



The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXXX, No 1

September & October 2019

Worship in September & October

Worship at 10:00 am in the Meetinghouse

Sunday, September 1, 2019

There will be no worship in Dedham due to Labor Day Weekend. Rev. Weaver will be preaching her last sermon at King's Chapel in Boston. You are welcome to attend their 11:00 am service.

Sunday, September 8, 2019

When the Creek Dries Up

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
We will begin our church year with Water Communion and a reflection of how to nourish our souls in the face of drought. Please bring water that reflects your summer to share as part of worship. There will be a potluck picnic on the green following worship.

Sunday, September 15, 2019

Human Freedom vs. Human made Walls

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
This Sunday we will reflect upon the immigration crisis with a historical lens, and consider how we might take a stand.

Sunday, September 22, 2019

Lessons in Religious Intolerance

The Rev Rali M. Weaver will preach.
This is the anniversary of the last Witch Burning in the US and we will explore what we can learn from the biases of the past.

Sunday September 29, 2019

Francis Harper

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
Her poetry opened the door to expanded thinking- how might it still ring true today?

Sunday, October 6, 2019

All Creatures of the Earth and Sky

The Rev. Rali Weaver will Preach
This will be our annual pet blessing Sunday. Join us in worship for a reflection of the gifts that the animals around us give, and after worship for a pet blessing on the green.

Sunday, October 13, 2019

I Tried Not Trying

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

Sunday, October 20, 2019

Making god our Own

The Rev. Rali Weaver will Preach
In celebration of *Señor de los Milagros* or Our Lord of Miracles or the holiday of the Purple Christ all which are celebrated on October 18th we will explore the importance of shaping the spirit of life that lives within each of us as human and in our own reflection.

Sunday, October 27, 2019

All Saints and All Souls

The Rev Rali M. Weaver will preach
Today we will remember all those we have loved and lost. You are invited to bring mementos of your loved ones to church and we will consider those we have loved and lost and their contributions to our lives.

From Our Minister: The Rev. Rali Weaver



Well it has been a hectic, fun-filled summer (the way I like it). As I suspected, going back to a place I had been before I came to Dedham made me appreciate what I have here all the more. Traffic for one is something I rarely have to consider, save for Wednesdays when the farmer's market is here and when I am driving the carpool. How fortunate I am to have such a short commute, to live in a community where I can do meaningful work.

I have picked up and let go of a few extra responsibilities this summer. First, we were able to give my niece back her bunny as she moved into her own apartment and is working out custody of her girls. These are happy days.

I also said goodbye to the Dedham Square Artist Guild and while we hope to hold together as a group of artists without a storefront I have lost the pressure of spending hours at the guild each week.

I did pick up on a limited basis the search committee process for a new CEO of Sophia Snow House where I am on the Board. I also picked up preaching at King's Chapel and supervision of their now Assistant Minister. Both of these felt as if they were value-added responsibilities, save for the commute, and I hope we can consider the value of having a student minister again in the near future.

I also picked up being the Interim Part time (half day Friday) Denominational Counselor for the UU Seminarians at Harvard Divinity School. I look forward to seeing how this added responsibility enriches my life and my work here in Dedham.

My newest hobby has been recovering furniture. It is actually a reinvigoration of a previous love. When I was the Assistant Minister at King's Chapel there was a great deal of anxiety and conflict. I felt as though I could not affect very much change in that environment and so I started recovering the shabby furniture first in my office and then in some others. This summer my friend Heinrich the Music Director at King's Chapel mentioned that it was time for his furniture to be revamped and before I knew it I was recovering chairs and couches and pillows in Dedham and in Boston. Here when I spiff things up it is mostly because I want to make things look nice for all who enter, I love making things look nice and I look forward to having more time in Dedham this fall to clean up the offices and finish the play space.

