



The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXXVII, No 5

May & June 2017

Worship in May and June
Worship at 10 am in the Meeting House

Sunday, May 7, 2017
"Tribes"

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

What is our human penchant to find our tribe?
This Sunday we will explore and celebrate tribalism
and consider how hanging with only like-minded
others might help and hinder our species
in the future.

The Intergenerational Choir will sing.

Join us for practice at 9:30 am

All are welcome

This is our Membership Sunday!

Sunday, May 14, 2017
"This I Believe"

The Music and Worship Committee
will lead worship

Join us to explore your own faith and to consider
what you believe. The Music and Worship
Committee will lead worship.

Sunday, May 21, 2017
"The Historical and Present Threat of
The Feminine"

The Rev. Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

This Sunday we will explore what we can learn from
history about subverting the feminine and how our
nation's inbred misogyny might be taking us down a
darker path than we think, and what, if anything we
might be able to do about it.

Sunday, May 28, 2017
Anotology

The Rev Rali M. Weaver will preach

Anotology is culturally induced Ignorance. This
Memorial Day Sunday we will explore fake news and
how it might be feeding an anotologically adept
monster we might rather contain, and how we might
push past our own ridges of ignorance to keep it at
bay.

Sunday, June 4, 2017
Children's Sunday
The Rev. Rali Weaver
will preach

We will recognize the learning of our children, cele-
brate the efforts of our volunteer teachers, honor the
value of all kinds of learning and explore new possibili-
ties for the future.

The Intergenerational Choir will sing.

Join us for practice at 9:30 am

All are welcome

An annual meeting will take place in the Meeting
House after Worship. Members are encouraged to
attend.

Sunday, June 10, 2017
Planting a Garden

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach

This is our flower communion Sunday, and every-
one is invited to bring a flower to share as part of
worship. We will explore the importance of
planting seeds in growing a garden and consider
what seeds we might want to plant next year in
order to grow increasingly colorful flowers.

There will be a potluck picnic following worship.

Sides and salads will be welcome.

Sandwiches and drinks will be provided.

Summer worship will begin 6/18
Please sign up if you are willing to host
or offer a Summer service.

Summer services can be as creative as
you are.

Contact Rev. Rali Weaver if you are
interested

raliweaver@dedhamuu.org

617 459 5979

A worship training will take place over
lunch after worship on
Sunday, May 21st

Anyone interested or entertaining the
thought of public speaking in any
forum is invited and encouraged to attend.



From Our Minister

The UUA has had some ups and downs in the last month concerning their hiring practices and this has raised the ugly head of White Supremacy in our denomination and congregations. White Supremacy is one of those things that is difficult to pin point or talk about because the belief that some races and sexes of people are superior to others is often covert and hidden in our society. Pushing past our individual and collective bias is a life-long and never ending effort.

In his essay "Circles" Ralph Waldo Emerson describes this process of pushing past our understanding to a new more inclusive one as happening as the circles do upon water. This process of pushing ourselves to ever more inclusive understandings of ourselves and the world is never easy, no transformation is ever easy and I am certain that many of us are feeling discomfort during this time of great change.

My hope that our church is a place of comfort for you, while at the same time be a place of challenge. I want us to grow into the most inclusive diverse community we can be and that will require not only self-examination but group and community examination. This is why, for the past two years, we have been having community readings of a books that challenge our perceptions of what it means to be white. We hope this has also helped us to look individually at the perpetual systems of oppression that keep lives grounded and stuck in the way things have always been.

To wake up to these systems of white supremacy we perpetuate as a community we must each must explore our own complicit-ness in these systems of oppression. Who do I put on a pedestal or in the back of the bus? How do I get defensive instead of opening my heart to really listen to another? Where do I rush in to fix when what is needed is self-reflection?

As a community of love and of hope we are always in a constant cycle of becoming and in so doing we must open our hearts to each other, to possibilities and to what is outside of our own experience. To that end, as we wrap up the church year I want to encourage you to brainstorm ways our community can hold you and your experience more and how you might in turn open more to this community and let it help you transform beyond the scope of your own imagination. As we take our flowers from our Flower communion service on June 10th I want you to celebrate your own unique gift and our collective diversity. When we return on September 10th with our Water Communion service I hope we will recognize the merging of our waters as a representation of our collective intention to merge our diverse ways of being in ways that that will help us transform the world.

We may never rid the world of the 'otherness' that keeps some of us thinking we are better or more important than others and others of us stuck in perpetual cycles of unloving, but I hope every year of our ministry together will bring us closer to a loving path of togetherness liberates to be ever more pluralistic and free.

