



# The First Church and Parish in Dedham

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

Volume CXXXX, No 3

January & February 2020

## Worship in January & February 2020

Worship at 10:00 am in the Dining Room of the Parish House

**Sunday, January 5, 2020**

**Coming to our Senses**

The Rev. Rali Will preach

We will start the new year right by considering mindfulness and how we might integrate it into this new year in a way that might save our planet.

**Sunday, January 12, 2020**

**Religious Tolerance**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

Our Unitarian Universalism is based on religious tolerance in the face of intolerance. On this Sunday we will consider what it might mean to go beyond tolerance to a deeper understanding and acceptance of difference.

**AFTER CHURCH:** Peter Sexton from King's Chapel will be here after church to share information about the Partner Church Program and potential Summer Trip to Transylvania. Lunch will be provided.

**Sunday, January 19, 2020**

**Seditious Libel**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

This Sunday we will consider the charges of seditious libel and if it has generally been a mistaken charge for speaking truth to power

**Sunday, January 26, 2020**

**We are Seeds**

The Rev Rali M. Weaver will preach.

This week we will consider the work of our church communities and members and how they may be seeds for change in our world.



We worship in the Dining Room during January and February in order to reduce our carbon footprint.

*In honor of Black History Month we will explore the lives and teachings of four black women who have changed the world.*

**Sunday February 2, 2020**

**Ida B. Wells**

(1862-1931)

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

Ida Bell Wells-Barnett was an African-American investigative journalist, educator, and an early leader in the civil rights movement. She was one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

**Sunday, February 9, 2020**

**Mary Jane McLeod Bethune**

(1875-1955)

Mary Jane McLeod was an American educator, stateswoman, philanthropist, humanitarian, and civil rights activist best known for starting a private school for African-American students in Daytona Beach, Florida and co-founding UNCF on April 25, 1944 with William Trent and Frederick D. Patterson. She was known as "The First Lady of The Struggle" because of her commitment to gain better lives for African Americans

**Sunday, February 16, 2020**

**Fanny Lou Hamer**

(1917-1977)

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach.

Fanny Lou Hamer was an American voting and women's rights activist, community organizer, and a leader in the civil rights movement.

**Sunday, January 23, 2020**

**Angela Y. Davis**

(1944-)

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach.

In 1970, Davis purchased firearms for people who used them in an armed takeover of a courtroom in Marin County, California, in which four people were killed. She was prosecuted for three capital felonies, including conspiracy to murder. After over a year in jail, she was acquitted of the charges in 1972. She continued both her academic work and her domestic activism.

From Our Minister: The Rev. Rali Weaver



Over the holidays I met a woman at a party who was passionate about stopping the Keystone pipeline that goes through Wayland. It reminded me of how passionate I was about stopping the Spectra Pipeline that goes through Dedham and West Roxbury and how vindicated I felt about my concern when the explosions in Merrimack Valley happened a little over a year ago.

Her passion and pleas to wake up and get involved made me wake up to how much I have disengaged from climate activism after my two arrests and the subsequent completion of the pipeline I was and am so concerned about.

How do we keep momentum for climate change in the face of setback after setback? How can we garner energy to commit over and over to causes we care about in the face of loss and failure.

Being ADHD I know I sometimes go from cause to cause, activity to activity with little sense of real accomplishment. In some ways this may be good, as real change hardly ever happens quickly and most justice causes have little sense of completion despite intense efforts. I think often of the quote by the Unitarian Minister James Freeman that Martin Luther King Jr. made famous: "The moral arc of the universe is long and it bends toward justice." Knowing the arc of any cause I get involved with is long makes it easier to get involved then detach at times to take better care of myself. This is something we all need to do at times. Get involved passionately with things we care about, then detach when the load feels too much, then re-engage when our springs have filled up and we are ready for labor again.

By not allowing ourselves to burn out, and pacing our efforts we can bring more to whatever work we are engaged with than keeping at a breakneck pace with little time for renewal.

In January we will consider ways we can engage in the world with vigor and the importance of renewing our sense of timelessness and self as part of the process. I hope coming to church is a place for renewal for your spirit so that you can do the work you are meant to do in the world, and I also hope it gives you a place to connect and find partners on your journey. As we approach 2020 the need for all of us to work together to consciously engage in the world has never been more important. May our community give you fuel and fodder to engage in the causes that feed your soul.

