



The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXXII Number 3

January & February 2022

Worship in January and February 2022

As per the Parish Committee Vote we will be meeting in the Parish Hall and on Live Stream in January and February. Religious Education will also meet virtually during January. Please watch your email and our website for changes.

Sunday, January 2, 2022

Building Family

The Rev. Rali Weaver will lead the discussion. What is the human family? How has it evolved over time? What is the purpose of family and how do we engage in building a sense of family? This conversation is for children and adults.

Sunday, January 9, 2022

Utopian Musings

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach. We will explore the reason Utopia is a concept born out of times of strife and question whether Utopia is at all possible. A discussion will follow worship.

Sunday, January 16, 2022

The Propaganda of Religion

The Rev. Rali Weaver will Preach.

We will explore how religion was propagated, what parts are true and what are corporatized efforts to control the populace, and what eternal truths we can trust in.

A discussion will follow worship.

Sunday, January 23, 2022

Matt Meyer

Percussionist Matt Meyer will lead worship.

Homemade by the River

What architects, masons, and the sound of water can teach us about crafting a home by hand. And what rivers remind us about living a life in motion and movement. Matt is a musician and worship leader who has led hundreds of services for UU congregations across the country. He has a degree in hand drumming and serves as Director of Community Life for Sanctuary Boston.

Zoom Social Hour every Sunday at 11:00.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99906139969>

All worship can be found either live streamed or after the fact at www.dedhamuu.org

Sunday, January 30, 2022

The Work of the Dustman

The Rev Rali Weaver will preach.

Does your work support your leisure or your leisure support your work? We will explore how our attitude about work affects everything we do and the importance of learning to do without doing so everything gets done.

A discussion will follow worship.

Sunday, February 6, 2022

Is Anti Racism a Religious Practice?

The Rev. Rali Weaver

This Sunday I will explore why many ministers have decided that dismantling racism is a spiritual issue. A discussion will follow worship.

Sunday, February 13, 2022

Desmond Tutu's Bag of Tricks

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

We will celebrate the life work of the venerable Archbishop Desmond Tutu and explore the truths behind the magic of his efforts to dismantle apartheid.

A discussion will follow worship.

Sunday, February 20, 2022

Authenticity

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

We will explore the importance of staying true to ourselves and allowing others to do the same.

A discussion will follow worship.

Sunday, February 27, 2022

Cultivating Flexibility and Spontaneity

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

This day we will try to remember the values of flexibility and spontaneity after a time of Covid restrictions. We will consider ways to practice flexibility and spontaneity so that we don't lose the important skill of improvisation.

A discussion will follow worship.

From Our Minister: The Rev. Rali Weaver

It is difficult to predict when our church will return to the normal fun and activity we had before Covid times. However, there are a few gifts of these Covid times that are impossible to ignore. For one: the live streaming and zoom social hour that are available to those who cannot get out due to illness or health precautions. Even my father and sister and the Cecils, who moved away, can catch our services from time to time. We are also going to begin sharing Online Adult RE classes with local congregations so that we might increase both opportunities and attendance at online Adult RE events. Innovations like this one have transformed operations for small churches like ours.

I had a seminary professor (who was also a Catholic Nun) who recounted a time when she had broken both of her legs, and she realized she could ask “Why me God; why is this happening to me?” or “Oh God, what can I learn from this time of restriction?” I believe our Covid times are giving us an equally good opportunity to choose to see the glass as half empty or half full. I know that I usually think the glass is half full, but this long drought with Covid restrictions has left me less optimistic. I hope to spend the coming months reflecting upon ways to help us reintegrate our minds so that, when our bodies are safe to be together again, our brains can catch up more easily.

To increase camaraderie, we will be having zoom and in-person conversations following worship during January and February. While we will be worshipping in the Parish Hall to save fossil fuel, we will have the opportunity to socially distance and speak directly to each other more easily than we do in the sanctuary. While there is no way to really know what our church will be like when all threats of Covid are gone, it is essential that we try to stay connected during these uncertain times.

