



The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXXVIII, No 4

March and April 2018

Worship in March and April

We will continue to worship in the dining room of the Parish Hall through Sunday 3/11/2018.

After that date we will return to the Meetinghouse for worship

Sunday, March 4, 2018 Seed Planting

Donna Dolham will preach

During this time of stewardship in the life of First Church and Parish, we all have a part to play as we continue to plant the seeds of hope for the future.

Sunday, March 11, 2018 Music Sunday

The Civil War in song, poems and letters, including first-hand accounts of those who served from Dedham, MA. The choir will be singing songs both old and new that testify to the tragedy of this most central event in America's consciousness.

Sunday, March 18, 2018 Getting to Holy Envy Donna Dolham will preach

Holy Envy is Krister Stendhal's third guide toward interreligious engagement. Holy Envy invites us to connect with another's faith, seeing what we admire while offering us opportunities to engage more deeply with our own. In our Unitarian Universalist faith that espouses room enough for our individual search for meaning what does Stendhal's concept of Holy Envy have to offer us?

We will be sharing our offering this Sunday with Partners in Health <https://www.pih.org/>

Sunday, March 25, 2018 Finding the Balance in Changing Times Donna Dolham will preach

How do we find our balance in a changing world? As we are called in so many directions, how do we embody our faith and live out our values while also nurturing our spirits?

Sunday, April 1, 2018 Easter

Our Ever-Emerging Soul The Rev Rali Weaver will preach

This Easter we will reflect upon what Emerson called the Over-Soul and how we can help it emerge and continue emerging all of our lives.

This is an intergenerational service and an Easter Egg Hunt will follow worship.

Thank you to the Parish Players many hands for creating our Eggs this year!

Sunday, April 8, 2018 Surprise preacher

While Rev. Weaver and Donna Dolham attend the Revolutionary Love conference in NYC this weekend, we will be graced with a visiting minister. Come to church to be surprised by the subject and the person (ok maybe we will tell you who in the Weekly Church Email).

Sunday, April 15, 2018 Radical Love

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

How do we put our love into action? And what will happen to our individual and collective spirits if we don't?

Sunday, April 22, 2018 Nature vs. Nurture

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

Which came first the chicken or the egg? Can we change our nature by nurturing it, or are they forever intertwined?

Sunday April 29, 2018 Beliefs into Action

The Rev Rali Weaver will preach

This Sunday we will explore the history of why UU's focus on action and how our faith might fuel our work in the world.

We will share our offering with Amnesty International.

From Our Minister

I am taking some sabbatical time during the last week of February and during the month of March and Donna will be working at the Church in my stead. During this sabbatical I will be acting as primary caretaker for my niece's children while we try to iron out some details that are keeping her from them. My ability to care for them at my father's house in CT has kept them out of foster care.

I, for one, always hope our social institutions work well, and time and again am surprised by the lack of consistency and irregularities in systems that are supposed to care and protect us. This is what I will be reflecting upon in my time away.

I thank Donna and the Parish Committee for their quick response in letting me deal with this family crisis and I look forward to seeing you all again on Easter Sunday.

Donna Dolham will be filling in and offering office hours in my stead from the 25th of February until the 25th of March. If you have anything you need from me directly feel free to text, call or email me, otherwise I hope you will give Donna this chance to flex her ministerial muscle and go to her with any concerns during my time away.

I look forward to seeing you at Easter.

Rali

617-459-5979 raliweaver@dedhamuu.org

From Our Sabbatical Minister

"All that you touch you change. All that you change changes you. The only lasting truth is change." ~ Octavia Butler

Octavia Butler's quote captures for me some of the beauty of congregational life. Life at First Church and Parish, Dedham has offered me opportunities for change, learning, growing and joy. Our congregation is filled with the vitality that changes people and the community. All of you, your contributions and generosity of spirit help to make this the transformative community that it is. Witnessing your willingness to try new things and continue on with successful events like the Holly Fair, Parish Players, Women's Alliance programming, leadership engagement are just some of the ways you care for each other and the larger community.

I will be covering for the Rev. Rali Weaver while she is away. You have been preparing me for just such a time and I'm grateful for the opportunity. We will miss Rali and truly no one can take her place, so it's my honor to cover for her while she needs to be away. My office hours during the month of March will be Monday through Thursday from 10am to 2pm. I can be reached by phone (207) 701-1581 or by e-mail: ddolham@tds.net.

