



# The First Church and Parish in Dedham

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

Volume CXXXII Number 2

November & December 2021

## Worship in November / December 2021

We are meeting in the Meeting House Again with Masks and Singing and air circulation.

We are also live streaming from our Meeting House (Church) starting at 10 am on Sunday

You can find the link in your email or at [www.dedhamuu.org](http://www.dedhamuu.org)

**Sunday, November 7, 2021**

**Let this Be a House of Peace**

Rev. Chris Lyman Waldron

and the Rev. Rali Weaver will assist

This will be the anniversary service celebrated with the Allin Congregation in our Sanctuary. Come and consider the divisions and the ways we might unite with our neighbors for peace and change.

**Sunday, November 14, 2021**

**A Systems View**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

If we stop thinking in linear ways and move into more systems views of thinking, how might we live in better sync with the world and find solutions for the crises which face our world today?

**Sunday, November 21, 2021**

**Our Beloved Kin**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

When the Puritans landed on these sacred shores (not at all far from our historic Meeting House) how did they view the Algonquin and Massasoit peoples? We will be exploring Lisa Brooks' book by the same title as this sermon and asking how we might better acknowledge the Native Resistance to our ancestors' occupation.

**Sunday, November 28, 2021**

**From Whence Wisdom Comes**

**The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach**

Where is wisdom found? Is it in the heart or head or on the ground? Forgive my rhyming, although these rhyming words do highlight the variety of locations wisdom is searched for- and while we may not find wisdom this last Sunday in November, we may be able to determine the conditions necessary for it to emerge.

**Sunday, December 5, 2021**

**Faith**

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

On this first Sunday in the Christian Season of Advent we will explore the value of faith in something and how faith alone may be enough of a life preserver to keep some people going when the waters get rough.

**Sunday, December 12, 2021**

**Love**

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

Love is what the world needs now more than anything? But what kind of love? And how do we foster it? These are the things we will ponder this Second Sunday in Advent. With a Congregational Meeting to follow in person and on Zoom.

**Sunday, December 19, 2021**

**Joy (Christmas Pageant)**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

This Sunday before Christmas we will tell a timeless story and sing some uncommon hymns while the children act it out and bring the Joy we need to start this season right.

**December 24, 2021**

**Peace**

**Christmas Eve**

Join us for carolling with Masks On on the green at 6pm and then enter the Meeting House with masks and silently for our electric candlelight Traditional Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve Service at 6:30.

**Sunday, December 26, 2021**

**Let's Let the Old Year Die with a Fond Goodbye!**

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

We will ritually reflect together on the old year and let it go so we can start the new year right!

All worship can be found either live streamed or after the fact at [www.dedhamuu.org](http://www.dedhamuu.org)

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**From Our Minister: The Rev. Rali Weaver**

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I am happy to announce that Grace is on the mend and returning to work at least once per week. I want to thank all of those who have lent a hand in the office, especially give a nod to Debbie Harrison and Linda Meyer-King and last but not least, Kerry Galligher who have all been helping out. I also want to send a shout out to Jonathan, Emily and Simon Pape and Josh Langmead, for their help with leaf raking this fall. Most especially I want to thank Simon for his very enthusiastic leaf pile jumping and his leaf pile napping. Needless to say it has been a busy fall, and I have counted on so many of you to lend a hand, provide meals for Vicky and Grace, offer a call or a virtual hug and a joke now and then when your friends from First Church need it most

These continue to be trying times we are living in and we need community .

I don't know about you but in the hustle and bustle of life (which this slow return from Covid represents to me) I often drop off doing the things that feed my spirit. I have missed cartooning and rag doll making and I am hoping November and December will give me a chance to get back on track with the things I love to do. At least so I will have some Rali Dollies (aka Parish Pollies) for the Holly Fair. We are hoping to pull off a part outdoor and part indoor Holly Faire this year. If you don't feel ready for in person gatherings we would still be happy to receive your crafts and baked goods. The second week in November we will be having a Holly Faire planning right after worship. If you can join us that would be wonderful.

We will also be having our first Concert Series of the Year with a John Muratore Concert in the Meeting House on Saturday December 18th at 7:30. If you haven't heard John Muratore in concert before I encourage you to join us. It is a beautiful guitar concert you don't want to miss. If you cannot or are not yet willing to rejoin us in the meeting house, we understand. This concert is a gift from John Muratore and proceeds will allow us to continue our concert series into the future.

Finally, we will be having a narrated and choir sang children's pageant on the 19th. This will also be live streamed from the Meeting House so you can watch it from home.

