



Worship in the Meetinghouse at 10:00 am
Worship can also be found on our website: www.dedhamuu.org
Zoom Social Hour every Sunday at 11:30
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99906139969>

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

Sunday, March 5, 2023

The Great Work Begins

Rev. Norman Allen will preach.

The final line of Tony Kushner's seven-hour epic *Angels in America* is "The great work begins." On the thirtieth anniversary of the play's premiere, those words ring as true as ever. Emerging from multiple crises and challenges, we are called to the great work of both enacting change and offering solace – to others and to ourselves. Join us this Sunday as we joyfully embrace the potential of all that lies ahead.

Sunday, March 12, 2023

Living Through 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, March 19, 2023

A Spiritual Declaration of Independence

The Rev. Stephen Kendrick will preach

Sunday, March 26, 2023

The Rev. Stephen Kendrick will preach

Sunday April 2, 2023

The Green Knight

The Rev. Hank Peirce will preach.

Palm Sunday, for many UU's, is a more fulfilling message than Easter, because it reminds us not only of his humanity, but ours. Come and hear a message about a 1st century religious leader, a 14th century knight and maybe someone like you.

Sunday April 9, 2023

Our Countless Worries. Our Enduring Hopes

The Rev. David Hubner will preach.

This is a time when the pressures and worries we as individuals and as a society and a world face are now particularly daunting and not well addressed. We have good reason to worry. At the same time it is Easter, Passover and reminders that Spring is coming, a time when we often reacquaint ourself/ves with hope and possibility.. Can we find hope again?

Sunday April 16, 2023

The Rev. Stephen Kendrick will preach

Sunday April 23, 2023

The Rev. Stephen Kendrick will preach

Sunday April 30, 2023

What Does UU Mean to you?

Join us as we find out the answer to this question from those in our Unitarian Universalist Exploration Program

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

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

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

The Ministers preaching in March and April are:

Rev. Norman Allen serves the Davies Unitarian Universalist Congregation in the suburbs of Washington, DC, and has a deep love of Unitarian Universalist history. Prior to joining the ministry, he enjoyed a successful career as a playwright, with works produced throughout the United States, Asia, and Europe. His essays and articles have appeared in print and online for publications ranging from the Boston Globe to OnBeing to Yes! magazine. You can learn more about him at daviesuu.org.

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

The Rev. David Hubner (and his small but important family) had the pleasure of serving First Church from 1980 to 1988, when David became a member of the UUA's Department of Ministry, retiring from there in 2006. Michael continued her work as an oncology social worker until 2013, She was diagnosed with ALS in 2015 and died in 2018. Her memorial service was at First Church. Ben lives in D.C. and works for the Africa Section of USAID. Rev. Hubner is our Minister Emeritus.

Our Music Director: Darry Dolezal

Please join the choir! It's a fun and welcoming group. We meet on Sunday mornings at 8:45 to warmup and rehearse. We will also have choir practices at 7:30 pm in the Dining Room on Feb. 28, March 21 and 28, April 18 and 25, May 16 and 30.

The Intergenerational choir will sing a fun and easy introit on the second Sunday 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.

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.

Darry can be reached at darrydolezal@dedhamuu.org

Our Director of the UU Explorers Program: Lisa Pilat

Hello Church Family!

January and February have us settling right in!

Spirit Play continues to meet with Aoife Barrington Haber leading the way!
We added a new work tray thanks to the playdough donated from the Myer-Curley family.

UU Explorers continue to meet and follow the Toolbox of Faith curriculum. There have been some special things happening in UU Explorers. We had a cool Deed in January where the kids made care bags and cards for the congregation members who couldn't join us in person at this time. They have the congregation sign the cards and were hand delivered by Erik Myer-Curley. The recipients were so grateful! We had our own Stephen Brayton join us during RE and read his very own published short story "The Ghost Train". The kids loved it and it's so nice to have the adults share their talents with the kids. It's special seeing them get to know one another!

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

We are offering 2 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 remaining are: 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 remaining are 3/3/23, 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.

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

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

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

Church Administrator: Grace Peña

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

With Rali on Sabbatical, my time in the office has settled into a nice new groove, although a little quieter. I am in on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. If you're nearby come and visit with me. I would love to see you!

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

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

If you would like to receive our weekly email, please contact me either at firstchurch@dedhamuu.org or by phone at 781-326-7463 and I will add your email address to that contact list. The all church email usually goes out on Thursday afternoon.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have stopped receiving the weekly email what likely has happened is that the software has marked your email address as inactive. This automatically occurs if you do not open that message for a while. Please make sure to at least open the message even if you do not click through. Please contact the office if you need your email address placed back on the contact list.

