



The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXXIX, No 4

March & April 2019

Worship in March and April Worship at 10:00 am in the Meetinghouse

Sunday, March 3, 2019

The Rev. Elizabeth Assenza will preach
"It Fits in the Cracks"

Growing up, the phrase I heard most often from my grandmother was that there is always room for ice cream, because it fits in the cracks. What might fit into the cracks in our lives, filling our free time and rounding out the edges of our most busy days? What else in our lives might there always be room for more of?

Sunday, March 10, 2019

Authenticating Feelings

Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach

50 years ago the book How to Talk So Kids will Listen and Listen So Kids will talk was published.

This Sunday we will celebrate the liberation movement and how authentic listening and authentic feelings may yet change the world.

Sunday, March 17, 2019

Planting Sequoias

Rev. Chris Jablonski will preach.

In his classic poem, Mad Farmer Liberation Front, curmudgeon and genius Wendell Berry tells us to "Invest in the millennium" and "Plant Sequoias." The work of making justice, the work of building community is an honoring of our covenant with the generations who have come before and those who will follow. It is putting down the narrow, self-centered focus of these days and living the truth which connects us across generations.

Sunday, March 24, 2019

Form and Function

The Rev Rali M. Weaver will preach.

Form follows function is a 20th century modernist art principle which we will consider in relation to philosophy and religion and consider where the formless void fits into a modern world.

Sunday, March 31, 2019

Electricity

The Rev Rali Weaver will preach
This Sunday we will consider how electricity has changed the world, and why and how we might turn back the clock.

Sunday, April 7, 2019

Spring Light

Music Sunday

Sunday, April 14, 2019

The Convergence of April 14th

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.
What happened on April 14th besides tax day?
Come to church on Sunday to find out.

Sunday, April 21, 2019

Easter Sunday

Our Soul's Emergence

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach.
This Easter Sunday we will celebrate spring awakening in our souls. There will be an Easter Egg hunt following the service. So much to celebrate! Spring at last

Sunday, April 28, 2018

Individuation within Zen

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
There are countless characters throughout Zen Buddhism that give shades of depth and meaning to the simplicity of Zazen.

From Our Minister: The Rev. Rali Weaver



I have been pondering my role as a witness in your lives recently, in part because we said goodbye to Ruth Counts in February. Ruth was one of the first people I met when I came to Dedham as your minister. She taught me, among other things, that not everyone wants help and that some people are better helpers. Ruth spent her life working in the Hotel Industry and her mind for details and management was impeccable. She often came to me frustrated that I did not attend to her more, and then would apologize for not recognizing how busy I was. I would take her to the doctor or to lunch and she would want me to get her home in a jiffy because she “knew how busy I was.”

This was always difficult for me to hear because I think of church as a sort of extended family and are any of us too busy for our family?

According to the University of Canberra (in Australia) “**Pastoral care** is an ancient model of emotional and spiritual support that can be found in all cultures and traditions. It has been described in our modern context as individual and corporate patience in which trained pastoral care providers support people in their pain, loss and anxiety, and in their triumphs, joys and victories.”

In my experience pastoral care requires more of a give and take between people. I cannot provide pastoral care to someone who does not want it, nor can I provide pastoral care when I don’t know if there is a need. Much of the time I can only offer my support and care as a pastor if someone asks and tells me what they expect.

Ruth was particularly good at this near the end of her life as she asked me to go to the Doctor with her and sit with her in emergency rooms. It truly takes a village too as Vicky Berg could pick up where I couldn’t and many of you sent cards and prayed for Ruth in her last days.

One of Ruth’s mantras in leadership was to be “Friendly, Fair, Factual, and Firm.” I have tried to remember these as I have grown into these twelve years of ministry with you, but pastoral care requires me to follow three P’s as well, and be patient, propitious and sometimes peripatetic. Most of all I think caring for each of you pastorally requires constant communication and occasional apologies because the more we grow as a congregation in depth and size, the more difficult it is for me to know everything that individuals need unless they tell me and even when you tell me I occasionally can’t do or be all you need me to be. This is why we all depend on the Parish Community Network.

I was able to sit with Ruth just a day before she died in part because Vicky Berg and Ruth’s sons were communicating with me so regularly. While I think she recognized me, we couldn’t do more than sit together in those final days. It is my hope that seeing my face gave her peace and reminded her of all of you. We can never be sure how much our showing up for each other offers support, however walking together through life’s ups and downs is what makes us a church and I am grateful for all of your equal participation in pastoring each other through life’s changes.