Also, during this time, I am in the process of what is called pre-candidating; basically it is what one of the stages of a congregational ministerial search is called. It involves an invitation to preach at a "confidential" location called a neutral pulpit where the search committee from the congregation one is interested in (and if they are also interested in you) will happen. So onward I travel in this ever changing path.

Mark your calendars: You are invited to my ordination which will be on June 16th @ 1:00 at the First Universalist Church in Auburn, Maine. This has been my home congregation for many years and is actually where I discovered Unitarian Universalism in the early 1990s and is where I met my spouse. Some highlights to watch for are: awesome music from the Dedham Choir and Linnea, dynamic preaching from our own Rev. Rali Weaver and liturgical dance with Georgia Krikorian. I hope you'll join us.

During the Month of March Donna will be in the office on Mondays – Thursdays from 10-2 and is available by phone at 207-701-1581 or by email at ddolham@tds.net

From Grace Peña- Acting Director of Religious Education

Children's Religious Education continued to be well attended in January and February. Some new classes have started and one has ended. *O.W.L. 7-9* had their last workshop on Sunday 1/21. The children from this class started *Coming of Age* in February. *Neighboring Faiths* (6th and 7th grades) started their class on 1/21 with Allison Staton and Cindy Jones teaching. Although Cindy has previously helped with the High School Youth Group, this is her first time teaching in R.E. It is so wonderful to have adults new to R.E.! They get to know the kids better and spend time with them. Lastly, *O.W.L. K-1* started on 1/28 after a successful Orientation on Saturday 1/27.

Now that *Neighboring Faiths* has started and will continue into September-December 2018, my mixed grade class is now made up of 1st graders through 5th graders. I look forward to honing the curriculum for this smaller group as the middle-schoolers were definitely ready for something new as far as R.E. classes go. The RE Committee and I are thinking of creating a new curriculum for 5-6th graders who are waiting for their turn to start *Neighboring Faiths*. These older grades are eager to be more involved in class, church and activities. We are thinking of ways they can be more in charge of what they do such as creating their own Cool Deeds or helping out in service more with readings, the Children's Message, etc. They would still experience being with the younger kids through Cool Deeds, but they are definitely ready to do more! That would be a goal for next church year.

Coming of Age will be the last new class for this last semester of CRE. I am so excited to teach this class and will alternate this semester between facilitating *Coming of Age* and teaching the *Grades 1-5* class.

I created a sign up genius for the *Grades 1-6* class activities. Each Sunday that this class meets there is a sign up slot for two teachers -- one will be either me or another member of the R.E. Committee; the other slot is for a parent or adult of the congregation. Please consider signing up and getting to know the children better by being in class with them. They love it when parents and other adults are involved and it is a great way to foster relationships throughout our congregation.

The Cool Deed in January was making granola and selling it at coffee hour the next Sunday. The proceeds from the granola sales and the remainder of similar Cool Deeds in the year will be collected and in May, the children will decide to which charity we will send our money.

Neighboring Faiths has studied Judaism and started Catholicism in February. We had members and friends of First Church help out with *Neighboring Faiths* for the first time. Those who helped were Laura Carty and Joel Wolfe with Judaism and Michael Plunkett with Catholicism. Thank you Laura, Joel & Michael!

Coming of Age students have met their mentors and have been completing worksheets to help them think about their own religious family history and special events/times in their lives. Hopefully, all of this will help them once they start to craft their Credo's.

I look forward to the rest of this semester in Children's Religious Education at First Church and especially to the *Coming of Age* and Children's Sunday services (5/20/2018 & 6/3/2018, respectively) - special moments in the life of First Church and Parish in Dedham!

With love, Grace

Grace has office hours on Sunday 8:30 am-12:30 pm,
Monday-Thursday 10:00 am-2:00 pm.
You may reach her at gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org

Save the Date

The Parish Players 2018 production...
Honk! A Musical Comedy
Dates are Friday April 6th at 7pm, Saturday April 7th at 2pm & 7pm and Sunday April
8th at 2pm

Service Auction April 28th
Dinner to be prepared by John Tocci and Andrea Gilmore!

Stay tuned to the weekly all church emails or please call the church
office at 781-326-7463 for more information.

Adult Religious Education

Watch for the repurposed crafting and pot luck in April. More to be announced later...

The Book Group – intended to widen our worldview – has changed its meeting to the **fourth Tuesday of every month**. The next gathering will be on Mar. 27 [The Righteous Mind](#), by Jonathan Haidt; and on April 24 [White Trash](#), by Nancy Isenberg. Email raliweaver@dedhamuu.org for more details or to get on the email list for this group.

