can be reached at [darrydolezal@dedhamuu.org](mailto:darrydolezal@dedhamuu.org)

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**Our Director of the UU Explorers Program: Lisa Pilat**

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Hello Church Family!

November and December have been very busy. We had classes in Spirit Play and UU Explorers. Our amazing teachers continue to engage the kids and come up with creative Cool Deeds and activities.

We made Love Rocks with the kids from Allin Church during our joint service. Their rocks will live in our garden and our rocks will live in their garden.

We had fun making many crafts to sell at the Holly Fair.

Our Pageant was beautiful, messy and sweet. The kids loved preparing for it as well as participating in it.

Neighboring Faiths wrapped up their program visiting 4 houses of worship and discussing other religions. A special thank you to Steve Davey and Kerrie Galligher for running these classes. The kids got so much out of this program.

OWL 4-6 and OWL 7-9 classes will begin in January. Kerrie Galligher and Tom Donaghey will run OWL 4-6. Emily Peloquin Pape, Alexas Cushman and Josh Langmead will run OWL 7-9. The youth groups have been active in helping out in classes and helping staff the Families Night Out on the first Fridays of each month and hosting the Food Pantry Christmas Dinner Give Away.

We are offering two additional new programs this year:

1. **KKUU or UU Kids Together:** These are 6 classes run by facilitators from the First Church in Belmont throughout the year. The classes are based on social and emotional development and are packed with games and experiments that are focused on working together. The dates are: 1/29, 2/26, 3/26 and 4/30. Please try to have your kids here on those dates so they don't miss out on these fun classes.
2. **Families Tugether.** The first Friday of each month we will host families and kids to come to First Church from 6 pm-8pm. The parents will break off for a short circle time and then are free to leave for date night. We will have games and activities for the kids and feed them as well. This is open to the community so please tell your friends and have them come along. Hopefully we will get a strong turn out! The dates are 1/6, 2/3, 4/7 and 5/5.

**I am looking for volunteers for the first Fridays. If you are able to help for one or for all of them I need as many volunteers as I can get.**

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

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## Church Administrator: Grace Peña

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Church Office hours are:  
Monday, Tuesday and Saturday ~ Closed  
Wednesday through Friday ~ 9 am-2 pm

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that it is 2023 and that half of the church year is over.

With Rali on sabbatical, the church office is now open on the three days that I am in: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9am-2pm. I am always available by email at [firstchurch@dedhamuu.org](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org). I check my emails even on my days out of the office.

Lisa has office hours on Wednesday, 11 am-3 pm

I will be sending out tax letters by the end of January detailing any donations or pledge payments that you made to First Church for the **2022 tax year**. Remember, that includes January 2022 through December 2022 which is different from a church year (church years run from July 1st to June 30th). It can easily get confusing. If you have any questions about these please do not hesitate to contact me at [firstchurch@dedhamuu.org](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org).

Although I'll miss Rali, I look forward to 2023: enjoying the new heating system in the Meetinghouse, meeting all our visiting ministers and moving through winter to get to spring!

You can always reach me at [firstchurch@dedhamuu.org](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org) or when I am in the office at 781-326-7463,

If you would like to receive our weekly email, please contact me either 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 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.

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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 worship or virtual services, and would benefit from a call, a card or a visit.

In particular we hope you would reach out with a card or a call to Vicky Berg, Martha Leonard, Joan Wisloki, Maryanne Osborne, Mary Daurio and Priscilla King.

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](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org).

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### Adult Religious Exploration

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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](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org).

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### Music at First Church

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**First Church Friday Folk Coffeehouse** presents its fourth concert of the 2022-2023 season featuring the Gloucester Hornpipe and Clog Society in the Parish Hall at First Church and Parish Dedham, 670 High Street, Dedham on Friday, January 20, 2023 at 7:30 pm in the Auditorium. There will be refreshments for purchase. Tickets are \$10 available online at [Folk Coffeehouse | dedhamuu](https://www.folkcoffeehouse.com/dedhamuu) and at the door. Doors open at 7:00 pm.