Rev Weaver is in the office Tuesday – Friday 9-2 and by appointment Rev. Weaver
<https://revaliweaver.youcanbook.me/>
617-459-5979 or raliweaver@dedhamuu.org

If you would like to more formally care for your fellow parishioners please sign up to help with the Parish Community Network or need support you can ask for it by contacting Susan White or Vicky Berg or Rali.

From our Director of Religious Education: Grace Peña



The second half of our Children's Religious Education program started off with a bang in January. I held two parent Orientations: one for O.W.L. 4-6 and the other for O.W.L. 7-9. Both were well attended and both had parents seeking out this programming from outside of our church community which is something that the R.E. Committee, Rali and I have been talking about for some time now.

Both programs started their workshops at the end of January. O.W.L. 4-6, with its updated curriculum and longer class time, is meeting at First Church on Saturday afternoons through the beginning of June with Kerrie Gallagher and Tom Donaghey facilitating the workshops. O.W.L. 7-9 is meeting at Dedham Community House on Sundays with Allison Staton, Josh Langmead, Lisa Pilat and Tyler Carpenter taking turns facilitating in teams. I am very proud of our church for offering what was noted by a professor at Smith College who teaches Global Women's Health as the "Gold Standard" of Sexuality and Sex Education.

Besides the start of O.W.L. classes, our other classes resumed in January after a bit of a break during November and December. *Spirit Play* is running smoothly with a group of parents and some of the R.E. Committee members taking turns facilitating this class. *UU Explorers* and *Jr. Worship Associates* are continuing their classes, as well. *Jr. Worship Associates* also continues to help in one service a month. You can see them ushering, collecting the offertory, doing readings and helping with the Children's Message. They are doing such an awesome job. The children in this class are learning about what it takes to create a service and how they can participate in services. This is one of the goals of this new class – to foster a deeper connection to their church

Lots to look forward to in this half of our church year along with sunnier and warmer weather. There will be Easter service, fun Cool Deeds and Special Activities including one for Earth Day, one for Mother's Day and, of course, our big celebration of the Children's Religious Education program on Sunday, June 2nd. I cannot wait for it all!!

With love, Grace

Grace has office hours Tuesday-Friday 9am-2:00pm
and Sunday 9am-12:30pm.

You may reach her at gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org

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. 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.

The schedule through May 26, 2019 is:

Schedule:

March 3: Stephen Brayton, Team 1
 March 10 – Liz and Jenn Otto-Fagan, Team 2
 March 17 – Kayla Schneider, Team 3
 March 24 – Julia Gecha, Team 4
 March 31 – Meg & Peter Lutze, Team 5
 April 7 – Liza Miller Arend, Team 6
 April 14 – Paquita Bass, Team 7
 April 21 – Sharon Lane, Team 8
 April 28 – Stephen Brayton, Team 1
 May 5 – Liz & Jenn Otto-Fagan, Team 2
 May 12 – Kayla Schneider, Team 3
 May 19 – Julia Gecha, Team 4
 May 26 – Meg & Peter Lutze, Team 5

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

If you are looking for a way to offer support to those in need after any natural disaster or you are concerned about Immigrant Rights, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is a good place to start. <http://www.uusc.org/>

Also if you are looking for other ways to get involved and want to make a difference in the world, UU Mass Action is a great way to start. Go to www.uumassaction.org for more details.

Also the UU Urban Ministry helps to serve those in the greater Boston area through afterschool programs, domestic violence support, community development and education. 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/>

Dedham Food Pantry

First Church & Parish in Dedham will be staffing the Dedham Food Pantry on Saturday, May 4th, 8am-11am. 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.

Adult Religious Education

Lenten Meditations will begin at 8:30 am Sunday Mornings in the Minister's office. Starting Sunday, March 10- Sunday, April 17th.

Potluck Passover Seder: This is a family friendly event! Friday, April 19th at 5:30 Pm. Please sign up ahead on the bulletin board. Recipes are available.

New UU Class – are you new to Unitarian Universalism and want to know more before you sign the guest book. Taking a New UU class will help. Come learn about our Church History and the values and History of our Unitarian Universalist movement. Tuesday evenings in April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 7-8:30 pm.