We hope to ring in the season with a bit of our old Christmas cheer and much of the new Christmas caution so that we can all welcome the new year well and happy.

Please remember that no matter whether you need someone to celebrate with you or to listen to you lament this holiday season, I am here with an ear.

I wish you and your family much love and light for 2022,  
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>

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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 is getting better and is making her way back to work little by little! Rali Weaver will continue to be in the office and on call during regular office hours.

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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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, 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).

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.

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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 November 27th and December 18th. We will explore the works of the transcendentalists and explore the nature theatre 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 Principle Project:** If you are interested in discussing the possibility of adding an eighth UU principle to our seven. One that encourages us to address issues of racism and White Supremacy in our congregations and the world. Please contact Rev. Rali Weaver [raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org) 617-459-5979 to find a mutually agreeable time to meet.

**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 has begun. Thank you to everyone who has participated thus far. There will be two more sessions on Zoom Wednesday, November 17 at 7:30 pm and another on Sunday, November 21, 2021 just following worship in person. You only need to attend one of these sessions. We hope all of you who could not attend the first sessions might sign up with the church office for one of these.

There will also be a Leadership Skills Survey we hope each of you will fill out in the email and available on paper by request.

Much appreciation for your participation in the life of the ministry of our church and parish,

The First Church Ministry Committee  
Claudia Leone, Tyler Carpenter,  
Diane Cullen-Moore, Betsy Hetzler,  
Mason Miranda, Eileen Sullivan

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Advent Bible Study - Tuesday evenings 7:30-8:30 pm in small group and on Zoom. Rev Rali Weaver will lead an Advent Bible Study drawing from both common and uncommon lectionaries to delve into the story of the season. Email [raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org) or call 617-459-5979 to reserve your spot or get the link.

## Parish Record November December 2021

### First Church Parish Committee Meeting Notes, Tuesday, 9/7, 2021,

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

**Call meeting to order:** September 7, 2021 at 7:10 PM

**Gratitudes:** Rali is grateful that Mark Brooks taught her to ride the mower. Erik is grateful for flexible organizations. Josh is grateful to be getting back to teaching. Howard is grateful that Heidi is okay after being hit by a truck. Grace had a minor stroke and is out of work and we are all grateful that she is on the mend. We are all also grateful that Vicki Berg is recovering from the fall that broke her arm two weeks ago.

#### **Review and Approve:**

**1. Minutes from August 7, 2021 meeting (requires approval)** Motion to approve minutes was passed unanimously.

**2. Treasurer's Report (requires approval)** We are 16% through the church year, regular monthly income & expenses (salaries, utilities) should be at around 16% of the budgeted amount.

- 1. Income** Salaries are at 16%. We are at 20% of pledges in.
- 2. Expenses:** Our expenses are similar to last year's at this time. Sewer and trash is like last year but may not be accurate. We need to identify the expenses that are growing excessively. Rali is concerned that we need to check out the pledge number from last spring. And we may have to reorganize the compensation for the office considering Grace's illness.
3. Debbie, Rali, Erik, will review the accuracy of the budgeted amount for Sewer and Trash, confirm the Pledge amount total is correct, prepare suggestions to fix any issues at the October Meeting, and create an estimate to heat Meeting House in Winter in-case we hold our winter meetings there.
4. We accepted the treasurer's report knowing that we may have to make some changes. Motion was passed unanimously.

**3. Minister's Report:** Grace feels now that she can't manage both jobs. Rali is talking to Lisa Pilat about taking over the DRE job. Rali cleaned up from multiple floods this summer. She thinks that Buildings and Grounds needs to address how to prevent these funds. Rali is reaching out to committees to get them to start up after the pandemic hiatus. Jenny's sabbatical has been delayed so Rali will need to reschedule her leave. Rali has provided guiding documents for the Minister Appreciative Inquiry. Four head ushers, Geoff T, Tyler Carpenter, Mason, Miranda, and Cindy Jones. We will start the Coffee Hour groups by the middle of the month. Stephen Kendrick will preach for Rali on 9/19 when she goes to her daughter's parents' weekend. For the first two weeks, the children will be in church throughout the service. The Parish Committee wants the Deacon and B and G to work on the flooding issues.

