

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

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

Volume CXXXVI, No V May & June of 2016

Sundays in May & June

**May 1, 2016**

**Digging Deeper**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

This Sunday we will reflect upon how to deepen our relationships and how to flatten all obstacles in our way. This week we will share the plate with Amnesty international. There will be a budget hearing following worship this Sunday.

Join the intergenerational Choir at 9:45 on Sunday for rehearsal.

**May 8, 2016**

**The Unvarnished Truth about Racism**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

We will explore the truth of racism in our country today and ask what if anything we can do about it. Following worship we will meet to discuss our community reading of “Waking up White”

by Debby Irving.

**May 15, 2016**

**The Problem with Blame**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

How does blame help or hurt a compassionate society? This week we will explore the purpose of blame and ask what might be gained from letting go of blame. The annual meeting will take place following worship this Sunday.

**May 22, 2016**

**Coming of Age Service**

This Sunday we will listen to the Credos of our youth and celebrate their coming of age.

**May 29, 2016**

**Remembering our Losses**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

On this Memorial Day you are invited to bring a photo or memento of your departed loved one to share as part of worship, where we will explore the importance of communal grieving and

remembering.

Office Hours

Pat Hawkins: Tuesday 9-1, Wednesday 9-1, Friday 9-1

Starting the week of June 12 only Wednesdays 1:30-7:30pm

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

Starting 6/15 3-7 pm Dedham Farmer’s Market

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.

Important Church Events

May 15, Annual Meeting Following Worship

June 5, Community Picture following worship

June 12, Flower Communion and Picnic

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

**June 5**

**Not all Learning**

**Takes Place in a Classroom**

**Children’s Sunday**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

We will recognize the learning of our children, celebrate the efforts of our volunteer teachers, honor the value of all kinds of learning and explore new possibilities for the future. Join the intergenerational Choir at 9:45 on Sunday for rehearsal. We will take a community picture on the steps following worship.

**June 12**

**All the Flowers**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

This is our flower communion Sunday, and everyone is invited to bring a flower to share as part of worship. There will be a potluck picnic following worship. Sides and salads will be welcome.

Sandwiches and drinks will be provided.

**From Our Minister**

***Connections***by Marge Piercy

*Connections are made slowly, sometimes they grow underground.  
You cannot always tell by looking at what is happening  
More than half a tree is spread out in the soil under your feet.  
Penetrate quietly as the earthworm that blows no trumpet.  
Fight persistently as the creeper that brings down the tree.  
Spread like the squash plant that overruns the garden.  
Gnaw in the dark, and use the sun to make sugar.  
Weave real connections, create real nodes, build real houses.  
Live a life you can endure: make life that is loving.  
Keep tangling and interweaving and taking more in, a thicket and bramble  
wilderness to the outside but to us it is interconnected with rabbit runs and burrows and lairs.  
This is how we are going to live for a long time: not always.  
For every gardener knows that after the digging, after the planting, after the long season of tending and growth, the harvest comes.*

Here we are at the end of another church year. It is difficult not to want to collapse into summer without any thought for what will come next, yet we have grown so much in this past year and have gained so many more friends, I don’t want to walk away without considering where we might go next.

Connecting and deepening our connections seems the only course going forward but how do we do that? Certainly connections cannot be formed quickly or overnight; all relationships take time to deepen. And like the seeds we plant in the spring that take all summer to grow, so too our relationships to each other take time and attention to deepen. This is in part why we continue our lay-led services through the summer months: to keep worship available for those who are looking for us and for those who need us in the summer. We need 8 more summer lay leaders to greet our summer guests; if you would like to lead a lay led worship this summer, please let me know. Worship services provide one way we form connections, but to go more deeply requires more than worship and coffee hour each week.

