



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

March & April 2024

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

Sunday, March 3, 2024

What did Suffrage and # MeToo Do?

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
In celebration of Women's History Month,
we will explore the role of women's
movements in improving the lives of half the
population.

Sunday, March 10, 2024

**Music Sunday: Faure Requiem
Performed by the First Church Choir**

Gabriel Faure composed his requiem
between 1887 and 1890. Fauré wrote of the
work, "Everything I managed to entertain by
way of religious illusion I put into my
Requiem, which moreover is dominated from
beginning to end by a very human feeling of
faith in eternal rest."

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Make Em' Laugh

Susan White and Rev. Rali Weaver
Susan White will share her sense of humor
and we promise you will laugh.

Sunday, March 24, 2024

The Right to Truth

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
We will explore the rampant agnotology in
the world and the civil right to truth.
Whose truth are we speaking about? You
will have to come to church to find out.

Sunday, March 31, 2024

Easter

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

Join us for a rousing transformative spring
worship followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in
the Meeting House! Children are invited to
bring their parents to worship!

Sunday, April 7, 2024

**The Rev. Mary Margaret Earl
From the UU Urban Ministry will
preach**

Mary Margaret Earl from the UU Urban
Ministry will be leading worship.

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Do Without Doing

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

It may be time for spring cleaning, but
today we will consider how to get things
done without attaching to outcomes.

Sunday, April 21, 2024

A Life in Art- Picasso

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

This week, we will explore the life and
work of Pablo Picasso and what his art had
to teach.

Sunday, April 28, 2024

The Butterfly Effect

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

We will consider the interconnectedness of
all life and how our actions locally may
affect the whole world.

Our Minister: The Rev. Rali M. Weaver

Reflecting on the interconnectedness of all things, it becomes evident that the ripples of events, whether near or far, can touch us deeply. As a minister, I recognize the profound impact of global occurrences on our daily lives, echoing the sentiment that when conflict and turmoil unfold in distant lands, the reverberations of stress can still be keenly felt within our communities.

In light of these realities, I am reminded of the pivotal role that churches can play in providing solace and sanctuary amidst the tumult of the world. While the act of worship undoubtedly nourishes our souls, fostering connections across diverse ages and life stages is equally vital for both individual flourishing and the collective well-being of our community.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to extend the invitation of spiritual refuge to our friends and neighbors. While our church stands as a beacon of hope and fellowship, we must acknowledge that it is but one among many sanctuaries in our town. Thus, I implore each of you to reach out to those who may find solace within our walls, welcoming them into our midst with open hearts and open arms.

While Easter Sunday and Music Sunday present opportune moments for introducing newcomers to our church, let us remember that any Sunday offers a chance for inclusive fellowship. Moreover, let us recognize that the quest for spiritual nourishment may lead individuals to various paths, whether within a synagogue, a Christian church, or elsewhere.

In our commitment to fostering genuine connections and alleviating the poverty of isolation, we must support individuals in finding the spiritual community that resonates most deeply with their souls. Indeed, the essence of our mission lies not in filling pews but in enriching lives and nurturing enduring bonds of fellowship. We already do this in several ways, such as offering a pamphlet listing all the congregations in Dedham's worship time and location for the Dedham Welcome Wagon packets to new residents by not requiring membership to enjoy a folk music concert or the First Friday's Family Fun nights.

As stewards of compassion and inclusivity, let us extend our reach beyond our own congregation, embracing the diversity of spiritual journeys and guiding others toward the transformative power of community. For in this shared journey of faith and fellowship, we discover the profound truth that in connectedness, we find strength, solace, and the enduring hope that lights our way through the darkest of times.

Rev. Rali M. Weaver

In the church office Tuesday - Thursday, 9-2, and by appointment when convenient for you.

Third Thursdays 5:30 -6:30 on Zoom for Readers and Writers workshop

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83183979464>

raliweaver@dedhamuu.org or 617-459-5979

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

Hello First Church Families and Friends,

January and February were months of lots of new beginnings. We had the start of a new curriculum for our 3 to 5 year olds. We are using "Love Surrounds Us" from the Tapestry of Faith curriculum . The class is really enjoying the change! It lends itself perfectly with the new classroom set up from the Star Path Montessori program in that space. We will continue with "Love Surrounds Us" through the remainder of this church year.

