



The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXXXI, No 2

November December 2020

Worship in November/December 2020

Worship is at 10:00 am. **We will continue to follow Governor Baker's recommendations.**

Details about weekly worship will be on our website, Facebook Page and our weekly Email.

All services will **also** be virtual at 10 am on Youtube: Rev. Rali Weaver: Tiny Desk Worship

You can also find the link at www.dedhamuu.org

11:00 am Zoom Social Hour is at <https://zoom.us/j/684365896>

Sunday, November 1, 2020

The In-Between

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

All Hallow's Eve and Samhain are the season where some feel a thinness in the veil between the worlds.

This Sunday we will look into the scrying mirror and consider the two worlds of truth or falseness.

Sunday, November 8, 2020

Reconciliation

WE WILL MEET ON THE GREEN AND ON YOUTUBE

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

On this 200th anniversary of the Dedham Decision we will consider the schisms in our lives and the importance of reconciliation.

Sunday, November 15, 2020

The Importance of Dissent

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

Why is it important to say no when you mean no? Well this week we will consider the importance of dissent and the reasons simple passivity is no match to wrong.

Sunday, November 22, 2020

Mashpee and Wampanoag

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

This Sunday before Thanksgiving we will consider the harm done by the Puritans to the native tribes of our area and what was lost.

Sunday, November 29, 2020

The Importance of And

Rev. Rali Weaver will Preach

We will remind ourselves of how important it is to consider the power of AND and where we put the punctuation mark.

Sunday, December 6, 2020

Faith

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

This First Sunday in Advent we will consider the importance of faith and how belief can be a shelter from any storm.

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Hope

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

Emily Dickinson described hope as a thing with feathers. This Sunday we will explore other metaphors for hope and what balms hope can offer even when our dreams are dashed.

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Love

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

On this last Sunday in Advent we will explore the love that comes at Christmas and ask how we can keep it in our hearts all year round.

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Joy

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

On this Christmas eve we will seek to find the source for the joy that casts out all fear even in the face of a never ending pandemic We will worship both on the green and virtually on Youtube..

Sunday, December 27, 2020

Blue Christmas

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

This Sunday after Christmas we will consider the joys and sorrows of the season and consider how to start the New Year right.



From Our Minister: The Rev. Rali Weaver

I must admit this is difficult to write as I have no idea what the future holds. What I do know is that we have a long way to go before we are back to normal. Normally I would be advertising the Holly Fair right now (which is usually the first Saturday in December) and starting to gear up for the Justice Film Series.

This year I am just missing you all and hoping to find new ways to connect. To begin, as the weather looks good we will hold our third in person on (albeit socially distanced and masked) worship on the Church Green. And we hope to do the same any time it is warm enough.

We will continue to assess the safety of using our Meeting House but promise to find a way to meet safely and warmly outside on Christmas Eve. No matter if we meet in person we will continue to have a virtual worship on Youtube for those who still do not feel comfortable or safe to attend.

As for the Holly Faire, we may be selling greens by order, or outside, and it is possible that we may have an online Trading Post or Bake Sale. It won't be the same as the best fun of the Holly Faire is getting together and pulling it off together, but we take what we can get. I believe I can schedule a Sunday Matinee Zoom Justice Documentary Film Series so watch your next Parish Record for that.

I know that none of our ideas of community is sitting in front of a computer and gathering only occasionally with our faces covered, however the best communities I can think of do help each other stay healthy and safe. I hope you are reaching out to your church friends by phone and email as I know these times can be very isolating.

I pray that when this Covid crisis is over we find we are stronger as a community and we can reconnect with each other as though no time has been lost. Please remember I am always here living right next to your church, able to take a socially distanced walk, or answer your phone calls or schedule regular meetings. I am never too busy for you.

I wish you the best holiday season full of family and friends at safe distances and I count the moments until we can gather again.

Much love, Rali

Rev. Rali M. Weaver on zoom 9-9:30 <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 our Director of First Church Faith Academy
Grace Peña

I started my DRE position here at First Church six years ago. My goal was to focus on our 7 Principles through activities, community service and arts & crafts projects. I also re-grouped the classes: *Spirit Play* (still Pre-K through 1st Grade), Grades 1-4 (which would become the *UU Explorers*), Grades 5 & 6 (partly *Worship Leaders* and partly starting the Middle School to High School curriculum *Neighboring Faiths*, *OWL 7-9* & *Coming of Age*). The current *Coming of Age* students who just gave their

credos were @ 9 years old or so when I started...one of the first ones to experience these changes to the classes.

