



The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXXVII, No 4

March & April 2017

Worship in March and April Worship at 10 am in the Meeting House

Sunday, March 5, 2017
"We Lead"

Donna Dolham, Ministerial Intern will preach

What is it about faith communities that invite us into shared leadership? In the secular world, at times we witness models of leadership where only some voices are heard. Unitarian Universalism is a faith of many voices, voices of those on the margins as well as all other locations. This service will invite you into reflection; why does your voice matter?

The Intergenerational Choir will sing.

Join us for practice at 9:30 am

All are welcome

Sunday, March 12, 2017

The Benefits of Curiosity

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach

Our liberal faith tradition was founded by curious thinkers. This Sunday we will consider the historical curiosity that have brought us to Unitarian Universalism and how to foster our own curiosity to bring future innovation.

Sunday, March 19, 2017

Witness for Justice

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

The Rev. Rali Weaver will be on vacation this week.

Sunday, March 26, 2017

The Flip Side

The Rev Rali M. Weaver will preach

On this 12th anniversary of my ordination, as I round out this tenth year of my call as your Minister, I will re-preach the sermon I gave to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee giving me the green light to proceed as a minister.



Sunday, April 2, 2017
Dedicating our Lives
The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

To what do we dedicate our lives?
And how might we do so with gusto?
The Intergenerational Choir will sing.

Join us for practice at 9:30 am

All are welcome

Sunday, April 9, 2017

Bob Dylan and other Great Historical Bums

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach

We will explore the things that Bob Dylan taught and how he and other Historical Bum's might have the answers we've been looking for.

Friday, April 14, 2017

Potluck Passover Seder

All ages are invited to Join us at 6pm for our potluck Passover Seder.

Sunday, April 16 2017

Lo the Earth Awakes Again

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach

Let us celebrate the spring
Worship will be followed by an Egg Hunt in the Meeting House.

Saturday, April 22nd, 2017

Earth Day Vespers 6pm in the Meeting House

Sunday, April 23, 2017

Charity vs. Generosity

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
We will reflect upon the trappings of charity and the gifts of generosity.

Saturday, April 30, 2017

Sustaining Faith

Ministerial Intern Donna Dolham will preach

Where do we find light in challenging times? How do our experiences of great joy and peace sustain us and what is our personal practice of faith? Join us this Sunday, as we travel the landscape of sustaining faith.

From Our Minister

This month many of us began reading The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander. This book is a critique of our modern justice system and how law enforcement targets those least able to defend themselves. I hope you are reading the book and preparing for our conversations on April 23, 30th and May 7th after worship. (Lunch will be provided).

In preparation for those conversations I am including three crucial questions we will wrestle with in our conversations:

- How does the U.S. criminal justice system create and maintain racial hierarchy through mass incarceration?
- How does the current system of mass incarceration in the United States mirror earlier systems of racialized social control?
- What is needed to end mass incarceration and permanently eliminate racial caste in the United States?

Someone once asked me why we read and talk so much about racism in UU Churches, - and I think this is a question we must all consider. For my part I believe as-long-as racism exists we should talk about it. Several Diversity Educators suggest that one way we might strengthen our own abilities to engage in conversation about race and racial inequality is to assess our comfort level prior to beginning the conversations. One way to do that is to start with your own self awareness.

For example, as yourself: on a scale of 0-5, how comfortable are you talking about race and racism?

0 = I would rather not talk about race/racism,
to
5 = I am very comfortable talking about race/racism.

Another way to prepare would be to finish these sentences:

The hard part of talking about racism is ...
The beneficial part of talking about racism is ...

After self-assessing, and reflecting upon your own comfort level, try to imagine one or two ways you will stay engaged in the conversation about race even when it starts to seem old and solution-less.

I hope you will engage with us in this important conversation and attend the discussion group or groups as you are able even if you haven't been able to finish the book.

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver

Office Hours: (Monday Day off) Tuesday (Sabbatical Day), Wednesday and Thursday 9-2,
Friday Sermon Writing

And by appointment 617-459-5979 raliweaver@dedhamuu.org

Rev. Weaver will be away from March 14-24 on Vacation with her family.