UU Explorers continues with the curriculum "Love Connects Us" from Tapestry of Faith. We are spending more time outdoors with this energetic group! We began sowing winter seeds in February and will continue with the seeds that we can start in the winter months. The kids are excited to see the beginnings of many veggies and flowers!

Neighboring Faiths are in full swing. They have visited two houses of worship and will visit 2 more in March. They started with Unitarian Universalism and moved into Christianity. In March they will begin to explore Judaism.

Coming of Age began in January and will run through May. They have fun bonding classes planned with some off site activities. They will be going to a trampoline park in June!

Desi Langmead continues to be our loyal and dedicated Nursery care person. We are looking for a second person for the Nursery. If you know of anyone who may be interested please put them in touch with me at lisapilat@dedhamuu.org.

In February we had Mystery Pals. The kids were matched with an adult in the congregation. Each week the adults put a clue, message or trinket in the kid's box. Throughout the month the kids had to guess who their mystery pal was. In March we had a big reveal party where the kids got to find out who their mystery pal was.

We will continue to have First Fridays through May. We really need your help with this if we are to keep it going! Our families and the community families really love this night. In order to sustain it we need helpers! Many hands make light work. Please take a Friday night and join us to help with this event. We are also looking for food and drink donations for the kids as well.

I continue to work on my RE Credentialing. In March and April I am taking additional classes and continue to work on my portfolio.

Love, Lisa

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

Our Music Director: Darry Dolezal

Music Sunday is coming! During the morning service on March 10 the choir will present the "Requiem" by Gabriel Fauré. There is still time to join the choir to sing this exquisite French masterpiece if you are willing to study the online practice tracks and come to the dress rehearsal on March 7. Please contact me if you are interested.

Wishing you a musical spring! Darry
darrydolezal@dedhamuu.org

Church Administrator: Grace Peña

Church Office hours are:
Monday through Friday, 10 am-3 pm
Grace is in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
The office is closed on Saturday

Hello:

I continue to be in the office on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 am-3 pm. Rali is in on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 am-2 pm, depending on her calendar and anything she may have scheduled outside of the office (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.

There is a lot to look forward to at this time of year! First of all, we are closer to Spring! I know that Winter has not been too hard on us this year, but I always look forward to longer days and warmer weather. Let us hope for a beautiful, long Spring ahead. I am ready to be outdoors and in the sunshine!

On March 31st we will have our Easter Sunday service which is always a highlight of our church year. Just recently Lucas Meyer-Curley found the latest Easter Egg from 2023! Get ready for a new crew of egg hunters this year. Should be fun!!

I mailed out the 2023 tax letters in February. If you did not receive one and would like to or if you have any questions about the one you received, please feel free to contact me at either firstchurch@dedhamuu.or or at 781-326-7463 and I will be happy to help you out. You can always contact me about the status of your FY 2024 pledge too.

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. Please reach out regularly to Kathy Eleftarakis, Martha Leonard, Joan Wisloki, Mary-Anne Osborne, Mary Daurio, and Priscilla King.

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

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>

Adult Religious Exploration

The First Church Reader and Writer Group Meets Thursdays from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm on Zoom. Please join us for reading and listening and writing both poetry and prose. Even if you aren't a writer, bring some of your favorite author's work to share. Please join us on Zoom <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87160212466>. New readers and writers are always welcome!

Reclaiming Christianity for Progressives

Have you been tired of listening to the Religious Right describe Jesus in a way that seems antithetical to you? In this class, we will draw from Theodore Parker's essay "The Transient and Permanent in Christianity", and John Buehren's book, *Understanding the Bible: An Introduction for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals*. We'll also take a closer look at the Book of John from the Christian Scriptures and redefine Christianity away from dogma and creed.

Wednesdays, March 6 - April 3, 7:30 - 9pm raliweaver@dedhamuu.org for the link or sign up online

<https://www.commuunitycollaborative.com/programs>

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 Church Members.

