



# The First Church and Parish in Dedham

[www.dedhamuu.org](http://www.dedhamuu.org)

Volume CXXXVI, No III

January & February of 2016

## Sundays in January and February

In January and February we worship in the

**January 3, 2016**

### Smile, And Maybe Tomorrow

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach  
On our first Sunday in the New Year we will explore the importance of laughter and what smiling more in 2016 might do for us.

**January 10, 2016**

### Philosophy and Science

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach  
The validity of philosophy was diminished when science became the rule of the day. This Sunday we will consider what was lost.

**January 17, 2016**

### Examining Whiteness

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach  
This Sunday we will explore the value of exploring all the privilege that comes from our birthplace and race.

**January 24, 2016**

### Hymn Sing

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will lead worship  
Come to worship this week armed to sing your favorite hymns. WE will explore the value of music in worship.

**January 31, 2016**

### Thomas Merton

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach  
We will explore the life and work of the American Catholic author and mystic and ask what comparative religion might teach.

**February 7, 2016**

### The Church that Generosity Built

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach  
We benefit from generations of generosity.  
This Sunday we will explore all the gifts we have been given and how we might build on that legacy.

**February 14, 2016**

### Ways of Love

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach  
We all express love in different ways. On this Valentine's Day we will explore different expressions of love and how we might show love more often.

**February 21, 2016**

### The Cost of Unjust Justice

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach  
In the midst of our Justice Film Series we will explore the costs of inequality and injustice.

## What's Happening

### Office Hours

Pat Hawkins: Tuesday 9-1, Wednesday 11-4 Friday 9-1  
Grace Peña: Monday, Wednesday 9-2, Friday 9-12 Sunday 8-12  
Rev. Rali Weaver Monday- Thursday 9-2  
Sundays and by appointment

### Calendar of Outside Events

**Sunday** 5 pm AA Meeting Dedham Village  
**Monday** 6:15 p.m. Healing Yoga\*  
**Tuesday** 9 a.m. AA meeting in Minister's Office  
10:30 a.m. Senior Fitness  
**Wednesday** 6 pm Private Women's 12 step Meeting  
**Thursday** 10:30 a.m. Senior Fitness  
**Friday** 7:30 am. Healing Yoga\*

Watch the church calendar, weekly email, order of service and website for more details

### Upcoming Events

**Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> 7pm Minister's office**  
**Waking Up White** book group

**Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> 6 p.m. Mom's Group**  
**Parish Hall**

**Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> 10-2 pm**

\*Anti-Racism Summit  
UU Urban Ministry

**Sundays, February 7-28<sup>th</sup> at 2pm**

\*Justice Film Series  
Come enjoy films on issues of Race and Class

\* See details in this Parish Record

Please see our NEW website for the complete and up-to-date calendar [www.dedhamuu.org](http://www.dedhamuu.org)

**February 28, 2016**

### How the Speed of Light Changed Everything

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach  
We often take for granted all that electricity has brought to us. On this last Sunday in February we will explore all that light and energy has brought to us.

### \*The Justice Matinee Series

All Sundays in February at 2 p.m. we will view films that explore issues of race and inequality in our nation and the world.

Join us for popcorn, film and discussion.

This event is free.

Donations are welcome.

Please share the word.

### From Our Minister

During the months of January and February we worship in the Dining Room. I know for some this is a cozy, warm and inviting experience and for others it is a disappointing, cramped and imperfect experience. We certainly don't all experience things the same way. The one thing that is true for all of us is that we save gallons and gallons of oil by staying out of our Meeting House during the coldest months and as a result reduce our carbon footprint.

As the ocean temperatures become warmer and icebergs have been melting it may seem silly to inconvenience ourselves for the sake of our environment, and yet it feels good to do something and we save hundreds of gallons of oil when we do this.