Donna Dolham will be on call and available while she is away **207-701-1581 ddolham@tds.net**
and Grace and Pat will be covering her office hours.

From Grace Peña- Acting Director of Religious Education

January at First Church started off very quietly with the first day of the month falling on a Sunday. It picked up quickly after that and continued through February. Attendance in our Children's Religious Education Program has been very healthy these past two months here at First Church and Parish in Dedham. It is so great to see the kids come to church and be excited for their classes!

Two new programs started in January: *Our Whole Lives Grades 7-9* and *Our Whole Lives Grades 5-6*. On Sunday January 15th the *Neighboring Faiths* kids met their new facilitators for *O.W.L. 7-9*: Lisa Pilat and Josh Langmead. They all enjoyed some snacks and a few good rounds of *Twister!* It was a nice way for the new teachers to get to know their students. Workshops started soon after on January 22. By the end of February the class had met five times and will continue through into May. After a hiatus over the summer, class will pick up again in September and end in December. Attendance for this program is at 100%!

On Friday 2/3/2017, I hosted the *Our Whole Lives Grades 5-6* Orientation along with Rali, Tom Donaghey and Kerrie Gallagher. The adults and kids initially split up into two separate groups to get acquainted with each other and the program. We played some activities about family order (whether you were the oldest, youngest, middle child or whether you were a twin), what you looked forward to as you got older (I know a lot of the kids are looking forward to being able to vote!), etc. In the second part of the Orientation, with parents and kids back together, we created ground rules (a Covenant) for the program and we all signed it - kids, parents and facilitators. Lastly, we played a fun circle game: Tom called out different scenarios such as, "Does anyone have brown eyes?" and "Who is the oldest child in their family?" Everyone who the scenario pertained to ran in the middle of the circle and ran to a new place in the circle. It was a lot of fun for all! Classes in this program started very soon after the Orientation, on Sunday 2/5/2017.

The kids in *Spirit Play* continue to enjoy their class and stories. Some of the stories in the past two months were *A Story for Martin Luther King, Jr.*, *Phan Ku* and *The Story of Ferdinand*.

Some themes from service that we explored in the *First through Sixth Grades C.R.E. Program* during January and February were: *Joseph Priestly/Discovering Truth through Science*, *Our Living Heritage/Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell*, and *Cooperation for the Common Good/All Work Together*. After we gather and have a snack, we explore these themes through activities such as charades, creating obstacle courses, weaving, and creating symbols that represent ourselves. Along with these themes and activities, the kids continue to learn the seven U.U. principles and discuss how we see our principles in action in our activities of that day.

The coming months are going to bring us lots to celebrate: The Parish Players *Once Upon a Mattress*, our Easter Sunday service with the ever popular egg hunt and at the end of it all, Children's Sunday.

As always, if you have any questions, suggestions, and/or concerns regarding Children's Religious Education, please feel free to contact me at gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org. My office hours are Sundays 8:30 am-12:00 pm, Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00 am-2:00 pm and Fridays 9:00 am-2:00 pm.

With love, Grace

Our Acting DRE is Grace Peña. You may reach her at gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org or at **781-801-9857**

From Linnea Bardarson our Music Director

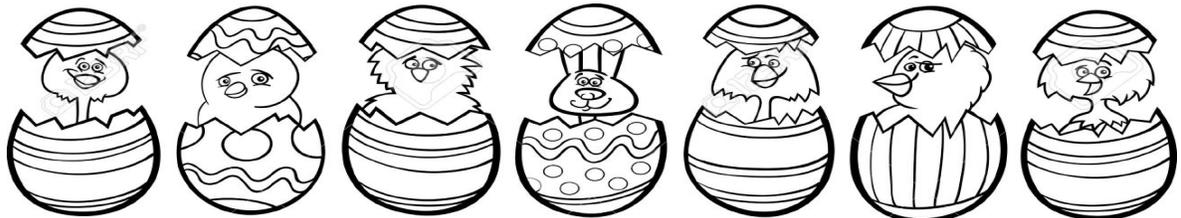
Greetings!