Rev Weaver is in the office Tuesday - Thursday 10-3 and by appointment  
<https://revaliweaver.youcanbook.me/> or 617-459-5979 or [raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org)



### From our Director of Religious Education: Grace Peña

November and December were very busy months with non-curriculum activities in our Children's Religious Education program. Some of the special R.E. Sundays over these past two months were: Sunday 11/10 our Anniversary and shared service with the Allin Church, Sunday 11/24 Holly Faire crafts, Sunday 12/8 Christmas Pageant rehearsal, and Sunday 12/15 Christmas Pageant. Lots of fun was had by all!

The Children's Religious Education time during the shared service with the Allin Church was a little different this year as their former Director of Christian Religious Education, Lindsay Popper, moved on from that position to be ordained. Instead of sharing different activities from each church, the children gathered together to make some delicious varieties of granola and then sold them during coffee hour. The children were so excited to not only cook again, but to manage the marketing and the sales of the granola. We ended up donating our profits (\$100) to the Boston Children's Hospital for purchases of new toys.

For Holly Faire we reworked an oldie, but a goodie. We made pine cone bird feeders by making pine cone ornaments and coating them with bird feed suet. The kids were either very excited to get their hands dirty or not very excited...maybe even a little displeased. Oh well, there's always next year. Maybe we'll cook and package some granola!

I am always told how much so many members of this church LOVE the *Would You Like to Hold the Baby?* pageant. So it was no great surprise how many loved it again this year! However, this year's story was a little different: Mary was a single parent (I think Joseph followed the wrong star!), baby Jesus was a girl and (Christmas miracle!) could walk and talk! We had some wonderful animals in the stable, some lowly shepherds with lowly 5 o'clock shadow and 5 Wise Women...travelling with their lion! Thank you to everyone who participated and helped out. The pageant is only as successful as all of the people who donate their time and talents to help to make it happen. I am very blessed to have this community!

Lots of great things will be happening in R.E. in the New Year including another round of *Neighboring Faiths*, *Our Whole Lives: Kindergarten-1st Grade* and...drum roll please... *Coming of Age!* Stay tuned!

With love, Grace

Grace has office hours  
Tuesday through Friday 9 am-3:00 pm and  
Sunday 9 am-1 pm or by appointment.  
You may reach her at [gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org](mailto:gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org)

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## From Our Music Director: Darry Dolezal

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During the fall months the choir again demonstrated an intrepid spirit, enthusiastically and fearlessly exploring music in a wide range of styles and complexity - sounding great from week to week. For that I say *bravo!*, or *bravi tutti!* to all the choir members.

As we move into the dining room for the winter months we will be centering on music inspiring or inspired by social activism and social consciousness, with a focus on pieces written by women and composers of color.

Anyone wishing to join the choir is welcome to come to our warm-ups on Sunday mornings at 8:45, or talk to me personally before or after church, or send me an email at [darrycello@gmail.com](mailto:darrycello@gmail.com). We generally have two weekday evening rehearsals per month.

As many of you know, the vintage Steinway piano in the Meeting House received a major restoration over the summer with the replacement of the action and felts, returning it to its former glory. The result is an instrument which sounds terrific and is a joy to play. You may have heard it put through its paces in the wonderful piano four hand recital by Heinrich Christensen and Robert Winkley back in September on our new “Concerts at First Church” series.

Please mark your calendars for the two upcoming concerts this spring: Saturday, March 14 at 7:30 pm with the Thoreau Piano Trio, and Friday, May 8 at 7:30 pm with vocal group Calliope’s Call, presenting a program on Earth awareness entitled “There is No Plan(et) B.”

For more information or to purchase tickets you may visit the “Concerts and First Church” website: <http://firstchurchconcerts.org/>

If you are interested in joining the choir or sharing your musical gifts  
Darry can be reached at [darrycello@gmail.com](mailto:darrycello@gmail.com)

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## Care and Concern

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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](mailto: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](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org).

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## Civic Engagement

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### Dedham Food Pantry

First Church & Parish in Dedham will be staffing the Dedham Food Pantry 1st Sat in February and the fifth in May of 2020. 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](mailto:pfaist@gmail.com).