Care and Concern

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

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.

Adult Religious Exploration

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

Music at First Church



First Church Friday Folk Coffeehouse presents its sixth concert of the 2022-2023 season featuring Lorraine and Bennett Hammond at First Church and Parish Dedham 670 High Street, Dedham on Friday, March 17, 2023 at 7:30 pm in the Auditorium. There will be refreshments for purchase. Tickets are \$10 and are available online at Folk Coffeehouse | [dedhamuu](http://dedhamuu.org) and at the door. Doors open at 7:00 pm.

Lorraine Lee Hammond grew up in rural New England when ballads and barn dances were part of community life. Her many credits as a traditional singer, songwriter, teacher, and multi-instrumentalist include two Appalachian dulcimer books with Yellow Moon Press, and numerous recordings. A former lecturer in American Folk Music and World Music at Lasell University in Newton, MA, she helped to

launch the first UMass Boston, WUMB radio Summer Acoustic Music Week in 1996, and retired as music director at the close of 2022. She and Bennett continue to teach in the program as they have done from its inception. Bennett Hammond is a superb finger-style guitarist and recent convert to the five-string banjo. He names "The three Bs: Bach: the blues and Buddy Holly" as major influences. Bennett's songwriting gained traction during the pandemic with his "Mean ol' Quarantine" blues.

Together, The Hammonds are versatile musicians, engaging entertainers, and fun teachers. Their warm stage presence is punctuated with wry humor, and their command of their instruments and musical genres is without flaw. The Boston Globe calls them "Dazzling, witty, eclectic, delightful." The Hammonds' repertoire ranges in style from traditional Celtic and American songs and ballads through blues and contemporary music. They sing both traditional and original songs and can be heard on over thirty recordings as featured artists or enhancing the work of other performers. They make their home in Brookline, Massachusetts.

"The Hammonds are folk missionaries of the first order, devoted cultural activists, teachers, event organizers, and performers who love to introduce people to the joys of traditional music." - Boston Globe



Svetlana Krasnova

On March 25th at the First Church in Dedham, Ms. Krasnova will perform in our Meetinghouse at 7:30pm. Doors will open at 7pm.

Ms. Krasnova has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in Russia, Italy, Canada, and the United States. She participated as a collaborative artist and chamber musician in a number of music festivals, including Weathersfield Music Festival (Vermont), Rome Opera Festival (Italy), and Cremona International Music Academy (Italy). She has performed as a guest artist in solo and chamber music recitals at Minnesota School of Music, Kansas University at Lawrence, Roosevelt University, De Paul University, and Curtis Institute of Music.

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.

Samuel Dexter 1724-1755

Samuel Dexter was born in Malden, Massachusetts on October 23, 1700, the son of John Dexter and Winnefred Sprague. Dexter graduated from Harvard in 1720 where he received a deathbed blessing from Harvard President Increase Mather and was considered by his teachers to be a young minister of great are now potential though "severely introspective and self-critical." Dexter taught school for a while in Malden, Taunton, and Lynn and preached his first sermon in Dedham on October 15, 1722 in the ailing Reverend Belcher's stead. Dexter also delivered sermons in other eastern Massachusetts towns and so impressed congregants that he received calls from several churches, including Yarmouth, Westboro and Medford during this period before he accepted Dedham's offer and was ordained as the town's fourth minister on May 6, 1724.

Five months after his ordination Dexter married Catherine Miers of Roxbury. In late 1724 he wrote, "I have been ordained pastor of a church and I have married a wife. The lines have fallen to me in a pleasant place for situation, though the people are not so easy and agreeable as might be wished for, though they are better than I deserve and my companion is a kind, tender and virtuous woman." Samuel and Catherine ultimately had eleven children. Dexter was described as a man of delicate health, extremely modest and of somewhat melancholy frame of mind. Indeed, he described himself thusly; "This is so much my natural disposition that it makes my life very weary."

