



The First Church and Parish in Dedham
670 High Street, Dedham, MA 02026

www.dedhamuu.org
781-326-7463
firstchurch@dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXXIV Number III

November & December 2023

Worship in the Meetinghouse at 10:00 am & on YOUTUBE
Zoom Social Hour every Sunday at 11:30
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84586826172>

Sunday, November 5, 2023
Is Optimism the Foundation of Courage?

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.
We will consider the importance of looking on the sunny side of the street and consider if it is enough to help us through the difficulties of life.

Sunday, November 12, 2023
UU Article 2

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.
In 2021 the UUA appointed a study commission to review Article 2, our principles and purposes. The Article 2 commission reported at the last General Assembly and the proposed bylaw changes will be voted on at GA in 2024. What are these proposed changes and how might they redefine our faith tradition?

Sunday, November 19, 2023
Thanksgiving Service with Allin

The Rev. Chris Lyman Waldrom will preach
We will celebrate our anniversary with the Allin Congregation at First Church. This is our Thanksgiving service and everyone is invited to bring bread from their family traditions to share as a part of worship and for social hour. Following worship, we will host the Food Pantry Thanksgiving Dinner giveaway.

November 26, 2023
Blind Juggling

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
“Do without doing, and everything will get done” is an ancient Taoist saying. We will consider how to use non-attached doing wedded with a sense of humor to make the world better.

Sunday, December 3, 2023
The Peace That Passes All Understanding

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.
On this first Sunday in Advent, we will consider ways to cultivate peace in our own hearts and minds that might also bring peace into the world.

Sunday, December 10, 2023
Christmas Pageant

We will light the candle for joy in our Advent Wreath as the children remind us of the story of Christmas.

The Special Fall Meeting of the Parish will follow worship

December 17, 2023
Faith and Hope

Some think faith and hope are both necessary for the other to exist. Can you have faith without hope? Can you have hope without faith? These are the questions we will consider.

Sunday, December 24, 2023
10 a.m. YouTube Worship only with invitations to visit First Church Friends who cannot join us in person on Christmas Eve and watch together.

6 PM Caroling on the Green
6:30 PM Traditional Lessons and Carols
Reception to follow on the green or in the parsonage if the weather doesn't cooperate.

Sunday, December 31, 2023
Let's Start The New Year Right
The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach.
We will work together to say goodbye to 2023 and state our intentions for 2024

Our Minister: The Rev. Rali M. Weaver

Embracing Tradition, Embracing Change: A Glimpse into Our Past and Future

As we approach significant milestones in the life of our church, we're reminded of the historical foundations upon which our community was built. The upcoming joint anniversary service with Allin Congregational on November 19th, commemorating the founding of The First Church and Parish in Dedham back in 1638, is a testament to the enduring legacy we continue to carry.

Imagine life in 1638: a time when our church stood as the sole religious sanctuary, stretching from Boston to Providence. The church's financial support relied on general taxation, and religious services often extended for hours. Such a picture of the past feels distant and surreal in today's context.

Reflecting on history offers us an invaluable perspective. But where our history begins depends on where we begin the story. Did our history begin with those of the Massachusetts Bay Colony who settled our town in 1636? Or, with the first inhabitants of these lands, the Massachusett and Wampanoag people? Our celebration should not only honor our legacy but propel us into the future, transcending the barriers of the past.

Looking ahead, our engagement with the 2023 UUA General Assembly's Commission on Appraisal's report, specifically Article 2 marks an important step in shaping our collective path. For those interested, discussions will kick off on November 12, with follow-up sessions both in-person and via Zoom on November 14. A link to the report and the Zoom link will be available in the all-church email.

Our parish's upcoming Special Fall Meeting on December 10 is a crucial democratic gathering where reports from the Deacons, the Treasurer, and the Auditors will be shared. We will also vote on nominations to our Parish Committee including Pete Lutze as our Treasurer and Ann Miranda as our Clerk. The Annual Meeting in the Spring and the Special Fall Meeting in the Autumn are opportunities for us to exercise our shared values.