I am excited by all the projects we will get into this year and hope to see most of you at the September Dismantling Bias event and the concerts Darry is working with the Concert Committee to plan. If you are new to UUism and our church or just want a refresher on our history I want to encourage you to plan to stay for lunch in my office on the third Sunday of Every Month Starting on September 15th. And if you aren't all that interested in New UU'ism - but want to experience more deeply the work of the transcendentalists I hope you will consider joining with me this fall in a "Nature and Nurture Society" where we will read some of the works of the Transcendentalists and take walks in the woods on every fourth Saturday of the month.

There are many ways to be involved at First Church, not the least of which is to start your own group. If you have an interest or passion you would like to share with others in our congregation, I hope you will come talk to Grace or me.. Let's make this 13th year the best ever!

With anticipation for another great year! Rali

Rev Weaver is in the office Tuesday – Thursday 10-3 and by appointment
<https://revaliweaver.youcanbook.me/> or 617-459-5979 or raliweaver@dedhamuu.org

From our Director of Religious Education: Grace Peña



Welcome back. I am so excited for our new church year and all that our Children's Religious Education program will have to offer!

Here is what we have to look forward to for the 2019-2020 church year:

Desi and Alexas will be back in our Nursery taking care of our babies and toddlers.

Our Pre-Kindergarten through Kindergarten class, *Spirit Play*, will grow with the addition of many little ladies and one additional little gent. We will hold an orientation for this class to teach all of the parents new to this class about *Spirit Play*.

Our multi-grade class (1st-4th grades), *UU Explorers*, will continue to explore the 7 Principles and our 6 Sources of Unitarian Universalism.

Junior Worship Associates (grades 5 & 6) will now be called *Worship Leaders* and will continue to help out in our monthly inter-generational services.

Our Whole Lives, Grades 7-9 will continue their curriculum starting back in September and continue through the beginning of January. They will once again hold class at Dedham Community House.

Come the second half of our 2019-2020 church year, a new group of middle-schoolers will explore our *Neighboring Faiths* class, we will offer *Our Whole Lives-Kindergarten to 1st Grade* and we will have a new *Coming of Age* class who will be sharing their credos with the congregation at their service in May 2020.

Lastly, we will continue our Middle School and High School Youth Groups. I am going to try a new approach with these groups. I will have an orientation meeting with parents first to try to create a schedule and also to have parents volunteer some of their time to facilitating activities for these kids

As always, we will have our special Sundays filled with Cool Deeds, Special Activities and our Pageant! I am also adding a new curriculum to these special Sundays...*Get to Know a Member from First Church*. I hope to have various members talk to the kids about a special subject - perhaps something they do for their job or hobby, or something that is important to them. If you are interested in leading this class one Sunday, please get in touch with me at either 781-801-9857 or gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org.

So much to look forward to! Grace

Grace has office hours Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-2:00pm, Thursday 10:30am-2:00pm, Sunday 9am-12:30pm or by appointment. You may reach her at gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org

From Our Music Director: Darry Dolezal



“Concerts at First Church”

“Concerts at First Church” is our newly-launched concert series, featuring four concerts this year:

1. Friday Sept. 27 - Piano Dedication - Heinrich Christensen and Robert Winkley 4-Piano Duets
2. Saturday November 9 - John Muratore, Classical Guitar
3. Saturday March 14 - Thoreau Piano Trio
4. Friday May 8th - "There is no Plan(et) B" a climate change benefit concert with Calliope Calls

With great thanks to Mary Lynn Davis, we have a website up and running which includes online ticketing - www.firstchurchconcerts.org.

The first concert is coming up on September 27, and will be a “Steinway Celebration!”

Over the summer the vintage Steinway piano in the Meeting House had a significant restoration, including replaced action and felts, returning it to concert instrument status.

First Church will celebrate its newly-rebuilt Steinway piano in a concert of entertaining 4-hand piano music performed by highly acclaimed pianists Heinrich Christensen and Robert Winkley in the Meeting House on Friday, September 27th, 2019 at 7:30 pm. There will be a reception immediately following the concert in the dining room. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for students and seniors online and at the door.

Christensen and Winkley will perform 4-hand Piano including the *Fantaisie* by Gabriel Fauré, *Impromptu* by Franz Schubert, *Overtures* by Maurice Ravel and several compositions by Gyorgy Ligeti.