I know I can't keep us connected or make us a church all by myself, so I ask that each of you reach out to your church friends by phone and letter to keep our connections going. I will continue the Nature and Nurture walks on the fourth Saturdays of the month throughout the winter, as well as the daily zoom check-in and Meditations every morning from 8-8:30 am. We are increasing the Readers and Writers workshop to every week on Wednesdays from 5-6 pm. This will give us another opportunity to check in and share ideas in a safe way. If you have an idea for an Adult RE class or gathering you would like to offer your fellow parishioners, please let me know. I can give you a zoom link and help advertise to help you get started. In February I am also starting up the Justice Documentary Film Series. We will watch the films asynchronously and then have discussions about them. All the information about these events is in this Parish Record and in the all church email each week. The information can also be accessed by emailing me or the church office.

I hope none of you feel lonely or isolated during this time. I want you to know I am here if you need an ear or a friend. I also want you to feel comfortable reaching out to each other and/or attending these daily, weekly or monthly meetings.

Rev. Rali M. Weaver on Zoom 8-8:30 am <https://zoom.us/j/684365896>
for daily check-in and meditation
Wednesday 5-6 on Zoom for Readers and Writers workshop
and Sundays at 11:00 for Zoom Social Hour
In the Church Office Tuesday through Friday 10-3
raliweaver@dedhamuu.org or 617-4595-5979
or make an appointment online at <https://revraliweaver.youcanbook.me>

From our Church Administrator: Grace Peña

The Church Office hours are:
Monday ~ Closed
Tuesday through Friday ~ 10 am-2 pm

Hello! I've been home since the end of September and my recovery has been going very well. I am now in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays (although it's always a good idea to check by emailing me or calling the office in case I'm out for a doctor's appointment). Rali is in the office on the other days of the week.

I've missed you all and am so grateful for your well wishes, flowers, cards, food, love, etc.

Please check out my new section in the weekly church email:

Help Around the Office

This is where I will let you know if I need any extra *help around the office* each week such as getting the Parish Record mailed out. It will be good to have the help, and I'll have the added bonus of getting to spend some time with you!

If you would like to receive our weekly church email, please contact me at: firstchurch@dedhamuu.org or by phone at 781-326-7463, and I will add your email address to that contact list. The email usually goes out on Thursday afternoon.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have stopped receiving the weekly email, what likely has happened is that the program has noted your email address as inactive. This automatically occurs if you do not open that message for a while. Please make sure to at least open the message even if you do not click through. Please contact the office if you need your email address placed back on the contact list.

Care and Concern

We continue to have parishioners who are not feeling well and/or cannot make it to worship or virtual services, and would benefit from a call, a card or a visit.

In particular we hope you would reach out with a card or a call to Martha Leonard, Joan Wisloki, Maryanne Osborne and Priscilla King.

If you have a care or concern to share or an address and phone number, please contact our church office by calling 781-326-7463 or emailing firstchurch@dedhamuu.org or Susan White at sbsw6567@gmail.com.

If you would like to help out with your fellow parishioners please fill out the survey attached to the all church email and online at:

<https://www.dedhamuu.org/get-involved>

or by going to: <https://forms.gle/CsUKhn2rXLhD6DJW6>

Did you know, if you miss worship you can listen to Rev. Weaver's Sermons at <https://soundcloud.com/weaverali> or watch all the Covid worship on YOUTUBE by searching youtube Rev. Rali Weaver, Tiny Desk Worship.

Civic Engagement

Dedham Food Pantry

Dedham Food Pantry needs volunteers at this time. If you can help please sign up by going to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409of4caca829a2f49-20201>

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 at ssennott1@gmail.com or check the UU Urban Ministry out online at <http://www.uuum.org/>

Adult Religious Exploration

Nature and Nurture Society (Social Distancing walk): Will start up again, on the Fourth Saturday of the month. Come rain or shine we will be walking together this month on January 22nd and February 26th. We will explore the works of the transcendentalists and explore the nature theatre that brought them so close to the divine. Contact Rali if you are interested so she can give you directions and knows who to wait for. 617-459-5979 or raliweaver@dedhamuu.org. New walkers are always welcome!