The approaching Christmas Eve service prompts us to adapt to the evolving preferences of our community. Recognizing the low number of people wishing to attend in-person worship on Sunday morning December 24th, we're excited to offer a YouTube service at 10 a.m and encourage those who are interested in sharing the youtube service with First Church friends who are isolated on Christmas Eve. Additionally, we encourage congregants to join in for our traditional lessons and carols service at 6 p.m., followed by a convivial potluck reception on the Green and at the Parsonage if the weather is inclement. As we head towards the close of 2023 we will focus on reflection and setting goals for the new year. This time of year presents an opportunity for personal and collective growth. Our final service will be a collaborative effort to explore ways to build on the year's successes and set the tone for a promising New Year.

In embracing our rich heritage and the inevitability of change, we are poised to navigate the future while honoring our past. Let us celebrate our achievements and embark on this journey, united in spirit and purpose.

I look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events as we close the year with gratitude and anticipation for what lies ahead.

Warm regards for you and yours this Holiday Season, ,
Rali

Rev. Rali M. Weaver

In the Church Office Tuesday through Thursday, 9-2, and by appointment when convenient for you.
Third Thursdays 5:30 -6:30 on Zoom for Readers and Writers workshop <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/83183979464>
raliweaver@dedhamuu.org or 617-459-5979

Our Director of the Children's UU Explorers Program: Lisa Pilat

Hello Church Families and Friends,

September and October have flown by! We are in full swing with robust classes running and many fun events to come.

In the nursery we have Desi Langmead and are looking to hire an additional Nursery care worker. We have 1 to 2 babies who stay in the nursery.

In *Spirit Play* Aoife Barrington Haber is our lead teacher. Aoife has added new work stations and is working on adding new stories. We have 5 children in *Spirit Play*.

In *UU Explorers* we are exploring the Love Connects Us curriculum. Becca Vautour and Jess Larochelle are the lead teachers and we have 8 kids in this class.

OWL 7-9 continues to meet through December with Josh Langmead, Emily Peloquin Pape and Lex Cushman as our facilitators. We have 8 youths in this class.

We have the Youth and Young Adult group meeting a couple of times per month. Jen Tegnell and Chloe Seibert are leading this. The youth are planning several activities including a Haunted House, graveyard visit and pizza parties.

We are continuing with Families Night Out for most first Fridays. Our October event was very successful. We had 12 kids attend with 1 new family. Our families love this and the kids have a blast. It is such a wonderful way to be in community while allowing our parents and caregivers a well deserved night out. The kids and youth really enjoy coming to church at night for a fun evening together. We always need additional help with these evenings so, if it moves you, please offer an evening to our child and youth community! We also appreciate any snack and drink donations for this as well.

Part of being in community and church together is sharing our gifts and talents with one another. Last year Stephen Brayton came to a class and read his own authored story with the kids. They really enjoyed hearing him read his own story and it gave the kids a chance to meet him and get to know him better. He was also able to get to know our kids a little better as well. I invite you to reach out to me if you have a gift, passion or talent you would like to share. If you play an instrument, love to sing, are a crafter, love sports or love to read. Please come and share this with our kids. A large part of faith development is in being in and growing in community together.

Lisa Pilat is in the Church Office Wednesday, 11am-4pm.
Or you can reach her at lisapilat@dedhamuu.org

Our Musical Director: Darry Dolezal

Musical greetings! Choir is in full swing this fall and we are enjoying singing music in a variety of styles. We have adopted a “mask friendly” policy which lets singers use masks as they wish. If one chooses to use a mask, then a high quality, well-fitting mask such as KN95 or KF94 is recommended. We have masks available for you.

The choir continues to meet each Sunday morning at 8:45 to go over the music for that day’s service. Anyone is welcome to join us then. Music is available in advance in our shared Google folder. Please let me know if you would like to access this by sending me an email at: DarryDolezal@dedhamuu.org.

