



The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

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September, 2010

Sundays in the Meeting House

**September 12, 10:00 AM: “Keeping the River Flowing”
Homecoming Sunday: The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.
This is an intergenerational Service**

On this first Sunday of the church year we will explore the gifts of water in our lives and how we keep the water of our lives from becoming stagnate. Everyone is invited to bring a sample of water from their summer vacation to share as part of this service. If you have a picture you would like to share of where your water came from please email it to raliweaver@dedhamuu.org

Sunday School Registration Begins after the service.

**September 19, 10:00 AM: “Cultivating our True Nature”
The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.
Sunday School Begins – Children will start in the Meeting House and proceed to the First Sunday of Sunday School.**

Margaret Mead wrote that “Human nature is potentially aggressive and destructive and potentially orderly and constructive.” On this Sunday morning we will explore ways to foster our own natures for the good of all.

**September 26, 10:00 AM: “The Gifts of Contrition”.
The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.
Children will start in the Meeting House and be sung to their Sunday School classes.**

In other religious traditions prayers of contrition and sometimes-even acts of contrition are a large part of what worship and spiritual community offer to adherents. This Sunday we will explore what gifts contrition may have offered and how it might be looked at within our UU Context.

Calendar

Parish Committee: Sept 7, 7:00
New England Sewing Guild: Sept 11, 9:00 AM
Parish Players Auditions: Sept 11, 1:00 PM
Sabbath Sundays, Starting Sept 12, Noon
Cakes: Sept 17, 6:30
Water Station on the Green: Sept 25
Common Ground Fair Excursion:
Leaves Friday, Sept. 24, 5:00
Returns Saturday Sept 25, afternoon
Youth Group: TBA – Contact Aoife
Meditation: Thursdays, 7:30

Please watch the website for the complete and up-to-date calendar and details of all upcoming events.
www.dedhamuu.org

From Our Minister

This is an exciting time of year we can never be sure what will happen. Of course this church has been here for nearly three hundred and seventy two years so it is not as though it has no form. Still we close up each Spring and start anew each Fall and this offers us a new start.

New starts can be daunting. They carry with them all the promise and impediments of the years before. However if we can let go of the past and start fresh again a clean slate can be offered. Even so the clean slate can be as frightening as one that has directions written on it.

How many times in your own life have you encountered this empty slate to write on? The start of a new school or job?

The beginning of a new relationship?

New starts offer us a chance to begin again in a place where anything can be formed.

For this to happen though we must allow space.

Space to reflect and space to open up.

Allowing this type of transformative space in our busy lives isn't easy but it is what the Sabbath was originally formed for. In Hebrew the word Sabbath means to rest. This year I hope we find plenty of time to rest together.

In this starting formation there is so much we don't know.

Who will come to church?

What will we create together?

Anything can happen.

But this we know we have a community of caring people who are gathered together for the common good of all.

I am looking forward to seeing what can happen.

I hope you are too.

Rali

Rev. Rali Weaver is the Senior Minister at First Church and Parish in Dedham.
She can be reached at raliweaver@yahoo.com

Focus on Religious Education

Greetings everyone, and welcome back!

A few weeks ago some of you received a mailing regarding teaching in the children's RE program this year. Many thanks to those of you who returned your cards and signed up to teach. If you have not returned yours, please do so. If you did not receive the mailing but would like to teach, I would be ever so happy to speak with you! I can be easily reached on my cell phone: 617-872-6960.

This September marks the start of my second year as Director of Religious Education at First Church. While I was raised a UU, this does not automatically make me an expert on the faith, its history, or its people. This is mainly true because ours is a story that continues to write itself each day, each moment in fact. As I write this, new ideas of faith are being formed and discussed. Congregations are exploring new ways to govern themselves fairly. Social action projects are dreamt up by youths eager to change the world. Church leaders are pondering ways to actively welcome folks from all walks of life so that diversity becomes a reality, not just an ideal.

The more I learn about our faith, the more proud I am to be a part of it!

