



The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXXII Number 4

March & April 2022

Worship in March and April 2022

Join us in the in the Meeting House for worship

Please excuse our appearance as some of the interior painting is done.

There will be coffee and tea and discussion after worship in the Parish Hall.

Feel free to bring your own snacks.

Sunday, March 6, 2022

The Gifts of Woman's Work

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

In honor of Women's History Month we will consider the gifts of women's work and just what is women's work anyway?

Sunday, March 13, 2022

The Good Enough Samaritan

The Rev. Dan Hotchkiss will preach.

Most of us try to be good people. We engage in acts of kindness and we do our best to be constructive citizens. But the more fully we face up to the scope of our world's challenges, the more exhausting being good can be.

How can we live well enough?

A discussion will follow worship.

Rev. Dan Hotchkiss is a UU minister and author of *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership*.

Sunday, March 20, 2022

"You Are Light"

by Rev. Jill Cowie

India Arie's reminder that we are light is lovely to sing because it draws us into the very essence of interdependence and belonging and with that comes a whole lot of perspective, humility and forgiveness. The Rev Jill Cowie recently served the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church.

Sunday, March 27, 2022

The Dance of the Matriarch and Patriarchy

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach

In honor of Women's History month we will consider the way concepts of gender have changed since the increased acceptance of transgenderism and what obstacles are created by a binary system.

Zoom Social Hour every Sunday at 11:30.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9990613996>

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All worship can be found either live streamed or after the fact at www.dedhamuu.org

Sunday, April 3, 2022

Make 'em Laugh

The Rev Rali Weaver and Susan White will make you laugh

As Phillis Diller once said "A smile is a curve that sets everything straight." Come to church this Sunday to put a smile on your face!

Sunday, April 10, 2022

The Winds of Change, Forever Blown

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

We will consider the nature of change and how to ride the waves without getting swallowed by the sea.

Sunday, April 17, 2022

Easter Sunday

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

We will be celebrating springtime! And hopefully seeing more faces in the Meeting House this Sunday as this is also Music Sunday! And an Easter Egg hunt will follow worship as well as a reception on the green!.

Friday, April 22, 2022 5 PM

Potluck Passover Seder

All ages are invited to retell the story of the Israelites' escape from Egypt to the promised land.

Watch for sign up in the all church email or call

Rali 617-459-5979

Sunday, April 24, 2022

UU Urban Ministry

The Rev. Mary Margeret Earl will preach

The Rev. Mary Margaret Earl is Executive Director and Senior Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry. In this ministry, she has worked to strengthen bonds between UUs and the Roxbury neighborhood where the UUUM operates. She is on the Moral Movement Massachusetts leadership team, which works to connect faith leaders with those impacted by poverty.

From Our Minister: The Rev. Rali Weaver

Now that the tide is turning with the Omicron Variant and we will be returning to the Meeting House with windows open, Corsi-Rosenthal boxes filtering air and the choir singing, I hope we will see more of you at 10 am in Church on Sunday Mornings. UU's have never been known to take attendance or to make people feel bad about missing Sunday Worship, however the disheartening attendance is starting to get to me. I feel uncertain about how to turn things around. How to return to some sense of 'normalcy' in our church life.

I imagine this is how many of us feel these days, uncertain about how to return, how to step back into the world after almost two years of constraint. We had the false start at the start of the church year and now as the covid cases plummet and more children are vaccinated and we move closer to herd immunity we will pick up the pace on church activities, and hope to see many of you return.

I imagine there is a psychological return that must happen before a physical return to church. Just as the Israelites took over 50 years to get used to freedom after generations of slavery in Egypt, so to must we be patient with our shift back to our lives after quarantine.

It is my hope that spring will offer a whole host of opportunities for us to gather and reconnect. We will continue to have discussions after worship and as we return to the Church for worship. We will have coffee and tea in the Parish hall for those who wish to stay to discuss anything. You are invited to bring your own snacks. On Easter we will have a catered reception on the green during the easter egg hunt and after that we will rebuild coffee hour teams to finish out the church year.

Because I believe that stories that serve as examples in our lives are the best things to help give a model for navigating troubled times, we will revive the First Church Potluck Passover Seder this year on Friday, April 22, 2022 at 5pm. There will be sign up information in the All Church Email. As in year's past, I will prepare the Lamb and Turkey and one Vegan option and we ask for participants to bring sides, desserts, wine, grape juice or help with set up or clean up. I hope this will be a wonderful gathering for all ages.