To deepen our community bonds will require all of us to intentionally build more community. The only way to deepen our relationships in community is with time, and to that end the Membership Committee has decided to resurrect Friendship Dinners in the 2016/2017 Church Year, with a new twist. Before the end of the church year the committee hopes to recruit 10-12 of you to be hosts, to host four potluck dinners next year for 8-10 people. The potlucks can be held at a home or with planning at the Parish Hall. Once we have enough hosts we will assign 8-10 parishioners to each host and ask you to set up 4 meetings next church year to gather and get to know each other better. What will come of these four friendship dinners we cannot be sure, but we hope this will be a system for deepening our congregational body for years to come.

I hope that in the coming two months we get to gather at our Annual Meeting and at our End of Year Picnic and Softball game and enjoy each other’s company, and when we return in the fall, to build on that camaraderie to weave real connections and firm foundations for the future.

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver can be reached at [raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org) or 617 459 5979

Monday through Thursday 9-2

Rev. Weaver will be at General Assembly from June 21-28th and then out of the office for Vacation and Study Leave from July 1- August 31. You may reach her by phone or email during the summer months.

**From Our Acting Director of Religious Education**

Greetings from R.E.!

March and April were busy months in R.E. The classes met two out of the four Sundays.  March had a Cool Deed on 3/20/2016 in which the kids helped to paper-maché Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg hunt the following Sunday. In April, to celebrate Earth Day, the kids created bird seed feeders out of recycled plastic water and soda bottles.  The fourth Sunday in each month was an intergenerational service and no R.E. classes were held.

March’s intergenerational service was our Easter Sunday service.  The Easter Egg hunt was a great success as it always is! It seemed like this year they actually found all the eggs.  April’s intergenerational service was on 4/24/2016.  The kids heard Rali talk about the Puritans and Anne Bradstreet.  Then they got to attend a puppet show on Anne Bradstreet after service in the auditorium.  What a special treat!

Neighboring Faiths learned about Judaism and visited Temple Sinai in Brookline on 3/11/2016 for their Friday night service.  This class also learned about Islam during this time and visited the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center in Roxbury.

The Coming of Age students continued to work on their credos with exercises designed to have them think about their beliefs.  They also had a special tour of our church buildings on 3/20/2016 led by Andrea Gilmore.

As you can see there was a lot of activity over these past two months in R.E.  We also had the great addition of Lisa Pilat and Joshua Langmead added to our O.W.L. certified facilitators here at First Church.  Lisa and Joshua trained in O.W.L. 7-12 over the 4/22/2016 weekend.  They will be facilitating O.W.L. 7-9 starting January 2017.  Welcome Lisa and Josh!!

We are gearing up for the final months of R.E. We are excited to have both the Coming of Age service on 5/22/2016 and our Children’s Sunday on 6/5/2016.  Please mark your calendars with these special services.

The R.E. calendar for May and June  is:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 5/1/2016 | Classes meet **including** O.W.L. K-1 in Rali’s office. |
| 5/8/2016 | Classes meet **except** O.W.L. K-1. |
| 5/15/2016 | Classes meet **including** O.W.L. K-1 in Rali’s office. This is the last day of classes. |
| 5/22/2016 | Coming of Age Service.  All students are invited to attend. |
| 5/29/2016 | No Classes.  Kids are invited to attend service with their families.  Teachers can use this day to start to plan for Children’s Sunday on 6/5/2016 |
| 6/5/2016 | Children’s Sunday |

If you have any questions, suggestions, and/or concerns regarding R.E. please feel free to contact me at [gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org](mailto: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](mailto:gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org) or at [781-801-9857](tel:781-801-9857" \t "_blank).

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

Grace will be out of the office in July and August but available by email.

**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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**May 1st stay after worship for a Budget Hearing**

Sharon Lane, our treasurer, will be on hand to explain the proposed 2016/2017 Budget.

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May 8th Stay after worship for discussion of Waking Up White

If you cannot stay for the conversation but have read the book and would like to participate please contact Rev Rali Weaver ([raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org)) 617 459 5979.

