

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

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

Volume CXXXVI, No IV March and April of 2016

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 10-2

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

Sat. 3/12 Comfort Food Dinner\*

Sun. 3/20 Membership Pot Luck\*

4/1-4/3 Parish Players Performance of Oliver\*

Sun 3/27 Easter Egg Hunt following worship

April 1,2, 3 Parish Players performing “Oliver”

4/22 at 6pm Earth Day Vespers followed by

Potluck Passover Seder

Please see our website for the complete and up-to-date calendar www.dedhamuu.org

Sundays in March and April

**March 6, 2016**

**Viriditas: Greening Power**

The Rev. Lisa Mobayed will preach

The Rev Rali Weaver will assist

Nine hundred years ago the Christian mystic Hildegard of Bingen developed an understanding of life’s generative force, how it flows through us and through the world.  She called it viriditas, or the green truth, and expressed in word, music, and art its healing, life-giving, and love affirming properties—accessible to

each and every one of us.

**March 13, 2016**

**How Fossil Fuels Have Become a Moral Issue**

The Rev Rali M. Weaver will preach

We have known about the dangers of greenhouse gasses for sometime, but as the earths atmosphere warms up how does our government continue to turn a blind eye to the dangers and how has this become more than an environmental issue?

**March 20, 2016**

**When Time Goes By**

**The Rev. Phyllis O’Connell will preach**

The Rev. Phyllis O’Connell

Our guess minister this Sunday will be The Rev. Phyllis B. O’Connell who is a recently retired Parish Minister. She served churches from Melrose to Wellesley Hills for 25 years. She now leads workshops called “Exploring Issues in Retirement” and has a chapter in the recently published Skinner House book, Landscapes on Aging and Spirituality”. The Membership Committee will host a potluck following worship followed by a discussion about the spiritual issues of retirement with Rev. O’Connell.

**March 27, 2016**

**True Transformation**

**Easter**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

This Easter we will explore how we must die to be reborn again.

This is an intergenerational service.

The Easter Service will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt

in the Meeting House.

**April 3, 2016**

**Take Me Out To The Ballgame**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

With the Red Sox Home Opener fast approaching Rev. Weaver will share her love of baseball and address the spiritual aspects of what she considers to be America’s Greatest Pastime.

**April 10, 2016**

**Membership Has its Privileges**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

Today we will welcome our New Members and explore

all that can come from being an active member of

our Church and Parish.

**April 17, 2016**

**An Act of Love and Courage:**

**End-of-Life Planning as Empowerment**

Michael Hubner, Meg Lutz

and The Rev. Rali Weaver will lead worship

Together with Michael Hubner, LICSW and Meg Lutz, M.S.

we will explore the spiritual benefit of end of life planning

and open our hearts and minds to the reality that conscious

dying is an integral part of consciousness.

**April 24, 2016**

**The Ancient Argument of Power and Necessity**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

This Sunday we will explore the Puritan question of Authority

that our Church and Parish was founded upon and ask how

these foundational concerns inform our lives today.

Following worship there will be an opportunity to enjoy

a historical puppet show on this subject in the Auditorium.

**From Our Minister**

In my very first year at First Church and Parish in Dedham (nearly 9 years ago) I gathered groups of members in order to discern their Social Justice interests. I quickly learned that what some churches call Social Justice we call Civic Engagement and two themes for work emerged: the first to help the poor, and the second to help reduce global warming. Over these nine years we have worked on several initiatives that fit both concerns. We have maintained and increased our involvement with the Dedham Food Pantry and the Renewal House, we have donated to Cradles to Crayons and Bikes Not Bombs and Helping Hands and several of our members participated in the town’s efforts to be more green, we have a Greening Committee trying to make our own Buildings and Grounds more sustainable. And we have shared our offering once per month with countless reputable causes including Amnesty International, The YMCA Youth Fund, The Lois D. Brown Peace Institute, Oxfam and much, much, more. By each of you working individually to do good in the world and by all of us together working toward common goals we have accomplished a great deal.

There are two issues that I find closer to my heart this year that I cannot help to share with all of you. One (I cannot believe you could be blind to) is racial justice and the other (equally transparent) is reducing greenhouse gasses and saving our town from the high-speed natural gas pipeline built by Spectra. While I see a cross section between these to concerns (as I wrote in an early column this year), I also find that they both connect to the concerns originally expressed by this congregation when I first arrived. How can we deal with the situation of the poor if we don’t address issues of racial injustice? How can we slow down global warming if we don’t deal with the greenhouse gasses provided by fossil fuel?