A native of Denmark, Heinrich Christensen came to the US in 1998 and received an Artist Diploma in Organ Performance from the Boston Conservatory in addition to degrees from conservatories in Denmark and France. He was appointed Music Director of historic King's Chapel, Boston in the year 2000. Heinrich was a prizewinner at the international organ competitions in Odense and Erfurt and has given solo recitals on four continents. He has performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Ballet, Handel & Haydn Society, and numerous choruses in the greater Boston area. An avid proponent of contemporary music, he has premiered works by Daniel Pinkham, Carson Cooman, Graham Gordon Ramsay, and several others. He has recorded several organ and choral CDs, and Daniel Pinkham's works for solo voice and organ with Florestan.

Robert Winkley is a member of First Church in Boston, Unitarian Universalist. As a member of the professional choir there since 1981 he has contributed not only as a singer, but also as a solo and collaborative pianist. He holds a Master of Music in Piano Performance from New England Conservatory; his primary studies were with Jacob Maxin, with additional work done with Patricia Zander, Terry Decima, Margo Garrett, and Irma Vallecillo. After graduation he joined the administrative staff at the conservatory where he currently serves as Registrar and Director of Institutional Research for the College. An avid gardener, he raises and judges orchids and is currently chair of the Northeast Judging Center of the American Orchid Society.

Darry can be reached at darrycello@gmail.com

Dismantling Bias:

An Active Bystander
Workshop

Where:

First Church and Parish
in Dedham
670 High Street
Dedham, Ma

When:

September 28, 2019
from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm



Do you find yourself witnessing everyday bias and want to step in? Do you want to be able to stand-up for someone who is being publicly harassed? Do you want to learn how to identify and fight your own biases?

In our current political environment, we are all observing more instances of these and other situations. Please join us for a workshop focused on teaching us how to handle these situations. While the workshop is free, we will gratefully accept contributions to help offset the cost of sponsoring this highly important training

A light lunch will be available for purchase from noon to 1:00 before the training begins.

True Story Theatre will be leading the workshop, which will include large and small group role playing.

The program is in part financed by the Women's Alliance of Dedham and First Church and Parish in Dedham

Space is limited, so we recommend registering to save your seat. Please contact the church office at firstchurch@dedhamuu.org or 781-326-7463 or go to www.dedhamuu.org to register.

Coffee Hour Teams

Our Coffee Hour Teams project has been a great success! This project has helped to create a network of people to provide all of the necessary pieces to this special and “sacred” time in the life of the congregation. It helps to lighten the load and create opportunities to meet and get to know others. We will be reaching out to revitalize the teams in the coming weeks. If you are not on a team, but would like to participate, please contact the church office at either 781-326-7463 or firstchurch@dedhamuu.org.

Our Homecoming Sunday will be followed by a picnic Sandwiches, Paper Products and Drinks will be provided- Sides, Salads and Desserts are welcomed.

Our second Sunday at church will be followed by a pancake breakfast in honor of our Church School Kick off! Anyone who does not teach in our church school program and willing to help with cooking and clean up can sign up on the bulletin board.

Care and Concern

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

If you are interested in contacting any of these people please contact Vicky Berg chair of the Parish Community Network at v.berg@juno.com or by phone at 781-326-3723

If you have a care or concern to share, please contact our church office by calling 781-326-7463 or emailing firstchurch@dedhamuu.org.

Civic Engagement

Dedham Food Pantry

First Church & Parish in Dedham will be staffing the Dedham Food Pantry 1st Sat in November and February and the fifth in May of 2020. Please sign up to help stock shelves and to help the DFP clients shop. A Sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions about signing up or helping out, please contact Pam Aist at pfaist@gmail.com.