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**Members Please Stay after worship on May 15th for the FCPD Annual Meeting.**

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**Small Group for Moms**

**Next Meeting Friday, June 3rd at 6pm in the Parish Hall**

**All Moms Welcome**

We welcome mothers with school-aged children to join a Mom’s group, which meets once per month. 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 (we take turns).  If you are interested, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the dining room or email [raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org).

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**June 5th is Children’s Sunday**

Following worship we will have a community picture on the steps of the Meeting House.

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**June 12th is our Closing Sunday**

We will celebrate Flower Communion.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a flower per person in your family to share as part of worship.

Following worship we will have an end of year potluck lunch.

Sandwiches and drinks will be provided

Sides and Desserts are welcome.

There will most likely be a softball game later in the afternoon.

First Church and Parish vs. Allin Congregational

Watch the all church email and order of service for details.

**Membership Committee**

Would like to revive Friendship Dinners.

We need 10-12 hosts to help organize 4 potluck dinners in the year for 8-10 parishioners.

You may host at your home or at the Parish Hall. If you are interested in hosting, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the Dining Room in the Parish Hall

or contact any membership committee member:

Carol Dixon-Hutton, Judy Barrington, Pam Aist and Rali Weaver

**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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**Waking Up White by Debby Irving**

Please plan on joining us on May 8th 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.

**February Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting**

**Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting**

**February 1, 2016**

Present:

Cindy Jones, Natalie Jensen, Kathy Elefterakis, Andrea Gilmore, Geoff Tegnell, Sharon Lane, Debbie Harrison, Iyabo Obasanjo, Noreen King, Susan Sennott, Rali Weaver

Meeting called to order: 7:08 p.m.

Gratitudes

Minutes of January 4, 2016

--Motion to approve minutes --seconded—approved

Minister’s Report—Rali Weaver

--Dining Room chairs: 25 need repair or replacement

--Office copier needs replacement; copier/printer is needed; Rali to get info to PC

--Ministry Comm.: met with peer facilitator; to offer plan to PC in March

--Stewardship Comm.: Carol Dixon Hutton to chair; 6 members; kick off campaign Feb. 28

--Pat to work for UU Historic Society 5 hours per month in our Office; paid by UUHS

--Rali’s office hours adjusted to 10-3

--Rali’s time off: 1 day in March and 1 week in March (vacation)

--PC question about Publicity Comm: essentially meets by email; act as consultants

Motion to accept report—seconded---accepted

Interim Director of RE: see written report of Grace Pena: things are good

Treasurer’s Report—Sharon Lane

--56% pledges paid

--Building Use and AA payments on track

--Fundraising: need make $2,940

--Meeting House and Parsonage utilities OK

--Parish House water and sewer high

--Snow Plow $1275 so far

--Office expense high due to new checks, deposit slips, printing costs, and copier repairs

--Worship Comm. over budget; pay guest ministers—add to budget?

--Music subs paid directly by Linnea---add to budget?

--Overall $20,404.53 under budget ($12,000 insurance payment pending)

--Budget for 2016-17 to be drafted for March PC; also needed for Stewardship

--Stipend for youth leader?

--Increase $$ for Music and Worship?

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

Old Business

--Stewardship Committee: Chair chosen and committee met; enough members?

--Nominating Committee: Geoff to lead---to meet soon

--PC Goal: strengthen committees

--Status of Membership survey? Natalie to contact Carol D-H about survey

--List of committee members needed---Natalie will follow up

--Membership/friends/stewardship lists: deacons to sort lists and check accuracy

New Business

--Long Range Plan—4 year update:

--Met in December

--Rick Hellegers and Diane Barry to join

--Various actions have happened with each item of plan

--Geoff and Andrea to meet with George Popham about school’s plan for 2016-17

--Property inventory: facilities development plan to be drafted by Andrea

--Publicity Committee:

--Essentially consultants (graphic artists) who communicate through email

--Help with publicity?