Daily Meditations: Join Rali for 30 minutes of check-in and meditation, 8:00-8:30 every day of the week on Zoom <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/684365896>

Eighth Principle Project: If you are interested in discussing the possibility of adding an eighth UU principle to our seven, one that encourages us to address issues of racism and White Supremacy in our congregations and the world. Please contact Rev. Rali Weaver raliweaver@dedhamuu.org 617-459-5979 to find a mutually agreeable time to meet.

A First Church Reader and Writer Group has changed it's time to invite more. It now meets **every Wednesday** from 5pm - 6 pm on Zoom. Please join us for reading and listening and writing both poetry and prose. Even if you aren't a writer, bring some of your favorite author's work to share.

This is a fun and enjoyable time for all those who participate. Please join us on Zoom <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87160212466>. New readers and writers are always welcome.

Ministry Evaluation

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the evaluation of our Minister. There is still time to give feedback. We hope everyone will fill out an anonymous Leadership Skills Survey on Rev. Weaver. You may fill it out online by going to our website www.dedhamuu.org and looking for the link at the top bar of the page or by getting a paper copy from the church office or from a Ministry Committee Member following worship. We would very much appreciate Everyone's Feedback!

Much appreciation for your participation in the life of the ministry of our church and parish,

The First Church Ministry Committee
Claudia Leone, Tyler Carpenter, Diane Cullen-Moore, Betsy Hetzler,
Mason Miranda, Eileen Sullivan

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First Church Parish Committee Meeting Notes, Tuesday, 10/4/2021

Attendees: Josh Langmead, Jonathan Pape, Debbie Harrison, Rali Weaver, Erik Meyer-Curley, Geoff Tegnell, Kerrie Gallagher, Howard Ostroff, Kayla Schneider, Matt Grady, Paquita Bass

Call meeting to order at 7:05 PM on October 4th, 2021

Gratitude: Rali is grateful for the Allin/First Church photo in support of the Human Rights Commission. Howard loves the fall weather. Erik is grateful for the convenience of meeting on Zoom. Debbie is grateful that Matt Grady has joined the PC as the new Deacon.

Welcome New Members: Welcome to Matt Grady who will fulfill the last three years of Jen Atkin's deaconship. Matt will be a voting member of the PC until his nomination is approved by the congregation at the Fall Meeting.

Review and Approve:

1. Minutes from September 7, 2021 meeting (requires approval); In the Minister's Report, Rali has cleaned up from several floods. Really only one. And Mason Miranda is not Mason, Miranda. Coffee hour groups need to be specific as to next month. Review action # 3 C. Committee Review: Debbie did not sign up for Committee Review. The Treasurer's report # 3 making future estimates will be handled by Buildings and Ground. Jon wants to be on Committee Review and will help Geoff with demographic data. The meeting minutes for 9/7/21, as revised, were unanimously approved.
3. Treasurer's Report (requires approval): On line 26, indication that we have 27% of our pledges which indicates that we are on target. Bills have been paid and we are in good fiscal shape. \$32,000 is on the wrong line. There was concern about the accuracy of the amount of \$ in the restricted fund. We don't have an accurate # and need to have some parsing out of a way to track this \$ easier. We should make sure that there are no duplicates in the fund raising line as well. Minister's Report: Kerrie Gallagher, Deb H and Linda MK have been helping in the office. Deb H, Erik and Rali are working on the budget. We had our first meeting in the meeting house and Tom D assessed the CO2 levels in the church as safe. Tom has advised us about fans and filters to make the building even safer. Rali is arranging meals for Vicky B and Grace P. The Catholic, Episcopal, and Allin Churches are working with First Church to help Afghan refugees settle in housing in our town. Rali would like the church to provide her with a letter of agreement to be a spokesperson for more supportive actions in favor of refugees. Grace is still working for us and Rali is helping her determine how to come back full-time. Rali is asking that Grace be paid full-time until mid-October. Some of us would like Rali to take a more forefront role in supporting important causes. For instance, the above three churches have announced their support for refugees, but it may be important to first have the PC vote on the church being more vocal about assuming such a humanitarian role. This probably requires a full congregational vote. Josh suggests that the congregation vote on this new role at our fall meeting. We will take a Parish Committee vote on submitting this to the Congregation when next we meet as a PC on 11/1.