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 ssennotti@gmail.com or check them out online at <http://www.uuum.org/>



Our October 13th Visiting Minister:

The Rev. Ken Reeves is a graduate of the Starr King School for the Ministry, and has served congregations in Ohio and Delaware. He has also earned a Masters in Pastoral Counseling and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. He is currently a clinical psychologist with a therapy practice, and a consulting psychologist with the Center for Career Development and Ministry. He is also the author of: *Vj g"Y j qrg"Ej wt ej."Eqpi t gi cwkpcr'*
Ngcf gtuj kr 'T wlf gf 'd{ 'Uungo u'Vj gqt{0'
"

Music Survey Results



The Music Committee would like to thank the fifty-one First Church congregants who filled out the music survey last fall. Some of the significant results of this survey are as follows:

Survey responses indicate that 74% of you believe that music is a very important part of your Sunday worship experience.

85% of respondents stated that they usually or always enjoy singing chosen for the service hymns, and they feel the hymns usually (57%) or always (35%) enhance the theme of the service.

Almost 90% say they always enjoy listening to the choir, and another 10% said they almost always enjoyed it. 76% said that they always appreciated the intergenerational choir, with another 22% almost always feeling that way.

Parish Record September/October 2019

Opinions about the hymn sing services were somewhat mixed. 44% indicated they always enjoyed them, giving them a 5 out of 5, while 24% rated them with a 4 and 26% gave them a 3.

The majority of respondents indicated that Music Sunday was important to them, giving it a 4 (35%) or a 5 (47%).

One interesting and useful finding was that 70% of respondents said they were very likely or extremely likely to support music activities such as concerts at our church, especially if these concerts were church fundraisers.

Survey respondents were 94% in favor of inviting special musical guests to participate in our services and/or provide a program.

We should acknowledge that responses to the question about the importance of organ music in church were split, with equal numbers of respondents in each category from 1 (not important at all) to 5 (very important).

Overall the music program is well regarded by congregants, with 12% rating it as good, 40% as very good and 44% as excellent.

In closing, we should also mention that survey open-ended questions yielded many helpful suggestions for the improvement of our music program that our Music Committee will be following up with in the years to come. The complete results are available to look at on the church website and in a binder in the dining room. Thanks again to all who responded to our music survey.

June Parish Committee Minutes

PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 3, 2019

At the home of Andrea Gilmore

Present: Allison Staton, Joshua Langmead, Jen Atkins, Ann Miranda, Cindy Jones, Dave Miller, Audrey Cecil, Matt Grady, Liza Arend, Kathy Elefterakis, Andrea Gilmore, Rali Weaver and Susan White

Meeting called to order at 7:45 p.m. by Matt Grady

Parish Committee chairs were thanked for their help this year

Gratitudes

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting of May 6, 2019

Motion to accept minutes-seconded- SO VOTED.

Treasurer's Report **Cindy Jones**

We are 91.67% through Church year

Income to date is 85.08% of budgeted

Received \$14,650 toward FY2020 budget

Expenses

Committee expenses only at 61% of budgeted

We are \$7,272.59 over budget

Kathy Elefterakis printed out statements for people who have not completed their pledges –they will be mailed soon

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report –seconded-SO VOTED.

Minister's Report

Grace and Rali worked on Annual Report

New pictorial directory will be produced in the fall

Still some open slots for Summer Services

DRE Report

Discussion-Annual Meeting should not be held on Children's Sunday

Perhaps Stewardship campaign could start earlier next year

Annual Meeting will be held on May 31, 2020

Action Items

Vote on Parishioners Committee

Andrea-organize and manage Committee

Andrea met with Committee on Ministry

Makeup of Parishioners Committee-Deacon, Member from RE and Parish Committees and two persons at large

Andrea will identify people

Motion to vote on formation of Parishioners Committee- seconded- SO VOTED.