It is easy to be discouraged when we are faced with the world's problems. Finding ways to show our commitment to change can lift our spirits and help to shift our consciousness from defeat to promise.

During the months of January and February we will be exploring all kinds of ways that we awaken to the plight of the world and do what we can to shift our consciousness. I hope you will participate in one of the Anti Racism events offered by the UU Urban Ministry this year and attend at least one of the Justice Matinee Series films in February. I will also be offering a book group on the book Waking Up White by Debby Irving.

It is my hope that all of these events will begin conversations that will lead to action within and outside of our congregation. While no one action can change the world, all of our efforts combined can make a difference.

Let us walk together toward justice. If you have events or activities you would like to share with the wider congregation, or ideas of things we could do, please let me know, and I will help you get the word out.

Can you tell I look forward to walking with you in 2016?

Happy New Year!

Rali

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#### Possible films for the Justice Matinee Series in February:

The Theme is "Black Lives Matter"

These are just ideas. If you are interested in helping to plan this series contact me!

#### **What Happened Miss Simone?**

The award-winning documentary explores how Nina Simone used her life to fuel her fight for freedom and equality. The film sources old music recordings, interviews with Simone's friends and family, and footage of Simone herself, providing a glimpse into the civil rights struggle that has defined contemporary black life.

#### **The Black Power Mixed Tape 1967-1975**

The film explores the rise and fall of the Black Power Movement in America. It provides context to some of the issues that were not addressed by the Civil Rights Movement and to how those problems have lingered in communities across America.

#### **Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Movement 1954-1985**

The exhaustive documentary series explores almost every aspect of the Civil Rights Movement. The series uses first hand accounts to reconstruct the period that has shaped black life for the last half century. It explains what the victories were and how the consequences of the failures are visible today.

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver can be reached at [raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org) or 617 459 5979

Monday through Thursday 9-2

## From Our Acting Director of Religious Education

Happy New Year!

R.E. has been VERY busy these past couple of months! We have had many special services in which the kids played important roles, and we had many celebrations.

We started with Music Sunday on 11/8 in which Nora Donaghey performed a solo with the combined choirs of First Church in Dedham and First Unitarian Society in Newton. The kids in the Riddle and Mystery class also performed by introducing the various Source music pieces. Nora Donaghey, Harper Staton-Todaro, Ryan Roberts, Zoe Carlson-Pietraszek, Lucy Carlson-Pietraszek, Derek Miller and Avery Miranda all performed so well. I am very proud of them all!

November 22nd was not only our Thanksgiving service but was also our anniversary service with the Allin Church. The kids all participated in some special activities led by Lindsey Popper, Director of Christian Education at Allin, and me. We sang songs and created a combined art project which will be up for view soon in our church. We talked about our differences as churches and how we were not really that different after all. For example, we talked about how they end their R.E. classes with a prayer for something they are either concerned about or something they are joyful for. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?! The kids at First Church realized that this practice of prayer is very similar to our own Joys and Concerns.

On 11/29 the kids create some beautiful crafts to be sold at the Holly Faire. The pine cone seeded bird feeders were a particular hit. The pine cones, gathered by Carol Dixon-Hutton and Judy Barrington, were coated with gooey peanut butter and rolled in bird seed.

12/6 was prep for our Pageant, "Would You Like to Hold the Baby?," where the kids got to learn the songs. We had a second rehearsal on Saturday 12/12 when we went through the whole pageant twice. Despite having only two rehearsals, all the kids were consummate performers on Sunday 12/13. They stepped up to the plate and hit the ball out of the park! I had so many people come up to me during coffee hour to say, "Best Pageant ever!" and "That is my favorite Pageant."

R.E. classes will be up and running starting in January. January 3rd and 10th will be the last two classes of the first term. The second term begins on 1/24. Spirit Play, Faithful Journeys and Toolbox of Faith will continue through the remainder of the year. Two new classes starting with the second term are Neighboring Faiths (grades 6 & 7) with Allison Staton and Michael Roberts and Coming of Age (grades 8 & 9) led by Steve Davey with Tyler Carpenter leading the credo- writing classes.