When looking back at the history of this church I realize there have been a few instances where ministers who got too political have been urged to leave. The most dramatic example happening nearly 200 years ago when The Rev. Joshua Bates became too religiously Federalist for his congregation and they shot a cannon load of sod into his bedroom window to encourage him to leave. While I don’t expect anything I do or say to be so dramatically offensive to any of you, and I know the Free Pulpit you give me is protected by our polity, I am highly aware of your free pew and want to remind you that I strive to be always open minded and open hearted to your concerns and ideas. I pray that my convictions are our convictions but I acknowledge that the core of our polity lies in our ability to see things differently. Just because I get an opportunity to try to inform you and share with you my thoughts does not mean you have to agree with me.

I hope in the coming weeks and months and years, as I continue to share my heartfelt beliefs with you that you feel equally able and willing to share your thoughts and beliefs and feelings with me. It is only by walking together amidst all of our differences that we will eventually find the way to healing for all of us. I hope the coming weeks and months will give you fodder for your imagination and help you to find ways to do justice in your life and in our community.

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver can be reached at raliweaver@dedhamuu.org or 617 459 5979

Monday through Thursday 9-2

**From Our Acting Director of Religious Education**

Greetings from R.E.!

After all of the special activities and holiday services during November and December, R.E. classes were back up and running in January and February.  January saw the end of two classes: *O.W.L. 7-9* and *Riddle and Mystery* which were middle school and high school classes.  By the end of January those classes transitioned into *Coming of Age* and *Neighboring Faiths*, respectively.  *O.W.L. K-1* also started at the end of January with Tom Donaghey and Kerrie Gallagher as the facilitators for that class.  All transitions went smoothly and all classes are running well and at full attendance.  Thank you so much to all of the teachers, to the parents AND to the kids!!

Sunday 1/17/2016 and Sunday 2/21/2016 were our Cool Deeds.  In January we listened to a portion of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have A Dream” speech.  We had a great discussion of the important work that Dr. King did and how that work and those values fit right into our U.U. principles.  The kids then drew pictures of images from the speech based on two quotes: “I Have A Dream” and “From Every Mountaintop, Let Freedom Ring”.  Those images were up on the R.E. bulletin board and I hope that you all were able to stop and take a look.

The Cool Deed in February was a letter-writing activity.  The kids drew pictures and wrote notes to say “Hello” to those parishioners who do not get to attend service often.  There were really nice letters letting those members know what has been going on in church and a little bit about the kids themselves.

The R.E. calendar for March and April is:

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| --- | --- |
| 3/6/2016 | Classes meet **including O.W.L. K-1 in Rali’s office.** |
| **Friday 3/11/2016** | **Neighboring Faiths visit to Temple Sinai, Brookline (info to follow in email from teachers)** |
| 3/13/2016 | Classes meet. |
| 3/20/2016 | Cool Deed **except for O.W.L. K-1 who have class in Rali’s office AND** **Coming of Age students who will attend service followed by a church tour led by Andrea Gilmore.** |
| 3/27/2016 | Easter Service |
| 4/3/2016 | Classes meet **including O.W.L. K-1 in Rali’s office.****COMING OF AGE CLASS WILL NOT MEET.** |
| **Friday 4/8/2016 -** **Saturday 4/9/2016** | **Coming of Age sleepover at church. Activity with mentors and Credo Writing workshop on Saturday.  All meals to be provided.** |
| 4/10/2016 | Classes meet **including O.W.L. K-1 in Rali’s office.** **COMING OF AGE STUDENTS TO ATTEND SERVICE.** |
| 4/17/2016 | No Classes.  Kids are invited to stay with their parents in service |
| 4/24/2016 | Cool Deed **except for Coming of Age who will have class.** |

 If you have any questions, suggestions, and/or concerns regarding R.E. please feel free to contact me at

 gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org. My office hours are Monday & Wednesday 9-2, Friday 9-12 and Sunday 8:30 -12 or

 by appointment. With love, Grace

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

Her office hours are Mondays and Wednesdays 9-2, Fridays 9-12 and Sundays 8-12

**FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

**Stewardship at First Church and Parish in Dedham Needs Your Participation!**

The Stewardship Campaign is a time of hope and challenge. Our hopes are reflected in the numerous budget requests that have been submitted to the Parish Committee. The requests reflect the needs of a growing congregation and desire to fairly compensate our talented staff. Our hopes are reassured by the generosity of this congregation and a significant increase in people pledging. We aim to have 100 percent participation in our Stewardship Campaign this year.