I look forward to Spring and our return to the meeting house. This isn't to say that I didn't enjoy our worship together in the dining room this past winter: I liked the coziness of the dining room space, the wonderful acoustics which are so flattering to voices raised in song, the new baby grand piano on loan from the Dedham School of Music, and the quick access to coffee and conversation at the end of the service. Still, it will be nice to be back in our beautiful meeting house, it will be nice to see people seated all about in the comfortable pews, to play hymns on the organ again, and to see the sunlight (lots of it, hopefully) streaming through the windows. And to enjoy the day when, finally, the heat gets turned off for good and a gentle spring breeze wafts in through open doors. We're not there yet, but hopefully it won't be too much longer.

On a personal note, I want to let you know that I won't be present on Easter Sunday this year. My children will celebrate their twelfth birthday the day before Easter and we are having a special family vacation to mark the occasion. I am pleased that Lorraine Leuft will be able to accompany the service and work with the choir in my absence. You can read a short bio about Lorraine below.

Happy Spring,

Linnea



Lorraine Lueft is a retired music professor with a doctorate from Indiana University, Bloomington. She has taught at several Universities in the Midwest and South. When she moved to Boston, she studied organ with Malcolm Halliday and has held many positions as choir director and organist in churches throughout the Boston area. Lorraine is also a recitalist accompanist and plays jazz at many receptions, banquets, etc. We look forward to having Lorraine as our guest musician on Easter Sunday, April 16th.

Linnea Bardarson can be reached at linneabardarson@yahoo.com

From Donna Dolham our Ministerial Intern

The image of a labyrinth comes to mind as time passes here at First Church and Parish. We are traveling together in ways that engage our faith and I'm grateful to you for these opportunities. Opportunities in worship, meetings, child and adult religious education and engaging moments of connection in conversation, where generously you share who you are, your faith, experiences and support. These are reflections of what excites and ignites my heart about Unitarian Universalism. As we live our faith together, the moments of transformation unfold in this very active community.

Here we are in April with only a few months to go before the end of our first year together. What a blessing you are to me. I invite you to watch for places to connect, express your commitments to the world and each other and those yet to join. When I think about our UU faith, the other area that makes me want to dance with joy is our greater Association and ways that our members and friends across congregations can work together.

If you are interested in connecting to our New England District consider attending the upcoming (free!) Minns lecture series on March 31st and April 1st. The Minns series will be held at First Church in Boston and will feature the Rev. Rosemary Bray McNatt and the Rev. Mark Morrison Reed. Follow this link for more information and to register: <http://www.minnslectures.org/>

The New England Region will be holding a New England Regional Assembly, Friday, April 21st and Friday, April 22nd in Woburn, MA. Their website announces, "Celebrate our Unitarian Universalist faith through inspired worship, music, engaged learning, fun and fellowship. Meet the 2017 UUA Presidential Candidates. Sing. Reflect. Feel. Make connections. Awaken your spirit!" Follow this link for registration.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-england-regional-assembly-2017-registration-28581951386>

I hope to see you there! Donna

Please watch our calendar in the Order of Worship and All Church email and check the website www.dedhamuu.org to stay up to date about upcoming events.

Donna Dolham, Ministerial Intern
207-701-1581 ddolham@tds.net
On call and available from March 14-March 24

Adult Education:

Making Sense of Islam Today

Join with other seekers to look closely at the foundations of Islam, explore modern commentary critiquing Islam and seek parallels to the trajectories of the other Abrahamic Faiths. This is a survey course and some reading outside of class will be necessary to enhance conversation. An inherent respect for other faith traditions is required. Thursday nights starting at 7 pm, April 6-May 11th. Contact Rev. Weaver (617-459-5979 raliweaver@dedhamuu.org) if you are interested or sign up on the Bulletin Board outside the dining room.

Alert! Watch for more information.

“Women in the Qur’an and the Hebrew Bible”

Donna Dolham will offer a several week class engaging comparative scripture at the intersections of our lives. This class will follow the completion of the Adult Religious Education class that Rev. Rali will be offering, exact dates not yet scheduled. If you would like to be on the contact list for this class, please contact Donna Dolham @ ddolham@tds.net or 207 701-1581.