Email raliweaver@dedhamuu.org

Care and Concerns

We are saddened to let you know of Enid Gifford's passing which occurred on Friday February 9th. Our love and condolences go out to her family at this time. Her Memorial service is being planned for Friday, May 11th at First Church and Parish in Dedham. Please stay tuned to the weekly church email and this section in particular for further information as details are confirmed.

Please keep Martha Leonard in your thoughts and prayers. She is living at the Golden Living Center in Dedham and would appreciate your cards, calls and visits.

Martha Leonard
C/O Golden Living Center Dedham
1007 East Street
Dedham, MA 02026

Michael Hubner continues in our prayers as she wrestles with the realities of ALS surrounded by her loving family. If you would like to read more about Michael's thoughts, you may keep in touch by accessing her [Caring Bridge site](#). Her most recent "Post from the Doldrums" is as wise and insightful as it is inspiring.

If you have a care or concern to share please contact our minister, Rali, by calling 617-459-5979 or emailing raliweaver@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 at <http://www.uuum.org/>

We share our offering each month with community groups that need support. Our calendar of giving as voted on by the Parish Committee for Share the Plate this year are as follows:

- **March 18th Partners in Health-** Strengthening Health Care Globally <https://www.pih.org/>
- **April 29th Amnesty International-** Global Movement demanding human rights for all people.
- **May 20th Louis D. Brown Institute** strives to heal families and communities impacted by murder based in Dorchester.
- **June 3rd Dedham Community House Camp** helps to aid one child to attend the Dedham Community House Summer Camp.

January and February Parish Committee Meetings Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting – December 4, 2018

Present: Susan Sennott, Noreen King, Matt Grady, Ann Miranda, Andrea Gilmore, Cindy Jones, Cathy Elefterakis, Rali Weaver, Donna Dolham

Susan called meeting to order

1. Sharing of gratitude

2. Minutes of 11/6/17 meeting: Andrea made motion to approve, seconded, passed

3. Minister's Report (by Rali):

a. Rali will be here during the holidays; she may also not be taking usual vacation in March (or perhaps a couple days during that week).

b. Sabbatical: Jenny may want to do sabbatical first half of 2019 (Rali may ask for 6 months in either spring or fall of 2019)

c. Holly Faire: De-briefing will be on 12/16; Rali thinks Holly Faire is not a sustainable thing because the visitors are aging, and it's not attractive to younger demographic; perhaps there is a way to utilize the Holly Faire effort differently toward our mission (such as a black Santa to entertain the kids); expressed a concern that this event encourages people to be hoarders; Cindy agreed that there could be possible alternatives; Rali pointed out that we could direct the Holly Faire toward our mission such as serving children and encouraging diversity; Andrea pointed out the Women's Alliance goals for Holly Faire are social action and serving the church

4. DRE report (by Rali: there was a bit of decline before last week of November (none of the Allin kids came on the joint service day); pageant is coming up (12/10); mitten tree is 12/17

5. Treasurer's Report (by Cindy): we have not received Nov or Dec rent from BSLC but Cindy will follow up; pledging income is low; preliminary for Holly Faire was \$5135 (will meet target); Quick Books renewal was higher than we expected; heat repairs were 100% of budget; parsonage/sewer is at about 50% of budget; other things are at or below; currently under budget; motion to accept was seconded and approved

6. New Chairs (by Andrea): we need to figure out storage situation (Natalie)

7. Moving of endowment funds (by Andrea): request has been processed.

8. New Members for Nominating Committee (Geoff): not discussed

9. Stewardship (by Rali): in process of recruiting people.

10. Committee on Ministry on Safe Church Policy (by Rali): the issues are that locked up things need to be accessible to members; it needs to be clear about shelter in place; Susan also said there is concern about liability; David M. pointed out that it needs to be clear exactly what needs to be locked up; UUA does not have a "shelter in place" in their policy; Andrea pointed out that the Deacons can set a directive about how to secure places (such as the power tool room downstairs) and expect Building and Grounds Cmte to execute (and direct the school to lock it); we also discussed reviewing fire extinguishers and exits with the congregation periodically (like during announcements); Andrea discussed a crash bar for the door; RE should have a fire drill