Of course, the challenge is getting it all done. There’s a lot to do (get the numbers, get the pledges, get the budget, and get it done by Annual Meeting). The challenge for each one of us is to come up with a pledge number that works for us and for the community. Today is the official start of our Stewardship Campaign. During the first week of March you will receive your Stewardship Packet containing your letter, pledge card, and stewardship information, which details our needs for next year and how our money is spent. The committee will be updating you weekly on the progress of the campaign and some of our members will also be telling us why they support First Church in Dedham. The Stewardship Committee is also more than happy to answer your questions. so please ask.

We ask that you return your pledge card by April 1st. The Stewardship Committee will make follow up calls in April so a prompt return is appreciated. In April the Parish Committee will finalize next year’s budget based on the results of our Stewardship Campaign. The finalized budget will be voted on by members at the Annual Meeting in May.

I want to thank the Stewardship Committee and the Parish Committee for all their hard work and commitment to the budget process. We celebrate our gifts, our generosity, and a prompt return of those pledge cards.

 -Carol Dixon-Hutton

 2016 Stewardship Chair

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A writeable version is online at [www.dedhamuu.org](http://www.dedhamuu.org) please email or mail this to the office

**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.**

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**Small Group for Moms**

**Next Meeting Friday, January 22nd 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

**Save The Date**

**Saturday, March 12, 2016**

**Comfort Food Dinner 6:00 pm-9pm**

$10 age 12 and under

$20 over age 12

Warm up with some of your favorite comfort foods and good company. We took a survey of favorite comfort food, and macaroni and cheese was the overwhelming winner. We will be serving various types of this basic comfort food (including a gluten-free version). The menu has not yet been finalized but will be posted in the Parish House by February 21. Sign-up sheets to attend and help out will be posted this Sunday in the Parish House.

And, as we warm up our innards, we’d like to have a silent auction of stays at vacation homes for when the warm weather returns. If you are willing to contribute a stay at your vacation property, please let Cindy Jones know (imcinnyluwho@yahoo.com). Please be sure to include a description of the property, location, available periods, and recommended minimum bid. We would like to have all vacation home stay donations received by Wednesday, March 4th. The silent auction will begin during coffee hour on March 6th and end during the comfort food dinner.

**Please don’t stay away if you find the cost of the dinner prohibitive**

**(contact Rev. Rali Weaver for a scholarship 617 459 5979** **raliweaver@dedhamuu.org****)**

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**SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY MARCH 20TH**

**MEMBERSHIP POTLUCK AFTER WORSHIP**

**Followed by a Conversation about**

**The Spiritual Issues of Retirement**

 Join us after worship for a Pot Luck lunch instead of coffee hour.

The Membership Committee  will host, and after lunch The Rev. Phillis O'Connell will lead a discussion about the spiritual issues of retirement.

**Everyone is invited to a Potluck Lunch after church on Sunday, March 20th.**Soup and bread will be provided by the Membership Committee. If possible, please bring a dish to share. If not, please come for lunch and enjoy the company of other First Church folks. Anyone may join us after lunch for the discussion about Spiritual Issues of Retirement.  Hope to see you on  March 20th.  If you have questions, please contact The Membership Committee (Carol Dixon, Pam Aist, and Judy Barrington).

**Join us after worship on March 27th for an Easter Egg Hunt in the Meeting House**

**All children are welcome!**

**Easter Flowers**

Each year we decorate our Easter altar with beautiful plants. If you would like to contribute a plant for our Easter Decoration and take one home afterward please contact Susan White at 781-686-1565.

Easter plants are $5 each.

**This year Earth Day and our Usual First Church Passover Seder fall on the same day so**

**Save Friday, April 22nd for Earth Day Vespers at 6pm**

**Followed by a Potluck Passover Seder**

**Watch your All Church email and Order of Service and the Website for details.**

**Civic Engagement at First Church**

**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)

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**Civil Disobedience Training:** Spring is not too far away and the specter of the West Roxbury fracked gas pipeline resuming construction awaits April 15.  They'll be starting. We'll be stopping. In and around April 15th and Earth Day there will be some actions and vigils concerning the Pipeline. Please watch your Weekly Email and the website [www.dedhamuu.org](http://www.dedhamuu.org) and facebook page for details.
**An open invitation to all to join us for our first of many Civil Disobedience trainings to stop the West Roxbury Pipeline.**
The first training of the spring will be on: Saturday March 5, 3:00-5:30pm
Theodore Parker Church, 1859 Centre St, West Roxbury, MA
UPDATE: On-site childcare will be available!