Seth Curtis Beach (1875-1888)

Seth Curtis Beach was born on August 8, 1837 in Marion, New York, the son of Luther Markham and Angelina Elizabeth (Curtis) Beach. He, his parents, and two sisters lived in a log cabin on a fifty-acre farm where young Seth spent his early days. Years later, about his chores Beach recounted that “I had two cows to milk and a horse to take care of, went to school when there was school, and played at work when I did not go. It was more to my taste to read a newspaper when I could get hold of one than to pull, pick stones, or hoe corn, especially alone.” His mother and older sister Julia tutored him until he was eight at which age he started regularly attending Marion’s district school. After his father’s death in 1846, Beach ultimately moved to nearby Palmyra to enroll in Palmyra Academy where he qualified himself by 1855 to teach for several years in one-room district schools in the Marion environs. From 1859 to 1862 Beach attended Antioch College. At Antioch, he recounted, “I became much interested in ideas, i.e. in the enthusiasms of the place which were the legacy of (President) Horace Mann, and I easily absorbed the Unitarianism diffused in the college atmosphere.” After most of his junior year classmates enlisted in the army, Beach transferred to Union College where he earned his Bachelor’s degree in 1863 and afterwards, received a doctorate from Harvard Divinity School in 1866.

Upon graduation from Divinity School, Beach became an itinerant visiting preacher at several regional churches until he received a 1867 call from All Souls Unitarian Church in Augusta, Maine. While in Augusta, Beach became acquainted with his future wife, Frances Hall Judd, the daughter of the Rev. Sylvester Judd, the church’s former minister, but unfortunately illness caused Beach to resign and retire to a friend’s farm temporarily to recuperate. Beach stayed in touch with Frances and married her in 1869. Ultimately, they had two sons, one of whom, Ruell, became a noted Unitarian clergyman. But since Frances found farm life disagreeable, the couple returned to Boston in 1873, whereupon the First Parish in Norton, Massachusetts called Beach as its minister. Beach stayed in Norton until December 1875 when he became the settled

minister at Dedham's First Church.

Beach got off to a rocky start at First Church. One of his initial sermons whose text was "The Son of Man came eating and drinking." critiqued the perceived extremism of the temperance movement, to the displeasure of several teetotaling parishioners. However, in Dedham Beach earned the reputation as "a preacher of exceptional grace and strength" and soon won over his congregants. Among his accomplishments was the writing of a 120-page new Covenant for First Church in 1878, the first updating of the congregation's Unitarian beliefs and commitments in almost a century. Beach also was instrumental in adopting the Book of Services and Hymns then just issued by the Unitarian Association, incorporating responsive readings into Sunday services. In addition, Beach enriched congregational life by founding the Young People's Religious Society which would conduct youth educational and community service programs well into the next century and by supporting the adult lay-led weekly lecture series of the Dedham Union. And Frances Beach performed the momentous feat of founding and leading the Dedham Women's Alliance in 1881. While he was Dedham's minister, Beach was elected secretary of the national Unitarian Ministerial Union. In addition, he was the first person in Dedham to join the Civil Service Reform Association. Lastly, he campaigned in Massachusetts for a "working conference of churches in the State under an able well-paid leader" and once the American Unitarian Association was established, resigned from First Church in 1888 to take on the responsibility of directing its missionary outreach to northern New England.

Seth Beach continued to do important work after leaving Dedham. He spent several years supporting struggling Unitarian parishes solve congregational problems, recruit ministers, and develop "sense of denominational fellowship and missionary responsibility." Then in 1891 he answered the call of the Independent Congregational Church in Bangor, Maine where he ministered till 1901. In addition to his many published sermons and pamphlets, Beach also composed numerous hymns, including the classic "Mysterious Presence, Source of All" which appears in 29 hymnals, including First Church's current hymnal *Singing The Living Tradition*. After his retirement Beach continued his literary endeavors by writing numerous memoirs and

non-fiction narratives, including a collection of biographies of notable Unitarian women, Daughters of the Puritans, that was first published in 1904 and has been reprinted for over a century with the most recent edition appearing in 2015. Likewise, Beach collected all the poems he had written into one volume, Verses, which was published in 1923.

When Seth Curtis Beach passed away at the age of 95 in 1932, his obituary in the 1932 Unitarian Yearbook memorialized him as “the dean of our Unitarian ministers.”

Biography:

Seth Curtis Beach (1875-1888)

Seth Curtis Beach (uudb.org)

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

The Project Gutenberg eBook of Daughters of the Puritans, by Seth Curtis Beach.

hymnary.org.