There will be a choir practice at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, November 15, in preparation for our Anniversary Service on November 19th with the Allin Church. This rehearsal will be in the Dining Room for our singers. There will be a joint rehearsal with the Allin Church choir, probably on Thursday, November 17 (TBA).

Our next Intergenerational Choir is Sunday, November 12th. People of all ages and abilities are encouraged to join in singing a simple and fun introit. Please come at 9:45 am on Sunday, November 12th to rehearse. Regular monthly Intergenerational Choir introits will begin in January on the third Sunday of each month, always meeting at 9:45 am on Sunday morning to rehearse.

Our Friday Coffee House series continues the third Friday of each month. Please come and check these performances out. Classical guitarist John Muratore will once again share his beautiful music with us at a Christmas-themed concert on Friday, December 15.

You are encouraged to share your musical talents with the congregation on Sundays during the offertory. Please contact me with your ideas. darrydolezal@dedhamuu.org

Church Administrator: Grace Peña

Church Office hours are:
Monday through Friday ~ 10 am-3 pm
The office is closed on Saturday

Hello. Now that it is November, the Dedham Farmers Market is closed for the season and the church office hours are back to their usual time (as listed above).

I am in the office on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Rali is in on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, depending on her calendar and anything she may have scheduled outside of the office

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(you can check the church calendar on our website at www.dedhamuu.org). Lisa has office hours on Wednesday, 11 am-4 pm . (More on page 5.)

The office is closed on Saturday.

Lots to look forward to in the coming months! Our shared service with the Allin church, Thanksgiving and our Bread and Cider service, the Holly Faire, the Christmas Pageant and Christmas Eve service! Looking forward to seeing you there.

You can always reach me at 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 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.

Holly Fair 2023

Countdown! 5 weeks until the Holly Fair which will be on Saturday, December 2nd, from 9 am to 2 pm. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered so far.

Here's the 2023 Holly Fair Crew!

Holly Fair chair - Carol Dixon Hutton

Food Table - Diane Cullen-Moore

Trading Post:

Kathy Widger and Noreen King

Special Treasures -

Sam King and Linda Meyer-King

Greens - Andrea Gilmore

Luncheon - Kerri Gallagher



Help is still needed with raffles, publicity, set up and clean up. Sign up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board in the Parish House on November 12th. Flyers will also be available on the 12th. There are lots of ways to contribute and get involved and of course, it's all fun!

Cheers,

Carol Dixon Hutton

Bake with the Alliance

Saturday, November 18 th , 9:30 am, First Church kitchen

The Alliance will be learning to bake Judy Barrington's famous brown bread, a Holly Fair special, on Saturday, November 18 th at 9:30 am. The bread is baked in cans so we are in need of empty 15.5 oz or 22 oz cans that have been opened by a can opener. All are welcome! Come and enjoy and go home with a little brown bread.

Carol Dixon and Lisa Seibert

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. If you would like to reach out to them, please contact Rali at raliweaver@dedhamuu.org.

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

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/4090f4caca829a2f49-20201>

November 19th and December 23rd our church will host a reception for the Dedham Food Pantry Clients as they wait for their Holiday Dinner Give Away. If you can help please contact the church office firstchurch@dedhamuu.org or Carol Dixon-Hutton for more details.

Adult Religious Exploration

Article 2 Join us for discussion of the UU Commission on Appraisal presented at last summer's General Assembly of the UUA. If you would like to read more about it you can do so at <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>. They join us for worship and discussion on November 12th and or on Zoom on Tuesday, November 15th at 6pm.

Nature and Nurture Walks: We have had some very inclement weather on the scheduled walks. If you would like to join a walking circle and be on a list serve with other parishioners ready to walk given the proper weather conditions, please email raliweaver@dedhamuu.org

The First Church Reader and Writer Group meets the third **Thursday** from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm on Zoom. Please join us for reading and listening and writing both poetry and prose. Even if you

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aren't a writer, bring some of your favorite author's work to share. Please join us on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87160212466>. New readers and writers are always welcome!