The Gloucester Hornpipe and Clog Society has been delighting audiences in New England for over forty years with Celtic, maritime, French Canadian, and original songs and tunes. The band's repertoire especially features American Colonial-era tunes, sing-along sea chanteys, and original songs of colorful people and places from New England's rich history. From ragtime to oldtime, the band's rollicking, friendly style is fun for all ages. Nancy Koch plays accordion and guitar. She also sings boldly of pirates and other seagoing rascals, yet creates lovely vocal harmonies on gorgeous, slow ballads. Ben Bruno is on fiddle and guitar. He picked up the fiddle and hung up his electric guitar after discovering a love for traditional fiddle music. He has an insatiable thirst for learning new tunes and styles. Linda Abrams has been playing melodic clawhammer banjo for over 40 years. Despite growing up listening to Pete Seeger and Earl Scruggs, she ventured into playing the music of Ireland, France and Quebec. Band co-founder David "Doc" Rosen is master of the age-old delights of the bodhrán (an Irish drum), spoons and bones. He also plays an unusual instrument that never fails to intrigue: the pogo cello. From the traditions of the Swedish "Devil's fiddle," eastern European polka percussion sticks, and 18th and 19th century shipboard Fufu bands, the pogo cello is a mix of rhythm instrument and pogo-stick. It is not to be missed! You'll be inspired to tap your toes and sing along!

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 church choir at Sunday services, the Parish Players theater troupe, and the **Concerts at First Church** concert series, in addition to our Friday Folk Coffeehouses.

There will be refreshments for purchase.

Tickets are \$10 available at the door or at [www.dedhamuu.org](http://www.dedhamuu.org). Doors open at 7:00 pm



## **Dedham School of Music Presents: A Night of Classical and Jazz Piano**

This will be the third performance of the 2022-2023 Concerts at First Church & Parish in Dedham season.

Saturday February 4th, featuring Sam Gilman and Adam Merrill. Check our Concert Series on our website at [www.dedhamuu.org](http://www.dedhamuu.org) for show time and ticket information.

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### **FIRST CHURCH & PARISH IN DEDHAM HISTORICAL NOTES**

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**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.

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#### **Joseph Belcher 1693-1723**

Joseph Belcher was born in Milton, Massachusetts on May 14, 1669, the son of Joseph Belcher and Rebecca Belcher. He graduated from Harvard in the class of 1690 and settled in Dedham. After hearing several of his sermons, Church of Christ leaders offered Belcher “a call to come and live and labour amongst us” on December 4, 1692. Shortly after settling in Dedham, Belcher married Abigail Thompson with whom he fathered six children. One of his sons, Joseph Jr, after graduating from Harvard in 1717, stayed on to become master of Dedham’s migratory school, teaching in various parts of town for half a decade. Joseph Sr. was awarded a salary of sixty pounds a year, though in 1696 the selectmen reverted to offering Belcher a “free contribution” instead. These voluntary (and doubtless stinting) donations proved to be unsatisfactory to Belcher and in response to his complaints, his salary, funded by town taxes, was restored, ultimately amounting to 100 pounds a year plus firewood.

Reverend Belcher was greatly admired as a preacher. Five of his sermons have come down to us. One was delivered in 1698 to Boston's Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company and another before the Great and General Assembly of the Province of Massachusetts in 1701. He gave two other sermons in Dedham that were also published, one on "Young Persons" and another on "the Rising Generation." Lastly, the publication of his ordination sermon on the settlement of Nathaniel Cotton in Bristol, Rhode Island's church was prefaced by Harvard President Increase Mather, which indicates the respect in which Belcher was accorded by his contemporaries. One unsung accomplishment that has been attributed to Belcher regards the following. In 1692 while some residents of Salem were being imprisoned for offenses related to witchcraft, surrounding towns such as Topsfield, Marblehead, Rowley, Malden and Lynn became embroiled in accusations against and prosecutions of satanic practices by town folk. However, although Dedham, like these sister towns, was riven by judicial and theological contentiousness, as well as beset by ignorance and superstition, witch-hunting mania never took root there and some have attributed this to Belcher's "calming influence, rational approach, and general non-inflammatory attitude" which forestalled Dedham's contamination by the widespread divisive hysteria.

Belcher's ministry at Church of Christ is also noteworthy because of political wrangling between inhabitants of Dedham's center village and those of some outlying districts. Starting in 1706, some inhabitants of the outer periphery of Dedham complained that the distance between their homes and Church of Christ made it a hardship to travel to attend church in Dedham, so they joined churches in abutting towns that were closer to their houses. Accordingly, they petitioned Town Meeting to have the amount they paid to churches in neighboring towns deducted from their taxes. After this petition was granted by Town Meeting, another group of citizens from the northern section of Dedham (some 6 to 10 miles from Church of Christ) asked in 1708 for the Town to raise taxes so they might provide a salary for a minister they then would hire "to preach amongst themselves", a request to which Town Meeting also acceded. Nevertheless, just 15 months later, the same petitioners asked the General Court to allow them to totally separate from Dedham. They argued that "the distance of our livings from & the difficulty of the way to our church & school in Dedham is such that at some seasons of the year by reason of the water being high, we can neither attend church meetings, Town Meetings, nor school meetings, & so lose all our privileges at once." These petitioners added that they sought to constitute a town separate from Dedham, rather than just become a precinct of Dedham because of fear of retaliation. Indeed, they pointed out that the recent history of Massachusetts was replete with many instances of like petitioners who "when freed as a precinct only, have afterwards met with such hard measures from their town as have been hard to bear." After negotiating disputes about boundary lines, the General Court promptly established Needham as a separate town. Throughout the rest of Belcher's ministry, Town Meeting dealt with a succession of peripheral petitions by granting tax funds to maintain local ministers and establishing a traveling school that migrated seasonally to various sections of the town. Notwithstanding these accommodations, complaints about taxation to fund Church of Christ ministers would continue