### The UU Urban Ministry

The UU Urban Ministry helps to serve those in the greater Boston area through afterschool programs, domestic violence support, community development and education. If you would like to find out more about UU Urban ministry you can talk to Susan Sennott [ssennott1@gmail.com](mailto:ssennott1@gmail.com) or check them out online at <http://www.uuum.org/>

### Adult Religious Exploration

**New UU:** Are you new to Unitarian Universalism or want to find out more? Join a small group at the Dedham Coffee House at noon on the third Sundays of the Month (January 19th and February 16). Come once or come to all this is an ongoing conversation.

**Nature and Nurture Society:** Would you like to learn more about Transcendentalism and explore nature with friends? Join the Nature and Nurture Society that will meet on the fourth Saturday of every month starting at the church at 9:30 am and heading out to a local spot to explore. (January 25 and February 22) Come when you can, this is an ongoing open invitation.

**Winter Meditations-** Thursdays at 7pm January and February in the Minister's office. Join with fellow parishioners to enter into the quiet and share meditation practices.

Sign up for these events on the bulletin board outside the dining room in the Parish House, by contacting Rev. Weaver at [raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org) or 617-459-5979



# Justice Documentary Series

Every Sunday in February at 2:00pm

First Church and Parish in Dedham  
870 High St., in the Parish Hall

**2020**  
Our 7th year!  
**FREE and OPEN to the PUBLIC**

Films followed by discussion



February 5



February 12



February 19



February 26

Feb 5: **An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power**  
A film by Al Gore

**An Inconvenient Sequel** tells the story of one man's fight to solve this crisis at a time when the threat has never been clearer – and the reasons for hope have never been greater. We follow Vice President Gore as he travels the world training citizens as Climate Reality Leaders and building an international coalition to confront the greatest challenge humanity has ever faced. (2017, 98 minutes)

Feb 12: **Warrior Women**  
A film by Christina King and Elizabeth Castle

**Warrior Women** is the story of Madonna Thunder Hawk, one such AIM leader who shaped a kindred group of activists' children – including her daughter Marcy – into the "We Will Remember" Survival School as a Native alternative to government-run education. Together, Madonna and Marcy fought for Native rights in an environment that made them more comrades than mother daughter. (2019, 60 minutes)

Feb 19: **Artifishal**  
A Patagonia Production

**Artifishal** is a film about the high cost—environmental, financial and cultural—of hatcheries and fish farms, and our mistaken reliance on human-engineered solutions. It explores our loss of faith in nature, and the impact on communities and ecosystems as wild salmon slide toward extinction. (2019, 80 minutes)

Feb 26: **The Human Element**  
An Earth Vision Film in association Earth Vision Institute

An arresting new documentary from the producers of *Racing Extinction*, *The Cove* and *Chasing Ice*, environmental photographer James Balog captures the lives of everyday Americans on the front lines of climate change. With rare compassion and heart, **The Human Element** inspires us to reevaluate our relationship to the natural world. (2019, 60 minutes)

Films are Free. Donations gratefully accepted. Refreshments for sale.  
First Church and Parish in Dedham, a welcoming community • 870 High St., Dedham MA

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October and November 2019 Parish Committee Minutes

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Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting of October 7, 2019

Present: Erik Meyer-Curley, Josh Langmead, Kathy Elefterakis, Dave Miller, Ann Miranda,  
Allison Staton, Cindy Jones, Liza Arend and Susan White  
Absent: Jen Atkins, Peter Lutze, Andrea Gilmore and Rali Weaver

Meeting called to order 7:05 by Dave Miller

Gratitudes

Minutes of September 7, 2019 Parish Committee Meeting  
Motion to approve minutes seconded-so VOTED

Treasurer's Report Erik Meyer-Curley

We are 25% through the whole year  
Total income to date is 18.85% of budgeted  
Expenses  
Payments have been made that are 25% of budget  
We are #2,053.13 under budget  
Motion to approve Treasurer's Report- seconded-so VOTED

Minister's Report Reviewed

DRE Report Reviewed  
Discussion about OWL 7-9 - Publicize - program could be shared with others who share our values

Review Action Items

Draft Process for Church Endorsements  
-Allison is still looking for templates-she will discuss at next meeting  
Committee for Parish Concerns-Andrea will present in November  
Parish Committee members discuss charities of their choice for Share the Plate  
Suggestions-  
December Family Aid Boston - Provides services to homeless mothers  
January Community Servings- Jamaica Plain  
Provides food and nutrition programs in MA and RI to individuals and families  
Living with critical and chronic illnesses  
February The Home for Little Wanderers  
March Community House  
April UU Urban Ministry/Renewal House