**4. DRE Report:** Not available

#### **Review Action Items**

- 1. Homecoming Service on 9/12/2021:** Need for a Parish Committee presence at the first wtwo services about 20 minutes early to greet congregants. We are also thinking of taking photos of all individuals and families in order to take the place of the large-group photos. Everyone should bring his/her own picnic lunch to the green (and get a prize for the greenest lunch). Kayla and Rali will put together a green basket to reward the most green family picnic. Rali will announce the "competition" in all church email. The Parish Committee will clean up. We will spend \$50 on a basket full of prizes for this eco competition and the office will send out a notice to parishioners.
- 2. Parish Committee Welcome Sign-up:** Parish Committee members will sign up to welcome congregants to services. There will be a script. Parish Committee members should sign up.
- 3. Parish Committee Sub Committee**

## Parish Record November December 2021

- a. **Ministry Review:** To help out with the Appreciative Inquiry: Debby
  - b. **Long Range Planning:** to take on goal development of next LRP: Geoff, Jon, and Kerrie
  - c. **Committee Review:** to revitalize the committee system, sending out survey, getting information from the Ministry Review to the committees: Howard, Kayla, Debby and Josh
  - d. **Parish Committee members** should sign-up by the end of next week for Ministry Review, Long Range Planning, and Committee Review. Both documents are located in the Dropbox in the 2021-2022 Meetings Folder
4. **Nominating Committee:** Geoff met with Nominating Committee (with Debby Harrison and Carol Dixon-Hutton) and they select three candidates to fill the 3 year term of resigned deacon Jenn Atkins. They all turned down this nomination. Nominating Committee met again virtually and proposed another candidate. Geoff called him and reported that he is considering the nomination and will let Geoff know soon.

### New Business

1. **UUA Meeting Guidelines:** How to conduct services. When it gets cold, are we comfortable being indoors and being safe? When do we stop and go to Zoom? In schools, if we are indoors and masked we can meet if, for example the windows are open. What about RE indoor classes? Right now Darry has said no singing inside. We should try to stay outside for September and then evaluate the data. RE classes can be inside when it gets colder with social distancing and open windows. RE teachers should use the Auditorium as much as possible (bigger space.)
2. **Meeting House Portraits:** We need to design a long term process to make our Meeting House more inclusive and reflective of our values. This could begin a process that democratically allows for research of extant portraits, identification of alternative candidates, discussion with congregants, and final decisions. We can present this as one of our Parish Committee goals. Debbie will use the meeting and announcements on 9/26 to introduce the topic. Howard and Josh will take PC suggestions to create a plan for the PC and church to engage in this discussion
3. **Bay State Learning Center** wants to use the kitchen once a week. Rali thinks that they should bring their own food, schedule with the office, and clean up after class. Parish Committee approved this usage. Rali will follow-up with Jon and will stipulate that there will be no storing food and the kitchen must be cleaned up that day.
4. **Office Administrator:** We need to hire a temp for Grace's as an office worker. Lisa will perhaps take over the RE DRE position and wants to have one Sunday off a month. Liza Arend will sub for her on that day.

### Next Meeting

1. Monday, October 4, 2021 at 6:45pm

**Adjourn** at 9:00 PM on August 7, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Tegnell

Clerk, First Church and Parish in Dedham

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### Next Meeting

1. Monday, October 4, 2021 at 6:45pm

**Adjourn** at 9:00 PM on August 7, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Tegnell

Clerk, First Church and Parish in Dedha

**First Church Parish Committee Meeting Notes, Tuesday, 10/4, 2021,**

Attendees: Josh Langmead, Jonathan Pape, Debby Harrison, Rali Weaver, Erik Meyer-Curley, Geoff Tegnell, Kerrie Gallagher, Howard Ostroff, Kayla Schneider, Matt Grady, Paquita Bass, Rali Weaver

**Call meeting to order** at 7:05 PM on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Gratitude:** Rali is grateful for the Allin/First Church photo in support of Human Rights Commission. Howard loves the fall weather. Erik is grateful for the convenience of meeting on Zoom. Debbie is grateful that Matt Grady has joined the PC as the new deacon.

**Welcome New Members:** Welcome to Matt Grady who will fulfill the last three years of Jen Atkin's deaconship. Matt will be a non-voting member of the PC until his nomination is approved by the congregation at the Fall Meeting.