For more information about the Pipeline fight in West Roxbury go to [http://www.resistthepipeline.org/](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.resistthepipeline.org%2F&h=UAQGbuy6L&enc=AZMO1bioaPS4YdoF8RYGoK9OTSyEU6G2cJ97-3NBzIzGlbyPc_dQVEdJGsBTpU8FUw8&s=1" \t "_blank)

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**Waking Up White by Debby Irving**

We have started a new kind of book group. If you picked up a copy of Waking Up White or have been reading it- Please plan on joining us on May 1st after worship for a discussion of next steps.

A small group of parishioners also meets every other Monday night (3/14, 3/28, 4/11, 4/25) at 7pm in the Minister’s office to discuss the book. All are who are able and reading the book are welcome to attend.

Come join the Parish Players for Oliver!



Performances:

April 1st 7pm

April 2nd 2pm and 7pm

April 3rd 2pm

General Admission $14

Seniors and Children 12 and under $10

Tickets are available online only on Brown Paper tickets  -[oliver2016.bpt.me](http://oliver2016.bpt.me/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

This program is supported in part by a grant from the

Dedham Cultural Council

A local agency, which is supported by the

Massachusetts Cultural Council

a state agency

**Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting**

**January 4, 2016**

Present:

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

Meeting called to order: 7:15 p.m.

Gratitudes

Minutes of December 14, 2015

--Motion to approve minutes with correction--seconded—approved

Minister’s Report—Rali Weaver

--Christmas Eve service: went well, candles still need improvement

--Parish Record delayed due to holidays; to be ready soon

--To meet with Stewardship Comm. soon

--Carol book needs revision

--Ministry Comm. meets monthly and prepping for ministry evaluation

Motion to accept report—seconded---accepted

Interim Director of RE: see written report of Grace Pena: things are good; RE Comm. meets soon

Treasurer’s Report—Sharon Lane

--46% pledges paid

--Holly Faire made $4955.48 with expenses ($5322 in 2014; $4655 in 2013)

--Wed. AA group made payment for Dec-Feb.

--Building Use and Baystate Learning payments on track

--Fundraising: need make $2940

--Meeting House and Parsonage utilities OK

--Parish House water and sewer high

--Parish House heating service contract still not arrive

--Paid for Internet domain names, website fees, sound cloud and church email accounts: previously paid by Tyler Carpenter and Rali. Need to add line item into budget

--Overall $16,286.68 under budget

Motion to accept Treasurer’s Report—seconded---accepted

Old Business

--Dining Room Screen: letter to parishioner sent and received; PH key returned

--Ministry Committee: Claudia Leone chair; request funds ($500-600) from PC restricted fund for consultant to train committee and facilitate appreciative inquire evaluation; Min. Comm to make plan and inform PC;

--Motion to approve $600 for facilitator for Ministry Comm. for ministry evaluation from PC restricted account—seconded—approved

-Natalie to follow up with Claudia

--Stewardship Committee: will decide motivation to give and/or to return pledge card sooner; pledge forms electronic?

--Nominating Committee:

--Members: Deacon (Geoff Tegnell), PC (Iayabo); RE (Paquita); need Alliance person and at large person (names suggested for them)

--Positions to fill: 2 PC, deacon, treasurer, auditors

--Role to expand? Make suggestions for other comm. members? Staff committees in spring to be ready for fall? Meet several times a year?

--Geoff to lead---should meet soon to start recruiting

--PC Goal: strengthen committees

 --PC photos now posted on bulletin board

 --Much accomplished already, such as goal to extend role of Nominating Comm.

--Fundraising possibilities:

 --Comfort Food dinner, Square Dance, plant sale, film series

 --Cindy to check “Do it yourself fund raising ideas” website.

New Business

--Building and Grounds: request fund for snow blower

--Motion to approve payment of $945 to Jeff Hutton for reimbursement for snow blower bought for First Church from PC restricted fund.—Seconded—approved

--Copier: needs replacement soon; Service man Mike to make recommendation

--Long Range Plan—4 year update: read report; bring questions to next meeting

Action Items: all up to date

Meeting adjourned 8:47 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, February 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Harrison, Clerk