Options for Treasurer Role

How to get a Treasurer-each person from the Parish Committee should find a person to ask to be Treasurer

Maybe two people could share responsibility for role

Cindy said that job takes maximum of 10-15 hours a month

Payroll is outsourced

Investigate the cost of having outside help-Andrea will talk with Susan Linehan who works at Dedham

Historical Society

Long term goal-make the Treasurer's role a budget item to be voted on at Fall Meeting

Change in Signature Authority on bank accounts

The authorized signers for the First Church in Dedham should be:

Ann Miranda

David Miller

Should be removed from this account:

Audrey Cecil
Matthew Grady

Discussion about approaches for Church endorsements
Need a procedure to bring to congregation
Need to put procedure forth at the Fall Meeting
Guidelines to follow
Allison will prepare a straw man proposal and look to present it at September meeting
Jen and Allison will work on this matter

Audrey passed the Looking Forward with Focus binoculars to Dave

New Business

On Saturday Andrea went into the Parish House and found the lights on, back door unlocked, and some rooms looked like a pigpen. Food all over.
She will email pictures to George
Andrea expects a written contract
Rali will meet with George tomorrow

Andrea relayed that as Moderator Jen Greaney said she would like to see a printed copy of Annual Report a week before Annual Meeting

April Meeting agenda item for Annual Meeting

When do we start to plan and schedule events
Louis D. Brown Walk on Mother's Day we should start in September

Meeting adjourned **9:05 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan S. White, Clerk
First Church and Parish in Dedham

Office Hours for September and October

Church Office Hours
Tuesday – Friday 9-2
Monday and Saturday Closed

Rev. Rali M. Weaver, Minister
Tuesday-Friday 10am-3pm
and by appointment
<https://revaliweaver.youcanbook.me/>
617-459-5979 or raliweaver@dedhamuu.org

Grace Peña, Church Administrator and
Director of Religious Education
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-2pm
Thursday 10:30am-2pm
Sunday 9am-12:30pm
gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org

Pat Hawkins, Bookkeeper
Wednesday 1-6
firstchurch@dedhamuu.org

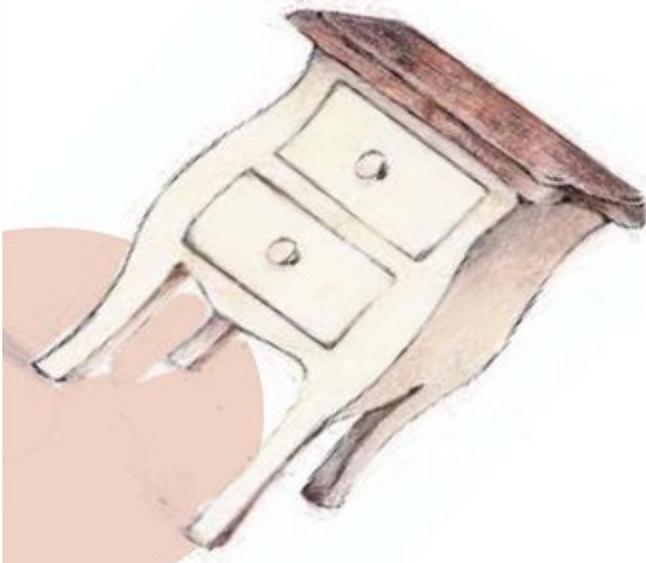
Fitness Opportunity

Zumba: Tuesday Nights 7-8 starting 9/10 in the auditorium. First Class Free to First Church Members. Then \$10 a class in advance or \$15 drop-in.
This is a fun and invigorating workout for exercisers of all skill sets.

Adult Religious Education

New UU Class- Over Lunch Starting 12 Noon on the Thurd Sunday of Every Month (excluding holidays) Starting September 15th in the Minister's Office. Contact raliweaver@dedhamuu.org for details or 617-459-5979 or sign up on the bullitain board outside the dining room of the Parish House.

Nature and Nurture Society: Experience more deeply the work of the transcendentalists by joining with church friends to read the works of the Transcendentalists and take walks in the woods. First Saturdays of the month beginning October 5th. Contact raliweaver@dedhamuu.org for details or 617-459-5979 or sign up on the bullitain board outside the dining room of the Parish House.



RARE, UNIQUE AND FUN ITEMS!

Multi-Family Yard Sale

Shop secondhand vintage and new items on the
Church Green at First Church

Saturday, September 7th 7 AM to 2 PM
670 High Street, Dedham Ma

Games for Children, Baked Goods,
Craft Items, Fun for All Ages