For the last couple of years our church school students have raised money for Greg Mortensen's organization *Pennies for Peace*, which builds schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Last year our kids got a little taste of these cultures as a lead-in to the project, including reading books about the children they would be helping. Having this connection makes it much harder, for me at least, to ignore the news of the devastating floods in Pakistan that killed more than a thousand and robbed millions of their homes, schools, and livelihoods.

So when I heard on the news today that a suicide bomber had killed 59 people in Pakistan, my first thought was "WHY?!" I wanted to yell at the radio, "Why, when so many people in your country are suffering and desperately need help, why would you chose to bring about more deaths?" Call me Pollyanna if you will, but wouldn't that kind of impassioned belief be put to better use by staying alive and fighting to make the world a better place?

This why the world needs more UU's. We never insist that anyone share our religious beliefs. But we do **Insist on a fair, just and peaceful world for all people***. This year I invite you find ways to connect each Sunday by living your faith throughout the week, and to share these ways with your fellow congregants. Our beliefs may be individual but we show our unity by our actions and the way we treat people. For example, I was very proud last year to have a parent tell me how her son had defended an outsider who was being teased by his teammate. How's that for a UU hero? Let me know if you have something to share in the Sunday service or the weekly email, or would like to plan an activity for church school.

I look forward to another wonderful year full of learning, action, and fellowship.

Aoife

*From "The Rainbow Path" version of the Seven Principles by Meg Riley and E. Katzmann.

Aoife Barrington-Haber is our Religious Education Director. She can be reached at faeriecool@hotmail.com

All Around the Church Community

Fall Fair Alert!

The Fall Fair is **Saturday, October 16th from 10-2pm**. The date is roughly one month after church resumes; so the planning begins **NOW!**

Starting September 12th, volunteer sign-up sheets will be ready at coffee hour. Please peruse the different types of volunteer opportunities and consider lending a hand. Some of our needs are:

Raffle Items

Popular items in past years have included iPod shuffles, quilts, jewelry and gift baskets/collections. Service offerings such as massage, piano lessons and meal preparation are also in demand. However, second-hand items are not appropriate for this particular attraction.

Gently-used, Second-hand Clothing

Homemade Goodies

A major Fall Fair attraction! Cookies, bars, cakes, pies, breads, muffins, soups, beans and more... freshly prepared and donated by First Church's talented chefs.

"Soup Night" Cooks

Friday evening, October 15th 6-7:30.

Staffing

A huge range of needs. Something for everyone: set up, food selling, arts and crafts, money collecting, children's games and clean-up!

Face Painting

Always looking for an enthusiastic artists willing to add to the fair's flair!

Bakers

This year, our annual baking contest will be a little different... We will accept submissions from Adult/Child Teams. And like American Idol, anyone can judge, but one must pay to vote. Details to follow, but get your kitchens and taste buds ready!

T-Shirt

Still looking for ideas/concepts/designs for a First Church t-shirt. If possible, its unveiling would take place at the fair.

The Fall Fair promise to be a lot of fun. However, if volunteering does not work for you, please consider joining the festivities by attending! It is a great way to meet and get to know fellow church and community members.

And please, everyone, spread the word!!!

Many thanks,
Liz and Grace

All Around the Church Community

This Year's Parish Players Production

Hi Everybody!

I hope everyone had a great summer. How does [Godspell](#) sound to you all? That will be this year's Parish Players production.

And, we are doing something else exciting and having performances in November. The dates for the show will be November 12, 13 and 14.

Of course, that means auditions are coming very soon: next **Saturday, September 11th 1-3 pm** in the auditorium. To sign-up please e-mail me to let me know that you want to audition. Let me know if you have time constraints and I will get back to you with your time.

Come prepared to sing a song. Diane (Winchester) says that anything from Happy Birthday to Music of the Night will be great. You will also be asked to read a passage from the script or to recite something.

So e-mail me at vmhickey@yahoo.com

Diane and I are looking forward to seeing you on Saturday and to having a wonderful experience with Godspell!