**Parish Record January & February 2020**

May Louis D. Brown Walk for Peace

**New Business**

Cindy reported that there is \$21,000 in the Restricted Account for period ending June 30, 2019 and \$8000 in the Substitute Minister Account

Need to set date for Special Congregational Meeting-tentative date of November 24, 2019-will check with Rali

Kathy mentioned that our present snow removal company will no longer be available

Signage-Ann mentioned that there was no decent church signage-suggested that the Wayside Pulpit contain our church info-will discuss next month

Ann pointed out that the the Parish Committee meeting is scheduled for December 2 which follows Thanksgiving weekend-she wonders if we could change the date to December 9-she will poll the members by email.

Meeting adjourned 8:30p.m.

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**Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting of November 4, 2019**

**Present:** Erik Meyer Curley, Kathy Elefterakis, Dave Miller, Ann Miranda, Allison Staton, Jen Atkins

Andrea Gilmore, Lisa Arend, Peter Lutze, Josh Langmead, Susan White and Rali Weaver

Meeting called to order at 7:10 by Dave Miller

**Gratitudes**

**Minutes of October 7, 2019 Parish Committee Meeting**

**Motion to approve minutes- seconded- so VOTED**

**Treasurer's Report Erik Meyer-Curley**

**Income**

**Pledges at 28.18% of budgeted-actually pledges are now at 33% of budgeted-Erik will make the change**

**Motion to accept Treasurer's Report-seconded- so VOTED**

**Minister's Report**

**Recently joined the Board of Trustees of the Dedham Food Pantry**

**Kevin Carson would like to be ordained at First Church on December 21, 2019**

**Working with cleaners**

DRE Report  
Good attendance

#### Review Action Items

Treasurer's Report and the Deacons' Report have been submitted to the auditors for the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Use Wayside Pulpit to advertise our church. Rali will take care of this-add logo and name of church.

Draft Process for Church Endorsements-is there really a need for endorsement-Rali, Allison and Josh

will work on getting feedback.

Committee for Parish Concerns- Andrea will present at the fall meeting.

Share the Plate charity for June is open.

#### New Business

Hate Has No Home Here signs

Discussion -cost is \$500 for 100 signs-Allin Church has a sign on their lawn and has distributed signs

around town-Rali will check about having a sign on our lawn.

Reception for Kevin Carson

A motion was made that First Church and Parish in Dedham host Kevin Carson's Ordination on December 21, 2019-seconded and so VOTED.

#### Building and Grounds - Andrea

Snow Plowing-need new contractor-she has spoken to Pat's Plowing-salting adds to cost of plowing-we

need to designate whether we want salt-sidewalks need to be cleared-need to hire someone to shovel.

Painting has progressed.

Water problem in Larcom Room resolved.

Next meeting Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at Andrea's home

Potluck

Gift exchange \$5

Item to donate to Food Pantry

Meeting adjourned 8:35 p.m.

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## Office Hours for January and February

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**Church Office Hours**  
**Tuesday – Friday 9-3**  
**Monday and Saturday Closed**

Rev. Rali M. Weaver, Minister  
Tuesday-Thursday 9am-3pm  
and by appointment  
<https://revaliweaver.youcanbook.me/>  
617-459-5979 or [raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org)

Grace Peña, Church Administrator and  
Director of Religious Education  
Tuesday through Friday 9 am-3 pm  
Sunday 9 am-1 pm  
[gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org](mailto:gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org)

Pat Hawkins, Bookkeeper  
Monday 9 am-2 pm  
[firstchurch@dedhamuu.org](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org)

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## Fitness Opportunity

**Zumba:** Tuesday Nights 7-8 starting 9/10 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.

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## Partner Church Opportunity

January 12th following worship Peter Sexton from King's Chapel will join us to discuss King's Chapel's Partner Church program and the Transylvanian trip Habitat trip they are planning to their partner church. We would like to rekindle our relationship with a partner church and this might be an easy way for us to begin. All are invited to stay for lunch and hear more about the Partner Church Program and the proposed trip.

This Parish Record was printed on 100% recycled paper.

This is our new sustainability symbol. Every time we do something to become more sustainable we will highlight it with this symbol.