Seth Curtis Beach (born August 8, 1837), American clergyman | World Biographical Encyclopedia (prabook.com)

(1) Unitarian Universalist History and Heritage Society - Posts | Facebook

Seth Curtis Beach (1837-1932) | WikiTree FREE Family Tree

Covenant of the First Church in Dedham : with some facts of history and illustrations of doctrine; for the use of the church : First Church (Dedham, Mass.) : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive

Autobiography. A Family History: Seth Curtis Beach : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming: Internet Archive [https://iif.harvard.edu/manifests/view/drs:431465598\\$122i](https://iif.harvard.edu/manifests/view/drs:431465598$122i)



Blue Train
Friday, March 15, 2024

First Church Friday Folk Coffeehouse presents its sixth concert of the 2023-2024 season featuring the Blue Train at First Church and Parish Dedham 670 High Street, Dedham on **Friday, March 15, 2024 at 7:30 pm** in the Auditorium. There will be refreshments for purchase. Tickets are \$15 and are available online at [Folk Coffeehouse | dedhamu](https://folkcoffeehouse.dedhamu.org) and at the door. Doors open at 7:00 pm.

Blue Train coasts along the folk music railway tracks powered by a solid bluegrass engine fueled by an eclectic mix of swing, Texas swing and Gypsy jazz with intricate vocal harmonies and instrumentation. Musicians include Jon Pachter on banjo, harmonica and vocals, Wendy Pachter on stand-up bass and vocals, George O'Connell on mandolin and vocals, Stewart Roberts on guitar and vocals and Alison Smith on violin/fiddle and vocals.

Recently, Blue Train has played at the Parrish Center for the Arts in Westford, MA, Vokes Theatre in Wayland, the Newton Linda Plaut Festival of the Arts, Good Pickin' Farm in Westford, Brookline Porchfest, Nick-a-Nees Club in Providence, and various farmer's markets. Get on board with this Boston-based band and speed down the tracks of pure entertainment as you ride the Blue Train!

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 choir at Sunday services, the Parish Players theater troupe, and the **Concerts at First Church** Saturday classical concert series, in addition to our Friday Folk Coffeehouse events.



**The Doppelgängers
Friday, April 19, 2024**

First Church Friday Folk Coffeehouse presents its seventh concert of the 2023-2024 season featuring the Doppelgängers at First Church and Parish Dedham 670 High Street, Dedham on **Friday, April 19, 2024 at 7:30 pm** in the 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.

The Doppelgängers , Kenny Raskin and RF Berks, make their triumphant return to the Church, having played the Friday Folk Coffeehouse concerts in 2022 and 2023. Both RF and Kenny have had their own musical careers as singer/songwriters, but revel in the camaraderie of playing together. Their style is Americana, with a touch of swing as well. While their careers have been different, their love of acoustic music and singing harmony has brought them together and found them playing everywhere from living rooms to music festivals.

The two men met in 2015 at the Maine Fiddle Camp, where they soon found out that many people at the camp thought they were brothers. The deal was sealed when RF's daughter mistook Kenny for her father. Thus, the Doppelgängers were born. Kenny was 8 years old when his father's friend Harry gave him a ukulele. He played that ukulele until he was 11 years old. Then he discovered girls, and promptly bought a guitar. That ukulele, however, was the gateway into a fifty-year plus love affair with playing music on multiple instruments, including banjo, mandolin and bass. In 2018, Kenny released his debut CD, MY GREATEST HITS!, and in 2022 followed it with his second CD, Peace of Mind. He is also known internationally as an accomplished actor and theatre clown, having appeared on Broadway and with Cirque du Soleil, as well as on television and variety stages in the US, France, England, Chile, Germany and China.

RF Berks found a Sears guitar in the attic when he was 15 and began carrying it everywhere he went. Whenever he met a kid that could play a song or guitar lick he would make them show him how it worked until eventually he learned enough to form a band. He learned most of what he knows about music long before he studied and obtained a degree in the subject. He has been writing songs - over one hundred - for twenty-plus years, and in 2019 he released an album entitled TREAT ME WELL, which can be found on the usual streaming platforms. It was an eclectic mix of musical styles with contributing musicians from around the world. Francis is also an accomplished poet.

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 choir at Sunday services and the Parish Players theater troupe, in addition to our Friday Folk Coffeehouse events.