Civic Engagement at First Church

The Dedham Food Pantry

First Church is signed up for volunteering on May 6

Please watch the bulletin board and all church email for details

We will begin our conversations of the book The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander. on April 23rd after worship. These conversations will be going on for three weeks (4/23, 4/30 and 5/7). Feel free to join us for one or all of these discussions even if you haven't finished the book. These conversations will take place after coffee hour from 11:30- 1:30. Soup and Salad will be available.

Save the Date:
Service Auction April 29th at 6pm
Be prepared for John Tocci's Pasta and Andrea Gilmore's Dessert!

December/January Parish Committee Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting
December 12, 2016

Present:

Julia Gecha, Natalie Jensen, Andrea Gilmore, Kathy Elefterakis, Geoff Tegnell, Cindy Jones, Debbie Harrison, Matt Grady, Audrey Cecil, Rali Weaver, Noreen King (arrived late)

Meeting called to order: 6:20 p.m.

Minutes of November 7, 2016

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

Treasurer's Report—Cindy Jones

--Income:

--Yoga: Rali sent letter Nov. 8 for outstanding amounts due Dec. 1; person has left, still has a key, and owes \$300; PC to leave as is; building use issue

--Holly Faire: grossed \$5,800; likely \$200 in expenses

--Bay State Learning: to talk with Andrea and Geoff about negotiate rental amount

--First Church Fund not transferred yet

--No new significant changes

--Expenses: No significant changes

--Overall: \$968 over budget

--Motion to accept Treasurer's Report--seconded---voted---accepted

Minister's Report—Rali Weaver

--Donna Dolham going well; an asset

--Christmas Day is on Sunday: Music and Worship Comm. decided no service

--Several visitors lately; Membership Comm. to follow up

--Service Trip planning; possible New Orleans in 2017 and Mississippi in 2018

--Victor Kingsley to speak (January) about senior planning

--Rali to lead class on Islam

--Church to host Justice Film Series (February) on Non-Violent Resistance

Director of RE Report—written report of Grace Pena

--Grace hired extra hours to be present the week before Holly Faire—very helpful

--Workbooks created for intergenerational services

--Shared service with Allin Church went well

--Crafts activities for Holly Faire items successful

Action Items

--Rali to share info from Barber and Lewis sessions with PC in January

--Rali to arrange for committee leadership trainer through UUA; aim for February session

--PC received Serving with Grace; recommended by Audrey and Natalie; read for Jan. meeting

--Cindy drafted letter to committees for mission statement; Rali and Cindy to modify letter; to be sent to chairs and PC members; due Jan. 9 to PC

--Nominating Committee: Geoff to convene; to check status of Stewardship Comm. members

--PC to host coffee hour December 18
--Thanks to Natalie for agreeing to stay on PC through June 2017

Next Meeting: Monday, January 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 7:03 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Clerk

Deborah Harrison,

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting January 4, 2017

Present:

Julia Gecha, Natalie Jensen, Andrea Gilmore, Kathy Elefterakis, Geoff Tegnell, Cindy Jones, Debbie Harrison, Matt Grady, Audrey Cecil, Rali Weaver

Meeting called to order: 7:07 p.m.

Minutes of December 12, 2016

--Motion to approve minutes --seconded—voted---approved

Treasurer's Report—Cindy Jones

--Income:

--Holly Faire: grossed \$5,306.01; \$306.01 over budget

--Bay State Learning: Dec. payment not received yet; cash flow problem; intend to pay full amount \$2600 but so far \$2400 per month paid; Andrea to check with Margory (money person) about correct payment amount

--Fund raising: Amahl \$800 gross; Muratore concert \$1600; to share with St.Vincent de Paul and Dedham Food Pantry respectively

--Non-pledge income at 85% of total, including \$1767 dividend from Church Mutual

-No new significant changes

--Expenses:

--Parish House gas and electric up significantly over same time last year

--Parsonage gas up significantly over same time last year

--No significant changes

--Overall: \$1193 over budget

--Motion to accept Treasurer's Report--seconded---voted---accepted

Minister's Report—Rali Weaver

--Last 2 classes for Ph.D this spring

--Request one day off per week as sabbatical time to use for school work

--Received mission statements from a few committees

Director of RE Report—written report of Grace Pena

--OWL training; former teachers mentor new teacher; Donna to help, too

--Will need more money for OWL training next year

Revitalize committees—

--Rali distributed questions related to Serving With Grace; Rali interspersed info from her recent trainings

--PC members initial feedback regarding the book:

--Service/serving important to one's life

--Community aspect of meetings

--Group of people vs. one person

--Prep meaningfully for meeting

--Deepen relationships through rituals

--Keep mission in forefront

--Partner discussions of Rali's questions

--How make PC meeting more mindful?

--Begin with "Om" or reading; end with checkout

--Reports available early makes meetings more efficient giving opportunity for more discussions about issues

--Co-chair model; 3 year structure

Stewardship Committee—

--Nominating Comm. offered names

--Who to contact Stewardship Comm? Parish Committee

--Who asks people to join Stewardship Comm?

--PC the contact about chair for Stewardship Comm

--To ask Carol Dixon to mentor new chair

--Geoff to send possible names to Nominating Comm; to prioritize

--Natalie to contact 2 Stewardship members about continuing on committee

Rali's Ph.D. Plan—

--Methods and Literature Comps: a lot of reading, study

--Starting Jan. 10 use Tuesday for Sabbatical work

--Dissertation to be finished within 10 years

--Use professional expenses toward classes

Action Items

--Mission statements from committees

--Andrea to talk with Margory at Bay State Learning about correct amount of \$\$ due

--Goal of mindful PC meetings--Natalie to contact Stewardship members about continuing on committee

--Nominating Comm. to suggest names for Stewardship Comm.

--Carol Dixon to be asked to mentor Stewardship Chair

Next Meeting: Monday, February 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session 9:10 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Harrison, Clerk

March and April Church Calendar

**Office Hours
Monday-Friday 9-2**

Grace Peña, Acting Director of Religious Education
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9-2

Pat Hawkins Office Administrator
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9-1

Rev. Rali M. Weaver
Wednesday, Thursday 9-2
Tuesday Sabbatical
Friday Sermon Writing
and by appointment
On Vacation March 14-24th

Donna Dolham
Ministerial Intern
Available by appointment 207-701-1581
On call and available March 14-March 24

Linnea Bardarson- Music Director
If you would like to join the choir contact her at linneabardarson@yahoo.com

Ongoing Calendar Events

Fitness Opportunities

Older Adult Fitness
Nora Brown 781-329-3311
Tuesday and Thursday Mornings 9:30 am

AA Groups

Sunday Dedham Village AA Meeting 5-10 pm

Tuesday Beginners Meeting 9-11 am

Private Women's Meeting 6-8 pm

Save the Date:

Sunday, March 5
Stewardship Kick Off at First Church

March 31 and April 1 Minns Lecture Series
Contact Donna Dolham for details

Friday March 31 7pm, Saturday, April 1st 2 and 7 pm, Sunday, April 2nd 2pm
Parish Players Production of: Once Upon a Mattress
Tickets: open2017.bpt.me

Celebrate Easter at First Church
Family Friendly Potluck Passover Seder Friday, April 14th 6pm

Sunday, April 16th 11am Easter Worship
Followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the Meeting House

New England Regional Assembly,
Friday, April 21st and Friday, April 22nd in Woborn, MA

Saturday, April 22nd Earth Day Vespers Service 6pm

Sundays: April 23, 30 and May 7 after worship 11:30-2
New Jim Crow conversations

Thursdays: April 6 – May 11
Making Sense of Islam Today
Contact Rev. Weaver for details

First Church is signed up to volunteer at the
Dedham Food Pantry on May 6
Sign up on the bulletin board



the
Parish Players
present

**ONCE
UPON
a
MATT
RESS**

WHEN

Fri, March 31st, 7PM | Sat, April 1st, 2PM & 7PM | Sun, April 2nd, 2PM

WHERE

First Church and Parish in Dedham, 670 High St, Dedham MA

FOR TICKETS

open2017.bpt.me

<http://m.bpt.me/event/2881857>