**Review and Approve:**

1. Minutes from September 7, 2021 meeting (requires approval); In the minister's report, Rali has cleaned up from several floods. Really only one. And Mason Miranda is not Mason, Miranda. Coffee hour groups need to be specific as to next month. Review action # 3 C. Committee Review: Debby did not sign up for Committee Review. The Treasurer's report # 3 making future estimates will be handled by Buildings and Ground. Jon wants to be on Committee Review and will help Geoff with demographic data. The meeting minutes for 9/7/21, as revised, was unanimously approved.
3. Treasurer's Report (requires approval): On line 26, indication that we have 27% of our pledges which indicates that we are on target. Bills have been paid and we are in good fiscal shape. \$32,000 is on the wrong line. There was concern about the accuracy of the amount of \$ in the restricted fund. We don't have an accurate # and need to have some parsing out of a way to track this \$ easier. We should make sure that there are no duplicates in the fund raising line as well. Minister's Report: Kerrie Gallagher, Deb H and Linda MK have been helping in the office. Deb H, Erik and Rali are working on the budget. We had our first meeting in the meeting house and Tom D assessed the CO2 levels in the church as safe. Tom has advised us about fans and filters to make the building even safer. Rali is arranging meals for Vicky B and Grace P. The Catholic, Episcopal, and Allin Churches are working with First Church to help Afghan refugees settle in housing in our town. Rali would like the church to provide her with a letter of agreement to be a spokesperson for more supportive actions in favor of refugees. Grace is still working for us and Rali is helping her determine how to come back full-time. Rali is asking that Grace be paid full-time until mid-October. Some of us would like Rali to take a more forefront role in supporting important causes. For instance, the above three churches have announced their support for refugees, but it may be important to first have the PC vote on the church being more vocal about assuming such a humanitarian role. This probably requires a full congregational vote. Josh suggests that the congregation vote on this new role at our fall meeting. We will take a Parish Committee vote on submitting this to the Congregation when next we meet as a PC on 11/1.

**Action Items**

Committee Review: The committees met in break into rooms to make next step plans.

**New Business**

1. DRE: The Personnel Committee has made a plan for responding to Grace's illness. Grace will continue to receive her current salary until the end of October, when, hopefully, Grace will return to her office duties. The RE program will be supervised by the RE committee and the current assistant, Lisa. At the end of October, Grace's position will be adjusted according

## Parish Record November December 2021

to her health and her work desires. Her salary will be adjusted as appropriate. Lisa doesn't want to be a DRE, but will continue to step in as a replacement for Grace until a new DRE is hired at the end of 2021-22. We will pay Grace \$24 an hour after 10/15 for the work she does. We will look at Grace's situation at mid-church year. Grace's wage plan was passed unanimously.

2. The Revised budget cuts of \$2000 for 2021-22 was discussed, with mention of a more accurate trash removal debit and a lowering of \$2000 to the UUA, as well as a correction on Grace' salary. We will present the changed figures to the congregation in November.
3. Returning to the Meeting House: Tom Donahue assesses the meeting house ventilation as healthy, so Rali suggests that we return to the meeting house for the rest of the cold months of the church year. Andrea mentioned the expense of having church in the meeting house for the winter months. Since Delta is not hitting our region in a dramatic way now, we can feel more comfortable about worshipping in the meeting house. Howard hopes we can live stream all inside services to include those who are reluctant to attend church in person. Meeting inside through December in a safe way with good live streaming was approved unanimously.
4. Annual Meeting Warrants: Dates so we can contact auditors and choose a moderator. December 12<sup>th</sup> is a good date for the Annual Meeting. The deacons have planned to get their report to the auditors by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Erik will get a due date to Jenny. Thus November 1<sup>st</sup> should be our document due date. We will check in on this at our next PC meeting.
5. Holly Faire Committee: The Allin and St. Paul's churches have asked to hold their fall fairs on the Green along with First Church. Some of us are concerned about the cold in December. We can still do most of our sales inside. Rali will explain our desires to coordinate with the Allin and St. Paul's church, but as we have determined is best for our congregation.

### Next Meeting

1. Monday, November 1, 2021 at 7:00pm

**Adjourn** at 9:04 PM on Monday, 10/4/21

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Tegnell

Clerk, First Church and Parish in Dedham

To attend via Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83431133988>

or by phone

+19294362866, 83431133988,#

Gently used  
**TOYS**



delicious  
HOMEMADE  
**FOODS**

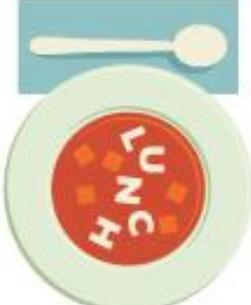


**1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Sat**  
in  
**DECEMBER**

Fresh  
BAKED  
GOODS



**LUNCH**



books



Jams  
JELLIES  
&  
Local  
HONEY



First Church

# HOLLY FAIRS

**670**  
**HIGH**  
**STREET**  
Dedham  
**Ma**




**HANDMADE CRAFTS**



**SPECIAL**  
treasures



**Raffle**



White  
ELEPHANT  
**TRADING POST**



gifts  
**9 AM**  
to  
**2 PM**



continental  
BREAKFAST