to fuel political discord and divisiveness between Dedham village and its outlying districts for years to come.

Joseph Belcher served as minister at Church of Christ for over thirty years. Incapacitated by a stroke in 1721, he passed away at his son-in-law's house in Roxbury on April 27, 1723. Upon his passing none other than the famed New England theologian, historian and scientist Cotton Mather wrote the following tribute to "the never-to-be-forgotten Joseph Belcher an excellent preacher of a walk with God, who was an excellent pattern of what he preached unto us. God has newly taken unto himself one who walked with him; one who lived what he spoke; who did what he taught us; who was a walker in the paths of His righteousness. A gentlemanly temper and carriage with a sweetness of disposition..., how faithfully, how painfully, how patiently did he feed his flock whereof he was overseer. One would think it impossible for any mouth to open against a shepherd of so much goodness!"

#### Bibliography

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Smith, Frank. [A History of Dedham](#). Dedham; The Transcript Press, 1936.

Filing Cabinet: Ministers-1688, Robert Brand-1897; Church of Christ Papers- 1627-1965; Dedham Museum and Archive

Filing Cabinet: History: 1839-1900: History of Church of Christ in Three Discourses by Alvan Lamson

## Parish Committee Minutes

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### First Church & Parish Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, November 1, 2022

**Attendees by ZOOM:** Rali Weaver, Julia Gecha, Mary Lynn Davis, Paquita Bass, Matthew Grady, Debbie Harrison, Howard Ostroff, Kerrie Gallagher, Erik Meyer-Curley, Jonathan Pape, Geoff Tegnell, Rebecca Vautour

**Call Meeting to Order:** Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 7:05 pm

**Gratitudes:** Taught RE class, Thanksgiving is coming soon, Kaleidoscope concert went very well

#### Review and Approve:

1. Minutes from October 4, 2022 approved.
2. Minister's Report was accepted.
  - a. -- 40-50 people were at church
  - b. -- coffee houses and the first church Concert have had a significant uptick, and we have seen a few visitors at church as a result
  - c. -- The first Families Tuugether will be hosted by the UUEP on November 4
  - d. -- Parish Committee will be making the welcome announcements all year
  - e. -- On November 27, Rali will meet with the Ushers and Worship Associates after church to discuss their role in supporting the visiting ministers.
  - f. --We will be hiring Aoife Barrington-Haber to assist with the live streaming services and set up zoom social hour during coffee while Rali is away.
  - g. -- Rali will send out a survey about Christmas and New Year's Day. She has already spoken to Darry about giving the choir the day off on those two Sundays.
3. RE Report from Lisa to come.
4. Treasurer's Report from October 4, 2022 approved.

#### Old Items:

--Trunk or Treat Debrief: Event went very well, we had a good presence, there were lots of kids, approximately 8 people helped with the event, we will participate again next year.

-- Special Fall Meeting to vote on auditor's report:  
Will probably take place on November 13, backup date is December 4.

#### New Business

1. Holiday Stroll and Tree Lighting, Friday, December 2, 2022, 6-8pm: Geoff will ask the choir if they are interested in singing Carols the night of the Holiday Stroll. Eric suggested setting up a craft table. We could also possibly set up a coloring page.

2. Holly Fair, Saturday, December 3, 2022: There is no Holy Fair czar. Cindy might oversee the luncheon. Sign-up sheets will be set up. Volunteers could help set up on Friday before the fair from 4-6 and then continue on to the Dedham Square Holiday Stroll. Rali will organize and decide how everything will be set up.
3. Community Purchasing Alliance – gas: We have an opportunity to purchase gas for \$1.16 through June 2025. This way we will know the cost of gas for the next couple of years and can budget around that number. Rali will send us more information on past gas bills so we can make an informed decision. We will decide by November 8<sup>th</sup>.
4. Minister's Sabbatical: In Rali's absence, Claudia will be on hand to help staff. She will also help evaluate staff at the end of the year. Building Use contact is Grace. Aoife will be the backup if Grace is not available. Contact Hank Peirce in an emergency. Worship associates will help visiting ministers. Ushers will help things run smoothly. Parish Committee members will do Families Together duties and also host the Easter Social Hour. Lisa will take charge of the Easter egg hunt. Jonny will help set up the cameras during services.
5. Miscellaneous: The heating system company has been working on setting up the new gas heating system which should be ready for the Muratore concert. The basement is not flooding any more.