Virginia (Hickey-Ferentinos)

Sabbath Sundays

Would you like to create more of a sense of Sabbath on Sundays? So would we. Starting Sunday September 19th following social hour interested parties will meet for a Sunday walk or to go to brunch or to meditate. The gathered group will determine the purpose of the gathering. If you are interested or would like more details please contact Rev. Rali Weaver raliweaver@dedhamuu.org.

Sewing Guild

The Boston Chapter of the American Sewing Guild is having a meeting in the dining room **Saturday Sept. 11th from 10am to 1 pm**. There will be two presenters. Eileen Petre will show how she makes her intricate polymer clay buttons. Donna Morales-Oemig will dazzle us with her knowledge of thread. Both will have product available for sale. The chapter's accumulated stash of donated fabric and notions will be on sale with all proceeds to benefit their scholarship fund. The Sewing Guild's purpose is to serve the sewing enthusiast of providing the broadest possible range of information, education assistance and support. Members of the church family are welcome to come to enjoy the program and to learn about this active organization. Contact Pam Aist for more information.

All Around the Church Community

Garden Beds Need Adopting

Several garden beds around the church property need serious care and attention. Would you and your family be willing to pick one space to keep clean of weeds and trim? We need 5 or more families/individuals to make our church grounds look beautiful. Will you help? Please contact the church office or Rev. Weaver at raliweaver@dedhamuu.org for more information.

Deepening our Understanding of the UU Faith

Are you new to Unitarian Universalism? Or would you like to deepen your own faith? Do you love discussing our foundations and values? If so this would be the class for you. Join us Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 from **October 5th** through **November 2nd**. Please sign up in the Dining Room or by contacting Rev. Rali Weaver at raliweaver@dedhamuu.org. or 617-459-5979

Worship Associates

Have you ever wanted to improve your public speaking skills, or felt you had something you wanted to say about worship subjects each week. This year we are searching for individuals who will assist weekly with worship by helping to set up, offer readings, assist with joys and concerns and otherwise help worship go smoothly. If you are interested or would like more information please contact Rev. Rali Weaver at raliweaver@dedhamuu.org. Or 617-459-5979

The Common Ground Fair, Unity, Maine



CELEBRATE RURAL LIVING WITH MOFGA

SEPTEMBER 24, 25 & 26, 2010
UNITY, MAINE
GATES OPEN AT 9:00 AM

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association • P.O. Box 179 • Unity, Maine 04989 • 207-568-4142
www.mofga.org

For those who are interested an excursion to the Maine Organic Farmer's Common Ground Fair will leave from First Church on Friday late afternoon/evening September 24th and stay overnight so as to attend the Common Ground Fair on Saturday Sept, 25th.

Costs will include one night hotel stay and admission to the Fair. If you are interested in going please contact the Rev. Rali Weaver (raliweaver@dedhamuu.org).

For more information about the fair itself and organic farming in Maine, visit their website: www.mofga.org/fb01.html

UU Urban Ministry Volunteer Opportunities:

Fall Volunteer Training - Sign Up Now!

October 7, 14, 21, 28, & Nov 4 from 6-9:00 p.m. AND Saturday, Oct. 16 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (please note change in Saturday date)

This comprehensive training is required of anyone who wants to volunteer at Renewal House. If interested, please fill out our [online volunteer application](#) and indicate your interest in being a Renewal House volunteer.

Some examples of what Renewal House volunteers do include:

Leading self-esteem workshops

Mentoring residents

Offering training and support to Renewal House staff Coordinating a legislative advocacy day at the State House

Helping with various errands

Organizing the shelter

Join the ELL Teaching Team

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Our ELL (English as a Learning Language) class for Renewal House residents, former residents, and community members now meets twice a week. We are always looking for more volunteer teachers. If interested, please fill out our [online volunteer application](#) and indicate your interest in ELL teaching. Training will be provided.

Beyond Shelter, Circle of Hope

Saturday, November 6, 5-8 p.m.

Saturday, January 29, 1-3 p.m.

Saturday, March 26, 1-3 p.m.

These events are for current and former Renewal House residents and their children. Congregations can help by providing food and small gifts or leading an activity for the children.