The Parish Players production
this spring will be *Annie*,
produced by Anne Grady and
directed by Karen Donaghey.

This classic musical, set in the 1930s, tells
a story of overcoming adversity and find-
ing the love everyone needs.

The performances will be:

Friday, March 29th at 7:00pm

Saturday, March 30th at 2:00pm & 7:00pm

Sunday, March 31st at 2:00pm

Tickets will eventually be available online.
Stay tuned to the weekly all-church email
for further information.

Hope to see you all there!

December & January Parish Committee Minutes

Parish Committee Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2018

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

Meeting called to order 7:35 p.m. by Matt Grady

Gratitudes

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting November 5, 2018

Motion to accept-seconded-SO VOTED.

Treasurer's Report

Cindy Jones

- Total income to date 40.42% of budgeted
 - Pledges at 44.40% of budgeted
 - Bay State now has automatic payments from bank
 - Received \$400 insurance dividend
 - Received payment from First Church Funds
 - Holly Fair brought in approximately \$7200
- Expenses:
- Most utilities at 50% of budget or below
 - Heat repairs in Parish House running high
 - Overall \$17,000 under budget

Motion to accept-seconded-SO VOTED.

Minister's Report

Rali Weaver

Spent time getting ready for the Holly Fair

DRE Report

Grace Pena

Action Items

- Tea lights will be provided for Christmas Eve Service
- Stewardship Committee-Dave Atkins Chair and Dale and Erik Meyer-Curley will help
- Holiday cheer-delicious pot luck and fun Yankee Swap
- Volunteers for welcome
- Cindy Jones January 6 -Ann Miranda January 13-Rali will get volunteers from committee chairs for January 20 and 27
- Andrea said Geoff Tegnell is investigating details of solar panels for First Church Buildings

Meeting Adjourned

8:25p.m.

Next Meeting January 7, 2019 at 7p.m.

PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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

Meeting called to order 7:10 p.m. by Matt Grady

Gratitudes

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting December 3, 2018

Correction in Treasurer's Report should read received \$1500 insurance dividend

Motion to accept as revised-seconded- SO VOTED.

Treasurer's Report

Cindy Jones

Income through 1/5/2019

Total income 49.93% of budgeted

Pledges 52.24% of budgeted

Bay State paid through December

Expenses: Gas payments currently under 40% of budget – Prior gas payments (2) for Parish House erroneously charged to Parsonage account- adjustment is reflected in this month's Budget vs Actual report

Trash removal 82% of budget due to extra pick-ups

Professional Service fees higher due to increase in Quicken subscription

Overall we are under \$20,159.19 under budget

Discussion of higher trash removal cost

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

Minister's Report

Rali Weaver

-Consider putting \$300 in the worship budget next year for candles and batteries for Christmas Eve Service

-Spending time with Ruth Counts

-Met with Music Committee- they would like the Finance Committee to consider a separate line item for Music Director Expenses

-Music Committee has agreed that any substitute for Darry would come out of Music Committee Budget this year

DRE Report

Grace Pena

-Pageant was wonderful

-Neighboring Faiths program well received

-Two OWL classes in 2019 – Grades 4-6 and Grades 7-9

Action Items

-Happy New Year

New Business

-Cindy needs to know budget needs by January 20th-Rali will communicate to Committee chairs

-Trash pick-up after Holly Fair

-Where trash should be budgeted

- \$300 Music substitute
- Stewardship Committee needs a figure

-Annual Meeting June 2, 2019

Volunteers for Opening Message

- January 13 Ann Miranda
- January 20 Cindy Jones
- January 27 Jen Atkins

All February Stewardship

Meeting adjourned 8 p.m.

Next meeting February 4, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Office Hours for January and February

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

Rev. Rali M. Weaver, Minister
Tuesday-Friday 9am-2pm
By appointment
<https://revaliweaver.youcanbook.me/>
617-459-5979 or raliweaver@dedhamuu.org

Grace Peña, Director of Religious Education
& Building Use Coordinator
Tuesday-Friday 9am-2pm
Sunday 9am-12:30pm
gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org

Pat Hawkins, Office Administrator
Monday by appointment. Wednesday 9-12
firstchurch@dedhamuu.org

Fitness Opportunity

Zumba: Tuesday Nights 7-8 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.