Blessed springtime to you.
Love, Rali

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver

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

Rev. Weaver will be on Vacation and Study Leave from June 20th to July 30th and on call and available as needed.

Friday Sermon Writing

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

From Grace Peña- Acting Director of Religious Education

March and April were very busy months in our Children's Education Program here at First Church and Parish in Dedham. Attendance has been consistently in the upper 20's with a record number of 34 just last week!

We have had some new little ones in Nursery with Desi and Georgia. We welcomed CJ Otto-Fagan and Anya Stuart.

Both Our Whole Lives classes are running at smoothly with very few absences. It is so wonderful to see the kids really want to take these classes and to know that they are getting honest and accurate information within this Lifespan Sexuality Education program. Last summer my daughter, Georgia, was enrolled in a program at Smith College. One of her courses was on Global Women's Health. When she told the professor that she was an O.W.L. graduate, he said that Our Whole Lives was the "gold standard" for sexuality education. This made me so proud to offer these courses across the grades. Next year O.W.L. 7-9 will continue with the second half of its program from September through December and we will offer O.W.L. K-1 in spring 2018. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions and/or would like further information about Our Whole Lives.

The kids in *Spirit Play* love hearing and interacting with the stories they hear in class. In March and April they enjoyed *How a Seed Becomes a Plant*, *The Wise People and the Elephant*, *Grandad's Prayer for the Earth* and *The Woman Who Fell from the Sky*.

We had three weeks off from our regular Children's Religious Education program in March and April. There was one intergenerational service on 4/2/2017 which was also the last performance of *Once Upon a Mattress*. We had another intergenerational service on 4/16/2017 for Easter Sunday. As always, the children LOVED our Easter Egg Hunt in the Meeting House after service. They collected 300 eggs!

On 3/19/2017 we had a special activity where we made sustainable bird feeders. We took small wooden bird houses and covered them with an edible "paste" made from flour, water, corn syrup and unflavored gelatin. We then pressed bird seed onto the houses to cover them. Once the birds eat all the seed the kids can re-cover the houses and put them back outside. The kids loved the activity. One little bird house was left at church by PJ Lutze who, when he realized he left it behind, exclaimed to his mom, "You have to call Grace now so I can get it!" I just love these kids!!

The coming months are going to bring many things to celebrate including Children's Sunday on 6/4/2017. I am so eager for you to see what the kids have learned this year.

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](tel:781-801-9857)

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

Each Summer we offer an opportunity to share your thoughts.
Have you ever wanted to lead worship?
Do you care about welcoming visitors and making a home for
community members?
Well offering Summer Services is your chance!
You don't have to write a sermon if you don't want to but can lead
a welcoming or gathering interaction
of any kind you can imagine.

A worship training will be held after worship on May 21st.

**Spring Clean-Up at
First Church and Parish!
Saturday, May 13, 2017
10:00 am**

Please join us on Saturday May 13, 2017
starting at 10:00 am
to help clean up our green spaces here at First Church and Parish.

There are tasks for all ages. As we always say, "Many hands make light work!"

Pizza will be served!

Hope to see you there!

Watch your email for the online vacation auction.

February, March, April Parish Committee Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting

February 6, 2017

Present:

Natalie Jensen, Andrea Gilmore, Geoff Tegnell, Cindy Jones, Debbie Harrison, Noreen King, Matt Grady, Sue Sennott, Audrey Cecil, Donna Dolham

Meeting called to order: 7:04 p.m.

Centering Moment

Minutes of January 4, 2017

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

Treasurer's Report—Cindy Jones

--Income:

--Bay State Learning: Dec. and Jan. rents received; some amounts due for Sept-Nov. E-mail sent

--Pledge income for Jan. higher than usual (\$13,500)

--First half of First Church funds received (\$16,000)

--No significant changes

--Expenses:

--Annual insurance premiums paid (about \$15,000)

--No significant changes

--Overall: \$10,293 under budget

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

Director of RE Report—written report of Grace Pena

Stewardship Committee—

--Many people reluctant to serve on committee

--Committee: Sue Sennott, Jenny C-P, Anne Schiraga, Ann Grady, Tam J-H, Vicky Berg

--Steve Brayton to chair with Carol D-H mentoring

--Natalie to notify Steve and Carol of committee names

Revitalize committees—

--Much discussion regarding points from Serving With Grace: check ins, meaningful/mindfulness, agenda, PC attend other meetings and offer suggestions re successful meetings, etc.

--Basic meeting info/guide: prompt, agenda, regular meetings

--At least 1 meeting per year on a Sunday

--PC and chairs retreat?