First Church Friday Folk Coffeehouse presents its third concert of the 2023-2024 season featuring Chris Baird and Laura Ridarelli: Roots Rock, Folk, and Irish Music Duo at First Church and Parish Dedham 670 High Street, Dedham on Friday, November 17, 2023 at 7:30 pm in the Parish House Auditorium.

There will be refreshments for purchase. Tickets are \$15 and are available online at Folk Coffeehouse | dedhamuu and at the door. Doors open at 7:00 pm.

This performance features Chris Baird on guitar, harmonica, and vocals and Laura Ridarelli on fiddle. Both Chris and Laura hail from out of state, but they call Dedham home as they own a home and reside in Riverdale. Chris has lived in the Boston area since 1992 and has been working as a freelance musician in bars, restaurants and performance venues for the last 35 plus years. Laura is a music teacher in the area teaching High School Orchestra. She has been Irish fiddling for over 20 years, under the training of her mentor P.V. O'Donnell, and moved to the Boston area in 2007, where she has played in numerous Irish sessions, and folk groups.



Together, Chris and Laura perform a mix of originals, cover songs, and instrumentals ranging from Roots Rock to American and Irish Folk music. They are highly influenced by Bob Dylan, Lucinda Williams, Tom Petty, Gillian Welch, Jorma Kaukonen, Steve Earle, Paul Brady, The Pogues, Doc Watson, Neil Young, Grateful Dead, and many more. The performance will be a combination of Chris's memorable original songs, finger picking melodies, singing harmonies between harmonica and fiddle, and foot stomping Irish fiddle tunes.

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



Concerts at First Church will present highly acclaimed classical guitarist John Muratore in a solo concert at First Church and Parish Dedham on Friday, December 17, 2022 at 7:30 pm. There will be a reception with Mr. Muratore immediately following the concert. Tickets are \$20 for general admission.

The Boston Musical Intelligencer recently said “Muratore is surely one of greater Boston’s most gifted guitar virtuosos, and his broad range of repertoire is one of his most valuable attributes.” Mr. Muratore regularly performs as a solo recitalist, concerto soloist and chamber musician extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Russia. He has collaborated with numerous chamber ensembles including Emmanuel Music, the Spectrum Singers, Chorus Pro Musica, Alea III, Boston Musica Viva and Counterpoint. Recent appearances as concerto soloist have been with the Ridgefield Symphony, Vermont Symphony and Symphony by the Sea under the direction of Jonathan McPhee. The Boston Globe has described him as “a fleet-fingered and musicianly performer” and has characterized his playing as...“unleashing so many different varieties of tone and color in quick succession...a kind of aural iridescence.” John’s live performances have often been featured on NPR and WGBH Radio’s Classical Performances, and he has recorded for Albany, Pont Nuef and Arabesque Records.



Mr. Muratore is an active educator in classical guitar and is on the faculty at Boston University, Dartmouth College and is the coordinator of the guitar program at the All Newton Music School.

HISTORICAL NOTES

Introduction: Our resident historian, Geoff Tegnell, continues to explore some of the stories of our previous ministers so that we could share them with all of you. Geoff has been working to gather the stories of previous Ministers and Members of our church.

Benjamin Holloway Bailey (1861-1867)

Benjamin Holloway Bailey was born in Bolton, Massachusetts on July 5, 1829 to Holloway and Lucy Sawyer Bailey. He grew up on the family farm in Northborough, Massachusetts where he attended district school before extending his education at Bridgewater Normal College, Leicester Academy, and Harvard College, where he graduated in 1854. He went on to teach high school in Chicopee and Providence. After a stint of studying the law, Bailey enrolled in Harvard