**Action Items:**

Next meeting: ZOOM, Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 7 pm

Look out for information on gas prices and make a decision about joining the gas coalition by November 8. Sign up to deliver announcements in Rali's absence.

**Next Meeting** Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 7:00pm (Zoom)

**Adjourn:** 8:30 pm on November 1, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Gecha, Clerk

First Church and Parish in Dedham

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**First Church & Parish Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 7:06 PM**

7:02 call the meeting to order

Attending: Geoff Tegnell, Jonny Pape, Paquita Bass, Howard Ostroff, Kerry Galligher, Debbie

Harrison, Matthew Grady, Rev. Rali Weaver, Becca Vautour

Gratitudes

Treasurer's Report

Discussion

Debbie - line 4375, Dividend Income, what is that?

Erik confirmed that this is from our insurance account, we usually get a check once a year on this line item. We get a percentage of the Dividends

Debbie mentioned that there is a deposit of roughly \$400/month from eversource going into the Deacons account and it should be going to the Parish, not the Deacons. That is the offset for the power we are generating.

Rali mentioned that it might have been set up that way because we are paying the Deacons back for the installation.

Who will talk to Andrea about this item?

Debbie will ask Andrea about this item and include Jonny and Pequita in the email.

Discussion about income and making sure the fundraising income goes into the Treasurer's Report.

Geoff asked about the concert income.

Rali mentioned that we are trying to keep the concert income separate so that we could see how much we are making.

Debbie asked about Sharing the Plate. Rali mentioned that item is usually something that the Parish Committee votes on.

We put this on the agenda for January 2023 and ask people to bring suggestions next week.

Treasurer's Report was accepted unanimously

The minutes from the last meeting were approved unanimously.

RE Report was Discussed. The pageant is going to be killer!

No Discussion on the Administrators Report.

### **Ministers Report:**

Allin Church Service went really well.

Mentioned the incident with Barbara Thomas, she was a member but took her name off the book after meeting with Rali they decided that this wasn't the church for her. She does use the Music School's piano on Fridays when only Grace is here.

This did bring up the idea that we should have a process in place for who should manage the safe church policy while Rali is on Sabbatical.

Henry Keane estate donation - Rali suggests that we put some funds towards the grounds, her desire to have a separate endowment for the grounds, eg. Tree removal or pave the driveway etc.

There are 2 trees in the back of the parking lot that need to be removed and some bushes that have been damaged by the drought. Use some funds to get us back up to snuff and then seed a separate endowment for the church.

Vote to approve the changes in Rali's Financial changes were unanimously approved.

Bookkeeper budget discussion - In order to get through the Audit we had to have Jenny work some extra hours. Jonny shared the spreadsheet he put together for awareness.

-How to cover the overage? \$400

-We will need a few extra hours from Jenny to clean up the books

-Can the Parish Committee Reserve Fund split this with the Deacons?

-Debbie compared this to a snow plowing overage

Audit Meeting

-Thoughts about putting together a document for how meetings run.

**New Business:**

1. Debit Card for Church Office (great idea!)

a. New Chair will need to print a new card at Needham Bank when they change the signatures at the bank.

2. Included incident reports - Questions or comments

a. Rali met with Barb about all 3 incidents - once we get to 5 incidents it invokes the safe church policy and there would be a hearing and makes recommendations.

b. If Barb comes back to Church when Rali is on Sabbatical and there is an incident there should be an incident report filed and sent to Claudia as the chair of the Ministry committee.

c. Rali is meeting with the Ministry committee and will designate a person.

d. Geoff pointed out that the Ushers are responsible for documenting the incident and there should be a timely response within a week.

e. We want to offer people the greatest opportunity to change.

Review included Safe-church policy, behavioral covenant and process in Rali's absence

-we should update the safe church policy to amend the door locking policy to add as needed.

Donation from Henry Keane and how to use the funds

-we are sending the \$ to the Deacons

-Deacons will meet and discuss and perhaps set up a fund for the grounds.

-We will put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Howard asked what funds are managed by Howland Capital.

**New Business:**

Trivia Night in late March - Volunteers needed

-Jonny has spoken with lots of people and need

Hosting the Dedham Square Crawl

- Fundraising Event, charity changes each year, unifying event!

- We don't have a lot of permitting

Respectfully Submitted Rebecca Vautour