On Mother's Day Sunday May 8th, we will be walking in the Mother's Day Walk for Peace- if you can participate I hope you will sign up. If not I hope you will enjoy the hymn singing service or stay home and watch us virtually! There is more information about this in this parish record.

Saturdays: March 26, April 23, and May 21 we will gather at the church at 9:30-12 or so for our Nature and Nurture Society Walk. We plan this to be an enjoyable walk for all ages and skills and hope you can join us.

We would like to start getting small group ministry together (groups of 6-8 who gather periodically to discuss topical and spiritual concerns). I will be tapping several of you to assist with this effort. If you would be interested in helping to lead a small group of your fellow parishioners please let me know. All leaders of small group ministry will receive some training and support.

I also hope to pull together a Civic Engagement Collective, a group of people interested in helping the congregation plan and participate in Social Action concerns, including planning the Social Justice Documentary Film Series for next year. If you are interested in being a part of this please let me know.

Finally, we need to revive several of the committees in our parish following covid quarantine, if you are interested in Membership, Civic Engagement, Adult RE, caring for our Buildings and Grounds we need you. So please reach out to me or to Grace to get involved. I hope everyone reading this will get involved in some way in the coming months and year. We need you to keep our church and parish active.

Rev. Rali M. Weaver on Zoom 8-8:30 am <https://zoom.us/j/684365896>
for daily check-in and meditation
Thursdays 5-6 on Zoom for Readers and Writers workshop
and Sundays at 11:30 for Zoom Social Hour
In the Church Office Tuesday through Friday 10-3
raliweaver@dedhamuu.org or 617-4595-5979
or make an appointment online at <https://revraliweaver.youcanbook.me>

Parish Record March/April 2022

From our the UUEP Assistant: Lisa Pilat

Hello from UU Explorers,

What a winter it has been! Cold weather, lots of snow and empty classrooms. It was hard to move to being remote again after Christmas, we really miss the kiddos!

The RE Committee met this week and I am so happy to say that we are resuming in person classes on 3/6/22. It will be so wonderful to get back together again.

The high school youth group is getting back up and running and our first get together will be Friday night 2/25/22 for Ice Skating!

Many thanks to the families and kids for their contributions and stories that helped in keeping us connected.

I am looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Warmly,
Lisa Pilat

From our Church Administrator: Grace Peña

The Church Office hours are:
Monday ~ Closed
Tuesday through Friday ~ 10 am-2 pm

Hello! This new Parish Record finds me in the office three days a week now. Rali and I are in the office on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Rali is in the office on Wednesday. The office is closed on Monday.

It's been great to be up to my full 15 hours. I look forward to the longer daylight hours, the increasing daily temperature (hopefully) and getting outdoors more in the coming Spring.

Have you checked out my new section in the weekly church email:

Help Around the Office

It's been great to get responses to my requests for help with such tasks as getting the Parish Record mailed out. Plus, it's been great to spend some time with you!

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

Parish Record March/April 2022

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

Care and Concern

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

In particular we hope you would reach out with a card or a call to Martha Leonard, Joan Wisloki, Maryanne Osborne, Mary Dario 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 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/CsUKhnzrXLhD6DJW6>

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>

Louis D. Brown Mother's Day Walk for Peace

You can participate in one of three ways:

1. Pledge our First Church Team and help us reach our \$3000 goal.

<https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/Team/View/156349/First-Church-and-Parish-Dedham-UU>

2. Register to Walk with the First Church team on May 8th

<https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/Team/View/156349/First-Church-and-Parish-Dedham-UU>

3. Or register to walk virtually on your own and tune in to watch the virtual broadcast on the day of.



26th ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY WALK FOR PEACE

“Building Together for Generation Peace”

Join us **Sunday, May 8, 2022** for our
26th Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace

*Starting Point 8:00 AM (Program) 8:30 AM (Kick off)
11:30 AM (Closing Rally) EST
Town Field Park, 1520 Dorchester Ave
Dorchester, MA 02122*

*Optional Entry Point: 9:00 AM (Program)
9:30 AM (Kick off) EST
Madison Park High School
75 Malcom X Blvd, Roxbury Crossing, MA 02120*

Or tune into our virtual broadcast at
9:00 AM on www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org
produced by media partners NECN/NBC 10 Boston

Register, start a team, donate or sponsor
www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org



Adult Religious Exploration

Nature and Nurture Society (Social Distancing walk): Will start up again, on the Fourth Saturday of the month. Come rain or shine we will be walking together this month on March 26, April 23, & May 21. We will explore the works of the transcendentalists and explore the nature theater that brought them so close to the divine. Contact Rali if you are interested so she can give you directions and knows who to wait for. 617-459-5979 or raliweaver@dedhamuu.org. New walkers are always welcome!