In the 17th and early 18th centuries Dedham's church was called the Church of Christ. However, at the beginning of Dexter's tenure, Dedham was comprised of what are now the towns not only of Dedham, but also of Norwood, Walpole, Natick, Westwood, Dover, and other neighboring locales. Residents in these outlying districts had grown restive because of their inconvenience of traveling to Dedham in order to attend church. Consequently, they had begun to agitate for the establishment of churches in their own areas, often at somewhat rowdy Church of Christ congregant meetings. And not surprisingly, Dexter and church leaders resisted these demands for fear of loss of congregant funding. As one town historian recounted, "He (Dexter) was here during what may be called the dark age of the town. His people were much scattered in the woods, badly educated and strongly inclined to religious contention." As a consequence, for several years Dexter was frequently confronted by, in his words, "certain sons of ignorance and pride" who dared to "insult and revile" him. However, by 1748 the desired separation of the town into many different precincts with their own churches had been effected and the Dedham

church, located as it was in the First Precinct, came to be known as First Church. It should be noted here that, perhaps animated by a hard-won conciliatory spirit, in later years Dexter voluntarily relinquished the parochial taxes of several town folk who worshiped at St. Paul's, the recently founded Anglican church.

Dexter went on to publish two sermons, one in 1727 on the accidental death of the child of a congregant family and another in 1738 on the first centennial of the church. As a successor First Church minister later observed, "Mr. Dexter's sermons were written in a serious and practical style, without any attempt at ornament or fine writing. He had little imagination or eloquence; he addressed chiefly the understanding, but there was a warmth, a fervor, a truth in his piety that, united with good sense, so pervaded all his performance that, while intellect was awakened, the heart could hardly stay cold."

Dexter died on January 29, 1755 and was buried in the Old Village Cemetery. Catherine survived him by almost 40 years, dying at the ripe age of 95. Their son, who shared the name Samuel Dexter, served in the Great and General Court and on the Massachusetts Governor's Council and their grandson, also named Samuel Dexter, was a senator from Massachusetts, as well as Cabinet Secretary in the administrations of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.

Bibliography

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Dexter_\(minister\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Dexter_(minister))

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Dexter-449>

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

Beach, Seth. Covenant of the First Church in Dedham: With Some Facts of History and ... - First Church (Dedham, Mass.) - Google Books

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

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

Parish Committee Minutes

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

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

Meeting Called to Order: 7:01 pm

Gratitudes: grateful for new grandson, for Paxlovid and for our group

Review and Approve:

1. Minutes from December 6, 2022 approved.
2. Treasurer's Report from December 6, 2022 approved.
3. Minister's Report from December 6, 2022 approved.
4. RE Report from December 6, 2022 approved. Lisa has successfully finished the first part of her training.
5. Treasurer's Report from December 6, 2022 approved.

Old Items:

- Approximately \$50K from the Henry Keene account was placed into the Deacon's account.
- Tree work by Tree Tech is scheduled for January 17th. Sam will greet them.
- Audit Update: Paquita and Jonny will meet with accountant Jenny to work on Audit.
- Might have a fundraising Trivia Night in March. Date to come. Try to get volunteers to help.
- Worship associates and ushers will meet new ministers every week.

New Business

1. Dale set up First Church Fridays on Eventbrite starting on January 6th, 5:30 - 8. It will be a fun evening for families to come and learn about our church. There are 3 more events like this to come.
2. Stewardship Committee to start up again. Will start in March for a budget to be submitted in May. Matt and Paquita will ask some people if they would like to chair and/or participate.

3. Sharing the Plate (once a month on the 3rd Sunday of the month) – Rali will create a QR code to connect people to our VANCO account. The Parish Committee can decide who gets Sunday collections. So far we have: The Dedham Food Pantry, Community House (May), Globe Santa, Bike Not Bombs, Cradles to Crayons, Paquita's Boston Public School, UU Urban Ministry (January), BINCA (February), Harmony Fund.

4. Girl Scout Cookie time is coming up. They will set up a table to sell cookies during coffee hour.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 7th, 2023 at 7:00pm

Meeting adjourned: 8:06 pm on November 1, 2022

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

First Church Parish Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 7:00 Meeting on Zoom

Call meeting to order

Gratitudes

Review and Approve:

1. Minutes from January 3, 2023 meeting (approved)
2. RE report
3. Treasurer Report (requires approval)
4. Administrator Report

Old Business

1. Deacons update on Henry Keene donation
2. Update on Eversource funds
3. Stewardship Committee update
4. Share the plate update

New Business

1. Help funding food of 3 Families TUUgether Nights
2. Thoughts on Advertising?
3. The Urban Ministry (Howard)
4. Establishing 2023 Finance Committee
5. Technology Committee
6. New Business

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 7:00pm (zoom)

Adjourn