Divinity School from which he graduated in 1860. Bailey was reputedly a very sought-after ministerial candidate who quickly won the approval of and a call from Dedham church leaders, one of whom recounted that “He came here a young man, a fine scholar, of noble presence, in exceptionally vigorous health, with great strength of feeling, and rare readiness and aptness of utterance.” While living in Dedham, Bailey met his wife, Emily F. Sampson whom he married on June 1, 1864 and with whom he had five children. Bailey was First Church minister throughout the turbulent years of the Civil War. Although Bailey tried to avoid excessive partisan moralizing from the pulpit for fear of alienating some more conservative parishioners, war vicissitudes dramatically impacted his ministry and the activities of his congregation. To begin with, 33 of the First Church congregation’s fathers and sons enlisted in the Navy and Army, blockaded Southern ports, and fought in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Georgia. In addition, several of them died in the field, in hospitals, and in prisoner of war camps. Next, First Church women chaired the 24-member Ladies’ Soldiers’ Aid Society that made and distributed over ten thousand articles of clothing for men at the front, as well as providing medical supplies for hospitals treating wounded soldiers. Indeed, on Sunday, August 31, 1862, Bailey’s sermon was interrupted by a messenger who gave him word of the rout of Union forces (including a Dedham unit) with massive casualties at the 2nd Battle of Bull Run. “The announcement from the pulpit at the close of the service,” a witness remembered, “called [us] to duty of another kind. One of our homes was transformed into a factory for the afternoon, filled with generous hearts and busy fingers from other congregations ... and before nightfall twenty-seven cases ... of clothing, bandages, lint, jellies, cordials, and other necessaries and comforts” were on their way to the Army hospitals. Lastly, after Appomattox, the Ladies’ Soldiers’ Aid Society morphed into the Ladies’ Freedman’s Aid Society which provisioned Yankee teachers in the post-Civil War South. One of these educators pioneered the Port Royal experiment in South Carolina where many of the Radical Republican Reconstruction policies were first tried out. Two other notable developments at First Church under Bailey’s leadership were the congregation’s 1865 initiation of fundraising for American Unitarian Association missionary activities and the beginning of lay-led prayer services and conferences in 1867.

Bailey resigned his Dedham ministry in October 1867 to assume the pastorate of the First Parish in Portland, Maine, where he remained for five years. Beginning in 1872 he next served in Marblehead, Massachusetts for twelve years. While in Marblehead, Bailey resumed teaching and tutoring secondary students. Boys would either lodge with his family to study under him or were taught as day students. It was said of his tutelage, “For quickening the intelligence of dull or backward pupils he had an acknowledged gift.” After his time in Marblehead, Bailey moved on to Malden where he ministered at First Parish and served on the Malden School Committee. Bailey’s final clerical appointment was in Westford, Massachusetts where from 1897 until 1913 he ministered to the Westford Unitarian Church congregation and was a member of The Grange. Bailey died in Jamaica Plain in 1919 at the ripe age of 90.

Bibliography:

Benjamin Holloway Bailey (1861-1867)

A brief history of the last three pastorates of the First Parish in Dedham, 1860-1888 : a sermon preached November 11, 1888 : Beach, Seth Curtis, 1837-1932 : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive

Benjamin H. Bailey - Wikipedia

https://worddisk.com/wiki/Benjamin_H._Bailey/#1

<https://books.google.com/books?id=H8gfAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA670/#v=onepage&q&f=false>
History of Dedham by Frank Smith:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015005019289&view=1up&seq=12>

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

Parish Committee Minutes

First Church Parish Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 5, 2023, 6:30 Potluck, 7:15PM Meeting, hybrid with Zoom link

Attendees: Rali Weaver, Julia Gecha, Debbie Harrison, Howard Ostroff, Kerrie Gallagher, Rebecca Vautour, Mathew Grady, Mary Lynn Davis, Geoff Tegnell, Aoife Barrington-Haber, Lisa Pilot, Carol Dixon-Hutton

Call meeting to order – 7:23 pm

Welcome New Member – welcome to Carol Dixon-Hutton

Gratitudes – grateful that school has started up again, that I can practice yoga, had a long break and rest, that we spent most of the summer in Mattapoisett.

Review and Approve:

Minutes from the August 22, 2023 meeting - The motion to correct minutes was voted on and approved.