This *Coming of Age* class was also the first to have Lisa Pilat as a lead teacher. Lisa probably started her RE teaching with this group many years ago. Lisa helped the kids craft their credos by focusing on the 7 Principles and which ones are most important to them. Having listened to the students' credos at their service, it was clear to me that they understood what this faith is about: to figure out what his/her/their path is...even if it leads to finding another faith or being okay with not knowing what faith they believe in right now. They know it is always okay to question and learn. After all, those are two of our Principles... We believe that we should accept one another and keep on learning together, and We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.

The following are some of the highlights (for me) of these credos:

~My religion may change every day. After many years here I know what I am. I am a Wicca, but if I have to identify with a religion, I will always be a UU at heart.

~ Nerissa Barrington-Haber (Mentor Becca Vautour)

~ When doing something you love in life, you need to look after others and respect other people's opinions. Life is not just all about yourself. It is about everyone in your life that gives you meaning and purpose and the people and beliefs that make you who you are.

~ Jonah Wolfe (Mentor Joshua Langmead)

~Now, the point of this credo is to say what I believe in, not to share my whole life story, but I think it is important for you to know how much I have struggled with religion. Some days I thought I was an atheist, then maybe a Buddhist. But for now, I know that I am Catholic. I believe in God, and that Jesus is his son. I believe in the Holy Trinity, as well as heaven. I do not believe in hell though. I believe in the forgiveness of sins. I am basically reciting the Twelve Articles of Catholic Faith, but I don't agree with all catholic beliefs. I support the LBGTQ+ community, and I think that anyone should have the right to an abortion. I'm not the "purest" Catholic in the world, not by a long shot. But I know that I want to attend St. Susanna's church with my dad

~ Susie Plunkett (Mentor Allison Staton)

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~I remember a few years ago asking my mom what UU was and she said that it was a person who believed in anything. At that time, I thought that I could just believe that aliens exist or something like that and did not question any more. Now I realize that to a UU, the question is the point, not the answer. As UU we can have our own beliefs and we do not judge each other. And I think that is pretty cool

~ Reuven Wolfe (Mentor Tyler Carpenter)

~The second thing I believe in is equality among all humans. Humans are all equal regardless of skin color, sexual orientation or gender. No human can be superior to another...Period.

~ Gillian Arend (Mentor Dale Meyer-Curley)

~I believe that anything is possible. We cannot really prove or disprove much when it comes to religion and honestly I don't really care about it that much. I do not feel the need to search the world for answers about things out of my control. It is interesting that I went from believing in something with all my heart, to passionately believe nothing, to now not caring either way. I am sure in the future. I may change my mind about religion, but for now I think I am content not knowing.

~ Kate Tocci (Mentor Kerrie Gallagher)

~ Even if it is true that there will always be awful things in the world, it is true that there will also always be good in the world. I believe if there is always something to fight, there will always be something to fight for...There is a lot that we do not know. Nothing really makes sense when you sit and dwell on it too long and that is okay. We do not have to find the one true answer to the universe. We wake up everyday and we do our best to be better than we were yesterday.

~ Rosie Grady (Mentor Karen Donaghey)

~One's religious beliefs & who one is as a person are not synonymous. I cannot change or choose some parts of myself, like eye color, skin color, and sexuality. Religious beliefs are not in that category though, because religious beliefs can change over time. They are like clay. They can be molded into the shape that pleases you. They can dry up and get brittle if left unattended or get muddy and lose shape if over-handled. Regardless of their current shapes or structures, each one deserves equal respect. No one is "right" or "wrong" except for that individual...If you look at all of it so far, life has been a voyage. Sure you might not be able to pick the conditions, when you leave or how you get there. But, you pick your crew, your equipment and your tools. When the waves pick up, I will be prepared; with the choices I have made and connections I have formed, I will brave the ocean of life. I will reach my final destination no matter what obstacles are put in front of me.

~ Casey Roberts (Mentor Jenny Carlson-Pietrazsek)

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the First Church Faith Academy.

With love, Grace

From our Music Director: Darry Dolezal



Virtual choir has begun! We are recording music to use in future streamed services and will meet by Zoom approximately twice a month to check in and go over upcoming music. The recording process is fairly easy - anyone can do it and all are welcome to join. The next Zoom choir meetings are scheduled for 7:30 pm on Tuesday, November 10 and Thursday, November 19.

Share your talents! We welcome the musical input of anyone who is willing to record themselves singing or playing for use in an upcoming virtual service.

Please contact Darry at darrydolezal@dedhamuu.org for Zoom links and more information.

From our Church Administrator: Grace Peña

With the end of the Dedham Farmer's Market I now have new office hours. They are:

Monday ~ Closed
Tuesday ~ 9:30 am-3:30 pm
Wednesday 10:30 am-4:30 pm
Thursday ~ 9:30 am-3:30 pm
Friday ~ 9:30 am-3:30 pm

(if there are any changes to this schedule for a particular week, it will be noted in the weekly all church email)

Remember, if you do not receive our weekly church email, please contact me at: firstchurch@dedhamuu.org or by phone at 781-326-7463 and I will make sure to add your email address to that contact list. The email usually goes out every Thursday afternoon.