We will also offer an OWL class during the second term for K-1st grades led by Tom Donaghey and Kerrie Gallagher.

As you can see there is a lot to look forward to in 2016!

With love,  
Grace

Our Acting DRE is Grace Peña you may reach her at [gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org](mailto:gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org) or at **781-801-9857**.  
Her office hours are Mondays and Wednesdays 9-2, Fridays 9-12 and Sundays 8-12

**Please watch our calendar in the Order of Worship and All Church email and check the website [www.dedhamuu.org](http://www.dedhamuu.org) to stay up to date about upcoming events.**

**Small Group for Moms**

**Next Meeting Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm in the Parish Hall**

**All Moms Welcome**

We welcome mothers with school-aged children to join a new group, which will meet once a month. We only met once last spring and will try to get things started up again for monthly meetings. The meeting is a nice way to get together with other moms, connect further with our community, and unwind and relax while having a simple dinner (take out) that we will all contribute toward. Bring whatever you want to drink. If you are interested, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the dining room or email

[raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org)

**Adult RE Classes**

**New UU**

**Are you interested in knowing more about Unitarian Universalism?**

**Join Rev. Weaver for 6 discussions about our faith and traditions.**

Time and location will be determined by the group

Sign up on the bulletin board outside the Dining Room in the Parish hall  
or email [raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org)  
or call Rev. Weaver 617 459 5979

A New book group is forming on Debby Irving's book

Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race.: For twenty-five years, Debby Irving sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. As a colleague and neighbor, she worried about offending people she dearly wanted to befriend. As an arts administrator, she didn't understand why her diversity efforts lacked traction. As a teacher, she found her best efforts to reach out to students and families of color left her wondering what she was missing. Then, in 2009, one "aha!" moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan. In Waking Up White, Irving tells her often cringe-worthy story with such openness that readers will turn every page rooting for her and, ultimately, for all of us.

If you are interested in joining this book group, which will meet bi weekly starting the second week in January, sign up on the bulletin board outside the dining room.

If you are scheduling a meeting or event please be sure to check the policies on-line and fill out a building use form, or contact the Church Office for assistance.

### Civic Engagement at First Church

SAVE THE DATE! And please spread the word.

What: **Anti-Racism Summit**

Where: UU Urban Ministry (10 Putnam Street Roxbury, MA 02119)

When: Saturday, January 23, 2016

Time: 10am-2pm (Coffee and registration at 9:30am)

Featuring a panel discussion with representatives from Black Lives Matter Boston and the Muslim Justice League.

This summit for Unitarian Universalists engaged in and thinking about Racial Justice will provide an opportunity for UU groups to be together, meet others fighting for racial equality, and share best practices and ideas. Come learn how to be a more effective ally and stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matter Boston and the Muslim Community in Boston.

#### Ongoing Pipeline Protests:

**Every weekday morning from 8:00 – 9:00 am** at the construction site (GPS 5500 Washington St. West Roxbury. Landmark - Dunkin' Donuts)

**Monday evenings from 6:30 - 7:30 pm** at the site of the proposed metering and regulating station (corner of Grove St. and Centre St. in West Roxbury. GPS: 2383 Centre St, West Roxbury, MA 02132)

One of the ways that we fight injustice in our world today is through education. To that end in February we will host our third annual Justice Matinee Series, four movies shown over four weeks in our Dining Room. In past years we have addressed such issues as the plight of women and girls in our world, economic and racial inequality and corporate greed. If you are interested in helping to plan and advertise this event, please contact Rali Weaver at 617-459-5979 or at [raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org)