Daily Meditations: Join Rali for 30 minutes of check-in and meditation, 8:00-8:30 every day of the week on Zoom <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/684365896>

Eighth Principle Project: If you are interested in discussing the possibility of adding an eighth UU principle to our seven, one that encourages us to address issues of racism and White Supremacy in our congregations and the world. Please contact Rev. Rali Weaver raliweaver@dedhamuu.org 617-459-5979 to find a mutually agreeable time to meet.

A First Church Reader and Writer Group has changed it's time to invite more. It now meets **every Wednesday** from 5pm - 6 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.

This is a fun and enjoyable time for all those who participate. Please join us on Zoom <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87160212466>. New readers and writers are always welcome



Want more free Adult Religion Education Classes? Check out the CommuUnity Collaborative. This is a Unitarian Universalist platform created/conducted by ministers and staff teams who want to share **new programs** with their congregations, and beyond. Our course catalog includes a variety of stimulating programs and workshops to help adults deepen their faith, wrestle with big questions, and nurture their souls.

Churches that are part of the collaborative: The First Church in Belmont, First Church in Jamaica Plain (UU), First Parish UU in Medfield, UU Congregational Society of Westborough, First Church in Salem (UU), First Parish UU of Northborough, and The First Church and Parish in Dedham. <https://www.commuunitycollaborative.com/>

First Church Parish Committee Meeting Notes, Monday, December 6, 2021, 7:00 PM

Attendees: Josh Langmead, Jonathan Pape, Debbie Harrison, Rali Weaver, Erik Meyer-Curley, Geoff Tegnell, Kerrie Gallagher, Howard Ostroff, Paquita Bass, Rali Weaver, Andrea Gilmore,

Meeting called to order: 7:06 PM

Gratitudes: Holly Faire a miracle and fun; Weekend is over and thankful for all the help; Good planning of the John Muratore concert; continued groups of volunteers who are very competent. Thanksgiving dinner with ill friends

Review and Approve:

Minutes from November 1, 2021 meeting (requires approval): Unanimously accepted.

Treasurer's Report (requires approval: We are at around 40% and the pledges are on track. Expenses are also on track. Auditor questions about the Benevolent Fund. Erik passed this off to Cindy. Vicky Berg and Sharon Lane have custody of this fund and are working on how to oversee this fund. We have increased our building use prices and are having no negative feedback regarding the increase. We are short staffed for building use rentals now. We should announce plate connections at the door at the end of the service. We need to put the QR code into the Vanco site, so we can discriminate between pledges and donations. Unanimously accepted

Minister's Report: We raised \$3500 on Holly Faire. The Ministry Committee will organize evaluation info on 12/11. Rali will do a worship service to describe what Small Group Ministries are about because of some confusion evidenced in the Appreciative Inquiry so far. We are weighing responses about the site of the winter services Meeting House, auditorium, or Parish House. Rali is recruiting a planning committee for her 1/15/23-6/15/23 sabbatical. We are exploring a collaborative adult RE network with other churches. Rali will do her Justice Film Series virtually this winter. The Holly Faire committee needs to be recruited this coming spring.

RE: Not doing OWL because we need new teachers and have no collaborators within other churches.

New Business

Annual Meeting: Rali needs to find the missing warrants. Meeting will be at 11 AM on the 12th.

Moderator: Geoff calls for nominations. Howard nominates Mason Miranda.

Budget: Will be discussed by Erik.

Matt Grady: Voted in as Deacon under new business. Debby will explain that Jenn Atkins has resigned.

Winter Services: We might need to make a change concerning winter services with the alternatives being Meeting House, auditorium, or Parish House. The alternative proposed is the auditorium setup, 6 feet apart and masked, up to 40 attendees. Unanimously accepted.

January Meeting In-Person: Meet in person in the dining room? We can spread out. Let's watch what is going on with Covid. Some members wanted to discuss how best to use the time in our meeting. A suggestion is that we serve only desserts for time sake, starting at 6:30 PM.

Action Items

Groundskeeper: We have talked about showing appreciation for Mark Brooks taking care of First Church ground. We should take any bonus gratitude gift out of Buildings and Grounds. Maybe \$250. Motion was passed unanimously.

Letter of Agreement with Minister Committee: Issue is the addition of specific language by the committee to craft next year's letter of agreement. Debby Harrison and Jonathan Pape will help out. We should have the Ministerial Committee present to talk about the inquiry in the near future.