Treasurer's Report has been tabled. The motion to accept Peter Lutze as treasurer was made and approved. Rali and Kerrie will contact Erik Meyer-Curley to hand over the treasurer's duties to Peter Lutze.

Minister's Report – Not much has happened since we last met. Name tags were ordered.

Walking in nature meetups have resumed. UU classes for new members will start up.

RE Report was presented. Lisa is starting monthly parents' night out events and would like help. Also, it would be good to have some events for seniors, such as baking cookies, going out to dinner, and having sleepovers at the church.

New member Lex Cushman was voted on and approved.

Action Items / Discussion

Planning for September 10 service – There will be a water communion service and picnic.

People will be able to sign up for different committees. People can also sign up to bring flowers, usher and light the chalice.

Technology Committee report – Remote service will be set up. The ticket purchasing system needs to be updated. Further investigate how the church can benefit from Tech Soup.

Civic Engagement Committee – Activate this committee. Do outreach such as Trivia Night, food pantry volunteering, trunk or treat, table at MLK Day, Dedham Day booth, refugee resettlement and UU Urban Ministry. Keep people involved and put up a sign-up sheet at picnic.

Begin audit process - Treasurer and Deacons meet with Auditors to plan audit of church. Get ready for Fall by sending a reminder.

New Business:

Discussion of initiatives to pursue this year

Committee revitalization

Forum for parish history

Safe Church Policy implementation

Other new business

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 3, 2023, 7:00PM on Zoom

Adjourn - 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by Julia Gecha

**Parish Committee Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2023**

Via Zoom

Submitted by: Ann Miranda, Clerk

In attendance: Kerrie Gallagher, Matt Grady, Becca Vautour, Geoff Tegnell, Aoife Barrington-Haber, Carol Dixon, Rali Weaver, Mary Lynn Davis, Debbie Harrison, Erik Meyer-Curly and Ann Miranda

Meeting called to order at 7:09pm by Kerrie Gallagher

Erik uploaded info and

Gratitudes

Update on concert series: Slow boat home was successful. There are “regulars” attending the concerts. September Meeting Minutes-Debbie had the following corrections. New member Lex Cushman.

Under Action Items, #4, it says Treasurer to meet with the Deacons, but should read “Deacons and Treasurer are to meet with the auditor.” Respectfully submitted needs to be added.

Minutes accepted Becca approved and second by Deb.

Treasurers Report-Erik. The report is for July 1 to Sept 28 and shows current amounts. Erik met with Peter Lutze about expenses for boiler. Bank statements and QuickBooks, budget are all in Google folder FY 2023 Audit. Income and expenses from the last fiscal year and that are not included in this year can cause confusion. Erik explained this.

Line item 5000, Solar Panels on the budget should include income from Eversource. Debbie found \$380.85 and 387.74 that should be included in the Solar Panel income. Erik to find where the accountant put the funds that should be allocated to Solar Panels. Erik to correct.

Miscellaneous income amounts per Erik: \$200 Noanet Garden Club, \$125.48 for 5/18 memorial refund for reprint of order of service office expense refund.

Rali asked about pension payments. Rali believes she is due interest on the 6 months of payments that are missing from her account. The pension payments are not showing up in the reports and it looks like it has not been paid since last January. Erik said it should be an automatic payment and will look into it. Erik is trying to set up auto payments with Church Mutual.

Treasurer’s report was accepted based upon corrections above being made. A motion to accept with the corrections was made and seconded by Debbie and Kerry.

Ministers Report:

Rali has been helping a refugee family (Gregory) and using her Ministers Account to pay for some yard work. She is also helping the refugees in other ways. Gregory has applied to receive a social security number. The Deacons would like to reimburse Rali out of Deacon funds for the yard work. Rali will teach any parishioners how to use Google translate to speak with Gregory. Aoife suggested collecting items for the family like board books. The Alliance has already donated items.