#### Three interesting online presentations of race issues in America Today:

**Bryan Stevenson** – Grandson of Rosa Parks speaks of problems in our Justice system and how they effect us. [http://www.ted.com/talks/bryan\\_stevenson\\_we\\_need\\_to\\_talk\\_about\\_an\\_injustice?language=en](http://www.ted.com/talks/bryan_stevenson_we_need_to_talk_about_an_injustice?language=en)

**The audio diaries of LeAlan Jones and Lloyd Newman**, two young boys living in one of the most notorious public housing projects in America. <https://soundcloud.com/storycorps/ghetto-life-101/s-ix224>

**Alex Landau and Patsy Hathaway**-a white mother adopts a black son and faces injustices she never dreamed about. <https://storycorps.org/listen/alex-landau-and-patsy-hathaway/>

## Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting

**October 5, 2015**

Present:

Natalie Jensen, Cindy Jones, Geoff Tegnell, Kathy Elefterakis, Sharon Lane, Debbie Harrison, Iyabo Obasanjo, Julia Gecha, Noreen King, Rali Weaver

Meeting called to order: 7:08 p.m.

Gratitudes

Minutes of September 24, 2015

--Motion to approve minutes--seconded--approved

Minister's Report—Rali Weaver

- Need a Technology/Communications/Publicity Committee? Discuss further
- Council on Committees met; committee fair to be October 18; 2 council meetings per year
- Staff to meet first Tuesday of month usually
- Adult RE class on consciousness and the brain on hold for now
- Goals: next Parish Record; continue connecting with parishioners; re-involvement with boards of The Chickering Foundation, Sophia Snow House, Dedham Shines, and Mass Bay District Ministers' Assoc. Exec. Committee
- Nov. 12-15 personal days; The Rev. Martha Neibank to facilitate worship (Music Sunday)

Treasurer's Report—Sharon Lane

- 20% pledges paid
- Expenses on track
- Motion to accept treasurer's report—seconded--accepted

Building and Grounds— reported by Natalie Jensen for Andrea Gilmore

- Plymouth house: 1 buildable lot instead of 2
- Bathroom by Rali's office repaired and painted

Interim Director of RE: see written report of Grace Pena

- Include funds for youth leader in next budget?

Old Business

- Committee on Ministry:
- Members confirmed: Eileen Sullivan, Dale Mayer-Curley, Claudia Leone, Tyler Carpenter, Betsy Hetzler; one more person needed; Rali to call some people
- Stewardship: Rali to call 2015 members; committee to meet and choose chairperson; Sharon offered to help with Excel spreadsheet
- Fundraising committee: Cindy and Andrea to lead; to meet soon
- Committee Fair: October 18; committees to set up and 'man' tables and offer information; Natalie to announce about Committee Fair
- Harvest Dinner: Julia made fliers and will revise; need to distribute more of them; at coffee hour people to be encouraged to attend and to sign up immediately; payment should be in advance; Natalie to meet with Julia and Noreen after PC meeting

New Business

- PC goals: Strengthen committees
  - Publicity: committees to be more visible; chalice, coffee hour, bulletin board, news
  - Staffing: recruit new members; need inventory of interest, talents, and skills

- Meeting efficiency: Meeting template; action items/follow up; Sunday meetings
  - Progression of roles/leadership: mentoring of members; evolve leadership
  - Building and Grounds: develop long range facilities plan; become proactive vs. reactive
  - Nominating committee: expand role to recruit committee members? Discuss further
  - Membership Committee: Rali to ask them to survey parishioners about what they want from church and what they can offer the church community
  - Warrants for Special Congregational Meeting of November 1 to be sent to Rali; PC members to sign them at church
- Meeting adjourned 9:00 p.m.  
Next meeting: Monday, November 2, 2015

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Harrison, Clerk

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### **Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting**

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#### **November 2, 2015**

Present:

Cindy Jones, Andrea Gilmore, Geoff Tegnell, Sharon Lane, Debbie Harrison, Iyabo Obasanjo, Julia Gecha, Noreen King, Susan Sennott, Rali Weaver

Meeting called to order: 7:10 p.m.