Action Items

Committee Review: The committees met in break into rooms to make next step plans.

New Business

1. DRE: The Personnel Committee has made a plan for responding to Grace's illness. Grace will continue to receive her current salary until the end of October, when, hopefully, Grace will return to her office duties. The RE program will be supervised by the RE committee and the current assistant, Lisa Pilat. At the end of October, Grace's position will be adjusted according to her health and her work desires. Her salary will be adjusted as appropriate. Lisa

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doesn't want to be a DRE, but will continue to step in as a replacement for Grace until a new DRE is hired at the end of 2021-22. We will pay Grace \$24 an hour after 10/15 for the work she does. We will look at Grace's situation in mid-church year. Grace's wage plan was passed unanimously.

2. The Revised budget cuts of \$2000 for 2021-22 was discussed, with mention of a more accurate trash removal debit and a lowering of \$2000 to the UUA, as well as a correction on Grace' salary. We will present the changed figures to the congregation in November.
3. Returning to the Meeting House: Tom Donaghey assesses the meeting house ventilation as healthy, so Rali suggests that we return to the meeting house for the rest of the cold months of the church year. Andrea mentioned the expense of having church in the meeting house for the winter months. Since Delta is not hitting our region in a dramatic way now, we can feel more comfortable about worshiping in the meeting house. Howard hopes we can live stream all inside services to include those who are reluctant to attend church in person. Meeting inside through December in a safe way with good live streaming was approved unanimously.
4. Annual Meeting Warrants: Dates so we can contact auditors and choose a moderator. December 12th is a good date for the Annual Meeting. The deacons have planned to get their report to the auditors by November 1st. Erik will get a due date to Jenny. Thus November 1st should be our document due date. We will check in on this at our next PC meeting.
5. Holly Faire Committee: The Allin and St. Paul's churches have asked to hold their fall fairs on the Green along with First Church. Some of us are concerned about the cold in December. We can still do most of our sales inside. Rali will explain our desires to coordinate with the Allin and St. Paul's churches, but as we have determined is best for our congregation.

Next Meeting

1. Monday, November 1, 2021 at 7:00pm

Adjourn at 9:04 PM on Monday, 10/4/21

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Tegnell

Clerk, First Church and Parish in Dedham

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First Church Parish Committee Meeting Notes, Monday, November 1, 2021

Attendees: Josh Langmead, Jonathan Pape, Debby Harrison, Rali Weaver, Erik Meyer-Curley, Geoff Tegnell, Kerrie Gallagher, Howard Ostroff, Matt Grady, Paquita Bass, Rali Weaver, Andrea Gilmore

Call meeting to order at 7:10 pm

Gratitudes: Kerrie is grateful for her visit to family members. Others are happy to provide information for the First Church assessment.

Review and Approve:

1. Minutes from October 4, 2021 meeting (requires approval): After 10/15, we will assess Grace's work investment.
2. Treasurer's Report (requires approval): Eric is concerned about how the budget is expressed. He is attempting to express the fact that we are within 33% of our budget expectations. We are 33% through the church year, regular monthly income & expenses (salaries, utilities) should be at around 33% of the budgeted amount. A parking rental is not being collected. Rali will check this out. Building use: we are zeroed out. Eric will communicate with Rali about parking rental.
3. Revised Budget cuts: Lowered contribution from UUA and by resigning Grace's commission as DRE, we lowered our contribution by \$9000.
4. Minister's Report: Please sign up for Ministry evaluation. Rali has met with the RE community and will take on junior worship associates. Grace is coming in for one day a week Rali is concerned about maintaining worship in the meeting house. The Allin Church preacher will preach on the next Sunday. For the annual meeting: Are we to do this in person or virtually? How about 12:30 PM on the appropriate Sunday? Rali will oversee the online (zoom) voting.