Rali has been checking in with some shut-in parishioners and other infirmed and elderly parishioners. Building and Grounds would like to fix the front bathroom floor, toilet and paint which will take 2 weeks. It will take place sometime between Oct and Dec. While the bathroom is being repaired, Bay State will have to use the downstairs and bathroom near Rali’s office. Geoff to check with the school. The committee agreed this should happen as long as the school is ok with using the bathrooms.

Andrea to meet with the Dedham Building Inspector to get rid of the stairwell near Rali’s office so the bathroom can be enlarged to be ADA compliant.

Dining room doors need to be fixed too. Carld to give a price on mini split. Quotes coming on both.

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Rali requested we use Meeting House this winter to give more space with Covid. PC committee. A unanimous vote agreed to using the Meeting House this year.

RE Report:

Lisa needs volunteers to help with Families Night Out.

Action Items:

Audit process

Fall meeting to be Dec 10, 2023.

Debbie has been working with Lisa Siebert on the Deacon report. It may be finished within the next two weeks. Geoff to also work with Debbie.

The Treasurer report is completed.

Next year the goal is to get reports to Auditors by October 1, 2024,

Mission: Committee Revitalization -

Committee members are needed for the Personnel Committee. All current members have resigned after being on the committee for many years. Several candidates' names were considered.

Holly Fair-a chair is needed. Rali & Grace have taken on most of the work. Rali has a list of tasks that need to be done for the fair. Carol will write the copy for a request for volunteers to go into the "All Church" email this week.

Community Purchasing Alliance-building equity for minority businesses.

Rali said we have saved money using the resource for trash pick up and masks. She feels there could be other resources down the road.

There is a contract that needs to be reviewed. Rali to send this to the Parish Committee and Kerrie to follow up to see how PC members feel about committing. The cost is \$300 to sign on then \$100 per year and based upon the Church operating budget.

New Business

Next meeting is scheduled for Wed Nov 1 (Nov 7 is election day) to accommodate Bay State Learning Center coming to the meeting. Geoff will check with BSLC to see if that date works for them.

Safe Church Policy Implementation

Rali said all items in the policy have been met. The only item left is that the doors need to be locked on the Parish House during Sunday service. A suggestion was made that the ushers would have a key to let anyone who needs to use the bathrooms. This will be started this coming Sunday. Rali will start instructing ushers.

Portrait Discussion

There was a discussion of what portraits should appear in the Meeting House.

Rali found other portraits in addition to those in the Meeting House.

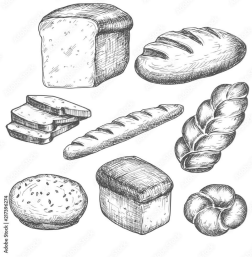
Geoff has written biographies on 17 of the ministers. He suggested to put images and bios on our website as a resource. Geoff has a few left to complete. Suggestions were made to display the portraits and bios in the church. However, Rali said some of the portraits were requested to be removed from the Meeting House because ministers of the past may not represent or be aligned with the church of today. Should a screen be added someplace in the church where portraits can be displayed?

A talk session with the parishioners would be helpful.

Live stream is fixed but help is needed from others to assist.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49pm. Motion by Kerrie, second by Mary Lynn and Aoife.

Celebrate the Holidays at First Church and Parish in Dedham!



Bake with the Alliance Saturday, November 18 th , 9:30 am, First Church kitchen The Alliance will be learning to bake Judy Barrington's famous brown bread, a Holly Fair special, on Saturday, November 18 th at 9:30 am. The bread is baked in cans so we are in need of empty 15.5 or 22 oz cans that have been opened by a can opener. All are welcome! Come and enjoy and go home with a little brown bread. - Carol Dixon and Lisa Seibert

Our Bread and Cider Communion will take place on Sunday November 19th at our church at 10 am. Bring bread to share as part of our yearly thanksgiving communion.

The First Church Children and Youth with Ria Davey will be hosting a reception from 11-2pm during the Dedham Food Pantry Turkey Give-Away. We need your help to provide refreshments and visit with clients or you can help the food pantry to hand out food. Contact the church office if you want to help.