--Copies of Serving with Grace to chairs

--Comm. member terms; turnover and add members

--Mentorship/co-chairs; chair find someone to mentor?

--Chairs specifically ask people to join committee

--Co-Chairs: shared leadership; change leader periodically

Action: Natalie to contact comm. chairs about inviting a person to come to a meeting

Add to PC meetings: Centering, check out, gratitudes

Draft Budget for FY 2017-18

--Cindy looked at last 3 years budgets, then looked at this year's requests

--Cindy to calculate hourly rates for Grace and Pat

--Combine jobs of DRE and office admin?

--Overall: 3.7% increase in pledges needed; 3% increase in salaries

--Action: Cindy to send budget to Steve and Carol

Action Items

Natalie: 2 items

--Notify Steve and Carol the Stewardship Comm. names

--Contact comm. chairs about inviting someone to meeting

Cindy: 2 items

--Calculate hourly rates for Grace and Pat

--Send Draft Budget to Steve and Carol

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Harrison, Clerk

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting

March 2, 2017

Present:

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

Meeting called to order: 8:10 p.m. (after Executive Session)

Centering Moment

Minutes of February 6, 2017

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

Treasurer's Report—Cindy Jones

--Income:

--Bay State Learning: Feb. rent not received; E-mail sent

--No significant changes

--Expenses:

--Snow plowing about \$2,000 but not paid yet

--No significant changes

--Overall: \$1,689.17 under budget

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

Director of RE Report—written report of Grace Pena

Minister's Report

--A lot of new visitors; Membership committee working on better forms and greeters

--Film Series well attended (12-18 people most times)

--New Jim Crow community read; Rali to lead discussions in April and May

--Vacation March 14-24; vacation per letter of agreement—an exchange from 14 days worked summer 2016; Donna Dolham on call

--Sabbatical Days: outline of sabbatical time next 5 years; PC fine with plan; after 2018-19, end piece meal us of days; Cindy to calculate accrued days related to number of work days to prorate sabbatical days actually earned

--Expense Money: limit tuition money to 50% of total; Rali encouraged to attend GA; decision to roll over unused money to be made year by year; spending money on books fine

--Sabbatical plan to be included in annual letter of agreement beginning July 2017

--Rali appreciated clarity of PC regarding her plan; PC appreciates Rali detailing her plan

--Cindy to calculate info about days and sabbatical use

--Natalie to add information in letter of agreement

Stewardship Committee—

--March 5 campaign to start; Natalie, Julia, and Geoff to represent PC at church to begin drive

--Natalie asked Carol D-H to write down stewardship process

--Rali reported: Committee met; Collaboration with office; Henry Keene joined committee; Cindy gave Carol projected budget

--Letters to be sent next week

Annual Meeting—

--Date: June 4 (first Sunday of June)

--Need moderator and annual report completed

Parish Committee Meeting Dates:

--Monday, April 3; Monday, May 1; Thursday, June 8 (pot luck and grill at Rali's house)

Nominating Committee-- Geoff Tegnell

--To recruit 2 parish committee members, 1 clerk, 2 auditors

Committee Chairs: letter about inviting someone to meeting was possibly sent; Rali to clarify with Pat

UUA Workshop on leadership (Hilary Allen of NE Regional District to lead)

--Some PC members may attend

--Also 90 minute Webinar

--Rali to sent PC info on Workshop

--Fall training may be better timing for a workshop

Committee Mission Statements: some submitted; add to annual report; Rali to follow up and collect

Budget Item-- Grace and Pat hourly rates: Cindy to calculate

Folding Chairs—

- Need 70 chairs (replace broken ones, add to total as well); \$18 per chair usual
- Building and Grounds to research getting 150 chairs

Revitalize Committees: extend efforts and discussions to 'big picture' next year

Service Auction and Dinner: Saturday, April 29 6:00 cocktails; 6:30 Dinner

Church Art—Andrew Gilmore

- Michael Grogan looked at Church's art; to present appraisal/evaluation
- Church Mutual to insure art?
- Clock in Alliance Room getting cleaned and repaired; high quality clock
- Old Meeting House clock is at Dedham Hist. Society; to be cleaned and conserved

Security System of Parish House: needs repair

Electrical System of Meeting House and Parish House: old cloth covered wiring; needs replacement

Check Out:

- Rali appreciates that we can attack big maintenance items; doing so is a gift to future generations
- Natalie appreciates how hard PC members work on details