--Need 1 leader, especially regarding public relations

--Ann Miranda:

--Lauded at Blue Hills Bank Philanthropy Breakfast as “Home Town Hero” for her Fruitful Offerings

--Recognize at First Church also?

--Copier-Printer: already discussed with Minister’s Report

--Building Use Updates: no follow up yet

--Fund raising: Cindy and Andrea to meet soon

--Comfort Food Dinner: Saturday, March 12

Action Items: all up to date

Meeting adjourned 8:55 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Harrison, Clerk

**March Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting**

**Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting**

**March 7, 2016**

Present:

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

Meeting called to order: 7:03 p.m.

Gratitudes

Minutes of February 1, 2016

--Motion to approve minutes --seconded—approved

Minister’s Report—See written report of Rali Weaver

Interim Director of RE: see written report of Grace Pena

Treasurer’s Report—Sharon Lane

--66% pledges paid

--Building Use will surpass budget goal; yoga payment to be checked

--Fundraising: need to make $2,833

--Meeting House and Parsonage utilities OK

--Parish House water and sewer high

--Heating bills low

--Snow Plow $2,825 so far

--Insurance bill very high ($15,869). Waiting for reimbursement for Plymouth house

--Overall $388.03 under budget

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

Ministry Committee—Eileen Sullivan as representative of committee

--Evaluation Procedure: three groups of 20-30 to meet and offer ‘stories’ and input of six aspects of ministry; acknowledge what we do well, what to extend, and what to improve; parallels long range plan categories; results in goals for overall and for Rali’s ministry; Ministry Committee to write summary report with goals and objectives

--Motion to move forward with the Appreciative Inquiry Process--seconded—accepted

--Housing Equity for Rali: tabled for next meeting to discuss along with Rali’s letter of agreement

Old Business

--Nominating Committee: Geoff to lead---to meet March 13; Geoff making spread sheet of committee members; Committee to discuss role in committee recruitment process

--Membership survey: Natalie contacted Carol D-H about survey; not possible at this time

--Stewardship list: Geoff and Kathy refining list; will add to Dropbox for PC to recheck; PC to send input to Kathy

--Office Printer-Copier: office personnel like the Xerox Work Center; new phones needed (1 desk phone and 2 wireless phones so everyone has a phone); need Chromebook for Grace; use money in PC surplus account for items

--Motion to purchase equipment to make office more efficient—seconded--accepted

New Business

--Draft Budget 2016-17:

--Finance committee recommendations means $19,000 more pledges needed

--Consider increasing Bay State Learning rent (increase $$)

--Bay State District may dissolve causing recalculation of Fair Share (decrease $$)

--Cancel: youth leader, ministerial intern (decrease $$)

--Linnea conference fee: use other $$ sources (decrease $$)

--Sharon to meet with Stewardship Comm. and notify Finance Comm. of new draft

--Motion to approve draft budget with adjustments made today—seconded—approved

--Bookkeeper? Need to be specific of roles; two people involved could be a problem; 2-4 hours per week; possibly an overseer and a number cruncher; Andrea to research

--Minister’s contract: housing equity agreements are a way to compensate a minister and enable her to build equity for retirement; need to reflect on goals and objectives of evaluation and include in contract; further information and discussion is needed

--Farmer’s Market: discussion concerning First Church being a collaborative partner or merely taking on Farmer’s Market since Dedham Square Circle is seeking others to be more involved; PC not interested for variety of reasons but willing to spread the word for people to support the Farmer’s Market

--Events: Comfort Dinner-- small number interested; possibly will cancel/postpone after Wed.

--Event planners need to communicate with office personnel regarding details of any event

--6-8 weeks lead time needed

--Annual Meeting Date: Sunday, May 15

--Rali’s contract: all PC members to read it before April meeting

Meeting adjourned 9:42 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, April 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Harrison, Clerk