New Business: Language by kids at BSLC is offensive to some and Andrea wants to make it more clearly understood that respectful language is required. BSLC has had a school community meeting to address this.

Next Meeting

Monday, January 3, 2022 at 7:00pm

Adjourn at 8:33PM December 6, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Tegnell, Clerk for Parish Committee

First Church Parish Committee Meeting Monday, January 3, 2022, 7:00 Meeting

Attendees: Josh Langmead, Jonathan Pape, Debbie Harrison, Rali Weaver, Erik Meyer-Curley, Geoff Tegnell, Kerrie Gallagher, Howard Ostroff, Matt Grady, Paquita Bass, Rali Weaver, Andrea Gilmore

Call meeting to order at 7:06 PM

Gratitude: For the New Year and a healthier 2022; for the return of JT from a dog sledding adventure, for Xmas with healthy family members; for extended family who strategize how to see each other safely; for healthcare workers who are doing a good job taking care of others; for siblings who help out with family member illnesses; for Rali feeling better and Jenny pitching in on last Sunday; for Kayla Chicoine's service to the church, appreciation upon her resignation from Parish Committee.

Review and Approve:

Minutes from December 6, 2021: meeting (requires approval) Questions about meeting the \$8K number for building use, but we are concerned as to the impact of Covid. We are receiving no negative feedback about our new increased prices. We agreed to pay Mark Brooks \$250 and Howard hasn't seen the check. Andrea will make a check request for this amount to Mark. Rali will take care of this tomorrow. At winter services we need to have under rather than over 40 attendees. Minutes with above revisions were approved unanimously (with Jon as an abstention because he was engaging in child care at this time.)

Treasurer's Report (requires approval): Erik says that the numbers of income are not up to date. Salaries reflect changes in Grace's salary. Erik discussed questions about accounting for pledges for 2020-21 versus 2021-22. Andrea is concerned about separating \$ from 2020-21 and 2021-22. Erik thinks that these funds need to be properly labeled and that corrections need to be made to make sure we don't count \$ twice. Erik will do the appropriate corrections. We do not need the Congregation to revote on 4793 (out of last year's budget) and we need the auditors to okay the change. We are presently clarifying budget lines 4701 and 4792. Erik will make the necessary change after consultation with the PC chairs and the deacons. Andrea also has concerns about accounting of restricted and the minister's equity funds numbers. We will continue to work on this in February after Erik pulls what has gone into and out of that fund. Then we need to consult with Jenny about how to account for these Parish Committee funds and Erik will look for the missing \$16K.

Minister's Report: Rali was sick on Sunday and realizes she needs to train others to set up the Zoom. Xmas Eve might be healthier on the Green. Rali will continue meditation and the writer's workshop. She will stream the justice films so folks can see and comment on them at home. The

Ministry Committee is compiling the results of the Appreciative Inquiry. Rali is planning her sabbatical for next year.

RE: No children's classes because of Covid and will hold classes when students are less imperiled by Covid.

New Business

January /February/March Services: In January we will meet in the auditorium. There will be no choir in January, but Darry will play instrumental music. We will wait and see about February and March.

Review Budget Projections: Need to start preparing for this spring's Stewardship campaign. We are currently 4% over budget. Members were concerned about potential snow clearing costs. Debbie pointed out that \$1000 will come in from the December Jon Muratore concert.

Stewardship Committee: We need to get the Parish Committee more involved with the Stewardship Committee. Parish Committee members might make testimonial videos about why we contribute pledges to First Church and also help with accounting of the pledges that come in. In April Parish Committee folks will make calls, based on March numbers. Howard and Kerrie will help Rali with setting up this campaign

Action Items

Dedham School of Music needs new space. They would like to use the First Church. Jon would help facilitate music lesson space for the kids. The Building Use Committee has to decide on pricing. (Bay State Learning Center isn't in the dining room or in the auditorium in the Parish House on Friday.) Rali can talk with Jon about rooms that aren't used during the week as well as after 4 PM. We are talking about one-on-one music lessons. Jon will get the numbers and come to the Building Use Committee ASAP. Community Band also needs space (auditorium?)

Next Steps Portraits: Compile a list of portraits, create a history of the individuals in the portraits, collaborate with the DHSM to research the historical background of ministers, and then, based on what emerges, we will have an opportunity to do further planning. We will transfer the archives we have to the Harvard Divinity School archive in January/February and come up with a history of the ministers in question to share with the congregations in order to determine next steps.

Next Meeting

Monday, February 7, 2022 at 7:00pm

Adjourned at 9:15 PM on January 3rd, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Tegnell, Clerk for Parish Committee