PARISH COMMITTEE MINUTES

Parish Committee Meeting Minutes

January 2, 2024

Prepared by: Ann Miranda, Clerk

In attendance via Zoom: Howard Ostroff, Kerrie Gallagher, Geoff Tegnell, Carol Dixon-Hutton, Peter Lutze, Becca Vautour, Mary Lynn Davis, Aoife Barrington-Haber, Rali Weaver, Matt Grady and Debbie Harrison

Meeting called to order

December 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes

- It was suggested the meeting minutes not be published before they are approved. They were published in the Parish Record by accident in December.
- Carol made a motion to approve the minutes and seconded by Geoff. All other approved minutes

Treasurer's Report

- Pete Lutze said our numbers halfway through the church year are hovering around 50%. Despite high service call for boiler, everything seems to be on track.
- A motion was made by Matt to accept the treasurer report and was seconded by Debbie and all approved.

The Parish Committee Restricted Account Value

- Howard reviewed the account with the bookkeeper Jenny Conley to figure out the Parish Committee Restricted account balance.

First Church and Parish Record Volume CXXXXIV No. IV

- The church has one checking account at Needham Bank. The account has co-mingled with Parish Committee Restricted account \$48,618.92.
- Within the account, things are tracked by line items. A separate account was set up for the PC Restricted Account to protect the funds, but funds were never moved to the account, and it only has \$100 balance.
- PC Restricted Account-there were increases (operating surpluses \$131,976.69) and decreases (when PC decided to pay something out of restricted funds, operating losses \$83,152.01) in the account that net to \$48,824.68.
- It was suggested to speak with the bookkeeper, Jenny, to get her recommendation if two months of expenses is enough to keep in the general account and move the remaining funds into a high yield account. Howard to talk with Jennie.
- In review of the decreases from the PC Restricted Account funds, some of the expenses should or may need to come from Deacons funds.
- A Memo about the account, details of how balances were determined any, and steps taken to move money into accounts should be in the Parish Committee Records.

Ministers Report

- May take some time in April to go to Australia.
- Will be having a Council on Committees meeting in January.

RE Report

- We have served many existing families of FCPD at the kids' night and have a few new families.
- Beginning this week, Lisa will open Neighboring Faiths to the community to join.

Audit Status

- Jeff Hutton is the second auditor with Lisa.
- Jeff has started reviewing the Deacons Report.
- Matt made a motion for an outside auditor to be hired for a range of \$6,000 to \$10,000 to be paid from the Parish Committee Restricted Funds. This was seconded by Carol and approved by all members present.

Review of building repairs requested by BSLC

- Per Rali, they have started getting estimates of water proofing of basement which will include the linoleum floor, fixing of door and bulkhead door.
- The purple classroom ceiling is leaking again and there is debris on the floor per Geoff.
- It was suggested the discussion be tabled until next meeting. The Deacons need to be involved.
- There was an estimate a few years back for regrading and French drains to help prevent water leaks.

Civic Engagement Committee report

- Howard gave a report from the committee.
- 11 people are on the committee, and they met on December 31.
- There were discussions about the current mission of the committee and suggested revisions which will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- The question of what events in the community should partake in was raised.
- The committee will do sign ups for Dedham food Pantry February 17 and April 6. Eight to ten volunteers are needed.
- A decision was made to establish Google drive with each FCPD committee to have their own folders.

Formation of Finance Committee / brainstorm budget needs

- Who should be on the committee?
- The treasurer, Peter Lutze will need to be on the committee, but others are needed to help.
- Howard suggested and will reach out to Johnny Pape be part of the committee as he worked on it last year.
- A suggestion was made to ask Josh Langmead to join the committee. Howard will ask Josh.
- Becca and Mary Lynn volunteered to join the committee.

Chair for Stewardship Committee

- Kerrie will ask Steve Brayton to co-chair the committee.
- Last year co-chairs were Ann Grady, Karen Doneghy.
- A suggestion was made to ask last year's chairs.

Other new business

- Questions were asked about whether Parish Players will come back soon.
- It was suggested that before special congregational meeting and/or annual meetings, the PC get together. The special meeting had errors and procedures need to be followed for church governance. Roles need to be established before the meeting. Carol suggested a Google document be created with instructions of what warrants look like, procedures and roles of participants. A refresher on Roberts Rules would also be helpful.
- Next meeting: February 6, 2024
- Motion to adjourn was made by Matt Grady and seconded by Kerrie.