Action Items

Natalie: include Rali's new plan in letter of agreement

Rali: check with Pat about letters to committee chairs; send PC info on leadership workshop; collect committee mission statements for annual report

Cindy: Calculate hourly rates for Grace and Pat; Calculate sabbatical days for prorating totals

Nominating Committee: begin to recruit officers for 2017-18

Debbie: Prep warrants for June Annual Meeting to sign at May PC meeting

Geoff: Follow up about Bay State rent; secure moderator for Annual Meeting

Building and Grounds: folding chair research

Next Meeting: Monday, April 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Harrison, Clerk

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting

April 3, 2017

Present:

Natalie Jensen, Julia Gecha, Andrea Gilmore, Geoff Tegnell, Kathy Elefterakis, Debbie Harrison, Noreen King, Audrey Cecil, Susan Sennott, Matt Grady, Rali Weaver

Meeting called to order: 7:05 p.m.

Centering Moment and Gratitudes

Minutes of March 2, 2017

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

Director of RE Report—written report of Grace Pena

--Lots of little kids; need for nursery assistant (need 2 people present)

--Challenge to recruit parent volunteers

--Grace taking some classes toward DRE

Minister's Report

--Copier networked to computer to be default printer: save \$\$ on toner

--Withdraw from Ph.D. Program

--Disconcerting events at national UUA level

--Regional UUA meeting and UU Urban Ministry Annual Meeting soon: delegates encouraged

--Restart efforts with committee chairs regarding mission statements, Annual Report and Leadership Workshop in early fall

--Suggest committee staffing readjusted: PC or deacon be responsible for certain committees?

--Suggest invite Comm. on Ministry to May meeting to review Rali's ministry and self-evaluation

--To focus on next year's calendar, summer lay preaching, contact ailing members, Donna's Field Study eval.

Stewardship Committee

--75% of goal reached so far; 58 pledges; \$75,000 raised

Nominating Committee-- Geoff Tegnell

--Recruits for 2017-18: Parish Comm: Dave Miller and Ann Miranda; Clerk: Sue White

--Auditors and Moderator TBA

--Suggest explain leadership roles and elicit ideas for leadership roles from congregation

Bay State Learning--Geoff Tegnell

--Request for signage for Bullard/High St.; To go through town's process

--Cash flow challenge and confusions of check writing

--July Summer Camp—PC supports the group so no rent; to pay custodian and air conditioner

Building and Grounds--Andrea Gilmore

--Folding Chairs: found some to purchase (black steel, vinyl seat, 10 yr. warranty)

--Crane: steeple work end of April (finials, windows, louvres)

Fundraising Committee--Andrea Gilmore

--Service Auction and Dinner: cancel (bad date, helpers not available); move to January 2018

--Summer Houses: on line auction this spring

Treasurer's Report: Cindy's written report

--Income:

--Bay State Learning: rent payments not up to date

--Received some 2017-18 pledges

--No significant changes

--Expenses:

--Trash removal over budget

--No significant changes

--Overall: \$2,875.01 over budget

--First Church funds and Bay State payments yet to come

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

New Member

--Motion to affirm Dave Miller as member—seconded—voted—approved

Building Use Facilitator

--Grace Pena to be contact person regarding building use in 2017-18

--Add 5 hours a week to Grace's work schedule (25 hours total)

--Grace very helpful and spent extra time and effort with recent Talbot memorial service

--Motion to give Grace Pena \$100 from a \$500 donation for the Talbot service—
seconded—voted---approved

--Rali to submit check request for Grace

Revitalizing Committees: Natalie Jensen

--Some things tried this year; some things work in progress

--Suggest PC retreat before Church opens; have UUA facilitator (Sue Phillips recommended)

--Some members suggest retreat NOT at First Church---seek a neutral location

--Sue Sennott to research about the retreat

Action Items

Rali: Begin to revise Safe Church Policy; get other churches' policies

Rali: summer houses on line auction; info in newsletters

Rali: contact chairpeople about mission statements and annual report

Rali: inform congregation about national UUA issues

Nominating Committee (Geoff): recruit auditors and moderator

Andrea: decide and purchase 150 folding chairs

Natalie: invite Comm. on Ministry to May PC meeting

Debbie: Prep warrants for June Annual Meeting to sign at May PC meeting

Next Meeting: Monday, May 1, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Harrison, Clerk

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
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
Private Women's Meeting 6-8 pm

Save the Date:

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

May 13th Clean up Day!

May 21 How to plan worship training

June 4th Children's Sunday!
Annual Meeting!

June 10th
Flower Communion
Church Picnic
Softball/kickball Game vs Allin Congregational!