If you need help setting up bill pay through your checking account to the church don't hesitate to reach out. With love, Grace

You can reach Grace at firstchurch@dedhamuu.org or at gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org

Care and Concern

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

Jane Kelly has moved into long-term care at Hebrew Senior Life in Roslindale. Her address is: Hebrew Senior Life, Berger 104, 1200 Centre St, Roslindale, MA 02131

Due to Covid Jane is not able to have visitors. You can drop off small care packages and small vases of flowers. Contact (emails, cards) and little presents all help to connect Jane to her First Church community.

If you have a care or concern to share, 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 continue on fourth Saturdays. The next one will be Saturday, September 26 from 10-1. In September and October we will explore short easy hikes in Blue Hills Reservation. You are invited to bring a picnic for a socially distanced lunch following the walk. 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: Wednesday, November 11 and December 16 5:30-6:30 on Zoom Contact raliweaver@dedhamuu.org for details. For our November meeting we will continue reading Caste by Isabelle Wilkerson



August 31 2020 Parish Committee Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting

August 31, 2020

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

Meeting called to order: 7:01PM

Gratitudes:

Andrea is grateful it is cooler.

Jenn is glad to see cogregant faces and to get back to work.

Liza appreciates some swimming on the Cape.

Josh is reading up on white privilege.

Erik is grateful for having a Zoom celebration of a friend's birthday.

Review and Approve:

- 1. Minutes from August 3, 2020 meeting (requires approval): All approved the minutes.**
- 2. Treasurer's Report: Biggest expenses now are salaries. Some pledges are coming in. Electric bills don't reflect credit across all accounts, given the way that we should be credited for our new solar panels. Andrea will look into this issue. Erik is keeping track of PPP loans, though we underestimated the power savings. Erik will check into this. Maybe we need a lone item for PPP this year. Otherwise, things are looking good. Motion to approve: Unanimous!**
- 3. Minister's Report: We should continue online presence. Rali proposes we meet on the Green through October as long as weather persists. We should be a safe congregation through then. Afterwards, we should have a minimal group for worship in the meeting house and project the service. We will probably need \$1250 to livestream the services from the meeting house. Rali will explore how to get better WF and Jonathan wants to touch base on trying to get better transmission for video in the sanctuary.**
- 4. DRE Report: Grace will be offering weekly intergenerational messages by sending/delivering care packages to families monthly, creating gamelike online content to engage children in the curriculum, and work to find asynchronous ways for our UU Children and Youth to connect.**
- 5. Allison wanted to explore how to broadcast music from the Meeting House to the Green.**

Review Action Items:

- 1. (Andrea) BSLC contract: Andrea reports that BSLC will start up on the 8th of September with 40+ students. A flood has caused the mold in the Larcom wing because the window wells**

were accidentally uncovered. Andrea is submitting an insurance claim. Andrea wants to ask George how BSLC will use the spaces in the church. How about masks? They should have a policy that reflects what other schools are doing, adds Jenn. Jenn has volunteered to present to the BSLC folks on healthy practices.

2. **Bylaw change to allow Annual Meetings by Zoom:** the deadline for establishing an end of the year meeting is December 21st. We can ask the congregation at this meeting as to the need to have Zoom meetings as per the governor's ruling. Other organizations are opting to have Zoom meetings and should provide a model for doing so in a constitutional manner. November 15th will be our annual meeting. Geoff will have warrants by one week before the October meeting. Apparently, we might need multiple approvals for votes on meetings. We will propose language in October.

3. **Homecoming Service preparations:** Homecoming proposal will be on the green with masks and chairs. No choir or coffee hour, but shall congregants bring their own food? What about audio=Jeff Hutton's mike? We are good with having homecoming on the green. We will have homecoming and reassess afterwards. But we also need to say we will have a Zoom coffee hour. We are proposing that we start out as Rali has suggested for our homecoming.

4. **Pledges/Donations via credit card:** We will have a more substantive conversation i.e. the Needham UU's use a giving button and donate now. We will look at different services as we progress into the fall.

New Business

1. **COVID19 Response:** We might have folks on the green to remind people to comply with social distancing. Jon Pape is going to provide some flags to use as guidance for interaction with others.

Next Meeting

1. October 5, 2020 at 7:00pm via Zoom

Meeting adjourned: 9 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Geoffrey Tegnell, August 31, 2020**



This Parish Record was printed on 100% recycled paper.
This is our new sustainability symbol. Every time we do something to become more sustainable we will highlight it with this symbol.