Gratitudes

Minutes of October 2, 2015

--Motion to approve minutes--seconded—approved

Minister's Report—Rali Weaver

- Extra time supporting several ill parishioners
- Nov. 8 special Music Sunday; Rali designing an accompanying coloring book for children
- Nov. 12-15 Rali away; guest minister Rev. Martha Neibank
- Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Service with Allin Church at First Church
- Nov. 29 New Member Sunday
- New directory available; PC request \* for members; picture version to come
- Holly Fair: volunteers have started
- Ph.D.: courses finished; to request sabbatical from studies and do thesis later than planned
- Publicity/Visibility Committee members: Tyler Carpenter, Dale Meyer-Curley, Steve Davey, Alison Staton, Julia Gecha

Interim Director of RE: see written report of Grace Pena

- Cool Deed: Guest at the Table
- Worksheet for kids at intergeneration services?
- Mural underway on wall of upper staircase
- Pageant: Dec. 13: "Would You Like to Hold the Baby?"
- RE Brochure to come
- Goals: clean up Nursery; organize papers and books and move them to new space
- Teachers seem happy; meetings go well

Treasurer's Report—Sharon Lane

- Harvest Dinner made \$1980 (typically around \$2000 raised)
- 30% pledges paid; first endowment payment received; building use payments fine
- Water bill still high (leak is now fixed); \$990 reimbursement from Church Mutual
- Overall \$15,587.28 under budget

Building and Grounds—Andrea Gilmore

- Steeple: windows found behind louvres—restore windows instead of louvres? Add beacon?
- Insurance claim check of \$10,000-16,000 to arrive, then do work (2015 winter damage)
- Parsonage basement leaks repaired
- Parking lot and driveway repairs? Soon
- Plymouth house: active consideration; Purchase and sale for lot

Old Business

--Committee on Ministry:

--Members confirmed: Eileen Sullivan, Dale Mayer-Curley, Claudia Leone, Tyler Carpenter, Betsy Hetzler; Diane Cullen-Moore; met Nov. 1; to meet monthly; evaluation draft in process; chair TBA

--Stewardship:

- Rali in process of confirming members
- Rali to notify PC of members
- Rali will ask committee to meet and choose chair(s)
- Sharon will help committee

--Fundraising committee:

- Cindy and Andrea to lead; to meet soon
- Holly Fair sign-ups posted
- Offer services to buy?
- Photos of large items for sale?
- Raffle items: Rali to mention raffle items to committees; display 3 baskets by Nov. 22

--Parish Committee Goal (strengthen committees)

--Committee Fair: low attendance day; very few people showed interest in committees; repeat in spring; Natalie's wonderful presentation with hats

--Nominating Committee

- Rali to ask Membership Comm. to survey new members regarding interests
- Expand role of Nom. Comm.? Needs further discussion

--Members: Parish Comm.: Iayabo; Deacon: Geoff; RE: Rali to ask Paquita Bass and/or Anne Miranda; need Alliance person and member at large

New Business

--December 20: PC to usher, light chalice, do coffee hour

--Dining Room Screen Repair: Much discussion regarding protocol for spending money, removal of items from property, estimates of screen's value, money spent on an item vs. actual value, etc. Rali to meet with parishioner involved; Andrea and another Deacon will meet with person separately to clarify expectations. Rali to call Norwood Lighting and request they accept no charges for sales.

--Plymouth properties:

Motion that the Parish Committee authorizes the Deacons to sell properties (#71, #75 and #76 Reed Avenue) in Plymouth, Massachusetts which were gifted to First Church in Dedham by Virginia Jones. Seconded---Approved

Meeting adjourned 8:50 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, December 14, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. (new date and time)

Pot luck dinner and Yankee Swap (\$5 maximum item from Holly Fair)

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Harrison, Clerk