New Business

1. Annual Meeting (actually this is the Special Fall Meeting of the Church and Parish)
 - a. Date/Zoom vs. In-Person The Special Fall meeting of the Church and Parish will take place on December 12th in person and on Zoom.
 - b. Warrants: Geoff will fill out the warrants to include: Date December 12. in person and on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/76689822>. The items on the warrants will include: to hear and act upon the audits of the Parish Committee and Deacons Reports and hear and act upon the revised budget for 2022
 - c. Moderator: Rali is going to reach out to Sharon Lane
 - d. Parish Committee Statement of Conscience/ Social Directives. We have decided to inform the congregation of the Parish Committee's decision to take a stand on issues of social conscience as needed at the Annual Meeting
 - e. Budget: the revised budget will be presented at the special fall meeting on December 12th
2. Ministry Review: So far the Ministry Committee has 20 people signed up for the Ministry Review. Several people will have one-on-one interviews with the committee because they are busy next week or prefer not to talk in a group. Those who haven't signed up, please let Rali know and she can help them get on the list. The first part of the ministry review will be discussions about the ministry of the church taking place November 2 and 4th 7-8 pm on zoom and Sunday November 7th after worship in person.

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3. Winter Services: Rali proposes that we continue to meet in the Meeting House through the winter. She knows that this might be cost prohibitive with oil but believes the benefit for visitors, for long term members who feel comfortable coming out, and for the health and spiritual wellbeing of the congregation, it would make sense to return to the norm. We will send out a survey next week asking parishioners if they wish to continue worshipping in person in the Meeting House through the winter.

4. Dropbox Check-in: we tabled this until next meeting.

Action Items

1. Sub Committees: Short meetings: All below groups held short meetings.
 - a. Committee Review:
 - b. Ministry Review:
 - c. Long Range Planning:
2. Portraits Next Steps: This discussion was postponed till next time.

Next Meeting

1. Monday, December 6, 2021 at 7:00pm

Adjourn at 9:00 PM on 11/1/21

Respectfully Submitted,
Geoff Tegnell, Clerk for Parish Committee

First Church Parish Committee Meeting Monday, January 3, 2022, 7:00 Meeting

Attendees: Josh Langmead, Jonathan Pape, Debby Harrison, Rali Weaver, Erik Meyer-Curley, Geoff Tegnell, Kerrie Gallagher, Howard Ostroff, Matt Grady, Paquita Bass, Andrea Gilmore

Call meeting to order at 7:06 PM

Gratitude: For the New Year and a healthier 2022; for the return of JT from a dog sledding adventure, for Xmas with healthy family members; for extended family who strategize how to see each other safely; for healthcare workers who are doing a good job taking care of others; for siblings who help out with family member illnesses; for Rali feeling better and Jenny pitching in on last Sunday; for Kayla Chicoine's service to the church, appreciation upon her resignation from Parish Committee.

Review and Approve:

1. Minutes from December 6, 2021: meeting (requires approval) Questions about meeting the \$8K number for building use, but we are concerned as to the impact of Covid. We are receiving no negative feedback about our new increased prices. We agreed to pay Mark Brooks \$250 and Howard hasn't seen the check. Andrea will make a check request for this amount to Mark. Rali will take care of this tomorrow. At winter services we need to have under rather than over 40 attendees. Minutes with above revisions were approved unanimously (with Jon as an abstention because he was engaging in child care at this time.)
2. Treasurer's Report (requires approval): Erik says that the numbers of income are not up to date. Salaries reflect changes in Grace's salary. Erik discussed questions about accounting for pledges for 2020-21 versus 2021-22. Andrea is concerned about separating \$ from 2020-21 and 2021-22. Erik thinks that these funds need to be properly labeled and that corrections need to be made to make sure we don't count \$ twice. Erik will do the appropriate corrections. We do not need the Congregation to revote on 4793 (out of last year's budget) and we need the auditors to

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okay the change. We are presently clarifying budget lines 4701 and 4792. Erik will make the necessary change after consultation with the PC chairs and the deacons. Andrea also has concerns about accounting of restricted and the minister's equity funds numbers. We will continue to work on this in February after Erik pulls what has gone into and about of that fund. Then we need to consult with Jenny about how to account for these Parish Committee funds and Erik will look for the missing \$16K.

3. Minister's Report: Rali was sick on Sunday and realizes she needs to train others to set up the Zoom. Xmas Eve might be healthier on the Green. Rali will continue meditation and the writer's workshop. She will stream the justice films so folks can see and comment on them at home. The Ministry Committee is compiling the results of the Appreciative Inquiry. Rali is planning her sabbatical for next year.