11. Holiday services (by Rali): Dale said every year there are some bulbs broken by the kids and we should switch to tea lights; Andrea will bring tea lights;
12. Should we meet in the dining room in winter since there is a chair shortage (by Rali); if the kids start out in the auditorium there will probably be enough chairs; it's usually just January and February; we generally agreed to continue to do this to be a "green" community
13. We discussed when to have committees present themselves to the congregation for recruitment of new members; the spring is probably good; we should start that the Sunday after Easter with [roughly] each week one of the committees makes a pitch.
14. We discussed a different type meditation like what Donna did at Parish Cmte Retreat; should be discussed by Worship Committee
15. We discussed visibility in the community; Rali wants to be able to audio record her sermon (can't do on her phone) and wants it to be on MP3; Rali talked about doing a "matterport" camera virtual tour of the meeting house; could we do a Facebook Live simulcast of the sermon?; we've been doing more Dedham Times ads; Rali discussed a contest where parishioners do short films about the church; BSLC gives us some visibility; the karaoke night was good PR; Parish Players is good networking; we should consider signage in next year's budget (and also to assign the Publicity Committee to consider better signage)
16. Finials (Andrea): need to keep them to use as a pattern for the new ones; people have been asking to have them.
17. Next meeting is Jan. 8th
18. Meeting was adjourned.

Agenda for January

- Discuss strategic objectives of Holly Faire vis-a-vis the 12/16 de-briefing meeting

ACTION

- Assign the Publicity Cmte to consider better signage
- Andrea will bring tea lights for holiday service

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting – January 9, 2018

Present: Kathy Elefterakis, Matt Grady, Ann Miranda, Geoff Tegnell, Rali Weaver, David Miller, Susan Sennott, Noreen King, Cindy Jones, Audrey Cecil and Susan White

Meeting called to order 7:10 p.m.

Gratitudes

Minutes of December 4, 2017 meeting - motion to approve, seconded and VOTED

Minister's Report - The Music and Worship Committee brainstormed about the Christmas Eve Service with particular emphasis on the candles i.e. to make sure they are driplless. Pat is back. Rali will have two basel cell carcinomas removed from her head and Donna will preach an extra Sunday that month. (February)

DRE Report

Treasurer's Report Pledges on target for the year. No rent for three months from Bay State Learning. New reminder sent. Holly Faire came in at \$10 below budget. Overall \$15,449 under budget. Motion to approve, seconded and VOTED

Review Action Items * Approved new chairs and racks-Motion to approve expenditure of \$8000 for new chairs and racks seconded and VOTED

- * Publicity Committee- talk to Julia Gecha and Dale Meyer Curley about signage
- * Andrea will check with Harveys Hardware about crash bar for Meeting House door.

Old Business

- * Geoff reported that Kathy, Susan and Paquita will remain on Nominating Committee and he will ask Jen Atkins
- * Rali has not yet found a Stewardship leader replacement for 2019
- * Safe Church Policy-Rali said no update at this time-will meet with Ministry Committee

New Business

- * Rali said Committee chairs have to let Cindy know what they need so she and the Finance Committee can prepare a draft budget for the Feb. meeting
- * Debit and credit cards for treasurer and deacons- much discussion-Cindy will do some research at Needham Bank
- * Holly Faire debriefing discussion-meetings scheduled for April 29 and September 2 regarding fair-people want to keep the fair as it is for the most but add things that would bring in younger people.
- * Proposed UUA bylaw change- currently the Board favors supporting Individuals- the Joseph Priestly district has proposed this bylaw change to spell out the need for the Board to speak to congregations directly.

Move to instruct Rali to vote in favor – so VOTED

Adjourned

8:25 p.m.

**Office Hours
Monday-Friday 10-2**

Grace Peña, Acting Director of Religious Education and Building Use Coordinator
Monday through Thursday 10-2

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

Donna Dolham
Ministerial Intern
Monday-Thursday 10-2

Available by appointment 207-701-1581

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 Mornings at 9:45 am

Thursday Mornings at 10:30 am

AA Groups

Sunday Dedham Village AA Meeting 5-10 pm

Private Women's Meeting Wednesday 6-8 pm

The
Parish Players
present

HONK!

A Musical Tale of
THE UGLY DUCKLING



WHEN:

FRIDAY, APR 6: 7^{PM}

SATURDAY, APR 7: 2^{PM} & 7^{PM}

FRIDAY, APR 8: 2^{PM}

WHERE:

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

TICKETS:

ONLINE: honkpp.bpt.me

CALL: 1-800-838-3006

Honk! is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com
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.