Friday, December 1st 6-8 pm Join First Church in our outreach to the community and Help with the Holiday Stroll. Watch your all church email for ways to get involved.

Saturday, December 2nd is the Holly Faire - Sign up to help before, during and after- or just come and see what Holiday Fun we have to offer, 9-2 in the Parish Hall.

Sunday, December 10, 2022 in worship: our yearly Christmas Pageant! (children and youth practice Saturday December 9th at 10) Snow date Sunday, December 18th.

Saturday December 23 the First Church and Parish Women's Alliance will host a reception for the Food Pantry Clients as they wait for their Christmas Dinner Give Away from the Dedham Food Pantry. Please contact Carol Dixon-Hutton or the Church Office if you can help.

All the Sundays in December we will consider the season of Advent in words and music. We will have a youtube worship service for those interested in watching it at 10 am Sunday December 24th. You are also encouraged to share the service with a friend or family who cannot get to church. If you would like to know the name of a First Church friend that could use a visit please contact Rev. Rali Weaver raliweaver@dedhamuu.org.

Saturday, December 24th at 6 p.m. we will begin at 6 with caroling on the green and culminating with a reception on the green weather permitting. Or in the parsonage if the weather is inclement. Happy Holidays!



Sunday December 31st we will worship together cooperatively to consider what we want to leave behind in 2023 and what we might want to reimagine for 2024



Hello, I'm Clarissa. As Founder and Creative Director of my company, Star Path Montessori, I combine my many years of experience as an educator, and my artistic background, in helping families to embrace the beauty of Montessori in their daily lives. Star Path is a unique Montessori enrichment and playspace center for children and their families. Services included are those for young children 6 months to 6 years, including yoga, art, cooking, and creative movement. Also available are Montessori playspace options during weekends, holidays, and select school vacation weeks. There's so much to discover at Star Path. Looking forward to welcoming you and yours!

I'm a Montessori educator by trade and experience. I am also a product of the arts and creativity through my schooling. ✨ My company, Star Path Montessori, is the marrying of my 2 passions: Montessori and Creative Expression.

I believe in the positive change early education can make to our world through liberating the gifts of the young child. I am an advocate on how Montessori's focus on following the child's natural development can bring about such positive growth in society and culture. It is my mission to change the perception of the beauty and benefits of Montessori's method as only offered in a school setting. My belief is that Montessori is a way of life, a way of being, and it should be available to as many children and families as possible, not just those who are lucky enough to attend a Montessori school. Montessori is and should be for everyone!

Through Star Path, I offer a space where families can gather in community, and children can gain a Montessori experience in exploration and classes. This space is structured to supplement and offer opportunities outside of school hours. I offer classes on weekends, select holidays, and school vacation weeks. Class options include yoga, cooking, art, creative movement, one-to-one tutoring, and playspace gatherings, all in an authentic prepared Montessori environment.

I want to reach families who are looking for an engaging experience for their young child on non-school days, when these opportunities are typically few and far between. All of my classes are Montessori-inspired, structured following Montessori's key principles of accessibility, independence, and optimal participation.

As part of Star Path, I also offer consulting and coaching services for caregivers of varying roles, because embracing Montessori is more than just wooden shelves and toy subscriptions! Services include online parent community coaching, a self-guided Montessori start-up course, an in-home Montessori design guidance package, and consulting partnerships with schools and educators.

Star Path is your one-stop Montessori connection. Not a school, but everything in between.

My focus is in being an advocate for children, helping to change how they are viewed in society, and how society prepares spaces for these young and capable learners. One way I do this is by allowing more families the opportunity to experience Montessori, without the big price tag of school tuition, in a beautiful, authentic, Montessori environment that can be accessed by many. I partner directly with families to support them in their journey, I guide their learning through what can be one of the most challenging times, but is also the most beautiful time. I help others understand how to assist the young child by liberating their abilities, therefore making the path they are on a brighter one!