4. RE: No children's classes because of Covid and will hold classes when students are less imperiled by Covid.

New Business

1. January /February/March Services: In January we will meet in the auditorium. There will be no choir in January, but Darry will play instrumental music. We will wait and see about February and March.
2. Review Budget Projections: Need is to start preparing for this spring's Stewardship campaign. We are currently 4% over budget. Members were concerned about potential snow clearing costs. Debbie pointed out that \$1000 will come in from the December Jon Muratore concert.
3. Stewardship Committee: We need to get the Parish Committee more involved with the Stewardship Committee. Parish Committee members might make testimonial videos about why we contribute pledges to First Church and also help with accounting of the pledges that come in. In April Parish Committee folks will make calls, based on March numbers. Howard and Kerrie will help Rali with setting up this campaign

Action Items

1. Dedham School of Music needs new space. They would like to use First Church. Jon would help facilitate music lesson space for the kids. The Building Use Committee has to decide on pricing. (Bay State Learning Center isn't in the dining room and auditorium in the Parish House on Friday.) Rali can talk with Jon about rooms that aren't used during the week as well as after 4 PM. We are talking about one-on-one music lessons. Jon will get the numbers and come to the Building Use Committee ASAP. Community Band also needs space (auditorium?)
2. Next Steps Portraits: Compile a list of portraits, create a history of the individuals in the portraits, collaborate with the DHSM to research historical background of ministers, and then, based on what emerges, we will have an opportunity to do further planning. We will transfer the archives we have to the Harvard Divinity School archive in January/February and come up with a history of the ministers in question to share with the congregation in order to determine next steps.

Next Meeting

1. Monday, February 7, 2022 at 7:00pm

Adjourned at 9:15 PM on January 3rd, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,
Geoff Tegnell, Clerk for Parish Committee

Justice Documentary Film Series

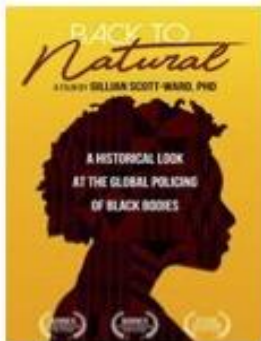
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Viewing on your own and join us at 2pm on Zoom February 6, 2022 for conversation



Viewing on your own and join us at 2pm on Zoom February 13, 2022 for conversation



Viewing on your own and join us at 2pm on Zoom February 20, 2022 for conversation

Viewing on your own and join us at 2pm on Zoom February 27, 2022 for conversation



Watch the films on your own then join us for conversations at 2pm on Zoom email firstchurch@dedhamuu.org for details

Profiled This powerful documentary knits the stories of mothers of Black and Latin youth murdered by the NYPD into a powerful indictment of racial profiling and police brutality, and places them within a historical context of the roots of racism in the U.S. Some of the victims—Eric Garner, Michael Brown—are now familiar the world over. PROFILED gives us a window on one of the burning issues of our time.. Official Selection at the Reel Awareness Human Rights Film

Stranger Fruit

What really happened on August 9th, 2014 in Ferguson, Missouri? That afternoon, Officer Darren Wilson killed 18-year-old Michael Brown. 'STRANGER FRUIT' is the unraveling of what took place, told through the eyes of Mike Brown's family. Official Selection at the **SXSW Film Festival**. "A powerfully compelling take on events surrounding the death of Michael Brown."

Back to Natural - A Film by Dillan Scott- Ward

This documentary outlines the ways in which race, identity, and hair are all related and offers a compassionate viewpoint on issues that affect African descendants.

Race Conversations & A Vocabulary of Change

Angela Davis and Tim Wise, two of this country's leading racial and social justice scholar-activists, join moderator Rose Aguilar onstage for a rare, unscripted and free ranging conversation on the state of contemporary global politics. Through bold discourse, wit, and an optimism of the will, Angela and Tim call for new vocabularies - a different kind of fluency and a different quality of literacy. \This week we will also explore the New York Times Conversations on Race.